

Running reports

Attn Danny
or Carl
Repeat fuel record sheets
from last issue



Despite icy blizzards, Phil and family remained warm in the well-winterised Coral



Top Onsite during more clement weather Above Cromer's pier

A port in a snow storm

ADRIA CORAL RED S690 SP

Base Fiat Ducato
Berths Three
Mileage 6078
Average mpg 25.4
From £41,497 (OTR, '08 price)
Faults Broken latch on cab glovebox
Likes The excellent level of winterisation
Dislikes The awkwardly placed mains power sockets
Run by Sarah Wakely
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After being a co-habitant during a trip across Denmark (December 2008 issue) and sharing with the *Autosport* boys (October 2008 issue), I finally got the popular 'van of choice' – Sarah Wakely's Adria Coral S690 SP – to myself.

I say to myself, but I actually decided to take my family for a weekend away. We booked a pitch at the Seacroft Caravan Club site in Cromer, Norfolk, intending to have a relaxing

seaside break. We never dreamed that we'd test the Adria's winterisation to the full.

Pitching the Coral was easy, and we were soon sitting down to a proper dinner, thanks to the gas oven on board. As there were three of us, we needed to use the lounge bed, which was simple to make up. In fact, my only criticism of the Coral's interior was the location of the power sockets. Plugging in my laptop meant trailing the lead from the kitchen, or running it from the TV cupboard opposite the table. The 12v sockets were located above the mirror in the bedroom, which left my phone dangling from its charger.

After a heavy rain shower and near gale-force winds on the first night, the Adria was still secure, warm and, above all else, spacious. The latter was crucial, because at this point we feared having to spend the whole weekend inside. Thankfully, the rain (but not the wind) relented, and we walked to the bus stop outside the campsite, and

went into Cromer. There we found the local museum, pier and local history connected to the town's lifeboat station.

We awoke on the Sunday morning to find ourselves surrounded by a blanket of deep snow. We had all stayed warm within the 'van, thanks primarily to the mains option on the heating system, and the well-placed air vents that kept both sleeping and habitation areas warm. Furthermore, with the onboard water tank, we were still able to enjoy a hot chocolate while planning the journey home. An indication of how cold it was came when I noticed icicles hanging off the bottom of the Coral's body!

Driving conditions were treacherous, made worse by the un-gritted roads, and the Adria had a couple of 'interesting' moments, which were easily brought under control. If I had been carrying snow chains, I would have fitted them. At one point, I was told by a police traffic officer to turn back because

a hill on the road we were travelling was impassable, even for 4x4 vehicles.

One problem we encountered with the Adria was a broken catch on the cab glovebox. Every slight bump resulted in the lid flying open. As this catch was only held in by four screws, I decided to take it off and see if I could fix it. Upon inspection, I found that the problem was being caused by a stuck spring that was preventing the catch from closing properly. I simply popped this spring back into place, tested it to make sure it worked, before re-attaching the catch to the lid. It was a simple five-minute fix.

My only regret was that we didn't take any external silver screens with us. These would have helped prevent the condensation that formed on the windscreen, which I had to towel off before we left. Impressively, that was the only additional winterising the Adria needed – the rest served us extremely well.

Phil Curry