

M.J. Christophers & Son's new Euro 6 Scania Streamline

Established over three generations, M.J. Christophers & Son operates a fleet of purpose built vehicles from their warehouses in Newquay and Redruth, Cornwall. In response to rising demand, the desire to continue running environmentally-friendly vehicles and to celebrate over 40 years in the removals industry, the company commissioned a new flagship vehicle, which has been named Keeley Collette, in keeping with the company tradition of naming vehicles after family members.



At the gala evening at the 2012 BAR Annual Conference, Mike Junior announced at the dinner table, "If we win 'Domestic Mover of the Year' we will order a new truck!" Terry Sinnott's ears pricked up at this. Later that evening, when the winner was announced as M J Christophers, Terry immediately took out a serviette and pen commenting, "OK, what wheelbase are we looking at then?"

With Euro 6 on the horizon, Christophers decided to delay the purchase.

Unique Van Bodies Ltd (UVB) have previously built bodies for M J Christophers & Son and were the only choice for this special order as Terry Sinnott and the team were already familiar with the attention to detail required.

The full body specification – down to the last nut and bolt – was discussed and agreed by both parties. The Euro 6 Scania Streamline was ordered with a

6500mm wheelbase to comply with turning circle regulations. The G280 Highline chassis cab arrived in the UK factory painted along with all the colour coded parts, 8 tonne front axle, air suspension which was complimented with polished alloy wheels and low profile tyres.

The maximum length body was fitted with a five container nearside door arrangement to include a single door to the front, hinged at the rear opening against the body, and not on to the cab. This was followed by another single, a set of double doors and a single at the rear as per Mike's specification. The rear frame was constructed using a highly polished stainless steel, finished with full height rear doors. All interior panels were finished in white.

The interior body was fitted with load-lock rails in two positions with 16ft of multi-purpose second-deck system, the decking fits neatly away in the skirt

locker when not in use. The interior face of the bulkhead was carpeted to provide additional protection to the goods being transported. The dropwell covers were hinged to each side and designed to adapt to the carrying of tall items if required. The aerodynamic radius bulkhead and skirt area is cosmetically pleasing, but more importantly fitted to reduce drag and assist in fuel saving.

The uniquely designed fibreglass light boxes were fitted to suit continental style lights. In keeping with the chrome light bars fitted to the bumper, grill, and visor area, UVB fitted additional lights along the roof edge sides, and rear plus vertically in the rear frame. Scania's eye ball type camera was fitted neatly in to the rear headboard away from the possibility of damage from trees.

M.J. Christophers & Son has struck up a strong

relationship with Scania since purchasing their first Scania in 1996. Following the exceptional quality of previous vehicles, Mike Senior notes that "their outstanding product and fantastic quality service has always been second to none." This year Scania approached Mike Junior asking if M.J. Christophers would like to display their new truck on the Scania stand at the Royal Cornwall Show. The three-day event showcases the best of Cornwall including vehicle manufacturers latest product ranges and innovations.

Due to the necessary long discussions and emails on new turning circle regulations between Scania, UVB and M.J. Christophers, the chassis arrived later than planned. From an arrival date on the 31 March 2014 to completion on the 30 May 2014, time was limited for the team at UVB to get the vehicle ready for the Royal Cornwall Show.

On collection of the vehicle Mike Senior, Mike Junior and Tony from Scania were really pleased with the overall quality of the finished product. Mike commented that he couldn't thank Terry and the team at Unique Van Bodies enough for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to completing the job on time without compromise and that he was really looking forward to the next vehicle completion scheduled for later this year.

"We were delighted to be involved in The Royal Cornwall Show," Mike Junior commented. "It was a great advertising opportunity for us as a company and the third time we have been invited to display a Scania vehicle at the show."

After purchasing the business from his father in 1973, Mike Senior and wife Lynette have run the business with a strong sense of family, commitment and pride. All members of the family have worked within the business during the last 40 years. It was however inevitable that their only son was going to follow in his father's footsteps, having been on the lorries from a very early age. Mike Junior joined the business full time in 1992. With the fleet already bearing the names of the fourth generation, what will the next 40 years bring?



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