

Trident

November 2011



GB Bus Group

www.gb-bg.co.uk

issue 71

Group News

Editorial Notes

First of all, my apologies for the late arrival of the October edition of *Trident*. I was a couple of days late getting it away to the printers who, despite being busy with getting the Midlands Book sorted, really pulled out all the stops to get Trident done.

We return to London with our spotting guide this month, with coverage commencing of the South East area.

Publication News

The Midlands book, on the whole, has been very well received. Unfortunately a couple of you struggling with the font size, unavoidable we are afraid given the amount of information Eddie wanted to put in and us being able to keep it to a reasonable number of pages. We thank everyone who ordered a copy for their patience whilst one or two hiccups took place during the printing process. The First Group book has been despatched to Rob, our printer and will be ready for going into production, once this issue of *Trident* printed so if you haven't ordered yours yet now is the time. It's a top notch item, based on the same layout as our initial launch into our own publications.

Work on the second edition of the Stagecoach book will commence in early November, so watch this space for news on that one; meanwhile, Eddie Roberts is hard at work on his next Regional book, The North West and we'll be announcing progress on it next month.

Membership Matters

We are pleased to announce we have reduced our standard annual subscription rate, from £15.00 to £13.60. This has been made possible following a review of our spending and we have decided to pass on the savings we are making.

The benefits available to our members will remain the same as at present:

- Our monthly magazine –'Trident'.
- Access to our informative website.
- A 10% discount on Ian Allan publications and first time magazine subscriptions.
- Access to organised trips.
- A 20% discount on GBBG published book titles.

A warm welcome to the following new members, Linda Boulton, Alan Jones, Stephen Lynn, Tim Raffield and Malcolm Eyres.

GBBG Website:

To access the members' area of our website you need to email your chosen username and password to Mark Richards, website.manager@gb-bg.co.uk. Each can be a maximum of ten characters but with no spaces, though you can use hyphens or full stops (each counts as a character). Please include your GBBG membership number, especially if you are a new member. Confirmation will follow a.s.a.p. by email that your chosen username and password have been set up.

News from the industry

Yourbus is to open a depot in Leeds to help support its extensive National Express operations. Twenty staff are currently based at Leeds Central Coach Station.

Supertravel, based at Speke, on Merseyside ceased operations abruptly on October 13th, leaving Merseytravel little time to arrange alternative operators for some 35 tendered services that were run. Avon buses have stepped in to operate several of the services that were run on the Wirral, with A2B, Ace Travel and Cumfy Bus working others.

national express news

New services

NX280 A Leeds to Birkenhead service has been registered, to start on December 5th.

New vehicles

Galloways of Mendlesham have taken delivery of six Volvo B6R / Caetano Levante C48FLT for operation on new route 250 FJ61 EV, FJ61 EVP, FJ61 EVT, FJ61 EVU, FJ61 EVV and FJ61 EVW.

Wilts & Dorset also have a new one, noted by Mr Goodman just as I was closing for press FJ61 EVX

Fleet News

Arriva

Scotland West: A batch of former London Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer 2s have been delivered, following refurbishment at Thornton's: 44004 (X485 GGO) ex PDL35, 44008 (X529 GGO) ex PDL29, 44012 (X534 GGO) ex PDL34 and 44014 (X537 GGO) ex PDL37. You will notice five digit fleet numbers have been applied. Other buses noted with new numbers have been 44038 (S628 KHN), 44052 (S642 KHN), 45032 (X812 AJA), 45033 (X813 AJA) and 45038 (S628 KHN). Now in service, after being transferred from Yorkshire, is DAF SB220 / Plaxton Prestige 439 (R29 GNW). Heading north from London, after refurbishment, is Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer 2 1518 (X527 GGO) complete with route 26 branding Glasgow - Paisley - Nethercraigs

Yorkshire: On order for the New Year are 43 VDL DB300 / Wrightbus Pulsar 2s. At least some will be allocated to Belle Isle for routes 126 and 127. Volvo Olympians 621 to 623 have been sold to The Stafford Bus Centre (dealer). Dennis Darts 165 and 167 are now at Castleford, having transferred from Selby with DAF 442 now at Belle Isle, from Castleford.

North West: The second route to find the new single decks at Wythenshawe is the 18 not the 10 as I noted. The remaining couple of missing registrations: 3092 is MX61 AUV, 3102 is MX61 AUH and 3105 is MX61 AUL.

Around half of the new Wrightbus Gemini DL2 double decks that are on order have been delivered to Speke garage.

4435	MX61 AUT	4441	MX61 AYT	4447	MX61 AYF	4453	MX61 AYM
4436	MX61 AUU	4442	MX61 AYU	4449	MX61 AYH	4454	MX61 AYR
4437	MX61 AYN	4444	MX61 AYC	4450	MX61 AYJ	4455	MX61 xxx
4438	MX61 AYO	4445	MX61 AYD	4451	MX61 AYK	4456	MX61 xxx
4439	MX61 AYP	4446	MX61 AYE	4452	MX61 AYL	4457	MX61 AXU
4440	MX61 AYS						

At the end of October 4489 (MX61 AUN), 4490 (MX61 AUO) and 4491 (MX61 AXT) were at Heysham on delivery. Eddie reports that Manchester depot is due to close early in the New Year.

Wales: More ex Arriva London Dennis Darts here are 916 (LJ51 DCV), 917 (LJ51 DCY), 918 (LJ51 DCZ), 919 (LJ51 DDE), 920 (LJ51 DDF) and 921 (LF02 PTZ). From Arriva North West have come 4059 (T299 FGN and 4073 (S243 JUA) DAF DB250 / Alexander ALX400's. 4059 is at Rhyl, while 4079 is currently at Chester for rail replacement work, but is expected to move to Aberystwyth. Meanwhile Darts 2343 (V573 VJC) and 2344 (V574 VJC) have moved the other way. Dennis Darts 2122 (S622 KHN), 2128 (S628 KHN) and 2130 S630 KHN have moved to Arriva Scotland. following the loss of the Deeside Shuttle tender. Meanwhile, Optare Solos 618 (YJ07 EHZ), 623 (YJ06 FYW) and 624 (YJ56 ATK) have passed to GHA.

Midlands: Now to hand is the full list of buses taken over from D & G

1801	P556 PNE	2244	CHZ 8960	2304	OUI 7148	2545	YJ54 BSX
1901	VIL 8677	2245	JJZ 5250	2320	LUI 9633	2546	YN53 SVT
1902	R211 VNT	2255	JJZ 5289	2328	EJZ 2291	2547	YJ05 YXR
1903	R110 VNT	2260	LLZ 2349	2539	YN53 EMK	2548	YJ05 YXS
1904	R726 EGD	2278	DG02 WYB	2540	YN53 EMV	2549	YN53 EMF
2001	M67 HHB	2279	CNZ 2250	2541	IIG 3753	3001	MX06 ADV
2002	N748 OYR	2300	S194 FFM	2542	YN53 EMX		
2230	T310 MBU	2301	OUI 9120	2543	FJZ4196		
2240	P41 MLE	2302	ENZ 2127	2544	YN03 NDK		

Gallery



Front cover: Seen at the depot of Springfield Bus & Coach in Warrington is tri-axle Alexander bodied Olympian H462 EJR (Gez)
Rear top: National Express took delivery of several Volvo B9R / Caetano Levante coaches during the summer, represent the batch is Crawley based CY123 (FJ11 MKD) seen here at Pool Valley (Brighton) (Gez)
Rear bottom: Two of the three new Volvo B5LH / Wrightbus Gemini 2 double decks seen at the depot of Bakerbus still waiting final lettering prior to entering service (Eddie Roberts)