

# Trident

the monthly magazine of the

# GB Bus Group

website: [gb-bg.co.uk](http://gb-bg.co.uk)



Our Steed for the trip around Blazefield, was this Coastliner liveried  
Transdev York Volvo B7RLE 450 (YJ05 FNH)  
seen here at a very damp Starbeck depot of Harrogate & District

**GBBG**

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# Notice Board

## Editors Bit

Well I hope you have managed to digest all that fleet news from last month, not as much in that line time around, but I have had to hold over the piece on useful internet sites, as I have run out of space and the time to get it sorted, so if you have any suggestions you still have time to let me know.

Not been able to get many sighting in this time either so checkout the website, there are a lot! Could anyone sending information in, please direct it to the relevant area rep or to myself as it seems things are getting sent to our Chairman, who then has to pass it onto me, which causes delay and thing have missed the magazine deadline.

## Group News

Geoff Colclough has retired and will be “retiring” from the job of the South West rep after next month, but I am very pleased to say that Geoff Moseley will be taking on the South West and expanding it to cover the Southern part of the country, that area along with Wales, so get your reports into him.



Our friends at Johnson of Henley in Arden are holding a “Family Fun day” at the depot in Henley on Sunday September 20th to help celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, proceeds will go to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. This is a good chance for you see the fleet at the depot, which is generally off limits, there will be plenty to keep you occupied and our own Ken Pitt will be there manning the stall with a special competition for you to win EFE models.

## Magazine

The closing date for the October magazine will be September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Contributions

Thanks go to Stuart Martin, Tony Hunter, Report from Mike Pinder, Steve Jenner, Peter Hulse, Marc Baker, Barry Harper, Ian Rivett and the team, Paul Hind, Mel Murphy, Alan Spencer, Tony Salmon, Andrew Churchill, John Martindale, Simon Wilson, Alan Hayward, Paul Hind, Steve White, Ross Newman at Ensignbus, Matthew Barker at the Derby Bus Depot, John Donner, Geoff Moseley, Geoff Siddons, Alan Spencer, Ian Swales, Paul Hollingsbee at Transdev, Nigel Diplock, LEYTR, Ensignbus, LOTS and the PSV Circle. Apologies if I have missed any one.

## Membership Matters

Membership of the GB Bus Group is £13.00 per year. This gives a monthly magazine and 20% discount on all HB Publications Bus Books. Please make cheques and Postal Orders to GB Bus Group. Members can now also receive a 10% discount on all Ian Allan publications that are purchased from the shops. All you have to do is to produce your membership card when making the purchase. The discount also applies to magazine subscriptions and renewals

The following new members have joined this month: Tom Brant (Brierly Hill), Adam Brian (Preston), Jeff Hunting (Tipton), Roy Lovett (Grays) Ian sant (Derby) and Gerald Smith (Launceston) – a warm welcome to you all.

## GB-BG PUBLICATIONS

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## News from the Industry

**First Group** have entered the low cost inter city coach market, launching the famous "Greyhound" brand that it inherited with its purchase of the US Laidlaw company. Service will operate initially between London and Portsmouth / Southampton using Scania / Irizar PB bodied coaches that had previously been used on National Express work. They have had a full refurbishment and equipped with 41 leather seats and will have free WiFi access. They carry the iconic Greyhound livery which although looks like something out of 40s America suits the coaches well.

**Wilts & Dorset** has had its operators licence cut from 330 to 300 vehicles following a public enquiry brought about by the company's buses received 25 prohibitions over a five year period. Wilts and Dorset don't operate as many as this so services will not be affected.

**Roadliner** of Poole has ceased trading, following a troubled couple of months which started in May when the Inland Revenue filed a winding up petition over unpaid tax. Barclays Bank stepped in appointing administrators, but announced that they had been unable to find a buyer and the company was wound up leaving 25 employees redundant.

**Marcopolo** the Portuguese bus and coach builder has ceased production and will close its plant in Coimbra, a consortium is in talks with the firm's Brazilian parent with a view to purchasing the business. Operators have been assured though that after sales support will continue.

**Diamond Bus** are to introduce a new Network of services in Worcester from September 1<sup>st</sup>, after winning no less than 13 tendered services in and around the town, two commercially operated services, 30 to Dine Green and 31 Henwick Park are being started in competition with First, further commercial services were planned but stand allocation in the First owned bus station has been proving a problem. The routes will be serviced by a new depot in Drotwich.

**The UK** Takeover regulator has given interested parties until September 11<sup>th</sup> to make a definite bid for the National Express Group, The Cosmen family, whom already own 18.6% of the shares, along with Stagecoach have previously announced interest.

**SMMT** (The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders) have released the July figures for new bus and coaches which at 684 is nearly 15% less than last year of which 638 were buses.

**ACL Travel** of Weston Super Mare ceased trading on August 17<sup>th</sup> citing a disagreement between directors and the way forward for the company, Somerset CC were left having to find replacement operators for the ten county council services the company operated along with several commercial runs.

**Wrightbus** with its partner Volvo have gained an order for 150 new double deck buses from SBS Transit of Singapore. The 12m air conditioned tri axle buses will be built on the Volvo B9TL chassis. They will be provided in kit form, for local production. It is Wrights first order from SBS.

and follows on from a recent order for 60 double deckers from Kowloon Motor Bus of Hong Kong.

**Stagecoach** is expanding its Megabus.com with a new cross country route linking Newcastle with Cardiff via Leeds, Manchester and Birmingham. Also, frequency is being increased on the Leeds-London, Cardiff-London and Portsmouth-Leeds routes.

Elsewhere the service is expanding into Canada, initially operating between Toronto, Kingston and Montreal using a fleet of fifteen 81 seat double deck coaches

**East Thames Buses** was due to become part of the Go Ahead London operation from early September, after it was purchased from Transport for London. It had been rumoured for some time that TfL was looking to sell its bus operation, which was brought in to being to run services that had not received suitable tender bids or to take over routes at short notice when an operator fails, as in the case of Harris Bus and Durham Travel Services. Nine routes are operated including two schools all of which will be operated on five year contracts from the takeover date. All 113 buses in the East Thames are included in the deal which is estimated to save TfL £30 million in the coming years.

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## Service News

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Western Greyhound has won a significant number of additional Cornish routes in a major retendering exercise by the new unitary Cornwall Council. Most have historically been operated by First Devon and Cornwall, although some routes were previously operated by Truronian prior to their takeover by First

Routes which will be taken over at the end of September are:

008 Bude to Launceston College contract will become WGL608. Vario operation.

(This route will start at the beginning of the academic year)

22 St Austell to Truro (Mondays to Saturdays) which will become WGL 522.

This will be integrated with 521 to provide a clockface 30-minute headway between St Austell and St Dennis - Solo operation

24 St Austell Luxulyan, Lostwithiel and Stenalees (Mondays to Saturdays) which will become WGL 523 and will be to a revised timetable including the introduction of a Saturday service to Luxulyan Solo operation

25 St Austell to Fowey (evenings and Sundays) which will become WGL 524. A couple of positioning trips on 525 will be extended to Fowey. Solo operation

26 St Austell to Mevagissey (evenings and Sundays) which will be integrated into WGL 526 and operate daily. Gorran will gain a 2-hourly headway daily. Solo operation

40 between Truro and Trelander (Mondays to Saturdays) which will become WGL 596 and increased to clock-face half-hourly. Solo operation.

(This route will start at the beginning of September)

50/51 Truro to St Mawes and Veryan (daily) which will become WGL 550/551. Solo operation

76 Bude to Launceston (daily with extensions to Plymouth in the evenings and on Sundays) will become WGL 576. The timetable will be revised to run 2-hourly Bude to Callington and broadly hourly Launceston to Callington, with connections to Plymouth on FDC76 and to Liskeard/Looe and Polperro on WGL574.

(Solo operation out of Launceston outstation)

319 Bude to Hartland (Mondays to Saturdays) will become WGL520 and operate between Bude and Morwenstowe only. WGL519 will be extended beyond Kilkhampton to Hartland 2 hourly to connect with Stagecoach Devon 319 and through tickets will be available in both directions.

(Vario operation out of Bude outstation)

400 Truro to Falmouth and Helford Passage (daily) will become WGL500.

(Solo operation out of new Falmouth outstation)

510 timetable will be revised to incorporate 599 and a more clockface pattern headway will operate with buses leaving Exeter at xx15 past most hours. the 910, a double-deck school contract between St Eval and Newquay Treviglas college will become WGL610.

(This route will start at the beginning of the academic year from September)

X90 will be renumbered 599 and increased to daily to compensate for First deregistering its Sunday journeys on X9. Additional weekday journeys will run between Bude and Holsworthy via Bridgerule to replace 285.

(Mixture of Citaro and Vario operation out of Bude outstation)

WGL school contracts will be numbered in the 6xx series in readiness for smartcard operation on the new ERG ticket machines. 10 more Optare Solos are expected before these tenders start

## Fleet News

### Arriva

**Classic** Plaxton bodied Volvos YN51 WGY and YN51 WGZ have been transferred to Flight Delay Services at Manchester for use on the X2 service to Liverpool Airport.

**London:** The first of the new DW class ordered, for bendi bus replacement on route 38 have been arriving in England via Fleetwood and also Heysham Docks, during August. I shall not record them yet, as they may well end up being re registered with 59 plates

The DDL class Darts DDL10-14 will now be transferred to Excel Coaches instead of previously noted, with ADL2-8 moving north of the border to Arriva Scotland West. A few re-allocations to note DLA94 SF-E: DLA229 N-AR: DLP66, 68 WN-AD: DWL12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 WN-TH: DWL37 CNT-Et: DWL43, 45, 47, 48 WN-EC:

**Midlands:** Not as many movements around, as of late, but still a number 2024 SS-TH: 2042 res-CK: 2046 SS-TN: 2081 CK-SY: 2115, 2119, 2121 CK-w: 2209-2212 SS-WS: 2214 SS-TN: 2241 TH-WS: 2242 DY-BN: 2246, 2249 DY-CK: 2395 new-TH: 3724-3726 WS-TH: 4624 TH-CE: 4637 SS-WS: 4667 DY-TH: 4719 SS-WS: 4722-4729 SS-TH: 4742-4745 SS-WS:

**North East:** Dennis Dart 1688 (J468OKP) has been repainted into the Interurban livery at Hexham depot. Scania N113 7254 (M179LYP) has moved to Blyth to replace sister 7250 (L159GYL). Mini Pointer 1764 (NK05GWA) has moved on loan to Peterlee from Bishop Auckland. DAF DB250 7447/8 (R204/5CKO) have also moved to Peterlee from Bishop Auckland along with Dennis Dart 1616/7 (S616/7KHN). Scania L113 276 (P276VRG) has moved to Stockton depot from Bishop Auckland replacing Optare Vecta 1515 (K55BHN). Four workings on service 64/64A are moving to Stockton depot from Redcar and with these moving are Optare Vectas 1524/36/57/58 (L254/36/FHN, L102MEH, K140RYS).

#### **Southern Counties:**

**(Guildford & West Surrey):** Dennis Dart 3003 (R303 CMV) has been re-numbered to 3103

**(Kent Thameside)** Three Optare Solo SR M890SL B28Fs at Northfleet, for TfL route 414 are now in service 1504 (YJ09 MMK), 1505 (YJ09 MMO) and 1506 (YJ09 MMU).

A pair of Northern Counties bodied Volvo Olympians H47/29F have arrived at Northfleet from Arriva Midlands at Leicester 5939 (P610 CAY) and 5940 (P613 CAY)

**(Medway Towns):** The last four Enviro 200 at Gillingham are 4056 (GN09 AXJ), 4057 (GN09 AXK), 4058 (GN09 AXM) and 4059 (GN09 AXO).

Transbus Mini Pointer Dart SLF 1606 (GN04 UCW) and 1607 (GN04 UCX) have moved to Kent Thameside allocated to Northfleet, with ordinary Dennis Dart SLFs 3188 (P188 LKJ) and 3189 (P198 LKJ) moving here, at Gillingham in return. Other Dennis Darts here 3351 (P251 APM) and 3353 (P254 APM) have been re-numbered to 3051 and 3054 respectively.

**West Scotland:** A quick correction to last month 2601 is registered MV02 XYJ (thanks Tony)

**Yorkshire:** Early August changes to note, courtesy of Tony Salmon have been 136, 137, 138, 143, 150, 156 Wakefield to pool, 172 Wakefield to Selby: 175, 176, 182, 183, 184, 185 Wakefield to Castleford: 202, 214 Selby to Wakefield: 216, 217, 218, 221 Castleford to

Wakefield: 415, 417, 418, 419, 424, 432 Castleford to Pool, 515, 518 pool to Selby (temporary)  
519 disposed.

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## *First Group*

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**Aberdeen:** Currently Operating here on tours are a pair of Volvo / Jonckherre SHVs 1 and 2 (NK07 YFT)

**Devon & Cornwall:** Following many tender losses and further route cuts the depots at St Austell and Callington are due to close

**Manchester:** The Volvo /Wright Fusion bendi buses 10000-10014 have been placed into the reserve fleet with some being noted parked at the rear of Wigan depot.

**West Yorkshire:** Withdrawn from Halifax has been VolvoB10B 60784, it is due to be preserved, Also withdrawn have been M-B minis 50252 and 50269 and 60776, 60785, 60790, 60791, 60795-60797. 60780 and 60788 have already been removed by PVS (Barnsley). Reinstated now that the new school term is here have been 30737-30739, 30786, 30787, 30789-30791, 30796, 30797, 45045, 34047 and 34048. Moving from Huddersfield to Halifax are Volvo B7RLE / Wight Eclipse 66740, 66741 and 66742. Now here are the three school buses that were with Keighley & District for a while YK07 BJX, YK07 BJY and YK07 BJZ.

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## *Go Ahead*

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**London:** Following the recent arrival of all the new buses, we have quite a lot of movements to get through. A lot of buses shown as BXw are actually being parked at the former First depot in Orpington LDP64 SI-PLu: LDP1, 7, 8 A-BXw: LDP56, 57, BX-BXw: LDP76 NX-BXw: LDP81 BX-BXw: LDP90-99 AL-BX: LDP104 AL-Q: PDL1, 3, 24, 25, 29-31, 36, 39, 42, 43, 47, 50 SW-w: PVL65 SW-BX: PVL70 Qt-AL: PVL73 SW-BX: PVL196 SW-AL: PVL282-297 Q-A (these are currently passing through refurbished before re allocation). Sold to Ensignbus have been LDP41, 51, 62, 68, 72, 83, 84 and 86. LDP134-141 have been withdrawn from Merton and have been noted for sale by Southdown PSV. Similarly AVL1-19 which had been in store at Silvertown, although having seen use on several rail replacement jobs have also now been noted at Southdown PSV

**Metrobus:** The last Scania /Optare Olympus for route 75 at Croydon is 884 (PN09 EMV). The next deliveries 885-893 are to Orpington for route 54. The remaining 894 - 899 will be 59 registered.

885	PN09 EMX	888	PN09 ENF	890	PN09 ENK	892	PN09 ENM
886	PN09 ENC	889	PN09 ENH	891	PN09 ENL	893	PN09 ENO
887	PN09 ENE						

**North East:** Sold are Dennis Lance 4774 (L141YTY), Optare Sigma 4784/6 (L8484/5CFT) and Optare Delta 4789/93 (M789/93HCU) to Trevor Wigley, Carlton for further sale. Dennis Lance SLF 4769 (L649CFT) is back in service at Percy Main and has gained Centurion branding. Volvo B10BLE 4850/1/2 (R856/1/2PRG) have all been refurbished by Thornton's of Ashington and have been repainted Green. 4853/4/5 (R853/4/5PRG) are also under refurbished at present. Scania Solar 4933 (Y933ERG) has been repainted White at Gateshead depot ahead of its move to Deptford depot, with 4934 (Y934ERG) also to go White shortly. Sister Scania 4955 (NA02NVL) based at Percy Main has been repainted Black ahead of its move to Deptford where it will be branded for service X35. Scania Omnicity 5261 (NK56KJV) has been repainted Red at Stanley depot and has lost its Txt2Go branding. There are now 12 Volvo B7s in stock from London, with the last 6 coming mid September. They will all be refurbished by the end of

October and will see use from there on. Some of these are, 3966 (PN02XCF), 3967 (PN02XCL), 3968 (PJ02PZL), PJ02PZA/B/C/D/K.

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## ***National Express Group***

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**West Midlands:** 239 Trainer-w: 298 PB-w: 1368, 1377 PE-w: 2676 WA-w: 2689 LH-w: 2693 PB-w: 2710, 2727 YW-w: 2731 LH-w: 2744 reinstated to WA: 2750, 2751 LH-w: 2760, 2865 reinstated to WA: 2874, 2888 WA-w: 2890 LH-w: 3003 PB-w: 3023 reinstated to WA: 3036 CV-w: 3043 LH-w: 3047 WN-w: 3050 LH-w: 3053 CV-w: 3065, 3068 CV-w: 3069, 3072 WN-w: 3073, 3074 CV-w: 3075, 3076 WN-w: 3082 LH-w: 3083, 3084 WN-w: 3606, 3613 WB-AG: 4001, 4002, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4011, 4018, 4019, 4020, 4022 BC-WN: 4184, 4190, 4425, 4426 BC-YW: 4451 BC-CV: 9069, 9071, 9096, 9171, 9302 trainer-w: 9502, 9512, 9514: 9942, 9948 trainer-w:

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## ***Stagecoach***

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**Bluebird:** Fleet movements over the last two periods have comprised the following: 16120 Aberdeen - Highland: 20118 reserve - Macduff: 20422 disposal - sold: 20860, 20863, 20864 disposal - Moray: 22254, 22255 Fife - Aberdeen: 22261, 22265 Fife - reserve: 22272, 22273 Fife - Aberdeen: 20881 Macduff - Banchory: 32101 disposal - sold: 32365 Aviemore - Aberdeen: 32381 Aberdeen - disposal: 32382 reserve - disposal: 32715, 32718 disposal - sold: 40079 Moray - reserve: 52103 disposal - sold: 52289 Banchory - Moray: 52293 Elgin - Reserve: 52297 Orkney - Aberdeen: 52606 Elgin - Orkney: 53334, 53335 New - Elgin: Megabus Neoplan 50140 is now registered as TSV 721

**East:** latest happenings have seen Leyland Olympians 14047, 14058, 14059 and 14060, along with Volvo B10Ms 20206, 20326, 20813 and 20814 sold to Ensignbus. With Dennis Darts 32002, 32542, 32550, 32771 and 32772 being sold to Southdown PSV. Plaxtons have sold Volvo B10M Coaches 52301, 52383 and 52438 leaving 52330, 52331 and 52332 to be found new homes. Awaiting disposal, at Northampton, are Volvo B10Ms 20201, 20202. Just a couple of moves 32004 NO - res and 33455 d/l - NO:

**East Kent & Hastings:** Interesting to not is the movement of several of the ex Cavendish Dennis Darts, in store since the takeover, over to Portsmouth for continued storage 33374, 33375, 33378-33381 and 33384. A couple of other moves 13993 EB-res: 20637 DO-res: 22007 HY-DO: 34065 TH-HY: Quiet a few buses have been sold from the fleet of late 14976 to Stephenson's (Rochford) 15337 Wrigleys (Barnsley): 32458 Mike Nash (Cobham): 32602, 32606, 32607 Hardwicks (Barnsley): 46615 Erith Commercials: 52077 Lister PSV (Bolton):

**East Midlands:** Once again plenty to get our teeth into this month newer B10Ms arrive to displace rather more elderly versions of the type:- 14991, 14992, 14993, 14994, 14995, 15222, 15229, 15230, 15231 res - LI: 16582, 16583, 16584 res - GH (ready for schools going back): 15225, 15226 res - dis: 16719, 16735 HL(res) - MD: 16818 HL(res) - WP(res): 20278 HL - dis: 20282 GY - SP: 20283 GY - LI: 20414 WP - dis: 20417 SP(res) - GY(res): 20423 NK - dis: 20491 GY - dis: 20492 WP - dis: 20493 LI(res) - dis: 20495 WP - dis: 20498 GY - dis: 20499 LI - dis: 20510 GY - dis: 20541, 20557, 20558, 20559, 20560 S/C Warwickshire - WP: 20664 res - dis: 20665 WP - dis: 20667 GY - dis: 20668 res - dis: 20670 WP - res: 20789 SP - GY: 20803 S/C Warwickshire - NK: 20804, 20808, 20821, 20823 S/C Warwickshire - GY: 26018 LTt - dis: 32082 HL - dis: 34001HL(res) - HL: 36008, 36009 returned to Notts CC: 52351 res - GYt

**East Scotland:** Some movements which have taken place recently; At Aberhill Volvo Olympians 16687/8/9 have finally transferred to Glenrothes, with older Olympians 16415/8/22 going up to St.Andrews, and 16413/4 going into reserve. Dart 34217 should now be in use here

replacing Volvo B6 31491 which is unlikely to see further use, whilst two of the ex Oxford Tridents (18195/6) should also now be in use.

At Dunfermline Darts 34212/3 have replaced the two "on loan" from Glenrothes 33435/6. The return of Trident 18100 has allowed Olympian 16405 to be placed in reserve.

At Glenrothes the return of Darts 33435/6 has allowed older Darts 32307/8 to be withdrawn (although at least one was noted still in use this morning!). Similarly the eventual arrival of Olympians 16687/8/9 now allows 16404/10 to actually go into reserve (rather than just on paper!). 16412 is being retained for now in place of PS 20318 due to an increased DD PVR. St.Andrews has seen the arrival of Olympians 16415/8/22 from Aberhill, and Solo 47259 from Strathtay, which has allowed Darts 32210/2, 32304 and PS 20314 to be placed in reserve. Three of the remaining ex 19 MANs will go to St.Andrews to replace PSs 20149/338/9, which will then go to Aberhill to replace older sisters 20196/304/7. One Interurban coach is due from Strathtay for Cowdenbeath, which will oust Dart 32213.

Volvo B7 53248 had finally returned from Ferrymill Motors after its major accident repairs, but has apparently gone back to have further faults rectified, so PS 20325 continues in use at Dunfermline until it is finally fit for the road. Aberhill are currently using Olympians 16421/30 again after engine repairs, and they are providing temp cover for Trident 18092 (away at Cummins), and the third ex Oxford example (18197) which is currently in the paint shop. It is highly likely that some/all of the surplus M reg Olympians - 16401/2 (ex C), 16404/10 (ex G), 16405 (ex D), and 16413/4 (ex A) - could find their way to Rennies to replace older L reg examples.

At Strathtay 21051, 46690 and 46692 have moved into the reserve fleet, being no longer required for service, MANs 22252 and 22271 have moved from Fife to Dundee with simiar 22264 seeing use at Perth.

**Highlands:** Movements over the last couple of months have been quiet a few with Volvo B10/Alexander PS buses arriving from Western with more awaiting allocation in the reserve fleet, 16120 reserve - Ft William: 16250 Inverness - disposal: 20192, 20197 S/C Western - Aviemore: 20308 S/C Western - : 20566, 20569, 20570, 20947 S/C Western - Aviemore: 27590 Ft William - Caithness: 27591 Inverness - Caithness: 32394 S/C Western - Aviemore - Inverness: 32395 S/C Western - Aviemore - Caithness: 32329 Avimore - disposal: 33262 Aviemore - Ft William: 32365 Aviemore - Bluebird: 34738 Caithness - Inverness: 34795, 34796 Orkney - Inverness: 41316 Thurso - scrapped: 42024 S/C Western - Skye: 42044 Skye - disposal: 42048 Thurso - scrapped: 47568, 47569 Inverness - Orkney: 52163, 52225, 52226 Aviemore - disposal: 52239 Orkney - reserve: 52297 Orkney - Bluebird: 52428, 52430 Aviemore - reserve: 52518 Aviemore - Skye: 52524 Ft William - Orkney: 52525, 52528 Ft William - repaint (for Orkney): 52530 repaint - Skye: 52536 Inverness - Caithness: 52606 Elgin - Orkney: 53108- 53110 (SV09 EGE), 53111, 53112 new - Ft William: 53113 (SV09 EGK) new - Inverness: 59174 Caithness - withdrawn: 59153, 59156 Orkney - disposal:

**Manchester:** The Charles St allocation is now spread around 20916, 20937, 20939, 20941, 20961, 20963, 20978, 20981-20983 at ST: 22141 ST: 22144-22146 HE: 32048 AZ (as staff shuttle) 33083 ST: 33346, 33349 AZ: 34037 AZ: 47470-47472, 47476, 47623, 47624, 47670, 47672 ST

**North East:** Movements to note this time are 20101 trainer - res: 20135 res - SS: 20722, 21040 trainer - res: 32725 scrapped: 32794 SS - res: 40796 trainer - res: 52136 trainer - res:

**North West:** New ADL Enviro 300s have entered service at Carlisle, the first 59 registered buses for the Stagecoach group, and the first new buses for Carlisle since the floods in 2005.

24116	PX59 AZB	24119	PX59 AZB	24121	PX59 AZB	24123	PX59 AZB
24117	PX59 AZB	24120	PX59 AZB	24122	PX59 AZB	24124	PX59 AZB
24118	PX59 AZB						

They are seeing use on the 79 Carlisle-Dumfries and 104 Carlisle - Penrith services

As with elsewhere quiet a lot of fleet movements have occurred of late, 16358 dis - scrapped: 20127 PR - KL: 20128 PR - res: 20452 ME - LL(res): 20661 LL - dis: 20725 PR - dis: 20734 LL - dis: 20790 ME - LL (res): 20952 S/C Manchester - res: 20962 res - LL: 20967 S/C Manchester - res: 20984 res - KL: 22257, 22260, 22269, 22274 S/C Fife - PR: 30277 dis - sold: 30281 ME(res) - dis: 30456 PR - dis: 32965 dis - sold: 33164, 11365 KL - res: 34212, 34213, 34217

ME(res) - S/C Fife: 40006 BA - dis: 40013, 40025, 40397, 40445, 40651 res - dis: 40651 res - BA: 42092 dis - sold to Fleetlink: 47005 res - PR:

**Oxfordshire:** The one vehicle in the disposal pool has been sold to Fleetlink 42383 (S383 DFC). Neoplan Skyliners displaced off the Tube have been noted at Plaxtons Anston yard 50104, 50107, 50110-50113, 50115, 50117, 50119, 50120 and 50123

**South:** A bit to catch up on here 16367 WI-AR: 16379 WI-res (accident): 16513, 20615, 20632 AR-WI: 32310 AR-WI: 32464 res-AR: 36022 WI-res(accident): 40726 AR-res (spares) 52197 BEt-d/l. Two buses sold have been 20611 to Lister PSV (Bolton) and 46612 to Erith Commercials, whilst awaiting disposal are 20462 at WI and 32613, 32614 at WG

**South West:** New Optare Versa have been delivered to Wellington, 25251 (WA09 KWH), 25252 (WA09 KWJ), 25253 (WA09 KWK), 25254 (WA09 KWL), 25255 (WA09 KWM) and 25256 (WA09 KWN) along with four at Exeter 25257 (WA09 KWO), 25258 (WA09 KWP), 25259 (WA09 KWR) and 25260 (WA09 KWS). Sold of late have been Mercedes Varios 42017, 42552 and 42573

**Wales:** Two Optare Solos have been sourced from Optares 47693 (CN09 HBK) and 47694 (CN09 HBJ) both allocated to Merthyr, these have released two older ones 47190 and 47191 over to Aberdare where they join to from S/C South 47304 (GX06 DYD) and 47305 (GX06 DYF). Volvo B10Ms 20873 and 20891 have been put into reserve from Porth and lastly 47342 has moved from Porth to Aberdare. The three Solos from the North West 47474, 47482 and 47483 have been parked up awaiting movement back north

**Warwickshire:** More Volvo B12Bs arriving at Rugby for the Megabus fleet have been 54053 (KX09 NCJ), 54054 (KX09 NCN), 54055 (KX09 NCO) and 54056 (KX09 NCU). These replace somewhat aging Volvo B10M coaches 52617-52619, 52621-52623 which have moved to the reserve fleet, being parked round the back at Leamington.

**West Scotland:** Quite a lot of movements to get around again:- 11083 Ayr - d/l: 13628, 13632, 13642, 13643 res - K: 14455 Fife - res: 14462 K - sold: 14612, 14650 res - sold: 14659 K - res: 14683 d/l - sold: 14957 d/l - Fife: 15246 dis - sold: 15281, 15282 K - dis: 15283 K - sold: 16290 res - K: 16863 AY - d/l: 20193, 20454 res - dis: 20581, 20582, 20583 dis - sold: 32381, 32390-32392 AY - dis: 32393 CK - dis: 32396, 32397 AY - dis: 32398 DS - CK: 40067 res - anc: 47362 GW - AY: 50133 S/C Oxford - res: 53114 (SF09 ADO) new - GWjv:

**Yorkshire:** Take a sharp intake of breath, here are all those changes I promised:- 13601, 13627 BN - w: 14191 SH - sold: 14194, 14523 SH - w: 15411-15417 BN - RW: 16869, 16870 BN - w: 16872-16875, 16877 RW - w: 16937, 16938 BN - RW: 20237 res - w: 20411, 20412, 20439 BN - w: 20443, 20444 BN - EC (loan): 20496 SH - res: 20822 BN - SH: 22551-22556 RW - BN: 22629 BN - SH: 29711, 29712, 29719-29722 SH - returned to WYPTE: 31936-31938 EC - BN: 31945 EC - RW: 32364 CHt - dis: 32417 BNt - dis: 32421 HKt - dis: 33095-33097, 33226 EC - CH: 34584 CH - RW: 34584, 34724 CH - EC: 35234, 35236 EC - RW: 39610 res - RW: 47295, 47296 RW - BN:

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## ***Transdev***

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**London United:** The Dennis Dart fleet has had a swap around following the arrival of new ADL Enviro 200s DP12-32 have all been returned off lease to GE Capital. DPS529 AV-SO: DPS579, 586-592, 595, 596 FW-SO: DPS626 SO-HH: DPS637 HH-SO: SDP526 SO-Vu: SDP527-530 SO-BTu (these are due to be returned to the leasing company): SO2 FW-BT: SO3 S-FW: SO6 S-BT: SO9 BT-S: SP23, 24 HH-AV: TA230 FW-TV: TA251-257, 259-262 FW-HHw: TA264 TV-HHw: TA265, 266 TV-TVw: VP111 AV-HHu

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## ***Independent Operators***

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## ***East Midlands***

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**Doyles:** Two ex Metroline Dennis Dart SLF / Marshall have arrived here R695 MEW and R697 MEW, having been latterly used by the now defunct Click Services of Skelmersdale

**Johnson Bros:** Several fleet additions during August have been Volvo N10M / Jonckherre L942 LBV and M667 VAJ along with Scania / Irizar SK07 BNF and SN57 BMW. Also added has been a DAF / Van Hool YJ51 EKK from Weavaway.

**Trent/Barton:** Dennis Dart SLF 946 (T946 BNN) has been sold to Redline of Aylesbury. Five Alexander Royale bodied Olympians have been purchased from Lothian 21 (N402 GSX), 22 (N404 GSX), 23 (N407 GSX), 24 (P409 GSX) and 25 (P410 KSX). The previous holder of fleet number 23 ECW bodied Olympian C723NNN is now re numbered 17.

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## ***Eastern Counties***

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**Beestons (Hadleigh):** Volvo Olympian P913 RYO has been re registered as LSU 413

**Carters:**

**Delaine (Bourne):** Volvo Citybus 121 (P1 OTL) and 122 (P2 OTL) are both now with Quantock Motor Services (Norton Fitzwarren)

**Dew (Somersham):** Three former Oxford Volvo B10 /Plaxton Verde single decks P630FFC, P633 FFC and P638 FFC are expected any time soon.

**Galloways:** A new arrival from Kent Coach Tours is Mercedes-Benz Vario / Plaxton Beaver 2 GJ52 GYD

**Whippet (Fenstanton):** Are no more having vacated the premises, next to the A14 that they have called home for so many years, operations moved in mid August to a new depot located at Unit 1 2 Rowles Way, Buckingham Business Park, Swavesey

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## ***London / Greater London***

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**East London Bus Group:** You may recall me mentioning the swaps of various routes between depots and that it probably wouldn't effect vehicles much, well it turns out I was wrong as a large number of Dennis Tridents were re allocated during July in a wholesale swap, as new buses arrive mainly at Plumstead and routes lost south of the river. There was also a need to keep to contract specifications on the age of buses used on particular routes, so a deep breath

17085 17087-17089 17091-17098 Upton Park - withdrawn	
17116 Rainham (u) - Barking	17117 Catford (u) - Barking
17118 17119 Rainham (u) - Barking	17167 17171-17180 West Ham - Bow
17188 Leyton - Barking	17189 17190 Leyton - Bromley
17192 19194 Romford – Barking	17196-17202 West Ham – Bow
17204 Leyton-Plumstead	17223 17224 17230 Romford-Barking
17239-17242 17244-17246 West Ham-Bow	17268 Romford-Plumstead
17277 West Ham-Bow	17291 Plumstead-Upton Park
17293 17294 17295 West Ham-Bow	17297 Leyton-Bow
17298 17299 West Ham-Bow	17302 Plumstead-Upton Park
17408 West Ham-Plumstead	17435 Leyton-Catford
17443-17464 Romford-Rainham	17466 West Ham-Leyton
17482-17485 Catford-Romford	17486 West Ham-Leyton
17502 West Ham-Plumstead	17504 17505 17507 West Ham-Leyton
17508 West Ham-Plumstead	17509 West Ham-Upton Park
17511 17512 West Ham-Plumstead	17530 Upton Park-West Ham
17533 17534 West Ham-Barking	17559 West Ham-Barking
17560 West Ham-Plumstead	17561 Catford-Upton Park
17562 Catford-Romford	17564 17565 17566 West Ham-Barking

17567 17568 17569 Catford-Romford	17572 17573 Catford-Plumstead
17575 Catford-Leyton	17740 17741 17742 Bromley-Leyton
17747 Catford-Leyton	17748 17759-17778 West Ham-Romford
17779 17780 17788 Leyton-Upton Park	17789 17790 Leyton-Plumstead
17791 17792 17793 Leyton-Romford	17794 17795 Leyton-West Ham
17829 17830 Leyton-Romford	17833 Leyton-Upton Park
17835 Upton Park-Romford	17836-17840 Upton Park-Plumstead
17841 Upton Park-Leyton Ham	17846-17850 17864 17865 Upton Park-West Ham
17869 17870 Plumstead-Romford	17871 17873 Plumstead-Leyton
17874 Plumstead-Romford	17875-17878 Plumstead-Leyton
17880-17884 17886-17888 Bow-West Ham	17889 17890 17891 Upton Park-West Ham
17903 Upton Park-West Ham	17904 Bow-West Ham
17905 17907 17908 Plumstead-Upton Park	
17909-17911 17913-17916 17918 17929-17926	17928-17931 17933 Bow-West Ham
17934 Plumstead-Upton Park	17935, 17937-17943 Plumstead-West Ham
18455 Romford-Catford	18456 Romford-Plumstead
18457-18462 Romford-Upton Park	18463 West Ham-Romford
18464 West Ham-Bow	

In addition 17584 17587 17588 and 17591 are in service at Plumstead after being on loan to Metrobus

As well as these changes sold to Ensignbus have been 17088, 17089, 17091, 17095, 17096 and 17098. More of the type 17099-17111 and 17113 are in the process of being converted into driver trainer buses, along with five newer ones 17395-17399, these being fitted with ABS and are able to be used to under take the driving test.

More Dennis Dart SLFs sold to Ensignbus have been 34117, 34152, 34173-34181, 34190, 34196, 34198, 34200, 34201, 34222, 34223, 34274 and 34275.

**Metroline:** Latest new arrivals are ADL Enviro 200 Darts 10.2 B29D, The batch currently being delivered are spread DE993-DE998 at Brentford for route E8, DE999-DE1003 for the 395 at West Perivale and DE1004-DE1014 at Cricklewood for the 251

DE993 LK09 ENC	DE999 LK09 ENM	DE1005 LK09 ENU	DE1010 LK09 EOA
DE994 LK09 ENE	DE1000 LK09 ENN	DE1006 LK09 ENV	DE1011 LK09 EOB
DE995 LK09 ENF	DE1001 LK09 ENO	DE1007 LK09 ENW	DE1012 LK09 EOC
DE996 LK09 ENH	DE1002 LK09 ENP	DE1008 LK09 ENX	DE1013 LK09 EOD
DE997 LK09 ENJ	DE1003 LK09 ENR	DE1009 LK09 ENY	DE1014 LK09 EOE
DE998 LK09 ENL	DE1004 LK09 ENT		

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## **North East & Yorkshire**

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**A-Line (Pelaw):** have added ex Go North East Optare Metrorider R92HUA to stock.

**Astley (Ashington):** have an additional Mercedes Vario in stock, albeit for spares, being P259RUM. In stock but not yet used is MCW Metroliner B22VHW. Dennis Dart / Wright J944MFT is expected to return to use as its engine had not failed as thought and Leyland National Greenway JIL2160 is back in use.

**Compass Royston (Stockton)** have repainted Mercedes Sprinter BX55FYF in more elegant white compared to the hundreds of colours it was repainted in before hand.

**Dreadnought (Alnwick)** have acquired AEC Routemaster RML2528 (JJD528D) and that it is expected to be ready for the 2010 operational season.

**East Yorkshire Motor Services:** A couple of re allocations to note 567 Bridlington – Hull with 667 moving in the opposite direction. Meanwhile VRs 838 (VDV 138S) and 897 (897 EVX) have been de-licensed at Scarborough.

**Hunters (Tantobie):** have acquired Volvo B10M / Plaxton L938NNW and ex Grayway, Wigan Volvo B10M / Jonkherre XIL3675. Many of the withdrawn vehicles have been cleared out.

**Low Fell Travel (Gateshead)** have added Dennis Javelin / UVG N790EES to stock ex Moffat & Williamson and ex Go North East Optare Metrorider P417VRG.

**Martini Coaches (Oxhill):** have added Volvo B10M / Van Hool LIB3769 to stock.

**M&D Travel (Thornaby)** now have Mercedes Vario / Plaxton SJ51GCV in stock.

**Scarlet Band (West Cornforth)** have acquired ex Go North East Optare Delta M792HCU and ex Arriva Midlands Mercedes Vario / Alexander R148UAL and Volvo B10M / Duple F338VSD ex Grant Palmer, Dunstable.

**Stanley Coaches (Oxhill):** have added two ex Dublin bus Volvo Olympian / Alexander to stock. One arrived with UK Reg R97LHK, the other with Irish plate 98-D-20397. These are to be reregistered R6/7STX.

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## ***North West England***

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**Appollo 8 Travel (Kendal):** now in service operating on the 106 service, Kendal - Penrith is Optare Versa APO 110S

**Battersby Silver Grey:** Two three axle Volvo B12B / Jonckherre Mistrals have been acquired to cater for an increase on Cruise ship transfer work 1359 UP and 7144UN. A further pair may be bought early next year.

**Blackpool Transport:** More vehicles sold to Inglemere Metals for scrap recently have been Atlantean 363 and Metroriders 584 and 594 with similar 501, 504, 508, 516, 591 and 596 going to Wrigleys also for scrap. In store are 502, 505, 507, 585, 587, 588, 592 and 595. More will be withdrawn when various service changes release five more Optare Solos for deployment onto other routes

**Bluebird (Middleton):** Four Optare Solos will enter service on September 1<sup>st</sup> 4 (MK59 BLU)

**Cumfybus (Southport):** All six of the new Optare Solos for the Lancashire County Council routes on the Fylde have finally made an appearance MX09 MJK, MX09 MJO, MX09 MJU, MX09 MJV, MX09 MJY and MX09 MKA

**Fairway Travel (Warrington):** An addition of late has been L275 FVN ex Arriva North East, also noted on the 339 service has been ex Arriva Midlands North MB 709D P296 OOA.

**Go Goodwins:**

**Halton Transport:** Courtesy of "a source within Halton Transport" forthcoming changes to the fleet are noted on Monday 24 August: Fleet nos 11 - 19 were renumbered 71 - 79 to make room for new buses for the next couple of years.

New buses: 4 new MCV Enviro 200s were expected by 1 September but are delayed by a few weeks. These will be numbered 9, 10, 11, 12 Identical to 1 - 4 (i.e. the slightly shorter ones, seating 40 unlike the longer 5 - 8 which had 41 seats). No conspiracy theories about the length / seats - it's just that last years were non standard for MCV but were available for a quick delivery.

Once again one of these new buses is expected to be at the Birmingham show (subject to confirmation). We now expect to take delivery of 3 in early October with the 4th arriving immediately after the show (i.e. 9th October)

Because the MCVs are late and because we've found work for 3 extra buses, MCV are paying Arriva Bus & Coach again to hire us 4 buses from 1 September until the MCVs arrive.

These are scheduled to be ... YJ59AYY, Wrightbus Pulsar / SB200, first reg 01.09.09 YJ59AYZ, Wrightbus Pulsar / SB200, first reg 01.09.09 YJ59AYX, Plaxton Centro / SB200, first reg 01.09.09 YJ57BCU, Plaxton Centro / SB200, first reg 18.11.07

Unless some other school work is forthcoming it appears that we'll have 1 Lynx surplus so we'll probably scrap it in a few months. There's a big tender round next Easter (St. Helens Schools) when work for 9 of our existing buses is renewed. Our success, or lack of it, in that tender round may influence whether we buy any buses in 2009 or indeed how many Lynxes we can then dispose of.

**Huggins:** The operation was closed down at the end of the school term, when the two owners decided to take retirement, at least some of the fleet went to the Stafford Bus centre for onward sale.

**JP Travel:** Fleet number have begun to be applied to the fleet, noted so far we have 118 (SF04 HXR) 204 (MX08 TCU), 502 (M173GRY)

**Peoplesbus (Liverpool):** Acquired from Ensignbus are two former Stagecoach Volvo B10M / Alexander PS single decks N202 LTN and N814 DNE

**Warrington Coachways:** Another Solo acquired recently is YC51 HAA, latterly with Geoff Amos.

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## **Scotland**

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**Bruce (Salsburgh):** Six Caetano Levantes have arrived from the National Express fleet at Stanstead, to operate on recently won National Express runs including the famous 336 from Edinburgh to Penzance, FJ57 KGY, FJ57 KHB, FJ57 KHW, FJ57 KHV, FJ57 KHU and FJ57KJF

**Crieff Travel:** A correction to last months magazine the Enviro 200 is actually YX09 HYV

**Edinburgh Coach Lines:** The Dennis Dart used as spare for the new 13 service is T814 KAG.

**Hamiltons (Falkirk):** New here is a former Trent Mercedes Vario / Plaxton Beaver 2 R275 RAU

**Horsborough (Pumperston):** Acquired has been C18 EMH Scania /Irizar Century C49F previously with Luckeets (Fareham) as S51 KNW. Another of the mark C19 EMH has come from Hardings of Redditch where it was registered T281 DUY. Two Mercedes-Vario / Plaxton Beavers are also run EH03 EMH and MH03 EMH. Currently on loan is Optare Solo B33F MX56 NLU they can be found on route 63 South Queensferry to Edinburgh, and route 64 Edinburgh Western General Hospital – Edinburgh Airport.

**Perrymans, Berwick** have new Optare Solo YJ09OUG in use.

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## **Southern England**

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**Amport and District (Thrupton):** YN09 DXL, a Volvo B12B Plaxton was delivered back in April

**Bates (Appledore):** WA09 AZG a Volvo B12B Van Hool was new in March

**Bluebird (Weymouth):** Acquired in April was FJ05 APX a Volvo B12M Plaxton, which came from Anderson, Bermondsey

**Brijan Tours (Curdrige):** Two Dennis Dart 9.8SDL with Marshall bodywork have been acquired and are registered XAZ 1321 (ex M581 WLV) and XAZ 1346 (ex M580 WLV)

**Chalkwell (Sittingbourne):** YN04 AHD and YN04 AHE Scania K1141B Irizar were acquired from Reading Buses back in April. In May, V147-150MVX Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer were acquired from Selkent.

**Courtney (Bracknell):** A new Optare Solo, YJ09 OTV, was delivered in June

**Excelsior Coaches (Bournemouth):** Four 13m Volvo 9700 Prestige Plus have been delivered, one being registered FN09 AOV. A8 XEL (ex FN03 DXY) and A9 XEL (ex FN03 DXZ), both Volvo B12B Sideral have gone to Volvo, Loughborough.

**Heyfordian (Bicester):** KX09 CKC an Enterprise Plasma Plaxton Primo was new in May. Two M/Benz 0814D Plaxton B31F have arrived from Stagecoach Manchester, viz: R507 YWC and R509 YWC.

**Luckett (Fareham):** Two new Scania K340EB with Lahden bodywork were delivered in June and registered YT09 FLW and YT09 FLZ respectively.

**New Punjab (Slough):** PN09 EOM, a Volvo B9TL Optare CH61/39F arrived in June

**Plastow (Wheatley):** Two additions to this fleet are FJ07 VKG and FJ07 VKK Volvo B12B Jonckheere which arrived from Proturs, Heswall in April

**Princess (West End):** DB09 DAB Scania K340EB Irizar arrived back in April

**Regent (Whitstable):** YX09 FNF ADL Dart SFD / ADL arrived in May

**RH Transport, (Finstock):** The following ex London General Dennis Trident SFD Plaxton Presidents were acquired in July: 804-808, PJ02 PZM, PJ02 PZN, PJ02 PZP, PJ02 PZV, and PJ02 PZY.

**Roadliner (Poole):** According to the trade press, this company has gone into administration

**Sea View (Parkstone):** Three MAN 18.400 Beulas Cygnus were delivered in May, namely: PN09 CWT, PN09 CWU and PN09 CWV

**Solent (Ringwood):** Two Neoplan N316SHD were acquired back in May from Coliseum, West End. They are PIW 5729 (ex HS03 OYJ), and NIW 6503 (ex HY53 DVO)

**Stewarts (Mortimer):** YN09 HZG a M/Benz Unvi has now been delivered to replace similar vehicle YN05 UVK

**Weavaway (Newbury):** Two Neoplan N122/3 have been acquired from Trathens Travel, Plymouth, namely SF56 TXL (ex LSK 815) now registered NE06 LAN, and SF07 FJP (ex LSK 807) now registered NE07 LAN. Further re-registrations took place in June: BKZ 70 (ex YJ03 GXP) Bova FHD12.240 to C5 OXF, NBZ 70 (ex YJ03 GXM) Bova FHD12.240 to C3 OXF, NDZ 70 (ex YJ03 GXN) Bova FHD 12.240 to C4 OXF, X70 OXF (ex YJ03 GXR) Bova FHD 12.240 to C6 OXF, CW 51 TOP (ex WA03 UDY) Bova FHD12.340 to C7 OXF, CW52 TOP (ex WA03 UDZ) Bova FHD12.340 to C8 OXF, WA05 DFG Bova FHD12.340 to NBZ 70, WA05 DFJ Bova FHD12.340 to NDZ 70 and WA05 JWM Bova FHD12.340 to BKZ 70

**Whealers Travel (North Baddesley):** New in May was AH09 WTL a MAN 18.360 Noge C53FT

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## ***South West England***

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**ACL (Weston-super-Mare):** As noted in the news section operations have ceased with part of the fleet have already been disposed of, several M/Benz 709D's have been reported heading north on the M5 and one, N639 VSS, is on eBay in Accrington!

**Alexcars (Cirencester):** BU 53 AWW a M/Benz 1836RL MB has been acquired from Boorman, Blunham.

**Eagle Line (Andoversford):** New in May was WA09 DZU a Bova FHD.

**Bodman (Worton):** FN57 EWV (ex XX57 PSW) AD Dart SFD AD B28F was acquired from Winson, Loughborough in April

**Chandlers (Westbury):** New in May was FT09 CCT a Volvo B12B Volvo C51FT

**Countybus (Heathfield):** T581 JTD (ex B1 BUS) a Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer arrived from Minsterley, Slipperstones back in April, while SN51 UCH, SN51 UCM and SN51 UCP Dennis Dart SLF Alexander were acquired from Richmond, Epsom in May

**Dartline, (Clyst St Mary):** WA05 WNE (ex 05 DL 3159) Scania K114IB Irizar was acquired from Boyce, Ramelton in April.

**Ellison (Ashton Keynes):** JJ09 ELL AD Javelin SFD Plaxton was delivered in May

**Hookways (Meeth):** Acquired in May were two Volvo B12B Jonckheere from Trathens Travel, namely SF05 XYY (ex HSK 646) and SF05 XZN (ex HSK 648). Also noted here now is SF05 XZL (ex HSK 650) another Volvo B12B Jonckheere which has come from Volvo, Loughborough

**Kinch (Minety):** Acquired in April was M129 BNO (ex 532 FN, M129 BNO, GE5021 *Hong Kong*) a Volvo Olympian Alexander from Beestons, Hadleigh

**North Somerset Coaches (Weston-Super-Mare):** M752 and M756 LAX Volvo B10M-55 Alexander have been acquired from Stagecoach Manchester

Pewsey Vale (Pewsey): New in June was WA09 KZE a Volvo B12B Van Hool C57F

**Seawards (Dalwood):** New in May was WA09 JPJ a Dennis Javelin SFD Plaxton Profile C57F

**Trathens Travel (Plymouth):** Acquired back in March from, parent, Parks of Hamilton was 2 HW Volvo B12M Jonckheere. From the same place has come SF06 WDY (ex KSK 978) a Volvo B12M Plaxton, which arrived in May

**Western Greyhound (Summercoat):** Optare Solo M920s, PL06 TFX and PL06 TFY arrived from Blue Bus, Penwortham in May, followed by KT04 BUS a M/Benz Citaro which came from Kingsman, Faversham in June. The latter has been painted in green fleet livery.

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## ***Wales***

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**Alpine (Llandudno):** The following are now in schoolbus yellow livery: A148 FPG, A685 MWX, B197 DTU and G232 VWL. A683 MWX still retains P&O Lloyd livery

**Arvonía (Llanrug):** The two Neoplan N516's, YN 51 XMM and YN 05 BVV are reported to have gone to Evobus, Coventry in June

**Blue Bird (Neath):** Not reported here before is R637 EYS a M/Benz 711D Mellor which was acquired from Faresaver, Chippenham back in January.

**Brodyr James (Llangeith):** CU 09 AEM a Dennis Javelin Plaxton was new here in March

**Bysiau Cwm Taf (Whitland):** MK 57 BBF Enterprise Plaxton Primo was on loan from Plaxton, was returned to Scarborough in May. Meanwhile, 279 NDE a Volvo B10M Berkhof (ex T5 TAF, Y481 HPG) was reregistered to Y314 BWN and subsequently sold to Plaxton, Anston and is now with Coaching Connections, Belfast. VIL 6275 M/B 709D Reeve Burgess (ex H742 TWB) has gone to Lloyd's, Machynlleth.

**Caelloi (Pwllheli):** Acquired from Country Lion in May was KT 53 UYL a Volvo B12B Plaxton, ex L1 CLN.

**Cardiff Buses:** 5 further Scania's have now arrived in the UK from Poland, with delivery to Cardiff expected in the next few weeks.

**Diamond (Morrison):** The following vehicles are now with Moseley, South Elmsall: WA 54 ECT, WA 54 ECX; whilst the following are with Moseley at Wellington: WA 54 ECV, WA 54 ECZ and WA 06 LZJ.

**EST (Cowbridge):** CNZ 8338 (ex W561 RYC) Bova FHD was acquired from Main Line, Gilfach Goch in July

**Edwards (Tiers Cross):** DAF MB200 Van Hool WJB 490 (ex MJI 3560, MIW 2425, E358 EVH) was reregistered to E286 ODE and sold to PTS, Pontyberem in May

**Express Motors (Penygroes):** More details are now to hand of CX 09 EMS which was reported in the last issue of 'Trident'. It is a MAN 12.240 Plaxton Centro B38F and arrived in July.

**GHA Coaches:** David Urqhart liveried Volvo B12B GA07 GHA has been sold to an operator in the Preston area. A pair of former Shearings 02 registered Volvo B12B are expected soon

**Harris (Fleur de Lys):** Acquired from Go Ahead Oxford in May were P635 FFC and P637 FFC Volvo B10B Plaxton.

**Hayward (Carmarthen):** There are a huge amount of acquisitions to report for this operator, namely: CX 56 AAA Dennis Javelin WS, ex MOD,

JIL 2769 (ex F735 XSM) Volvo B10M Van Hool, B290 KPF Leyland Tiger Plaxton Paramount, ex DR, Pontyates : B332 ORY Bova FHD12.280, B422 UFK Volvo B10M Caetano C10 DRT (ex C929MWJ) Bova FH, ex DR, Pontyates : C658 KEP (ex 3338 DD) Leyland Tiger Duple, ex CB&I, Milford Haven : C426 YBA Leyland Tiger Plaxton, ex C&D Environmental, Milford Haven : D113 GHY Volvo B10M Alexander, ex DR, Pontyates : D640 WNU DAF MB230 Plaxton, ex C&D Environmental, Milford Haven : E759 AAW (ex HIL 7615, E846 LRF) Dennis Javelin Duple, ex DR, Pontyates : E909 MDC DAF MB Duple, E979 CCN DAF MB Plaxton, ex Humphreys, Pontypridd

G 529 EAD Leyland Tiger Plaxton, ex C&D Environmental, Milford Haven

All were acquired in July and the following have since moved on to M&R Commercials, Swansea:

CX 56 AAA, D640 WNU, E759 AAW, E909 MDC and E979 CCN.

**Jenson (Pontypool):** The following vehicles appear to have been acquired in July:

W348 XEE M/Benz 1223L Fer., ex Beck, Newarthill, RO51 UVL M/Benz 311CDI Cpt., ex Eurotaxi, Siston Common, YR02 RCO M/Benz 413CDI Excel, ex Grove, Kidderminster and CN53 AYF M/Benz 614D Onyx, ex Eurotaxi, Siston Common

**P&O Lloyd (Bagillt):** R307 JAF Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton has been acquired from First West Yorkshire in July. Also acquired in July was W209 EAG a Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton which came from Ashalls, Gorton.

**Main Line (Gilfach Goch):** YN 09 FRY MAN 18.xxx Plaxton Panther which was reported as new in the August issue should have read YN 09 FRU.

**Mid Wales (Penrhyncoch)** New back in April was YN09 DXW Dennis Javelin SFD Plaxton.

**Nelson (Glyn Neath):** WA05 WLD (ex 05 KY 3049) Volvo B12B Van Hool was acquired from Deros, Killarney in May, and has now been re-registered to JN05 NEL.

**Owen's (Four Crosses):** W607 KFE M/Benz 814D ACI was acquired from Anthony's Travel, Runcorn in April.

**Rhodri Evans Ffoshelig (Carmarthen):** BX56 XAL an Autosan A1012T was acquired from Goulden, Welwyn Garden City in April.

**St Davids Travel (Cardiff):** The Dennis Darts reported in the last issue all came from the Selkent arm of the ELBG

**Thomas Rhondda:** N750 LUS M/Benz OH1416 Wrightbus came from Invincible, Tamworth in July

**Voel (Dyserth):** V151 JTX (ex CNZ 3819, V44 CCH) Scania L94IB4 Van Hool was acquired from Veolia Cymru in July.

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## **West Midlands**

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**Astons (Kemsey):** Acquired from Nestorbus, Turloughmore in March were FJ 55 YCE (ex 05 G 10421), FJ 55 YCF (ex 05 G 10420) and FJ 55 YCH (ex 05 G 10422) Volvo B12B Sideral. Also acquired in May was MX 57 CCJ Optare Solo which came from Drake, Blaina.

In May, FJ 55 YCG and FJ 55 YCK Volvo B12B Sideral from Dunn-Line, and R704 TRV and R751 XPO from Bebb were noted in the yard at Broomhall.

**Catteralls (Southam):** YN 05 BUV a Neoplan N315SHD Neoplan arrived in May from Taj, Wembley. Also acquired in May was YN 05 AUJ a Irisbus 397E.12.35 Beulas from Pullmanor and in June, similar vehicle in the shape of YN 05 AUH arrived.

**Central Buses:** Withdrawn has been K100SDC the last step entrance bus in the fleet

**Hardings (Redditch):** GB 09 HCR and UK 09 HCR Scania K340eb Irizar C49FT were new in May. Acquired in May were YJ 07 JFX VDL SB4000 Van Hool which came from Edinburgh Coach Lines and YJ 08 EDK Temsa Safari which came from New Enterprise, Kent. Acquired in June was SF 06 VYR (ex HSK 651) a Volvo B12M Jonckheere which came from Rowbotham, Kerswell Green. It is thought that YJ 07 JFX and YJ 08 EDK are dealer loans.

**Johnsons (Henley-in-Arden):** M/Benz 0530 MB X432/433/438/439 KON have all gone. X432/433/439 KON were all noted at Stafford Bus Centre back in February. Two Scania /Irizar PB coaches that have slipped through the net are YT09 FLP and YT09 FLR.

Hot off the press courtesy of the company are four new Optare Tempo citybuses YJ59 GEU, YJ59 GEY, YJ59 GFA and YJ59 GFE

**Newbury Coaches (Ledbury):** YN 09 AOA a Volvo B12B Plaxton Paragon was new in March. In April came YR 02 ZMO Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton from Moffat & Williamson, St Fort.

**Sunny Travel:** Acquired from Thandi has been Dennis Dart / Plaxton Pointer L939 GYL and from Sunrise comes Carlyle bodied Dart MUI 1343

**Woodstones (Kidderminster):** Two new Volvo B7R Plaxton Profile arrived in March, viz: FN 09 AMX and FN 09 APY.

## **New Deliveries**

Anthony's (Runcorn)	DB09 ANT	Neoplan
BM (Hayes)	YN09 BXV	Mercedes-Benz / Unvi
Corporate Caching	YN09 HRL	Plaxton Elite
Cropley (Fosdyke)	OCZ1119	Volvo B7R / Sunsundeugi
Flights	BN09 SOU	Mercedes-Benz 0.816D
London Minicoaches	WA09 DZS	London Minicoaches
Milligans	SN09 FFE	Scania Omniexpress
Scotland & Bates	WA09 AZG	Volvo B12B / Van Hool Alizee
Swans (Oldham)	YN09 DYA/B	Dennis Javelin / Plaxton

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**Alexander Dennis Ltd (Falkirk)**

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### 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Travel London	<i>Enviro 400</i>	9479 (LJ09 OJN) 9480 (LJ09 OKN)
Stagecoach NE	<i>Enviro 300</i>	NK09 FMD NK09 FNF
Stagecoach NE	<i>Enviro 400</i>	NK09 FNG

### 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Metroline	<i>Enviro 400</i>	TE976 (LK09 EKV) LK09 ELU
Stagecoach West	<i>Enviro 400</i>	VX09 NBJ (Scania)
Stagecoach North West	<i>Enviro 300</i>	24116 (PX59 AZB) 24118 (PX59 AZD)

### 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Metroline	<i>Enviro 400</i>	TE977 (LK09 EKW) TE978 (LK09 EKX) TE979 (LK09 EKY) TE980 (LK09 EKZ)
Stagecoach West	<i>Enviro 400</i>	VX09 NBN (Scania)
Stagecoach North West	<i>Enviro 300</i>	24122 (PX59 AZL) PX59 AZN
East London Bus Group	<i>Enviro 200</i>	chassis only 9210-9213

### 18<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Metroline	<i>Enviro 400</i>	TE985 (LK09 ELU)
Travel London	<i>Enviro 400</i>	9502 (LJ09 OLT) 9504 (LJ09 OLV)
Stagecoach North West	<i>Enviro 300</i>	LX59 AZO

### 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Stagecoach South East	<i>Enviro 400</i>	GN59 EWL (Scania)
Arriva London	<i>Enviro 400</i>	T66 (LJ59 ACY) T70 (LJ59 ADX)
Metroline	<i>Enviro 400</i>	TE991 (LK09 FMV)
East London Bus Group	<i>Enviro 200</i>	LX59 AOJ
No fleetnames	<i>Enviro 400</i>	LJ59 ABF

## Around the dealers

### *Ensignbus*

#### Vehicles In

From Arriva Midlands : Olympians P601/5CAY.  
From Arriva the Shires: Dart K412FHJ Volvo B10B M101UKX.  
From Stagecoach East: Olympians K658/9/60UNH G647EVV Volvo B10M N814DNE.  
From Stagecoach SE: Olympians G702/10TCD Dart N465PAP  
From Stagecoach Yorkshire : Volvo B10M K751DAO.  
From East London : Tridents T688/9/90/93/94/95/96 KPU Darts Y274FJN Y354FJN.  
From London General: EVL 30 /34 LDP 41 / 51 / 62 / 68 / 72 / 83 / 84 / 86  
From Alliance and Leicester : Darts SF05 LFW / V /U /T.  
From Hedingham Omnibuses: Tiger B124BOO F148SPV Volvo B6's L67/9UNG L833YDS  
N326HUA  
From Williams Coaches: Volvo B10M CJZ 6782.  
From TD Travel: Tiger XEF11Y

#### Vehicles Out

RM1799: Red Route Buses, Northfleet.  
RML2465 / 2675 / 2525: Ambassatours , Halifax , NS , Canada .  
RML2715: Shoreditch Studios, London .  
Leyland PD2 TRN662A Olympian G105AAD: Celtic Travel, Llanidloes, Powys, Wales .

Olympian G702TCD Dart R143RLY: Tates Travel, Barnsley .  
 Olympian H151GGS: Converted to open top and numbered 351 in CS Windsor fleet.  
 Olympians H815/9CBP: Fords Coaches, Althorne , Essex.  
 Olympians K354/8DWJ: TD Travel , Bridlington , Yorks.  
 Olympians K658/9UNH: Towlers Coaches, Emneth, Cambs.  
 Olympian P605CAY: Hedingham Omnibuses, Colchester .  
 Olympians R630/4MNU: Williams Coaches, Camborne, Cornwall .  
 Olympians R627/31/42MNU: Countryliner, Guildford .  
 Dublin Olympian 98-D-20391 now R97LHK with Stanley Travel, County Durham .  
 Spectra K310FYG: M Travel , Yorkshire .  
 Scania K853LMK: Maghull Coaches (converted to part-open top)  
 Scania's N381/3/4/5OTY: Geldards Coaches , Leeds .  
 Volvo B10B M38PVN: Michael Gray , Enniscarthy , County Wexford .  
 Volvo B10M M410BFG: Bugler Coaches, Bristol .  
 Volvo B10M M751LAX: The Big Lemon, Brighton .  
 Volvo B10M's N202LTN N814DNE: PeoplesBus, Liverpool .  
 Mercedes 709 N614VSS: OTT Travel, Faversham , Kent .  
 Dart K412FHJ: Brylaine Coaches, Lincs.  
 Darts R839TMO T223SAS: Mullaney's Coaches, Watford .  
 Darts Y274/354FJN: Rotala Group, Birmingham .  
 Darts SF05LFT/V/W/U: McGills Buses , Scotland .  
 Tridents T691/5/6/8KPU: Wardle Transport, Stoke on Trent .  
 Trident V909FEC: The Connections Bus Project , Cambridge .  
 Trident PO51UMW: Kimes Coaches, Folkingham , Lincs.  
 Volvo B7TL's PN02XBY/XCR: Sullivan Buses, South Mimms .  
 Volvo B7TL's PL51LGA / C / J / K / N / O / U / W / X / LFE PN02XCC / E / G / H / J / M / O / P / XBX: Plymouth Citybus.

## Rally News

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### ***Forthcoming events***

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#### **September**

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Stagecoach in Cheltenham 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary rally
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Leicester Bus running day at the Abbey Pumping Station
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Metroline Cricklewood garage open day
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Family Fun Day at Johnsons of Henley in Arden

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### ***Rally Reports***

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**KEMBLE STEAM EXTRAVAGANZA, Friday July 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.**

64 Preserved buses booked for over the three days, on the Friday we saw 14,BUT with over 70 Steam Traction Engines it was well worth attending.

675 COD Western National (603)	LHT 911 Bristol (2388)
B630 WNE Blue Motors,(Blackpool)	LTA 750 Royal Blue (4)
BJU 13T Theobalds (Long Melford)	MJP 59K Tomlinson (Tewkesbury)
HKX 533 Goodmans,(Estria)	OVL 473 Lincolnshire (2378)
JC 9735 Thompson ( ??)	REU 326S Bristol
JHW 103P Gardiner (Tuffley)	SFJ 904 Lewis, Henstridge
KHT 122P Stroud Valley (SD 3024)	YHT 802J Bristol (516)

KUL 344D Bedford Vas,Duple body,ex Inner London Education Committee. The owner bought this vehicle as a mobile home and is undecided whether or not to return it to bus status or leave it as a mobile home.

WEST SOMERSET STEAM FAIR. Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. (Norton Fitzwarren).

The new platform at Norton Fitzwarren (on the West Somerset Railway) opened today and the first public train to use the platform was a 4 car DMU.

913 DTT Devon General (913)  
C748 FFJ Exeter (748)  
CCX 177 London (D 130)  
CYD 724C Cornelius & Hutchings  
DCK 219 Ribble (1248)  
DPV 65D Ipswich (65)

EVD 406 Woods, Mirfield (20)  
GTT 518C Devon General (518)  
JTE 645 Morecambe & Heysham (20)  
KGK 529 London (RTW 29)  
VDV 137S Devon General (931)  
VDV 752 Western National (1935)

These were either static, (913 DTT, C748 FFJ, CYD 724C & VDV 752) or giving rides to Taunton Bus and Rail Stations.

## Out & About

### *The Yorkshire Wanderer*



Transdev York based Volvo B7RLE / Wright Eclipse Urban 450 in Coastliner livery at Queensgate depot, Burnley, during our last trip with our hosts Keith Sykes and Paul Holingsbee.

About twenty GBBG Members gathered outside Leeds Rail Station on 1<sup>st</sup> August for the above trip to Transdev Depots, with Volvo B7 450 YJ05FNH promised from York Depot, which duly arrived at

0945 displaying “GB Bus Group” on the digital front indicator

With the vehicle were Paul Hollingsbee, General Manager of Transdev Claims and Keith Sykes, Operations Manager at York as Driver. Paul had on board for everyone a current Fleet List, as well as a Timetable Pack supplied by Transdev Publicity Department.

450 is a Volvo B7RLE with Wright Eclipse Urban DP44F body, new to Yorkshire Coastliner, transferred to Harrogate & District in 2008 and then to Transdev York in 2009 when it was no longer needed at Harrogate and currently in Coastliner livery.

We were away a little early, the route being via A61 to Harrogate (the Transdev 36 Route), through the town, and a brief pause beside the Bus Station, where road works, prevented an extended stay. We then went to the Harrogate & District Depot at Starbeck outside the town. Here are located the H & D school bus fleet, a batch of former Stagecoach Plaxton Interurban coaches, which being the holidays were all present

From there, we were on the A59 towards Skipton, passing the giant “golfballs” of RAF Menwith Hill, the Bolton Abbey Steam Railway Station, and the Harrogate & District B6 on the X59 service from Skipton to Harrogate. Skirting Skipton, we came on the A650 to Keighley. There we saw the new “outstation” for My Bus School Bus Vehicles (full up with 15 buses), and into the main Depot in the town, including the two overflow yards front and rear. Then Keighley Bus Station for lunch break, and on to the Dalton Lane site of Keighley Bus Museum Trust. In the Keighley area Paul stepped into the driving seat to allow Keith time for his break.

Departing after a whistle stop tour of the museums work, We continued via the A650 and A6068 towards Burnley. Keeping along the line of the busy “Mainline” routes, and then along the “Witchway” route we went through Colne town centre, passed the Bus Station, and through Nelson town centre, passing by the new Interchange, which is a vast improvement on the old concrete edifice, that it replaced, although it is still standing as a reminder of the old days.

Next visit was Burnley & Pendle’s Queensgate Depot, now also shared by the Northern Blue operation. A group photograph was taken. Then, lastly into Burnley Bus Station, where we saw a good selection of vehicles and liveries, and more “Witchways” and “Starship” Versas. We reluctantly left Burnley to return to Leeds, our route being via Queensgate again, thence the M65,, A6068, and A650 (bypassing Keighley) then direct to Leeds Station arriving at 1715 (some remained on to go to Leeds Bus Station), to end a great day out, made all the more enjoyable by our Transdev colleagues Paul and Keith. Thanks also due to Keith Roebuck, Operations Manager for initially “setting the wheels in motion” and allowing the visits.

Leeds Rail Station 09:50 - 10:00

First Yorkshire  
19024 30942 31811 32435 32449 37047  
37665 37715 66704 66997 66998 69317  
69328 69333

Arriva Yorkshire  
695 722 1105 1610

(Leeds to Harrogate)  
First Yorkshire  
30867 37024 37065 69332 69348

Transdev Harrogate  
3611

Harrogate Town Centre & Bus Station

Transdev Harrogate  
307 451 604 608 612 614 1086 1701  
1702 1703 3609 3613

Harrogate Coach Travel  
M954 DRG

Transdev Starbeck Garage Harrogate

140 150 155 157 165 452 606 942 945  
946 947 948 949 957 962 1087 2702  
2707 3606  
T543 T545

(Starbeck to Keighley)  
Transdev Harrogate  
306 604 612 1700

Unkown  
YC02 DHO or D (did anybody else get it)

Keighley Depot

204 210 349372 544 576 716 803 953  
963 964 973 974 978 986 987 1002  
1095 1805 2703  
T042

G293 KWY Leyland Lynx

Yorkshire Coastliner  
413 (under repair)

School buses are in overflow yards  
yard 1 (across the road from the front  
entrance)  
389 972 975 976 989

yard 2 (back of the depot)  
385 971 977 983 984 988

yard 3 (on industrial estate over the other  
side of town centre)  
530 531 540 541 542 543 557 561 562  
1001 1003 1004 1039 1041 1129

Keighley Bus Station  
Transdev Keighley

454 563 564 568 572 576 577 706 707  
708 710 711 712 713 714 715 718 1047  
1094 1802 1807 1809 1810 1813 1843  
1844 1845 1847 1849 1850

Transdev Burnley & Pendle  
1863

Tyrer Bus  
MX09 MJF

(On the way to Keighley Bus Museum)  
Access Bus  
YJ09 KZU

Keighley Bus Museum  
See museum report elsewhere in the  
magazine

(Keighley to Burnley)

Colne Bus Station  
Transdev Burnley & Pendle  
1858 1860 1863 1865

Tyrer Bus  
YJ05 WCN

Nelson  
Transdev Burnley & Pendle  
1043 1867 1870 1866 2758

Burnley Area

Transdev Burnley & Pendle  
1046 1862

Pennine Travel  
R706 YWC

Tyrer Bus  
MX57 CBU

Bubble Travel  
BHZ 8804

Queensgate Depot Burnley  
Transdev Burnley & Pendle  
14 15 107 116 125 163 201 347 370 371  
504 505 848 1058 1062 1065 1067 1072  
1073 1091 1868 2751 2760 2763  
T550  
A158 OFR Leyland Olympian (this goes  
around rough housing estates to get  
young people of the streets)  
and the best one of the day CWX 671  
(damlier in maroon colours)

Transdev Northern Blue  
55 122 124 139 143 147 151 156

Burnley Bus Station  
Transdev Burnley & Pendle  
202 252 254 255 258 259 260 263 264  
265 268 720 1043 1100 1853 1854 1856  
1857 1858 1859 1869 2750 2759

Transdev Northern Blue  
111 1253

Rossendale  
139

M & M Coaches  
P255 HOJ

Pennine travel  
R717 YWC

First Yorkshire  
66782

(Bunley to Leeds)  
Transdev Burnley & Pendle  
1046 1809 1813 1860 1863 1870 2754

Unknown  
GJX 331 YJ03 PDV

Transdev Keighley  
566 1049

First Yorkshire  
30891 30909 31145 32473 37363 69248  
69483 69484

Fourway Travel  
YM03 ECK YN54 WCR

## Tony's Back bit!

Still at Heathrow to begin this month...and a while back I asked if any other car-hire company matched Europcar here in operating 'proper' buses. I completely overlooked Avis, whose base is on the north side close to the spectator area. In addition to a good sized fleet of MB minis and VW Transporters (mail me if you want a list), they have Caetano bodied Toyota BB50Rs, including:

2		9		10	R710XAL	12	P212CAY
	RK04BCU		FD04ZWY	11	RK04BCV	14	FD04ZWZ
						18	FD04ZWX

A Carlyle bodied Fiat 49-10 reported recently in use as a caravan/mobile home is G737JOX. This one-time 21 seater once worked for the health service in Warwickshire.

In the north west, Halton Community Transport in unlovely Widnes have Marcopolo bodied Javelin BIG9302 amongst their minis. This began life as P9MCT with MCT of Motherwell and was then P954WOS and 586PHU with Bugler's of Bristol. Halton also has Beulas bodied Irisbus 391E S107KJF, once with Rennie's in Dunfermline. I believe that, at one time, they operated B10Ms OJI9455 and TIB5908 too - but would welcome confirmation and more info on these two. Are these still in the fleet?

Over in Nottingham the City Council run Solos YJ57EHR and EHS. I have heard that similar vehicle YJ58PHB joined these not so long back. There are also more minis in the fleet here than you can shake a stick at. On a general point, I am assuming that readers do not want me to get into much detail about minis in this section - but let me know if anyone feels different.

Another driving school to report on. Bains of Hayes in West London have a couple of Darts. SF04RHU was previously with McColl of Balloch in west Scotland. Companion J640KCU spent many years with Northern General.

As we are in West London....then back to Heathrow and an unlikely bus operator - British Airways. The national flag carrier airline has well over 100 vehicles supporting its activities. Many are employed airside in 'coaching' passengers to remotely parked aircraft, and therefore difficult (but not impossible) to spot - and do sometimes venture onto public roads too. Amongst those noted lately have been these B29D configured MB Citaros:

BU0461	FLY 747T	BU0468	BU07 KXG	BU0476	BU07 KZA
BU0464	BU07 KYB	BU0474	BU07 KXH	BU0489	BU07 KXN
BU0466	BU07 KXY	BU0475	BU07 KXF		

The fleet numbers suggest there are at least 20 more, so any one fill some gaps? More easily seen landside are the BA aircrew shuttle buses. Although these tend to be smaller vehicles, many are B23F Van Hool A308 midis appropriate to this section and include:

CC461	M565 BLC	CC473	M596 BLC	CC482	N198 FLR
CC462	M572 BLC	CC474	N123 FLR	CC484	N184 FLR
CC464	M574 BLC	CC475	N121 FLR	CC485	N183 FLR
CC465	M578 BLC	CC478	N134 FLR	CC486	N182 FLR
CC468	M592 BLC	CC479	N137 FLR	CC487	N196 FLR
CC470	M593 BLC	CC480	N138 FLR		
CC472	M595 BLC	CC481	N149 FLR		

Some recent departures account for a few of the gaps. CC476/7 N122/33FLR have made the mundane move to Central Trucks of Wolverhampton, I have a report that M594BLC - the former CC471 - is now with an operator in Oxford but have no info on this. Spectacularly though, M580BLC (CC467) has undergone a complete career change, being reported as named 'The Bitch' with East Coast Hummers. I guess this is the Edinburgh based limo company as there is a picture of what appears to be this now party-bus on their website - painted pink, fitted with panel cages(what are these..don't have them in my local), and described with the caption, 'Ooh, it's naughty'.

Thinking about 'The Bitch' has got the pulse of this ageing bus spotter not used to too much excitement going a bit too fast. So, to cool down, a few more BA crew coaches. Supporting the Van Hools is a small fleet of B21F Wright bodied MB811Ds. Of these, I can list:

CC6022	N478VPJ	CC6025	N473VPJ	CC6028	N453VPM
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A handful of larger crew coaches now seem to have cascaded on to moving run-of-the-mill BA staff to their remote car parks at T5. These low-floor Caetano B31F bodied MB O405s include:

CC6031	V963ENJ	CC6032	W302NUF	CC6033	V962ENJ	CC6035	V626ENJ
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Away from Heathrow at last, I asked about sports teams operating their own buses. Van Hool bodied DAF F60HWJ - new as F610HGO, and with a long and varied history- is one-such, with the rugby club in Galashiels. At least it was, as it has now moved on. Where to?

To close this month, star performer for me at Metroline's Potters Bar depot open day in early July (do not forget Cricklewood on 19 Sept) was Routemaster SMK679F of Tara Support Services of Enfield, painted an appropriately Irish green as internet photos show. I understand that this company are in transport management amongst other things. But their website is written in the sort of jargon that means you can read it and, for the most part, still not have a clue what it is all about. A rather apt description for this part of the magazine some might say.

Bye for now.

# The Gallery

This month we have a selection of Transdev Blazefield group vehicles that we noted during our recent tour around the various companies.



Here at Burnley is refurbished Volvo B10BLE 1072 in current Mainline livery matching new Wright buses running



The Burnley & Pendle subsidiary took delivery of a batch of these futuristic looking Optare Versa single decks during 2008



Keighley & District use a batch of Mini Pointer Darts for local services in Keighley 716 is seen here in the depot is one



The Lancashire part of the group evaluated refurbished Volvo B10s as dedicated school buses but in the end only two were done



Harrogate & District use these Plaxton President Bodied Volvo B7s on its 770 route



Burnley & Pendle now shares its depot with Northern Blue where Scania 143 is noted