

Trident

the monthly magazine of the

GB Bus Group

website: gb-bg.co.uk



Arriva North East has recently taken a batch of Enviro 400s with 7517 (NK09 FND) seen here whilst on driver familiarisation duties [Lee Wardle]

GBBG

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Chairman: **Trevor Roots** - chairman@gb-bg.co.uk (01466 760724)
Mill of Botary, Cairnie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4UD

Secretary: **Mark Richards** - secretary@gb-bg.co.uk (01908 520028)
7 Parkside, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK4 1BX

Treasurer: **Frank Gold** - treasurer@gb-bg.co.uk

Membership Secretary: **Trevor Roots** - membership@gb-bg.co.uk details as above

Publications Manager: **vacant**

Editorial Manager: **Gerald Nicholls** - editor@gb-bg.co.uk (01524 846476)
19 Aldrens Lane, Lancaster LA1 2DT

Website Manager: **Mark Richards** - website.manager@gb-bg.co.uk details as above

Magazine Distribution: **Eddie & Hazel Roberts** - northeast.books@gb-bg.co.uk
33 Mary Street, Crewe, Cheshire CV1 4AJ (01270 255 627)

Visits Co-ordinators: **Anthony Walton** - no email (0121 601 1351)
126 Whiteford Road, Smethwick B67 7PG
Ken Pitt - visits@gb-bg.co.uk (01527 591195)
52 Loxley Close, Church Hill South, Redditch B98 9JG

Editorial Team:

Sightings: **Arthur & Debbie Shelton** - sightings@gb-bg.co.uk
111 Rodney Close, Birmingham B16 8DP (0121 454 3147)

Non PSV: **Tony Allen** - nonpsv@gb-bg.co.uk

Area Representatives:

Scotland: **Arthur Moore** - no email (01506 438988)
66 Ryebank, Ladywell, Livingstone, West Lothian EH54 6HA

Wales & Southern England **Geoff Moseley** - wales.rep@gb-bg.co.uk (01452 381107)
11 Hartley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL4 4PJ

Northwest & London: **Gerald Nicholls** details as above

Publication Compilers:

Southwest, Scotland & Preserved: **Mike Pinder** - mike-pinder1@ntlworld.com (01633 244394)
5 Linton Street, Newport NP20 2DG

Eastern Counties: **Chris James** - splatthefat@aol.com (01493 700730)
13 Station Street, Reedham, Norfolk NR13 3TA

Central England & National Express: **Dave Francis** - central.books@gb-bg.co.uk (mob 07917 664723)
Flat 3, Block 4 Chaynes Grove, Tile Cross, Birmingham B33 0AZ

E. Midlands & Northeast /Yorkshire: **Eddie Roberts** details as above

Wales: **John Donner** - john.donner@btinternet.com (01529 309175)
28 Hawthorne Drive, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7GZ

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Notice Board

Editors Bit

Welcome to the October magazine, as you will various sections of the postal service are striking, this is having some effect to the magazine, with a couple of reports not making it, despite extending the deadline by a couple of days, so no Scotland or Eastern Counties I'm afraid. I've had to hold over my Internet guide once again, but it will appear soon

Group News

Magazine

The closing date for the November magazine will be October 30th.

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, Ensignbus and LOTS. 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:

Jeff Norton (sharnbrook), Ron Parry (Stoke Newington), Rod Belringer (Plymouth), Ces Vellam (Spalding), Malcolm Castell (Hitchin), Martyn Morgan (Tamworth) & John Mills (Shaftesbury) – a warm welcome to you all.

GB-BG PUBLICATIONS

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News from the Industry

Metrobus, part of the Go Ahead Group have announced the purchase of the Horsham operations of Arriva Southern Counties, from Saturday October 3rd. Five town services are run as well as the 93 service to Dorking and TfL route 465. Arriva is retaining operation of the 63 route through to Guildford, a section to Oakhill will be run by Metrobus as the 65. Initially timetables will remain the same.

Service News

London Tender Results

Starting November 2009

34 Barnet - Arnos Grove - Walthamstow

Retained by Arriva London North with 20 existing fleet double deck buses

221 Edgware - Mill Hill - Turnpike Lane

Retained by Arriva London North with 22 existing fleet double deck buses

Starting 9th January 2010

76 / N76 Tottenham (Swan) - Moorgate - Waterloo

Retained by Arriva London North with 22 existing fleet double deck buses

323 Canning Town Station - Bromley-By-Bow - Mile End

Awarded to East London with 4 new single deck buses (currently operated by First)

476 Northumberland Park - Tottenham - Euston

Retained by First Capital with 21 new double deck buses

Starting 23rd January 2010

388 Hackney Wick - Liverpool Street - Embankment Station

Retained by CT Plus with 11 existing fleet double deck buses (temp pvr of 13 retained until 2011)

Starting 27th February 2010

48 Walthamstow - Hackney - London Bridge

Retained by East London with 20 new double deck buses

55 / N55 Leyton Green - Hackney - Oxford Circus

Retained by East London with 28 existing fleet double deck buses

56 Whipps Cross - Clapton - Islington - Smithfield

Retained by East London with 21 new double deck buses

242 / N242 Homerton Hospital - Dalston - Tottenham Court Road Station

Retained by Arriva London North with 28 new and existing fleet double deck buses

277 / N277 Highbury - South Hackney - Canary Wharf - Leamouth

Retained by East London with 21 existing fleet double deck buses

488 Clapton - Hackney Wick - Twelvemess Crescent (with a proposed extension from Dalston)

Awarded to East London with 9 new single deck buses (currently operated by First)

Starting March 2010

259 Edmonton Green - Tottenham - Holloway - Kings Cross
Retained by First Capital with 21 new double deck buses

Starting 10th April 2010

S3 Sutton Hospital - Sutton - Worcester Park (with an extension to Malden Manor)
Retained by Quality Line using 8 existing fleet single deck buses

Starting 1st May 2010

46 Lancaster Gate - St Johns Wood - Kings Cross - Farringdon Street
Retained by Metroline using existing fleet single deck buses (new ones due in 2012)

110 Twickenham - Hounslow (extended to West Middlesex Hospital)
Retained by Transdev London United with 5 existing fleet single deck buses

111 Heathrow Airport Central - Hounslow - Hampton Court - Kingston
Retained by Transdev London United with 23 new double deck buses

P4 Lewisham - Honor Oak - Dulwich Village - Brixton
Retained by Selkent with 10 existing fleet single deck buses

East Lancashire Changes

Transdev Lancashire United / Burnley & Pendle, have been making various changes to their network, with a reduction in service and in the following cases completely withdrawn on a Saturday, with Lancashire County Council stepping in to cover the gaps.

In Accrington services 5 and 8 have passed to Pilkingtons, the firm that refuses to die, A pair of Optare Metroriders have been noted running on the services R812 TKO and R814 TKO.

Service 4 and 11 are now run by Rossendale Transport, with the X63 to Burnley being undertaken by Tyrerbus using Optare Solos.

Over in Burnley again on Saturdays Tyrer has also taken over route 3 also operating route 74 (Nelson local)

Fleet News

Arriva

Classic Coaches (Anfield Plain) have reunited former OK DAF SB3000 / Van Hool 685 XHY with its original registration of J804 TAJ. Classic are also to take over the Metrocentre circular S1 and S2 from Go North East in October.

Midlands: Another large round of changes to get through

North West: Transferred to Wythenshawe from Liverpool, for recent tender gains around Stockport, have been Dennis Dart SLF / Mini Pointers 891 (T11 BLU), 892 (W12 BLU), 893 (X13 LUE) and 894 (X14 BLU)

First Group

Cymru: The full list of the ten Volvo B7LA / Wrightbus StreetCar are: 19000 S90 FTR (ex YK06 CZN), 19029 S100 FTR (ex YK06 EKT), 19030 S10 FTR (ex CU57 AJV), 19032 S20 FTR (ex CU57 AJX), 19033 S80 FTR (ex YN07 SYJ), 19034 S30 FTR (ex CU57 AJY), 19036 S50 FTR (ex CU57 AKJ), 19035 S40 FTR (ex CU57 AKG), 19037 S60 FTR (ex CU57 AKN) and 19038 S70 FTR (ex CU57 AKK)

Devon & Cornwall: Withdrawals to note are two Leyland Olympians 34812 (C412 HJN) and 34813 (C413 HJN)

Manchester: The two new Iveco 150e25 School buses are 68223 (PO59 CLJ) and 68224 (PO59 CLN), both running out of Ince

A few allocation changes took place at the end of August in readiness for the new school term 30587, 30588, 31902, 31903, 31915, 31917-31921, 31926, 31928, 31942-31948, 31953, 31954 res - Ince: 31922-31924, 31932-31934 res - Wigan: 31927, 31930, 31935, 31936 Oldham - Ince: 31938-31940 Bury - Ince: 31951, 31952 Wigan - Ince: 34019, 34023, 34035-34037 Ashton - Oldham: 34040, 34061 Ince - Ashton: 34069-34070, 34080, 34082 Queens Rd - Ashton: 34251-34253 Queens Rd - Bolton: 334254, 34255 Queens Rd - Ashton: 34291-34296 Ince - Ashton: 60312, 60315, 60335, 60336, 60338, 60343, 60344 res - Bolton: 60345-60349 Wigan - Ince: 60424, 60426 Oldham - Queens Rd: 60436-60436, 61149 res - Queens Rd: 66879 Queens Rd - Oldham: 66890-66894 Bolton - Oldham: 67178, 67179 Queens Rd - Bury:

Potteries: A swap of buses between here and Glasgow see 61158, 61234, 61482 and 61557 head north with 40745 (P750XUS), 40747 (P752 XUS), 40749 (P754 XUS) and 40751 (P757 XUS) move here.

Somerset & Avon: The batch of 26 Volvo B7RLE / Wrightbus Eclipse will be numbered 69435-60, the first being noted at Wrights in Ballymena in September, with a couple making it to Bath by the end of the month. These will then be followed by seven Enviro Darts numbered 44925-31.

West Yorkshire: Ex London Marshall bodied Dart SLFs at Halifax are 41281 (T281 JLD), 41282 (T282 JLD), 41283 (T282 JLD) and 41284 (T284 LJD). Also transferred from Leeds Hunslet Park have been 30811-30813. New Volvo B9TL / Wright Geminis at Bradford are 37754 (YJ59 KSV), 37755 (YJ59 KSY) and 37756 (YJ59 KSZ) these were originally registered YJ09NZD-NZF. Earlier models 37058-37062 have moved from Bradford to Hunslet Park.

Wyvern: Transferred into Worcester have been the following 05 registered Volvo B7RLEs 66797-66987, whilst moving from Worcester to Redditch have been 67631 (VX54 MOV), 67632 (VX54 MPE) and 67651 (VX54 MTU). Dennis Lance 67248 (M248 MRW) is also now at Redditch ex reserve, releasing 67205 (L205AAB) to Kidderminster to act as a spare for the repaint programme there. Olympian 31452 (N963 SOS) has moved from Worcester to Redditch with Lance 67240 (M240 MRW) moving in the opposite direction.

Go Ahead

London: The last Mercedes-Benz Citaro rigid, MEC27 was delivered in early September, having been damaged on delivery and returned to Germany, it did not arrive with the rest and has thus had its BD09 ZVS registration voided now being BF59 NHJ

Metrobus: Nineteen vehicles are being taken with the purchase of Arriva's operation at Horsham Dennis Dart SLFs 3003, 3032, 3068, 3069, 3074, 3080-3083, 3085, 3179 and 3248 DAF 3975 and Enviro 200s 3976-3981. How many of the older buses continue in service remains to be seen.

North East: Scania L94/UB 4954, 4955, 4973, 4974, 4975 and 4976 have been repainted Black ready for October service changes in South Tyneside. They are to be used and branded for service X35 out of Deptford depot replacing the Caetano Darts on the route. Meanwhile, 4954 was used by Gateshead depot after being painted Black and did not return to Percy Main depot however it has since moved to Deptford earlier than expected. Sister Scania L94/UB's 4971 and 4972 have moved from Percy Main to Deptford depot and have also been refurbished by Thornton's and re-painted into Laser Gold livery. They are to be used on the Laser 35 when next months service changes come into place. Likewise Scania L94/UB 4970 (NK53UNW) is

currently under paint prep and will presumably end up like sister's 4971/2 and return from Thornton's in Laser Gold livery.

Other Scania L94UB repaints are 4932, 4933 and 4934 into White and are working out of Gateshead depot before planned fleet movements next month. Ex Fab Fifty Seven sisters 4935, and 4936 have both been repainted Orange and will be used on Fab Fifty Six next month when they move to Deptford for changes to the 56 service. At present they are still found on service 57 out of Gateshead depot. Lastly, Scania L94UB 4937 has also been repainted Orange and will like it sisters be used to accommodate the need for extra buses when the Fab Fifty Six goes every 10 minutes next month.

Transbus Mini Pointer Dart's 555, 556 and 557 have been repainted Yellow with three more to follow suit. They are expected to be transferred to Gateshead depot and used on service 87. The last of the Volvo B10BLE's on the Lime have now been refurbished by Thornton's of Ashington, these are 4852, 4853, 4854 and 4855 and at present just carry plain Lime Green livery. The last item to note on the repaint front is that long service Percy Main Dennis Lance SLF 4769 (L469YVK) has been returned to service after being spruced up and gaining Centurion stickers.

Fleet movements are; Volvo Olympian 3833 from Percy Main to Gateshead, Dennis Tridents 3860 and 3861 from Chester-Le-Street to Deptford, DAF SB220 4820 has moved from Winlaton to Chester-Le-Street, Volvo B10BLE 4923 has moved from Percy Main to Gateshead and lastly Dennis SPD 8211 has moved from Gateshead to Deptford. Volvo B7TL 3967 has now been placed in Service at Chester-Le-Street. Lastly, Dennis SPD 8170 is on loan to Ashington from Gateshead and Volvo B10BLE 4912 is on loan to Gateshead from Percy Main.

Southern Vectis: Transferred from Wilts & Dorset is 595 R813 NUD a Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton Premiere

Wilts & Dorset: New vehicles not reported so far are: 1401 (HF09 FVU), 1402 (HF09 FVV), 1403 (HF09 FVW), 1404 (HF09 FVX), 1405 (FV09 FVY), 1408 (HF59 DMV) and 1409 (HF09 DMX) all Scania N230UD / Optare Olympus PO51/29F. Also are colsed top versions seating H51/29F 1410 (HF09 FVR), 1410 (HF09 FVS) and 1412 (HF09 FVT). They are all allocated to Swanage where some 1401-1403 carry Purbeck Breezer 50 livery and 1410-1412 carry Purbeck Breezer 40 livery. Two new Optare Solos are also in service at Poole; 2691 (BP09 ONE) and 2692 (PB09 ONE)

The following have all been acquired from Southern Vectis: 735-738 K735-738 ODL Leyland Olympian Northern Counties, 741 K741 ODL Leyland Olympian Northern Counties, 744-746/749-751 M744-746/749-751 HDL Volvo Olympian Northern Counties, 752 R752 GDL Volvo Olympian Northern Counties

766 M736 BBP Volvo Olympian East Lancs has been acquired from Solent Blue Line and is allocated to Lyminster.

National Express Group

Airport: The varied fleet of buses operated have now numbered into the main National Express numbering system, thanks to Tony Hunter we can list the following

Mercedes-Benz Artic

8541	KX58 GUA	8545	KX58 GUF	8549	BU53 AXO	8553	BU53 AXV
8542	KX58 GUC	8546	KX58 GUF	8550	BU53 AXP		
8543	KX58 GUD	8547	KX58 GUH	8551	BU53 AXR		
8544	KX58 GUE	8548	BU53 AXN	8552	BU53 AXT		

Mercedes-Benz 12m

8554	KX58 GVJ	8556	KX58 GVL	8558	KX58 GTU	8560	KX58 GTZ
8555	KX58 GVK	8557	KX58 GCM	8559	KX58 GTY		

ADL Enviro 200

8561	KX58 GUJ	8562	KX58 GUK	8563	KX58 GUO		
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Mercedes-Benz Sprinter

8564	KX58 BJK	8567	KX58 BJO	8570	KX58 BFA	8573	KX09 CJU
8565	KX58 BJV	8568	KX58 BKA	8571	KX58 BJY		
8566	KX58 BJU	8569	KX58 BJZ	8572	KX09 CJO		

Cobus 2700 8600-8605 these operate airside at Gatwick and do not carry registration marks

DAF SB220LF / East Lancs Myllemium

8606	X831 NWX	8611	X836 NWX	8616	X841 NWX	8621	X846 NWX
8607	X832 NWX	8612	X837 NWX	8617	X842 NWX	8622	X847 NWX
8608	X833 NWX	8613	X838 NWX	8618	X843 NWX		
8609	X834 NWX	8614	X839 NWX	8619	X844 NWX		
8610	X835 NWX	8615	X840 NWX	8620	X845 NWX		

Dennis Dart SLF / UVG Urbanstar

8623	R425 AOR	8624	R426 AOR
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Volvo B6RLE / Wright Crusader

8625	N241 WRW	8627	N244 WRW	8629	N246 WRW
8626	N243 WRW	8628	N245 WRW		

Volvo B10M / Plaxton Premiere 350

8630	P2 CAP	8631	P3 CAP	8632	P4 CAP	8633	P566 MLE
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MAN 14.220 / MCV Evolution

8637	AE55 MVF	8638	AE55 MVG	8639	AE55 MVH	8640	AE55 MVJ
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Operations: A renumbering exercise has been carried out with the fleet being re numbered into CO series, with very grateful thanks to Tony Hunter here is the list including current allocation which consists CY = Crawley: SH = Start Hill (Stansted): SR = Sipson Road (Heathrow).

It should be noted that some are now with Bruces of Salsburgh*, but have been included for completeness.

CO01	FJ56 PFE	CY	CO26	FJ57 KHT	SH	CO51	FJ57 KJU	SH
CO02	FJ56 PFF	SH	CO27	FJ57 KJF	SH	CO52	FJ57 KJO	SH
CO03	FJ07 DVH	SH	CO28	FJ57 KHU	SH	CO53	FJ57 KHO	SR
CO04	FJ07 DVK	SH	CO29*	FJ57 KHV	SH	CO54	FJ57 KGE	SH
CO05	FJ07 DVL	SH	CO30*	FJ57 KHW	SH	CO55	FJ57 KHH	SH
CO06	FJ07 DVM	SH	CO31	FJ57 KGY	SH	CO56*	FJ57 KGF	SH
CO07	FJ07 DVN	SH	CO32	FJ57 KGZ	SH	CO57	FJ57 KGG	SH
CO08	FJ07 DVO	SH	CO33	FJ57 KHA	SH	CO58	YN55 NDZ	SR
CO09	FJ07 DVP	SH	CO34	FJ57 KHB	SH	CO59	Y303 HUA	SR
CO10	FJ07 DVR	SH	CO35	FJ57 KHC	SH	CO60	FJ06 URH	CY
CO11	FJ07 BYV	SH	CO36	FJ57 KHD	SH	CO61	FJ06 GGK	CY
CO12	FJ07 BYW	SH	CO37	FJ57 KHE	SH	CO62	FJ06 URG	CY
CO13	FJ07 BYX	SH	CO38	FJ57 KHF	SH	CO63	FN06 FMC	CY
CO14	FJ07 BYZ	SH	CO39	FJ57 KHG	SH	CO64	FH06 EAW	CY
CO15	FJ07 BZA	SH	CO40	SP04 HRL	SR	CO65	FN06 FLH	CY
CO16	FJ07 BZB	SH	CO41	SP04 HRM	SR	CO66	FN06FMA	CY
CO17	FJ07 BZC	SH	CO42	ST52 GZD	SR	CO67	FH06 EAX	CY
CO18	FJ57 KHX	SH	CO43	ST52 GZE	SR	CO68	FN06 EBM	CY
CO19	FJ57 KHV	SH	CO44	LK53 KWF	SR	CO69	FN06 EBN	CY
CO20	FJ57 KHZ	SH	CO45	LJ53KVV	SR	CO70	FH06 EBL	CY
CO21	FJ57 KJA	SH	CO46	LJ53 KVT	SR	CO71	FJ06 URO	CY
CO22	FJ57 KHM	SH	CO47	LJ53 KVR	SR	CO72	FJ07 DWN	CY
CO23	FJ57KHK	SH	CO48	LK53 KVP	SR	CO73	LK53 KVO	CY
CO24	FJ57 KHL	SH	CO49	FH05 URN	SR	CO74	FH05 URO	SR
CO25	FJ57 KJE	SH	CO50	FH05 URR	SR	CO75	FH05 URP	SR

CO76	LK53	KXB	CY	CO83	LK53	KVY	CY	CO90	Y324	HUA	CY
CO77	LK53	KXA	CY	CO84	LK53	KVX	CY	CO91	Y326	HUA	CY
CO78	LK53	KWE	CY	CO85	LK53	KVV	CY	CO92	Y327	HUA	CY
CO79	LK53	KWD	CY	CO86	LK53	KVU	CY	CO93	Y329	HUA	CY
CO80	LK53	KWB	CY	CO87	non	allocated		CO94	Y331	HUA	CY
CO81	LK53	KWA	CY	CO88	Y319	HUA	CY	CO95	FJ57	KHP	SR
CO82	LK53	KVZ	CY	CO89	Y322	HUA	CY	CO96	FJ57	KHR	SR

West Midlands: 2811 YW-w: 3040 LH-w: 3077 WN-w: 3097 WA-w: 3098 WN-w: 3111 WN-w: 4003, 4009, 4012 BC-WN: 4035 reinstated to BC: 4165, 4177, 4313 WN-LH: 4324, 4329, 4330 WN-YW

The following ex Hotel Hoppas are all now in reserve at Miller Street :- 204/5 (T504/5 TOL), 214 (R514 KNJ), 227/30/1/8/9/42-51 (P227 AAP etc), 229 (P229 AAP) is in service at Walsall still B28F. 238/9 are de-licensed and 244 has been re-seated to B34F but is not yet in use

Rotala Group

Red Diamond: The company duly launched its Worcester network on Tuesday 1st September using a variety of vehicles based at a new depot in Droitwich. New routes won by the company include: 30 Worcester-Dines Green; 31A/31C Henwick Park-Hospital/Warndon circle; 37 Worcester-Royal Hospital; 39 Blackpole-Lower Wick; 362/363 Worcester-Great Malvern and 382 Worcester-Eckington

Vehicle so far noted are 538 (KS03 EXG) 539 (KX03 EXN 540 (KX03 EXL 541 (KX03 EXM) and 542 (KX03 EXP), all Optare Solo's and branded 'The City 31' in a orange livery; 529 (P863 PWW) 530 (P862 PWW) and 531 (P912 PWW) Dennis Dart SLF / Wright Crusader and branded 'The City 30' in a green livery; 533 X372 CUY a Dennis Dart / SLF Plaxton Pointer and branded 'The City 39' in a blue livery; 430 T441 EBD a Dennis Dart SLF / Wright Crusader and 527 P865 PWW also a Dennis Dart SLF Wright Crusader, both branded 'The City 37' in a pink livery.

Other vehicles noted operating in Worcester have been 210 (YJ02 PZK) a DAF SB120 Wright Cadet in Black Diamond livery, 405 (P827 BUD) and 406 P829 BUD Dennis Dart SLF / Wright Crusader in Red Diamond livery, 482 (R406 FFC), 483 (R407 FFC) and 485 R410 FFC Dennis Dart SLF Wright Crusader in Red Diamond livery, 524 (R76 GNW) Dennis Dart SLF Wright Crusader in Red Diamond livery, 525 (R562 XOM) Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer in Red Diamond livery and finally 526 (P878 PWW) 528 P864 PWW Dennis Dart SLF Wright Crusader in Red Diamond livery

Wessex Connect (Patchway): Scania Omnidekka YN08 MOF was noted in service in June. From Central Connect have come the following vehicles: KP02 PUX and KP02 PUY Dennis Dart SLF Alexander B29F, SJ04 DVG, SJ04 DVH, SJ04 DVK, SJ04 DVL and SJ04 DVM Volvo B7RLE Wrightbus B43F, KP54 BYR Dennis Dart SLF Alexander B29F

The Volvo's are operating in Bath on route U18 Bath University and Bath City Centre.

More vehicles in from Central Connect, during September, were no less than seven Volvo B7RLE Plaxton Centro for UWE work, viz: BX58 APF, BX58 APK, BX58 AON, BX58 AOU, BX58 AOV, BX58 AOW and BX58 AOY, and all are in a new red and black U-link livery. Also now painted in this livery are YJ07 JJO and YJ07 JRV Wrightbus Eclipse Urbans.

A further ex Central Connect Dennis Dart Plaxton Pointer to arrive is R139 RLY along with V383 SVV.

Stagecoach

Bluebird:

East:

East Kent & Hastings:

East Midlands:

East Scotland: September 2nd saw MAN 18.220 22271 (X271 MTS) transfer from Perth to Dundee to allow Volvo B10B 21051 (M151 FGB) to be placed into reserve. M-B Vario 4222 (R89 EOL) has been moved to Bluebird.

Highlands:

Manchester: The remaining allocation changes from last month is now to hand 17616, 17619-17623 ST-HE: 17624, 17666-17669 ST-PS: 19002-19007 ST-AZ: 19008-19019, 19022, 19046 ST-HE:

Merseyside: The six, rather unsuccessful Hybrid Solos that had been operated by Arriva as their 651 - 656, on behalf of Merseytravel, have been acquired 47709 (MX54 YZR), 47710 (MX54 YZT), 47711 (MX54 YZU), 47712 (MK05 MKL), 47713 (MK05 MKM) and 47714 (MK05 MKN).

North West: Lets try again with the registration sequence for New ADL Enviro 300s at Carlisle

24116	PX59 AZB	24119	PX59 AZF	24121	PX59 AZJ	24123	PX59 AZN
24117	PX59 AZC	24120	PX59 AZG	24122	PX59 AZL	24124	PX59 AZO
24118	PX59 AZD						

Oxfordshire:

South:

South West: The new Versas, 25257-25260, at Exeter have been moved to Barnstaple, owing to some issues with the route they had been working. Four Dennis Dart SLFs 35243, 35244, 35245 and 35264 have moved in return. 47081, 47082 and 20480 have been re allocated to Exeter from Wellington along with Optare Solos 47579-47584, 16059 is now at Barnstaple with 16137 moving to Exeter

Warwickshire:

West: A batch of twelve Scania N230UD / ADL Enviro 400 double decks were delivered in September for use on a revamped service 94 linking Cheltenham with Gloucester, now run to Gold standard with buses painted in a double deck version of the blue and gold livery.

15521	VX09 NBD	15524	VX09 NBG	15527	VX09 NBL	15530	VX09 NBO
15522	VX09 NBE	15525	VX09 NBJ	15528	VX09 NBM	15531	VX09 NBY
15523	VX09 NBF	15526	VX09 NBK	15529	VX09 NBN	15532	VX09 NBZ

Following their arrival several Tridents have been moved around, 18085 (VX04 GHJ is now Stroud; 18086 (VX04 GHK), 18087 (VX04 GHN), 18088 (VX04 GHU), 18089 (VX04 GHW), 18090 (VX04 GHY) and 18091 (VX04 GHZ) are now at with 17728 (MK02 EGX) and 17729 (MK02 EGY) going to Gloucester. Acquired from Stagecoach Oxford are 18127 (KN04 XJB and 18128 (KN04 XJC)

West Scotland:

Yorkshire:

Transdev

London United: A further 18 new 10.2m ADL Enviro200Darts, for a pvr of 16 buses, have been delivered and are now in service on route 72 working from from Shepherd's Bush (S) garage

DE32	YX09 HKA	DE37	YX09 HKF	DE42	YX09 HKL	DE46	YX09 HKP
DE33	YX09 HKB	DE38	YX09 HKG	DE43	YX09 HKM	DE47	YX09 HKT
DE34	YX09 HKC	DE39	YX09 HKH	DE44	YX09 HKN	DE48	YX09 HKU
DE35	YX09 HKD	DE40	YX09 HKJ	DE45	YX09 HKO	DE49	YX09 HKZ
DE36	YX09 HKE	DE41	YX09 HKK				

York: Transferred from Burnley & Pendle has been Volvo B10BLE 1065 (Y165 HRN)

Independent Operators

East Midlands

Nottingham City Transport: Four of the dedicated batch of eight Scania Omnidekkas to be used on the Link 1 Nottingham – Beeston, went into service on September 1st 972 (YT59 OZN), 973 (YT59 OZO), 974 (YT59 OZP) and 975 (YT59 OZR). They are H51/35F and are in a blue livery with prominent City Link branding. The others have since followed 976 (YJ59 OZS) and 977 (YJ59 OZU), 978 (YT59 OZV) and 979 (YT59 OZW).

The main route to Loughborough is due to go low floor from late Autumn, so get Olympians 458 - 466 while you can.

Premiere (Nottingham): The company recently took over a number of Notts County Council tendered services with a number of additions to the fleet, noted so far we have Optare Solos 2201 (SH51 MHN) and 2205 (SH51 MKM) along with ADL Enviro 200s FJ08 VPD and FJ08 VRB, in plain white, with FN08 AZZ in Notts Bus livery, with a red front, these previously being run by Stagecoach East Midlands. Another Solo noted with a four figure fleetnumber is 2278 (V278 DRC). A former demonstrator has is also here SN56 AYB

Trent Barton: A new Nottingham Cross City service has been started linking the bus stations at the Victoria Centre and Broadmarsh. Three Optare Solos are used 444 (FE02 KDJ), 446 (FE02 KDN) and (FE02 KEJ)

London / Greater London

Centrebus: Newly into service on September 1st at Luton is MAN / Plaxton Centro FJ59 FYS

Docklands Coaches: A recent arrival from Angela, Southampton has been Iveco RIB 6582 which is now registered as FD03 YOA

East London Bus Group: New Scania OmniCity 15100 has gained an ex Routemaster 527 CLT. Another large amount of movements to make note, 16122, 16123 TB - Sold: 17064, 17065, 17080 BK - sold: 17082, 17090 U - sold: 17085, 17087, 17092, 17094, 17097 dis - sold: 17108, 17110 TB - RMu: 17112 TL - TLu: 17115 RMu - BK: 17117 BK - TLu 17121-17123, 17125 PD - TL (refurb float): 17131, 17134, 17149 PD - BW: 17148 T - BW: 17155 T - TB: 17179 BW - WH: 17185-17187 T - BK: 17292 WH - BW: 17480 Hire - RM: 17506, 17510 WH - T: 17558 WH - U: 17578 Hire - WH: 17579 Hire - U: 17584, 17587-17589, 17591 Hire - PD: 17745, 17746 WH - T: 17752-17754, 17756, 17781, 17782, 17784, 17818, 17819, 17879 BW - WH (awaiting route transfer): 17831 T - U: 17855, 17912, 17919, 17927 BW - WH: 17906 PD - T: 17944 PD - BW: 18464 BW - NS: 26011, 28628 NSt - sold: 28619, 28621 Ut - sold: 28620, 28622 TLt - sold: 28624, 28626 Tt - sold: 28627 BWt - sold: 34202 RM - TL: 34237-34240 TL - refurb float: 34255 RM - BK: 34377-34380 PD - TL: The sold buses are all with Ensignbus whilst buses noted as Hire are those that had been with Metrobus, which still has, the following Tridents 17481, 17571, 17574, 17577, 17581, 17582 and 17585, although with the new deliveries they may well be back here when this is being read.

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				

Southdown PSV: As a result of winning tenders for services 410, 594 and 595 around the East Grinstead and Oxted areas, three 10.8m ADL Enviro 200s have been added to the service fleet 108 (YX59 BZB), 109 (YX59 BZC) and 110 (YX59 BZD).

Travel London:

North East & Yorkshire

Garnett's (Tindale Crescent) Ex East London Dennis Trident / Alexander T688 KPU and T693KPU are now here, freshly refurbished.

Nightingale (Stanley): now have Mercedes Vario / Plaxton P702LCF.

NMC (Ashington): have added Setra RJI 4525 to the fleet.

Skelton Coaches (Charlton) have added Volvo B10M / Plaxton P14 SHB, T10 TGM and N451 XVA to stock, along with ex K&J, Newton Aycliffe, Leyland Tiger / Plaxton KJI 681.

Stanley Travel (Oxhill) A further ex Dublin Volvo Olympian / Alexander is here in the shape of R114LHX.

Tees Valley (Eaglescliffe) have added Volvo B10M / Van Hool G866 RNC, Volvo B10M / Jonkherre T62 LEC, this being ex Shaws (Carnforth), to stock and have Volvo Citybus / Northern Counties E151 BTO on loan.

Travelsure, Seahouses have Alexander Dennis MPD EU06KOW in stock ex Stanstead Transit.

Scenic Suncruisers: Purchased from Ensign has been MCW Metroliner 806 DYE, the registration is being kept by Ensign so it remains to be seen whether it will revert to its original registration

North West England

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 1st 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.

J Fishwick & Sons: A new arrival, from an old source is P412 KSX an Alexander Royale bodies Volvo Olympian purchased from Lothian

Go Goodwins:

Halton Transport: Courtesy of "a source within Halton Transport" forthcoming chnges 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 (Manchester): Quiet a bit of activity happening here, newly acquired is a former ADL Enviro 300 demonstrator 621 (SN08AAF) and an Enviro 200, latterly with Stansted Transit 611 (KX57 FMG). On the road on September 1st is yet another ADL demonstrator this time an Enviro 400 SN59 AWV, I've had the pleasure of driving this bus when it visited us for our open day earlier this year.

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.

Scotland

Southern England

Apple Coaches (Slough): Acquired from National Express Operations is K80 SAS a Volvo B10M Plaxton Premiere

Big Lemon (Brighton): Acquired from Stagecoach Red & White in July was M751 LAX Volvo B10M-55 Alexander

Brijan Tours (Curdrige): The following vehicles were re-registered in May, 97 G505 VYE Dennis Dart 8.5SDL Duple has become GIG 6497, and 98 A419 XHL Volvo B10M-56 Plaxton has become GIG 8298.

Carousel (High Wycombe): Acquired from NCP at Birmingham Airport is AF 53 GCX a MAN 14.220 MCV Stirling.

Compass Travel (Worthing): SK02 OZM Scania K114EB Irizar has been acquired from Riggott, Kinsley

Countryliner (Guildford): Two recent acquisitions from C&S, Heayhfield are J223 XKY and J224 XKY Scania K113CRB Plaxton. Ex Arriva Midlands M169 GRY Scania N113DRB East Lancs has been acquired.

Emsworth & District (Southbourne): H532 XGK Dennis Dart 8.5SDL Plaxton Pointer was acquired from Central Connect back in June.

Excelsior Coaches (Bournemouth): A further Volvo 9700 Prestige Plus is registered FN09 AOS

Ham (Flimwell): DW55 HAM Volvo B12BT Van Hool went to Moseley, Wellington in May and has subsequently been sold on to Richmond, Barley and is now registered 153 WAR.

Hodge (Sandhurst): An unregistered MAN A91 Fast Starter B57D schoolbus has been evaluated.

Lynn's Travel (Eastbourne): New in May was SX09 LYN a Scania K340EB Van Hool. Not recorded before is the acquisition of YX55 DCE M/Benz 1223L / Ferqui from Luce, Eastbourne back in September of last year.

Nu-Venture (Aylesford): Several acquisitions in May included K350 FAL DAF SB220 Optare, N420 MBW Dennis Dart 9.8SDL Plaxton, both from Grimsby-Cleethorpes, L655 MEV a M/Benz 709D Plaxton Beaver, N806 BKN Optare Metroraider, both ex Birchall & Steed, Whitstable, and M89 WBW Dennis Dart 9.8SDL Plaxton Pointer, ex Cleveland Transit.

Redline (Aylesbury): Acquired from Trent is T946 BNN a Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer

Regent (Whitstable): A further AD Enviro200 has arrived in the shape of YX 09 FNE

Reliance Travel (Gravesend): Recent acquisitions include K132 SRH a Dennis Dart 9SDL Plaxton Pointer which came from RML2418, Wem, H135 FLX a Leyland Olympian Northern Counties which came from First Capital, A102 SYE a Leyland Olympian ECW which came from Travel London and Y784 HEC a LDV Convoy which came from Smith, Gravesend.

Richardson, Midhurst. Not reported before is the acquisition of M461 VCW Volvo B10M-55 Alexander, ex Southdown in April.

Shamrock (Poole): D83/84 UTF Leyland Olympian ECW have now gone and are with Wigley, Carlton

South West England

Berkeley (Paulton): Two Temsa Safari's have joined the fleet, one from Galloway, Mendlesham and the other from the US Department of Defense, and they are YJ05 PVW and YJ55 KZV respectively.

Cotswold Green (Nailsworth): Delivered in September was WX59 BWB a MAN Plaxton / Centro for use on service 620 Yate-Bath

Dawlish Coaches (Dawlish): Three Darts have been acquired from, the now defunct ACL (Weston-super-Mare). Two are N52 KBW and L719 JUD, the third is in the workshop for re-painting.

Dartline (Clyst St Mary): GN07 XTB (ex DW07 HAM) a Dennis R405 Plaxton Profile was acquired from Ham, Flimwell back in April

Faresaver (Chippenham): KNZ 2529 (ex P113 HCH) M/Benz 0814D Alexander was acquired in June from Shaftesbury & District, while R486 UCC and R818 YJC, M/Benz 0810D and M/Benz 0814D, both with Plaxton Beaver bodywork were acquired from Arriva Cymru, also in June.

Filers Travel (Ilfracombe): Acquired from D Coaches, Morriston back in February was WA04 MHV a Bova FHD12.340.

Hookways (Meeth): L302 YOD a Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton Premiere has been acquired from Plymouth Citybus, while FN03 DXZ a Volvo B12B Sideral has come from Excelsior, Bournemouth

Plymouth Citybus: The following left the fleet in June: 104 (K104 SFJ) Dennis Dart Plaxton Pointer which is now with Zoar Garages, 109 (K109 SFJ) Dennis Dart PLaxton Pointer which is now with Best, Camborne who also now have 273-275 M273/274 HOD, N275 PDV M-Benz 709D Plaxton Beaver.

Quantock Motor Services (Norton Fitzwarren): P1OTL a Volvo B10M-55 East Lancs has arrived from Delaine, Bourne, Talking to Hugh Delaine Smith a second should also now be here.

Roselyn (Par): M53 AWW a Scania K113CRB Van Hool has been acquired from Arriva The Shires & Essex, while A138 MRN Leyland Olympian ECW has arrived from Classic, Chepstow. Acquired from Bowers, Chapel-en-le-Frith is N358 VRC Dennis Lance Optare Sigma.

South Gloucestershire (Patchway): Newly acquired from Arriva is C146 NRR a Volvo B10M Northern Counties for school work.

Summercourt Travel (Summercourt): Ex Stagecoach Oxford, M/Benz 0814D Alexander S380 DFC has been acquired, while Dennis Lance Alexander Strider L815 NNW has been re-registered WZ 1033. Dennis Arrow East Lancs N804 TPK is now registered OUI 8953.

Target Travel (Plymouth): S866 NOD a M/Benz 0810D Plaxton Beaver has arrived from First Devon & Cornwall. Acquired from First Glasgow are two Optare Solo's, one being noted so far is SA 02 BZR.

Trathens Travel (Plymouth): SF06 WDY (ex KSK 978) a Volvo B12M Plaxton had been re-registered to LSK 612.

Western Greyhound (Summercoat): Four Optare Solo M710SE to be numbered 707-708 and six Optare Solo M950's to be numbered 957-962 have been ordered for September delivery. The M/Benz Citaro, KT04 BUS noted in last month's issue has entered service registered WK04 OKE.

The two Optare Solo's from Blue Bus, PL06 TFX/TFY, as reported in the previous issue are now numbered 914 and 915 respectively.

Williams (Camborne): Acquired from Arriva Derby and Arriva Midlands respectively are Volvo Olympian Northern Counties R630 MNU and R634 MNU.

Wales

Alpine Travel (Llandudno): AEF 990Y Leyland Tiger Plaxton Paramount has been sold for scrap

Berwyn Coaches (Trefor): Volvo B10M Van Hool Y313 KBN has been re-registered to T30 CBC.

Cardiff Bus: The next five Scania OmniCity's have now arrived and are numbered 740 (CN09 FFY), 741 (CN09 FYZ), 742 (CN09 FZA), 743 (CN09 FZB) and 744 (CN09 FZC)

Clynnog & Trefor: M/Benz 709D Carlyle J221 HDS has been sold for scrap

Edwards (Llantwit Fardre): New in September was CN59 BVM a MAN A91 Marcopolo Viale in yellow livery for student transport.

EST (Cowbridge): Acquisitions to note are 3 ex Chesterbus BMC Falcons which have arrived via Stafford Bus Centre, one of which is believed to be BU53 PNE.

Express Motors (Caernarfon): SH51 MKN Optare Solo is now at work here, originally with First Glasgow

GHA Coaches (Ruabon): New vehicles delivered this month include VT59 VLT a Dennis Javelin / Plaxton Profile and two Optare Solo's, one being registered YJ59 GFY. Two other acquisitions to note are H113 GEV and H115 GEV, Leyland Olympian Northern Counties, both ex Arriva North West.

Ex David Urquhart liveried Volvo B12B Jonckheere Mistral GA07 GHA has now been sold. It is reported that there are two ex Shearings Volvo B12's due here, details to follow.

Noted at the depot on the 9th September was ex Arriva Midlands P604 CAY Volvo Olympian Northern Counties in full Bryn Melyn livery.

Nelson (Glyn Neath): A new arrival here is WA59 EAX a Volvo B12B Van Hool, seen at the Bus & Coach Wales rally in Merthyr Tydfil on Sunday 6th September.

Padarn (Llanberis): Two acquisitions to record are 318 (V158 MVX) a Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer, ex East London Buses, and 410 (M921 PKN) a Volvo Olympian Northern Counties, Arriva North West

Tanat Valley (Llanrhaeadr ym Mochant): Another recent acquisition is Volvo B10B Alexander Strider M412 UNW, ex Arriva Yorkshire.

Thomas (DJ Thomas), Neath: DJ59 DJT a M-Benz 0816D / Plaxton Cheetah was new in September.

West Midlands

AM PM Travel: Three ex Dublinbus Olympians have been acquired for use on school contracts won from The Green Bus, N684 NJO ex 96-D-258 is the first, whilst they are prepared for service three ex Huntingdon & District Olympians are on loan from Ensignbus H139 GGS, H149 GGS and H152 GGS. A further Dennis Dart SLF is also being sourced R483 LGH latterly with Go Ahead London.

Crown Coaches: Began operating into Worcester on September 1st using Optare Alero YN03 ZWL

New Deliveries

Lynn (Eastbourne)
Swans (Oldham)

SX09 LYN
BK09 WYZ

Scania / Van Hool
Mercedes-Benz Tourismo

Around the dealers

Ensignbus

Vehicles In

From East London Bus Group: Tridents T664 / 80 / 2 / 5 / 7 / 92 / 7KPU

Delta J711CYG: Scania's RDZ 6119 / 20 / 22 / 3 / 4 / 6 / 7 / 8 Olympians R122/3EVX.

From Stagecoach East Midlands: Volvo B10L L456JCK Volvo B10M K733DAO.

From Stagecoach East : Volvo B10M's N813DNE N206DTU N326VMU.

From GCT: RML2677.

From Herschel School, Slough: Dennis Javelin K662PHW.

From Geldards Coaches: Olympians G760VRT G365YUR.

Vehicles Out

RML2677: Ambassatours, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Bristol VR SGR780V: Prosolve Consulting , London , W1.

Tiger XEF11Y and Javelin K662PHW: Amber Coaches, Rayleigh , Essex.

Tigers B124BOO F148SPV: Tourmaster Coaches, Peterborough.

DAF's KUI9267 J711CYG; Scania's RDZ6119 / 21 / 2 / 4 / 6 : Geoff Ripley, Barnsley.

Volvo B10B M101UKX and Volvo B6 N326HUA: Jim Bell Coaches, Hull.

Volvo B10B M38PVN: Coastal Liner, Wolverhampton.

Volvo B10M's N206TDU N813DNE N326VMS: Peoples Bus, Liverpool.

Volvo B6 L67UNG: Tony Charter, Royston.

Scania M169GRY: Countryliner, Guildford.

Olympians G704 / 10TCD: Freedom Travel, Ely, Cambs.

Olympian J199YSS: Scotbus , Inverness.

Olympians P412/4KSX: Fishwicks , Leyland.

Olympians P417 / 21 / 23 / 27KSX: On-a Mission Coaches, Letchworth.

Olympians P602/8CAY: Hedingham Omnibuses, Essex.

Dublin Olympian 96-D-258 now N694JNO with AM-PM Travel, Birmingham.

Dublin Olympian 96-D-283 now N761JNO with AM-PM Travel, Birmingham.

Dublin Olympian 97-D-373 now R95LHK with Herschel School, Slough.

Dublin Olympian 98-D-20397 now R114LHK with Stanley Transport , County Durham,

Dublin Olympian 98-D-20422 now S246YOO with Redbridge Transport.

Dart M459LLJ Olympian G365YUR: A and P Brown, Barway , Cambs.

Darts N414 / 24MBW: Regal Busways, Chelmsford.

Darts R451 / 68LGH: ACE Travel , Liverpool.

Darts R462 / 84LGH: Centrebus Harlow.

Darts R472 / 83 / 86LGH: AM-PM TRAVEL, Birmingham.

Dart V158MVX: Padarn Bus, Llanberis.

Darts V682FPO W483OUF: Cotswold Green, Nailsworth, Gloucs.

Dart EU06KOW: Travelsure , Alnwick , Northumberland.

Solo V648EEF: Little Jims Buses, Hemel Hempstead.

Tridents T688 / 93KPU: Garnetts Coaches, Bishop Auckland.

Trident T694KPU: Fords Coaches, Althorne, Essex.

Rally News

Forthcoming events

Reports

Now a bit of news from north of the border, courtesy of John Martindale. Every summer the Scottish Pipe Band season takes place, with dozens of Pipe Bands from all over Scotland, and some from Ireland, converge on the locations big enough to hold them.

Glasgow Green takes the World Piping Championship and Some 150 coaches are packed all around the Green.

They are inside the event so one needs to pay to get in. After a couple of hours looking at coaches one can then enjoy a bevy and enjoy the Bands playing and practising.

Battery Park Greenock is smaller but still good. Don't drive if you can get the train to Fort Matilda (just before Gourrock) on the line from Glasgow Central.

Follow the crowds down over the road. Entrance was free this year.

The Cowal Games includes Piping Contests. Again there are a lot of coaches, some come over on the ferry, others from the north by road.

Get the train to Gourrock, there are ferries every half hour all day to Dunoon. Enjoy the sail. At Dunoon follow the crowds up Argyle Street for a mile or so to the arena. Coaches are outside (so you can avoid paying). There are two parks. One to the right of the entrance, the other in a school yard on the other (eastern) side of the arena. Walk all the way around if you don't want to go into the event. Whilst in Dunoon plenty of West Coast buses, can be seen and there are always goodies to see. This year newly over were ex Lothian Olympians M227VSX N401GSX and P281PSX.

This years list for the Cowal games is below, I do have the others which I will get around to putting up on the website

Abbey (Neilston)	N226 HWX	Volvo B10M-62 / Plaxton	Mackies (Alloa)	SP04 EVB	FHD12-340 / Bova Futura
Abbot Travel	SW02 VTP	Volvo B12M / Jonckherre	MacMillan (Carlestone)	MIB3378	Volvo B10M-60 / Jonckherre
Ayrways	K70 AYR	Van Hool	Mackies (Alloa)	AJ8353	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool
Bremners (Aviremore)	YN05 HEV	Scania K114 / Irizar	Mackies (Alloa)	SF03 AWC	Volvo B12B / Van Hool
Bryan (Denny)	FP53 JYO	Volvo B12B / Jonckherre	McAleenan (Leitrim)	MJZ3372	M-B814D / ReeBur
Campbell (East Kilbride)	IIL3481	Volvo B10M-61 / Jonckherre	McCreadie (Calderbank)	R481 GLG	Volvo B10M-62 / Plaxton
Central (Torry)	D7 CTC	Scania K124 / Van Hool	McKendry (Loanhead)	P337 CEP	Volvo B10M-62 / Caetano
Central (Torry)	YN06 RVR	levco 397.e / Plaxton	McLaughlin (Donegal)	95-DL-6049?	
Central (Torry)	FJ06 URK	Volvo B12M / Caetano	Milligans (Mauchline)	MIL 4314	Volvo B10M-62 / Plaxton
C & M Coaches	R954 RCH	Volvo B10M-62 / Jonckherre	Milligans (Mauchline)	UK04 TGT	VDL FHD13-380 / Futura
D & E (Inverness)	B7 YST	Bova FHD12-340 / Futura	Milne (New Blyth)	MIL 2430	Volvo B12B / Van Hool
Dickinson (Glenrothes)	TSU 651	Volvo B10M-60 / Jonckherre	Milne (New Blyth)	MIL 5714	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool
Docherty Midland	BS07 JDS	Volvo B12-B / Jonckherre	Moffat & Williamson	122 ASV	Plaxton
Eve (Dunbar)	Y10 EVE	Scania KA24 / Van Hool	Parks (Hamilton)	LSK 504	Volvo B12M / Jonckherre
Eve (Dunbar)	OO05 EVE	Scania K94 / Irizar	Parks (Hamilton)	LSK 505	Volvo B12M / Jonckherre
Gillespie (Perth)	S381 SET	Scania K124 / Irizar	Parks (Hamilton)	LSK 511	Volvo B12B(T) / Plaxton
Golden Eagle	YIL 1207	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool	PowerTrans (Kilmarnock)	V1 PEO	FHD12-370 / Bova Futura
Golden Eagle	JIL 8562	Volvo B10M-61 / Van Hool	Pretice Westwood	VSV 632	Volvo B10M-62 / Plaxton
Golden Eagle	J77 GEC	VDL FHD12-370 / Futura	Pride of the Clyde	BU04 EZZ	Mercedes-Benz 1836L
Golden Eagle	YIL 1206	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool	Regal (Edinburgh)	N94 HSJ	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool
Golden Eagle	YIL1208	Volvo B10M-60 / Van Hool	Riddlers (Arbroath)	RKZ6281	Volvo B10M-62 / Caetano
Gordon (Leslie)	T8 OVA	VDL FHD127-365 / Futura	Riddlers (Arbroath)	NEG 322	Volvo B10M-62 / Plaxton
Hogg (Bearden)	TWH 198	Scania K113 / Van Hool	Riddlers (Arbroath)	WEZ 3993	?
KC Coaches (Carluke)	N7 CTL	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool	Rutherford (Earnside)	NHG 550	Scania K114 / Irizar
Kineil (Fraserborough)	VIA 488	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool	Silver Choice	SIL 9988	Iveco 391.e / Beulas
Mackies (Alloa)	SN05 EOW	FHD13-340 / Bova Futura	Silver Choice	SIL 9996	Volvo B12B (T) / Van Hool

Simpson (Rosehearty)	SM06 SON	Volvo B12B / Enigma	West Coast Motors	L300 WCM	DAF SB3000 / Van Hool
Smith (Coupar Angus)	SP08 AET	VDL FHD120-365 / Futura	West Coast Motors	K500 WSM	DAF SB3000 / Van Hool
Stagecoach Rennies	PIB 9211	Volvo B10M-61 / Jonckherre	West Coast Motors	M100 WCM	DAF SB3000 / Van Hool
Stagecoach Rennies	YBZ 818	DAF SB3000 / Van Hool	Whitelaw (Stonehouse)	GW 4343	Volvo B12M / Sunsundeugi
Tramontana (Motherwell)	688 EYV	Volvo B10M-62 / Caetano	Wood (Tillicoutrie)	SN05 FBB	FHD12-340 / Bova Futura
Watermill (Fraserburgh)	R888 WCS	Plaxton	Yule (Pitlochrie)	L12 YUL	Volvo B10M-62 / Van Hool
Watermill (Fraserburgh)	HSV 725	Volvo B10M-55 / Van Hool			

Now from Tony Allen, who, along with others made it up to the Johnsons "family fun day"
Not really a spotters eventalthough I did see a couple of dodgy characters lurking about with notebooks and cameras whom I knew to be fellow GB-BG members. Must have recognised 'em from the 'Wanted' posters.

This was a charity gala organised on their Henley-in-Arden premises by the Johnsons bus and coach operators, to raise cash for the Warwickshire and Northants air ambulance. About 50 stalls including catering, a model steam railway, kids ride, fire brigade and plod demonstrating what they do, vintage cars and motorcycles, etc. You know the sort of thing. Whatever else though, for us lot it was a chance to get through the gate to where the buses were bound to be.

Johnsons' modern premises are right on the A3400 at Liveridge Hill, Henley-in-Arden, just a couple of miles from M40 junction 16.. A four bay workshop (firmly locked when I was about) and a very large, clean and tidy concrete yard. Anyone familiar with this company know their blue white and yellow vehicles are immaculate. So to everything here.

A small display and parking area for vehicles giving free rides contained oldie visitors:
VWK239 Daimler CVG6, Travel de Courcy
KDT281P Bedford YRQ II/Plaxton Panorama Elite
GAL967 Bedford OWB/Duple 29 Johnsons, Hodthorpe, Derbys
LTA750 Bedford 0B/Duple
546 (AE54MVX) MAN 14.220/MCV Evolution Travel de Courcy.

Johnsons' own vehicles around the depot - mostly in a nearby field were:

Bova Futura
B10 JCT J13 OVA L98 RYD M10 JMJ M10 RGJ N10 JRJ M173 SBT V319 LHS V320 LHS W484
HJW
Optare Tempo
YJ07 EHG YJ07 EHH YJ57 EGU YJ57 YCL YJ08 PGY YJ59 GEU
YJ59 GEY
Optare Solo
YM52 TSU YN53 SVX YJ54 MBX (This carries an all over advert for the Stratford-on-Avon Butterfly Farm) YJ08 PGX
ADL Enviro 300 (all in green and yellow Countylinks colours)
SN04 EFM SN04 EFP SN04 EFR
Ford Transit AD07 CXG, Optare bodied Scania N230UD / Optare Olympus PN09 ELJ and a Mercedes O.816 / Ferqui YX08 AOW

Parked up the road at a nearby cafe towards the M40 were Johnsons Bova Futura YJ04 GYC and Ford Transits W138YNO EJ52YDD EN03OJF ET55KDX EN06XOO.

Still missing a fair few Johnsons, I decided on a nose around the local roads, finding Solo YM52TSO earning its keep in Henley. Then, I was lucky enough to stumble on seven Johnsons buses parked up in the grounds of the local High School.....and unlucky enough to be able to i/d only DAF SB220 J24GCX. Anyone who can help with the other six, it's wirefantony@yahoo.co.uk please.

One hundred years Johnsons have been going since they started with a horse and cart. Good on 'em for getting together this event- and thanks. Everything I saw on the day shouted out, 'Professionalism and pride'. On this showing, who would bet against another hundred?



Out & About

Ray Davison
August 17th

Cheltenham

Stagecoach

17728 18083 18084 18085
18086 18087 18088 18089
18090 18091 20689 32319
33501 33503 33505 33506
33510 33929 33930 33938
33939 33941 33945 33946
33953 33954 33955 33956
33958 33961 33972 33974
33975 33976 33977 34405
34836 34837 34838 34839
34840 34841 34842 47241
47555 47556 47557 47558

Gloucester

Stagecoach

12657 15450 15451 16081
16110 16126 16142 16204
16205 16207 16208 16411
16441 16442 16443 16448
16449 16452 17060 17061
18181 18187 18188 18312
18313 18321 18377 18378
18379 18385 18386 18387
18436 18437 18438 18439
18440 18441 18442 18443
19376 20682 20685 20686
20687 20694 20812 20818

20819 20828 22844 22845
22846 22847 22848 22849
25217 33507 33508 33509
33513 33927 33928 33944
33948 33949 33951 33952
33960 33979 34843 47549
47550 47551 47552 47553
52212 52298 52400 52619
53031 59301 59303 59304
59305

18th August 2009

Stroud

Stagecoach

14263 14985 16099 16128
16129 18313 18315 18321
18322 18323 20820 33809
33810 33811 33812 40347
40543 40644 42282 47121
47122 47355 47548 47549
47550 47551 47553 52299
52453 ancillary 46606

21st August

By Ray Davison

Coleford

Stagecoach

16203 16204 16205 16207
16208 20682 20684 20685
32085 33295 33916 42586

22nd August 2009

By Ray Davison

Cardiff

Stagecoach

20871 22780 22781 22782
22787 22789 22790 22793
22794 22795 33607 33612
33617 33621 33622 33623
33624 33625 34038 34083
34100 34124 34132 34134
34137 34500 34502 34503
34506 34507 34508 34510
34511 34512 34513 34663
34667 34669 34671 54006
54007

Newport

Stagecoach

16149 20390 20870 20874
20885 20887 20889 20890
23950 23951 25203 25204
25205 25206 25208 25209
25210 25211 25212 25213
25214 25215 25216 33285
33286 33287 33554 33558
33602 33609 33610 33611
33613 33614 33616 33618
33619 33627 34145 34622
34623 34624 34670 34677

34678 35196 35197 35198
35199 35200 35201 35202
35203 35205 47389 47519
47521 47522 47524 47525
47526 47529 47531 47533
47627 47629 47631 47632
47632 47640 47643 52480
52502 67638

September 5th
By Rod Whitaker

Oldham

Bluebird
DD56 BLU EE56 BLU
GG56 BLU HH56 BLU
FF58 BLU
First Manchester
34019 37381 37385 37387
37388 37392 37432 37437
37438 37439 37440 37443
37444 37445 37446 37448
37449 37451 37452 37454
37455 37455 37460 37462
37463 37464 37467 37469
37470 37486 37545 37546
37547 37548 37549 37550
37553 37555 37556 37557
37558 37560 37561 40280
40318 40366 40374 40408
40412 40414 40408 40412
40414 40418 40427 40431
40435 60441 60446 60448
60450 66836 66856 66858
66860 66862 66869 66871
66875 66879 55891 66892
66893 66894

First West Yorkshire
37288

JP Travel
S737 RNE KX57 OVT

Stagecoach Manchester
17628 19362

Trathens Plymouth
HSK 660

Manchester

Arriva Manchester
2238 2743

Bluebird
1 BLU 360 BLU AJ54 AMJ
MM54 BLU RR57 BLU
SS57 BLU UU08 BLU
JJ58 BLU WW58 BLU

Finglands
1701 1771 1778 1785

First Manchester
12001 12002 12005 12011
12012 12015 37279 37281
37290 37297 37302 37368
37381 37382 37407 37431
37438 37446 37450 37451
37452 37458 37462 37468
37548 37558 37560 40227
40230 40431 40432 40565
60245 60261 60372 62142
62143 62333 66836 66846
66861 66871 66874 66876
66904 66906 66909 66914
66932 69135 69200 69202

Haytons
KX08 OLC

JP Travel
J2 JPT KX57 OVR
MX08 PZH

Rossendale
T84 JBA

Stagecoach Manchester
16744 16751 16781 17639
17645 17657 19008 19010
19021 19051 19068 19071
19082 19084 19092 19180
19185 19189 19222 19229
19235 19240 19250 19254
19257 19261 19270 19280
19283 19328 19334 19353
19355 19364 19365 19398
19412 19413 19415 19419
19471

Wrigley's Urmston
F51 RYE

**Route 216 Manchester –
Ashton-under-Lyne**

Maynes Manchester
YN04 GPZ

Stagecoach Manchester
19004 19006 19021 19059
19082 19087 19092 19116
22139

Ashton-under-Lyne

First Manchester
34069 34080 34255 34292

34293 34294 37439 37454
37456 37552 37559 40279
40282 40283 40285 40295
40308 40315 40318 40342
40361 40370 40381 40403

JP Travel
P6 JPT

Speedwells Bus
R505 YWC R508 YWC
R510 YWC S721 KNV
V256 BNU VU02 TTZ

Stagecoach Manchester
17630 17650 19001 19004
19016 19020 19054 19068
19081 19082 19088 19091
19114 19179 19183 19242
19330 19334 19463 19474
22105 22117 22120 22142
22149 22166 32048 33098
33345 33349 34053 34058

**Route 490 Ashton-under-Lyne
– Rochdale**

First Manchester
34019 34061 34070 37381
37432 37441 37444 37450
37467 37470 37488 37549
37550 37552 37556 37559
40318 40419 60445 66846
66853 66858 66863 66865
66897

JP Travel
VT09 JPT
Stagecoach Manchester
19092

Rochdale

BU Val Buses Smithy Bridge
T73 JBA W17 BLU
MH02 NGG

First Manchester
37280 37286 37287 37292
37295 37461 37500 40332
40425 40430 60234 66831
66854 66877 69137 69138
69195 69201

First West Yorkshire
66742

Rossendale
6 44 49 50 51 53 111
151 155 169

Tony's Back bit!

A veritable hotch potch of odds and ends this month, don't forget to get in touch if you can add anything. Reported heading up the M1 recently still in its former Yorkshire Traction livery, is Metrobus D714NKY. This was sold for scrap via Hardwicks at Carlton in 2006 before becoming a film crew diner. It had not

previously been reported since being seen under tow on the A1 in 2007 - proving just how durable but just how elusive some of these old buses can be. Who owns it and where has it been?

Now, more from the West London driving schools. Seen with Wallace of Wembley is Dart MX56YHE. Manchester readers will know this as the former Bluebird of Middleton fleet no 17 DD56BLU, a registration now transferred on to another vehicle. Reports link quite a few vehicles with Wallace, including LCB bodied DAF LP08AEC which was new to them. Also, Dart K861PCN (once with Shamrock in South Wales) and former MoD Javelin A19WST (once P269YAE and JL99AA).

The Wallace website has some nice pictures and some interesting info on the role of certain buses. For example, Optare L1070 YJ51JXH (looks to have been a manufacturer's demonstrator from its varied history) is used on automatic training. Clearly, Wallace have more buses than I have listed here - I would love a fleet list if anyone has one.

Staying with the London training schools, Dhoot of Hayes have Javelin M160UTF. De-mobbed from the RAF this one - where it ran as 27AY78.

Demonstrating that the region has more going for it than black pudding, tripe and some top ales the north west's Bolton School also runs its own coach operation under the name of BSS Coaches. This is described in some detail on their website, which contains a virtual tour with pictures. As well as operating 22 routes for pupils, the fleet is also available for commercial hire. The following list of full size buses (there is at least one mini knocking about as well) is from my own sightings so may be a bit dated...

C3 BSS	DAF SB3000/Van Hool	(M573 RCP)	C9 BSS	EOS E180Z	(R96 GNW)
C5 BSS	EOS E180Z	(R83 GNW)	C17 BSS	Javelin /Plaxton	(R178 TKU)
C7 BSS	Javelin / Plaxton	(W645 MKY)	C18 BSS	MAN /Noge	(PKZ 3296)
C9 BSS	EOS E180Z	(R95 GNW)			

A while back I promised a list for the Meteor/ Pink Elephant/T1,2,3 Business Parking operation at Heathrow. This company operates also at London City, Stanstead and Southampton airports as well as from T5 at Heathrow (list for these in an earlier mag). But here their main base is on the north side opposite the police station, with these Optare Solos

YA02 YRR	YJ55 YGE	YJ06 FYB	YJ06 FYE
YA02 KRS	YJ55 YGF	YJ06 FYC	YJ06 FYF
YA02 YRT	YJ06 FYA	YJ06 FYD	YJ56 APF

Also at Heathrow north side and vey close by, Meteor run the Park 1 Terminal 1 only with a fleet of six seat MB 108CDIs. Should anybody want one I have a list of these - and for most / all of the car hire / car park operators at the airport. Contact me via Gez or at the address on page 2 of the mag.

Down on the farm, Kanes Foods of Middle Littleton near Evesham in Worcestershire have Dennis Lance K803HWW. Formerly Arriva Yorkshire West and Yorkshire Woollen this one. Used for shifting workers about now I suppose

To close for the month, in response to a special request, see people do read this bit, vehicles smaller than those I normally write about. Nevertheless, an interesting fleet that is much seen on the streets of London.

The Dot2Dot airport transfer service connecting Heathrow, Gatwick, Central London and Caanry Wharf will pick up and drop off 24/7 at any address within this service area. Reportedly unprofitable when in their hands, it was recently sold by its former owner National Express.

A sizeable fleet of largely silver coloured MB and VW minis - all with Kilbeggin Vehicle Converters bodywork - now operates from an OC just across the London boundary in Colnbrook, Berkshire. The following list is again from my own sightings. Large fleet numbers are carried on many of the fleet, but not all, apologies that I have been just too lazy to log them all! I can provide a few tie-ups though should anyone want them.

VW Crafters

BD57 ETL ETO ETR ETT ETU ETV ETX ETY ETZ EUA EUB EUC EUE EUF EUO EUP EUR EUT

BD57 LFU LFV LFW LFX LFY LFZ LGA LGC LGD LGE LGG LGJ LGK LGL LGN LGO
BK57 TFY TFZ TGE TGF TGJ BU08 BVG

Mercedes-Benz 515 CDi
KX08 HNB OKP OKR OKS OKT OKU OKV OKW OLH OLJ LLP

The Gallery

Quite a Pot Pori of photographs this time, from all around the country, with examples from Lee Wardle, Arthur and Debbie, as well as Aaron, and one from myself



Go North East have been trialling this Scania Omnalink of late, seen here at Heworth



Heartlands bus run this very tidy Plaxton Pointer bodied Dennis Dart



First London are now taking delivery of more new Volvo / Wright double deckers for route 91, although they will also see use on the N18



I do not normally put photos of old buses in the gallery, but this OB was too good to resist



Another First Group Volvo / Wright Eclisse, this time in the standard group livery



Alright then one OB is never enough I know so here you are with a second, very fine turned out example