

The Latest News April 2007



29/04/07

Neil Wise and Wayne Picknett report that **Arriva Tees & District** have gained freshly refurbished Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1650 (R425COO) at Redcar. This has allowed Mini Pointer Dart 1727 (V727DNL) to be moved to Darlington - see below. James Ingram reports that reserve fleet Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4536 (L232TKA) has been working service 94 in Whitby for the last week - a very unusual place to see a B6!

As noted above **Arriva Durham County** have gained Mini Pointer Dart 1727 (V727DNL) at Darlington. This is for service 72/X72 Darlington - Northallerton, which has been won back from Proctors on NYCC tender. Stuart Gray reports that Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4539 (L225TKA) has returned from Scotland and is now parked up at Durham, along with sister 4540 (L231TKA), which is receiving attention there. Sister 4534 (L219TKA) still sees service at the moment, but will be withdrawn soon. Optare Delta 4098 (P130RWR) has now arrived at Bishop Auckland, but Dennis Dart / Northern Counties 1685 (L141YVK) has suffered engine failure. Optare Vecta 1550 (L550GHN) is now in reserve, while sister 1548 (L548GHN) is now heavily cannibalised.

Mark Williams tells me that the **Arriva Northumbria** vehicle that was badly damaged in an accident this week was Scania L113 / East Lancs 273 (P273VRG) and is likely to be written off. Optare Delta 4015 (K415BHN) is now filling in at Ashington.

Danny Howard reports that **Stagecoach in Newcastle** now have freshly converted open top Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14674 (H674BNL) at Slatyford.

24/04/07



Steven Hodgson has kindly provided the above photo of **Go North East** Volvo B10M / Plaxton 7074 (YSU874), which is now branded for use on the revamped X23 Durham - Metrocentre/Newcastle.



Steven Hodgson also reports that **Stanley Taxis, Stanley** have added fleetnames to Solo VU52UEE and re-registered it T2STX.

James Stoker reports that **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe** have Leyland Olympian / ECW B184BLG (new to Crossville) and JTY396X (new to Northern) in stock.

24/04/07

Ray Parnaby reports that **Arriva Northumbria** have reinstated Optare Delta 4015 (K415BHN) to Jesmond and had it out on the 356 today.



Gary Mitchelhill reports the arrival of six new Alexander Dennis Enviro 400s at **Stagecoach North East's** Slatyford depot. These are understood to be the first of 23 and are expected to displace the existing Enviro 400s to elsewhere in the UK. I'm not exactly sure what the rationale is for this, but I believe there is a good reason somewhere! Danny Howard reports that Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14674 (H674BNL) is now in the paint shop and confirms that Lynx II 29629 (K629YVN) remains in service at Sunderland. Scania N113 / Alexander 28906 (F906JRG) is now withdrawn to the rear of Slatyford.

David Mallon notes that **Jayline, Horden** are to operate their services until 04/06/07, the point at which Go North East's 30 replaces the 211 and the other Jayline services are taken over.

New at **JSB, Coundon** is Optare Solo MX07JPV, currently operating in plain white.



A smart addition to stock reported by Steven Hodgson at **Nightingale, Stanley** is one time Midland Fox Leyland Olympian / Alexander G524WJF.



Gary Mitchelhill reports that **Low Fell, Gateshead** have repainted Optare Solo CE52UWV back into white. It is not known if this is to be sold or whether it may gain vinyls for Low Fell's Tesco contract.

23/04/07

Wayne Picknett reports that **Arriva Tees & District** Optare Metrorider 2642 (P642FHN) has been sent to Hexham.



This is presumably because **Arriva Northumbria** (thanks David) have been awarded the contract to run former Tyne Blue Line services 601 and 686 until September following the initial 1-week emergency contract. Similarly, **Tyne Valley, Acomb** have the contract for the 880/2 (and a Solo to go with it) and **Classic, Anfield Plain** have the 673.

Steve reports that **Arriva Durham County** have taken Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4534/5/40 (L219/20/33TKA) out of service, leaving Bishop Auckland B6-free. However, I noted on Saturday that Peterlee are again using reserve fleet B6 4536 (L232TKA).



Andrew Tyldsley reports that **Go North East** have inspected Optare Versa YJ56ATF at Bensham head office. This was not used in service. It is now well known that service 30 is to be altered to replace Jayline service 211 between Peterlee and Middlesbrough from 04/06/07, but reports from two anonymous

informers suggest that some sort of deal may have been done for Jayline's staff and service buses. It is also understood that some divisional changes are in the pipeline.



John Atkin reports that **Abbey Coaches, Middlesbrough** have acquired Dennis Dart / Carlyle H107MOB from Birmingham Motor Traction. Also acquired is Volvo B10M / Plaxton KXI510, though this is still undergoing preparation for use. Leyland National VIW6243 (ex LMA411P) and Leyland Leopard / Plaxton WSV517 (ex EWW212T) have been scrapped after use by Cleveland Fire Brigade for rescue exercises. Leyland Leopard / Plaxton CTD133V (ex 89HBC) has also been scrapped.



Steven Hodgson, Mark McCann and Peter Tuck all report that a new Iveco Eurorider / Plaxton YN07KHC for **Weardale, Stanhope** was exhibited at Plaxton's centenary event this weekend. In addition, I have noted an all-over white Scania / Irizar coach in stock.



Steven Hodgson reports that **Dunn-Line (Durham), Easington Lane** have a further pair of new Optare Solos. YJ07EFY/Z are both of the extra-short, narrow variant as per Leven Valley's latest example.



Another new coach noted at Plaxton by Steven Hodgson was Volvo B12M (I think!) / Plaxton YN07KHA for **Howard Snaithe, Otterburn**.

It would seem that Leyland National medical unit KCR111P headed north to the region on Thursday, as Richard Dunhill noted it heading north on the A1 at Letchworth at 1.30pm and Mark Wilson noted it still on the A1 near Doncaster at 8pm doing around 30mph and accompanied by an ambulance!

And Finally..... Here are a selection of photos from yesterday's [500 Group running day](#).

17/04/07

Arriva Tees & District Optare Prisma 3006 (N806XHN) and DAF SB3000 / Plaxton 1206 (V206DJR) were both damaged in an accident in Middlesbrough Bus Station on Saturday. Having seen the damage to 1206, it would seem that the will both be off for a good few weeks. Thanks to all who reported this.

Ian Wilson confirms that **Arriva Teesside** Optare Vecta 1525 (L525FHN) has been removed from service in place of 1521 (L521FHN).



Arriva Durham County Optare Delta 4015 (K415BHN) has taken its place in reserve, now stored at Ashington.

Through a combination of my own sightings and those of Danny Howard, vehicles currently stored at **Stagecoach on Teesside's** Stockton depot are Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14192/636 (H192WFR, C636LFT), Volvo B10B / Plaxton 21032/4 (L32/4HHN), Leyland Lynx II 29630 (K630YVN), Mercedes 709 / Alexander 40461/3/4 (N461/3/4RVK) and the unused pair of ex GTL Darts that arrived a year ago. Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 16437 (685DYE) was transferred to Yorkshire on Sunday.

Andrew reports that **Go North East** Dennis Dart SLF / Marshall 585/6 are both now in full drifter livery and 587 is in beige.



Dunn Line (Durham), Easington Lane have repainted their Whitby Tour MCW Metrobus GOG216W into the smart Veolia livery. Steven Hodgson passes on a report that a further Optare Solo in stock is YJ07EFZ.



[Daniel Stazicker](#) reports that Leyland National medical unit KCR111P has been sold on ebay to a private hospital in the Newcastle area - any sightings would be most welcome of this unusual beast!

13/04/07

Firstly, appologies for the delay in bring you this update - it has been a very busy week with one thing or another!

Last week **Tyne Blue Line / Kimberleys of Prudhoe** went out of business. Neil Wise, Mark Westgarth and Robert Hall all report that, for a period of one week while Northumberland County Council sorted out what/who would operate their services in the longer term, **Arriva Northumbria** took on operation of services 601 (Prudhoe Town) and 686 (Prudhoe - Ovington) and **Classic** took on service 673 Newcastle - Whittingstall. It will be interesting to see what happens to these next week. Dave reports that Leyland Olympian / ECW 7224 (D146FYM) is on loan to Blyth from Durham.



A number of operators have been taking part in a rail/Metro repalcement operation between Heworth and Sunderland/South Hylton this week, while the overheads are replaced through the tunnel at Sunderland. Operators have included **Redby, Kingsleys, Arriva Durham County** and, an operator not previously noted, **AA&H Travel, Seaton Burn**. This operator has one time

Stagecoach Leyland Titan A846SUL and appears to be something of a reincarnation of Rush Travel.

Danny howarrd and James Stoker both report that **Stagecoach on Teesside** have regained Volvo B10M / Northern Counties 20246 (M546SPY) in addition to 20244 (M544SPY). News from Chris Redpath is that Volvo B10B / Plaxton 21034 (L34HHN) is now in reserve (I noted it stored alongside 21032 on Sunday) and fire-damaged MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22662 (T662OEF) is now for scrap.



Today I noted that **Go North East** DAF SB120 / Wright 8252 is now at Chester-le-Street ex Deptford (part of an experimental swap, I beleive) and Scania 4955 is allover blue as spare for 309/R19.

Scott Cooper reports that **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe** have been buying more vehicles (for probably resale) from Highland/Rapsons. In addition to B10M C56HOM, recently sold on ebay, a second B10M and a Bristol VRT have been noted.



I can't remember if it's been noted before, but **Redby, Sunderland** have Volvo B12BT / Jonkherre FJ04ETK for Lochs & Glens holiday work.

07/04/07



Neil Watson has reported **Arriva Northumbria** Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 7414 (P414CCU) working for Ashington in recent days, as confirmed by my photo of it on the X31 today.



Arriva Durham County's Durham depot resumed operation of the X61 Durham - Scarborough this weekend, with Volvo Olympian / East Lancs 7422 (M686HPF) again the regular bus. This, of course, meant that it's usual Saturday task of the X27 had to be worked by something else, this today being MCW Metrobus 630 (B90WUL), which is currently listed for disposal, but has been in use at Peterlee.

Alex Kennedy reports that **Arriva Tees & District's** Loftus depot were unable to send DAF Coaches 1206/7 (V206/7DJR) to Redcar to work the summer 93 and have instead send sister 1208 (V208DJR), partnered by Optare Vecta 1509 (K509BHN) which had been supposed to move from Stockton to Loftus. Loftus instead have reserve fleet 1514 (K514BHN).

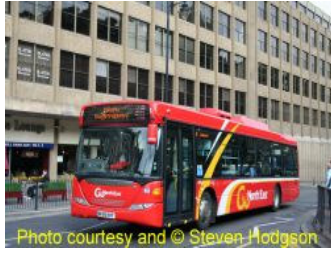


Go North East have painted Super Pointer Dart 8206 (V206EBR) white, while Volvo Olympian 3823 (S823OFT) was in use on Bargain Bus work this afternoon.

04/04/07



Steven Hodgson and Neil Wise report that **Stagecoach North East** started operation of Newcastle & Gateshead's City Sightseeing with Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14669/70 (H669/70BNL) and Dennis Dart (!) 32763 (L763ARG)..... Danny Howard reports that 14671 (H671BNL) should be ready soon, with the other two following as workshop time permits. Ian (Yorkshire bus) reports that Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 16433 (VLT528) was today transferred to Yorkshire.



Steven Hodgson reports that the three remaining red Scania Omnicities at **Go North East**, 5251-3, have gained vinyls with a large Go North East logo. These three are usually found on the 15 Consett - Durham, but deputise elsewhere. Graeme Warnes reports Dart SLF 583 now in Drifter livery, but without vinyls.