

## The Latest News August 2009



28/08/09



Steven Hodgson and Lee Wardle report the surprising (but smart) repaint of **Arriva North East** Dennis Dart / Plaxton 1688 (J468OKP) into interurban livery. Dave reports that Scania N113 / Northern Counties 7254 (M179LYP) has moved from Peterlee to Blyth to replace sister 7250 (L159GYL), which has suffered fire damage. Steven Hodgson illustrates MPD 1764 (NK05GWA) on loan to Peterlee from Bishop Auckland and working one of the newly won contract services in Hartlepool. Other recent moves see DAF DB250 / Northern Counties 7447/8 (R204/5CKO) and Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1616/7 (S616/7KHN) move from Bishop Auckland to Peterlee and Scania L113 / East Lancs 276 (P276VRG) move from Bishop Auckland to Stockton, replacing Optare Vecta 1515 (K515BHN). Four service 64/64A workings are to move from Redcar to Stockton shortly and should see Optare Vectas 1524/36/56/7 (L524/36FHN, UOI772, L102MEH) move with them.



The new MAN A66 / Alexander E300 for **Stagecoach North East** finally started entering service at Stockton on Monday. 24101-6 have red-based 36 branding, while 24107 has similar branding for Megarider tickets (as illustrated by Steven Hodgson). 24108-15 have not been reported in use yet, but should

be soon. Barry Woods notes that ACL Travel recently went bust and as a result ex Busways Dennis Lance / Plaxton 1202 (M202DRG) appeared on [ebay](#). Ray Parnaby has noted ex Stagecoach NE Volvo B10M / Alexander 20714 (K714DAO) with DJ International, Glasgow in a livery reminiscent of Delta Coaches!



**Go North East's** Washington and Deptford drivers were on strike on Monday, with a skeleton bus service provided over main routes, crewed by management etc. This resulted in some interesting workings, with various Washington Mercedes Citaros on the 35 (as illustrated by Steven Hodgson) and Volvo Olympians on the 20 and 56. Ken Allison noted Chester-le-Street's 3903/5/16/7 (R261/3/74/556LGH) on the 20 and service 56 using Gateshead 3896/902 (R254/551LGH) and Winlaton 3909/10/20 (R267/553/8LGH). Gazza reports Scania L94UB / Wright 4933 (Y933ERG) as painted white and Steven Hodgson notes sister 4955 (NA02NVL) painted black, the latter expected to be one that will revamp the X35 Sunderland - Hartlepool. Lee Wardle notes Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4852-4 (R852-4PRG) under refurbishment at Thorntons, with a host of withdrawn and out-of-use vehicles also stored there. Also thanks to everyone who has reported Scania Omnacity 5261 (NK56KJV) as being red ex White Txt2Go advert.

Joey Makepeace notes that **Scarlet Band, West Cornforth** have acquired Volvo B10M / Duple F338VSD ex Grant Palmer, Dunstable.



Bill Wilkinson reports that **Perrymans, Berwick** have new Optare Solo YJ09OUG in use.

Lee Wardle notes that **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.

Lee also brings a report from **Astley, Ashington**. An additional Mercedes Vario in stock, albeit for spares, is P259RUM. In stock but not yet used is MCW Metroliner B222VHW. 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.

**15/08/09**



**Arriva North East** today had Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 7521 (NK09FVR) in Bishop Auckland and then Darlington to advertise the use of these new vehicles on services 1/1B.



Dave Oliver reports of a major vehicle re-arrangement going on at the Arriva-owned TGM group, many of which concern their **Classic, Annfield Plain** operation. Gold Scania / Irizar WSV570 is expected to go to TGM Heathrow, while less-fancy GO02CLA is due to go to TGM Stanstead. Due to be disposed of are DAF SB3000 / Van Hool X143WNL, and Volvo B10M / Plaxton YN51WGY/Z. One of the van Hool Astrobels is expected to go to Burtons and ex Moordale Volvo B10M / Berkhof WSV571/2 are also expected to move on. A new vehicle is expected for Sunderland AFC team duties, as is a new VDL / Van Hool coach. Lee Wardle notes that DAF SB4000 / Van Hool NL52XZY is reregistered GSU348.



Dan Annis notes that **A-Line, Pelaw** have added ex Go North East Optare Metrorider R92HUA to stock.



Lee Wardle and Steven Hodgson report that **Stanley Coaches, Oxhill** have added two ex Dublinbus 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.



Lee Wardle reports that **Martini Coaches, Oxhill** have added Volvo B10M / Van Hool LIB3769 to stock.



Joey Makepeace reports that **Scarlet Band, West Cornforth** have acquired ex Go North East Optare Delta M792HCU and ex Arriva Midlands Mercedes Vario / Alexander R148UAL.



Lee Wardle notes that **Compass Royston, Stockton** have repainted "stick of rock" Mercedes Sprinter BX55FYF in more elegant white.

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



Lee Wardle reports that **Low Fell Travel, Gateshead** have added Dennis Javelin / UVG N790EES to stock ex Moffat & Williamson and ex Go North East Optare Metrorider P417VRG.

Now with **M&D Travel, Thornaby** is Mercedes Vario / Plaxton SJ51GCV.

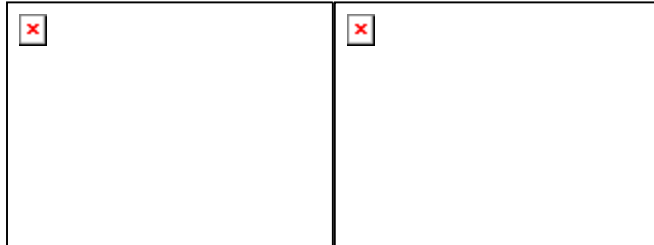
**14/08/09**



The full batch of eight new Alexander Dennis Enviro 400s for **Arriva North East** have now arrived. 7514/5 (NK09FMZ/NA) are in service at Blyth, while 7515-21 (NK09FMC-G/VR) are in the process of entering service at Bishop Auckland. Thanks to Stu Gray, Steven Hogson, Alex Kennedy and Lee Wardle for the reports and pictures. The arrival of 7514/5 at Blyth displaced DAF DB250 / East Lancs 7439/40 (Y689/5EBR) to Jesmond, allowing Dennis Trident / Alexander 7430/1 (W395/6RBB) to be withdrawn, ready to pass to Network Colchester, 7430 having now been suitably repainted at Jesmond. It has been announced that Redcar will now get 32 new buses towards the end of the year - see [Gazette article](#). Jesmond MPDs 1750/1/8 (W751/2SBR, NK53HJA) are now branded as Newcastle Park and Ride for service M46 as noted by Steven and Lee. Scania N113 / Northrn Counties 7253 (M178LYP) has returned to Peterlee ex Durham with Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1638 (S638KHN) going in exchange.

Chris Redpath reports that **Go North East** sold Dennis Lance / Plaxton 4774 (L141YTY), Optare Sigma 4784/5 (L484/5CFT) and Optare Delta 4789/93 (M789/93HCU) to Trevor Wigley, Carlton and have added Volvo B7TL / East Lancs 3980-2 (PJ02PZG/H/K) to stock. Lee Wardle reports that Dennis Lance SLF / Wright 4769 (L469CFT) is back in use at Percy Main. Steven Hogson

reports that Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4850 (R456PRG) is another refurbished and repainted for the Lime. Paul Fuller reports that Leyland Lynx II 4999 (K101JMV) is reported by the dealer selling it to be expected to go to a Washington based preservationist.



Further new MAN A69 / Alexander delivered to **Stagecoach North East** by 30.07/09 were 24104/6/7 (NK09FLP/V/W), as reported by Chris Hall and Andy R, though it is understood that most of the rest of the batch have arrived since. None are in service yet, though Lee Johnson has noted one on crew familiarisation. Danny Howard reports that Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14672 (H672BNL) has finally been towed away from Hartlepool. Phil Logie reports that North Somerset Coaches have ex Busways Optare Sigma 1204 (M204DRG) for sale and would be keen to see her go into preservation. Alternatively, Kingsleys have former Cleveland Transit Dennis Dominator / Northern Counties 221 (C221WAJ) for sale on [ebay](#). Dave Oliver reports that former Busways (Blue Bus) Bristol RE / ECW 1813 (OWC722M) is looking well in preservation with fresh Blue Bus livery.