

The Latest News December 2005



29/12/05

Chris Redpath has kindly provided details of the latest movements at **Stagecoach North East**. As previously mentioned, the new MANs are entering service at Walkergate, though the only casualty of this so far is Volvo B10B / Alexander 21001 (M901DRG) which is now listed as reserve. Dodge driver trainer 48007 (B916JVK) has been sold for scrap. Brian Robvertson reports that Dennis Dart / Alexander 32725 (K725PNL) is now working for South Shiedls ex Slatyford.

The **Go North East website** shows a number of vehicles have been added to stock. New are Volvo B12B / Plaxton 7092/3 (K2/3VOY) for National Express duties, while from K Line, Honely come DAF SB120 / Wright 8274/5 (Y291/2HUA), and from Ludlows, Halesowen come Scania L94UB / Wright (YN51MKV/X). A further, unidentified Leyland Olympian / Alexander is 3950. All of the Leyland Olympians on loan from Ensignbus have now returned.

Elliot Stuffins reports that well-loved former **Arriva Northumbria** Leyland Olympian / ECW 7302 (C264XEF) is now in the fleet of Regal Busways, Chelmsford.

Dave reports that **Phoenix, Blyth** have reregistered Mercedes Vario / Plaxton NK05OFM to A20OJD.

Peter Tuck tells me that former **Premier, Blyth (new to Northern)** Leyland Atlantean / Roe AUP360W is now at Dixons, Annfield Plain.

20/12/05

Graeme Scarlet of **The Eden** tells me that Optare Metrorider YOY132 was only on loan from AS Hillary of Close House as temporary stand-in for M3 (L634VCV). The Eden would like to wish all enthusiasts a safe and happy Christmas, with best wishes for the new year.

17/12/05



Through a combination of reports from John Hart, Neil Wise and Andrew Lawson, together information posted on yahoogroups by Mark Westgarth, the following **Arriva North East / Northumbria** movements have occurred. New MPDs 1790/1 (NK55MYR/S) have entered service at Hexham, with sister 1792 (NK55MYT) at Jesmond. Further ex First Stop MPDs now stored at Hexham are W166PNT, W631RNP along with Alexander bodied sister Y258KNB. Optare Meterorider 922 (R922JNL) is now at Jesmond ex Hexham. Durham's DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4082 (V653LWT) is currently working for Jesmond with Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 4522 (W298PPT) at Durham in it's place. The reason for this swap is not known. Optare delta 4095 (G256UVK) did it's final turn in service today, now withdrawn.



John Hart has noted that **stagecoach in Newcastle** MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22341-8 are now starting to enter service as evidenced by the photos that he has kindly supplied (above).



A familiar vehicle, former **Go North East** new to **OK Travel**, Volvo B6 as previously mentioned is now with UK North, Manchester carrying GM Buses identity.

Robert Hall has noted that **Tyne Blue Line** have Optare Tempo demonstrato YJ05JWZ on loan.

15/12/05

Peter Barclay tells me (with much excitement!) that **Stagecoach in Sunderland** now have Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14655 (C655LFT) in service (this has been intended for Walkergate, I believe).



Gary Mitchelhill has noted that **The Eden, Bishop Auckland** now have Optare Metrorider YOY132 in service.

14/12/05

Neil Wise tells me that the career of Leyland Olympian / Roe 7292 (CUB66Y) with **Arriva Durham County's** Darlington depot has been cut short by engine failure.

Gary Mitchelhill reports that **Go North East** Scania L94UB / Wright 4971 (NK53UNX) is now transferred to Percy Main, repainted and fitted with guidewheels for service R19.

Tony Walshaw reports that **Compass Royston, Stockton** on-loan Mercedes Sprinter BX55FYD is due to return to Evobus soon, but similar BU53AXH remains on loan. Solos MX04VLV/MH have returned to Mistral. Bristol VR PAG513W is off the road with gearbox problems is due to return to service sooner than sister BUH235V.

12/12/05



Neil Wise tells me that **Arriva North East/Northumbria** are adding some former First Stop, Renfrew Mini Pointer Darts to stock. Brought down to Hexham for storage pre-preparation today were Y215BGB, SA52MYT, SF04RHA. Meanwhile Robert Hall has reported the arrival of three new MPDs at Jesmond. It is understood that two of these will be for Hexham. DAF SB3000 / Plaxton 1203 (R293KRG) is now in the revised Arriva livery (as per 1206-9) ex 685 livery.

Peter Barclay tells me that **Redby, Sunderland** now have Leyland olympian / Alexander E221WBG ex Northern Blue. Note that this had previously been 7205 with Arriva Northumbria!

07/12/05

The **Go North East** [website](#) shows that DAF SB120CS / Wright 8274/5 (Y291/2HUA) have come from K-Line, Honley and that the ex Limebourne Dart Tally is up to four - 8278/8279/8285/8286 (T413/426 LGP, V435/436 KGF).

Scott Cooper tells me that **Tees Valley Coaches** have added Volvo B10M / Plaxton A159PKR to stock. Also in stock (fo a couple of months now) is Leyland Atlantean / East Lancs URN324V ex Red Kite, St Helens.

Gary Mitchelhill has noted that **IDM Travel, Wooler** now have new Mercedes Vario / Plaxton NK55FNF.

06/12/05



Neil Wise today was given the delightful task of driving Leyland Olympian / Roe 7292 (CUB66Y) down to **Arriva Durham County's** Darlington depot, where it is to fill in for Volvo B7TL / Alexander 7446 (NK05GWY) for the next few weeks while 7446 receives accident damage repairs.

Elliot Stuffins tells me that former **Go North East** Volvo B6 / Plaxton 8407 (L407GDC) has turned up with UK North in Manchester, operating as part of their GM Buses operation. Andrew Tyldsley has identified the two Caetano bodied Darts that I saw at Gateshead on Saturday as T426 LGP and V435 KGF.

John Atkin has noted that **Alrite, Middlesbrough** now have Volvo B6 / Alexander L445LWA ex Stagecoach in Merseyside (though still in Glenvale livery), while Alex Betteney has also noted sister L409JBD.



Gary Mitchelhill has noted that **Low Fell, Gateshead** have acquired former Arriva Northumbria Leyland Tiger / Plaxton 247 (B277KPF).

04/12/05



It would appear that a text message facility for bus times is quietly being introduced on Teesside. The above instruction has appeared on the timetable at the stop outside Billingham Campus School and following the instructions I recieved the message on the right, giving details of teh next few scheduled daparures. Presumably this will encompass real-time info when this is available.

It is understood from messages on several Yahoo Groups that the identities of the new MAN 18/220 / Alexander for **Stagecoach North East** at Newcastle are 22341-8 (NK55AHZ/JO/U/V/X/Y/KF/G). However, I understand that a date for their entry into service has yet to be fixed. Richard Smiles tells me that Stockton-based MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22656 (T656OEF) has been repainted and received new route branding in the style of that for service 37. Stockton Volvo B10M repaints continue. Information kindly provided by Chris Redpath is that the following fleet movements have occurred:

- MAN 24.350 / Jonkherre 50046/7/58 (T46/7/58BBW) are the three examples now on Megabus duties, repalcing the previously mentioned Olympians
- Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14182/92 (G182JHG, H192WFR) replaced 14186/611 (G186JHG, C611LFT) at Darlington
- Scania N113 / Alexander 28931 (H431EFT) is reinstated at Slatyford, while 28918/29 (F918JRG, H429EFT) have gone to Bluebird and Western respectively
- Mercedes 709 / Alexander 40791 (N341KKH) is reinstated at Slatyford, 40491 (N491RVK) is now a driver trianer at Walkergate, 40466/72/8/9 (N466/72/8/9RVK) have gone to Fife and 40492/500/792 (N492/501RVK, N342KKH) have gone to Devon.

James Ingram has provided some information on recent vehicle swaps involving **Arriva Tees & District's** Loftus depot. Ashington's Scania L113 / East Lancs 281 (N281NCN) remains on loan, with DAF SB220GS / Ikarus 4076 (T76AUA) now being at Ashington exchange [replacing 4077 (T78AUA)]. Recently Optare Vectas 1512/3 (K512/3BHN) had swapped

locations, but they have now returned home to Loftus and Stockton respectively.

Arriva Northumbria Leyland Olympian / Roe 7286/92 (UWW13X, CUB66Y) are sadly now listed for disposal.

Neil Wise has noted that long unused former **Green Bus** Optare Alero YN53WYZ is now being used by Darlington Borough Council for promotional purposes.

A couple of interesting items are currently listed on ebay. Former **United/Tees** Leyland National 2 3739 (RDC739X) is [for sale](#) starting at £1000, while **The Eden** have Mercedes L634VCV and AHZ5194 [for sale](#).

03/12/05

Andrew Tyldsley has provided a correction to the registration of **Go North East** Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano 8288, which is X94FOR. Today, two older Caetano bodied Dennis Dart SLFs were noted in Gateshead depot (I was unable to ID them, sadly). It is understood that these are among a number of examples new to Limebourne which are destined for Stanley..



The full network of new park and ride services in Durham, operated by **Scarlet Band**, began operation today. Ten specially vinyled Optare Solos (Cummins engined variety) are in operation, registered NX55FFO/R/S, YJ55YGG/H/K/L/M/N/O.



Tyne Blue Line, Prudhoe began operation of new service X63 Hexham – Metrocentre on 25/11/05. Noted on the service today, with lettering for sister company Kimberly's of Prudhoe was newly acquired MAN 11.190 / Berkhof P840EBL, ex Expressway, Rotherham. The destination display consisted of a vinyl "X63" in the windscreen. The photo on the right, courtesy of Robert Hall, shows a different coach being used on the service on 01/12/05 following a breakdown.