

## The Latest News *January 2006*



**30/01/06**

Highlights from the latest **Arriva North East** Allocation sheets are the transfer of Volvo Olympian / East Lancs 7422/4 (M686/8HPF) back to Ashington from Jesmond with the remaining X31 workings, the transfer of DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4063 (S705KFT) from Durham to Stockton with an X1 working, the withdrawal of Leyland Olympian / ECW 7268 (C268XEF) and the transfer of Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1624 (S624KHN) to Arriva Scotland West.



Andrew Tyldsley confirms that **Go North East's** operation of service 754 Durham - Langley Park is now permanent. Richard Kennedy has noted the delivery of new Scania L94UB / Wright NK55OLH (expected to be one of the five new ones for services X20/X50). He also notes that second hand 4989 (YN51MKV) has now entered service at Chester-le-Street and has kindly provided the above photo. Volvo B6s 8402/12 (L402FVN, L412GPY) have joined sister 8407 (L407GDC) with UK North in Machester.

Further to the previous news on **Stagecoach North East**, Ross Sherwood has spotted a H6xxBNL Olympian in Darlington depot.

**27/01/06**

Latest registrations on the VOSA website show that as of tomorrow **Go North East** will officially take over operation of service 754 Durham - Langley Park from **Bob Smith** (i.e. will no longer need to operate "on hire". It would appear that this may now be permanent.

**25/01/06**

Stuart Gray provides a correction to his report of the Leyland Olympian / ECW that has arrived at **Arriva Durham County's** Bishop Auckland depot. It is in fact D231FYM.

**24/01/06**

Ray Barber reports that the remaining Leyland Olympians due from London for **Arriva Durham County** are ECW bodied C102CHM, D198/223FYM) and Alexander bodied WLT173/554 (the latter pair having been with the Leaside unit). These are currently at Pickering, Thurmaston for conversion to single door. Ray also points out that the previously mentioned Olympian ID (D256FYM) may be incorrect as that one is with Blackburn Transport!

**23/01/06**



John Hart has kindly provided the above photo of Volvo B7RLE / Wright demonstrator BV55UAZ on loan to **Arriva Durham County** at Durham.



John Hart also provides illustration of the two types of Caetano bodied Dennis Darts to enter service with **Go North East**. Both suit their respective liveries well. Thank you John.

Chris Redpath has supplied details of allocation changes at **Stagecoach North East**. The most interesting of these see Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14668/76 (H668/76BNL) move to Hartlepool to replace 14639/51 (C639/51LFT), Volvo B10B / Alexander 21001 (M901DRG) return to use at Newcastle (Thanks also to Daniel Smith for reporting this), Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 16432/4 (N332LGK, WLT682) listed for refurbishment (possibly for South Shields) and Alexander bodied sisters 16701-3/10 (N701-3/10LTN) listed for transfer (no, I've no idea where too!).

**21/01/06**

Andrew Tyldsley tells me that **Arriva Durham County** are to take over both the commercial and contract normal service workings from Go North East in Bishop Auckland (I calculate this to be the best part of 20 vehicles worth of work), with only the school contracts going for retender.

Andrew Tyldsley also tells me that **Go North East** are temporarily covering Bob Smith service 754 Durham - Langley Park, due to driver shortages at Bob Smith, usually using a Delta and a Spectra. Additionally, the Go North East

[website](#) has been updated. As well as more detail on the effects of the Durham CC subsidy cuts, it shows the following fleet movements:

- Optare Solo 448 (S248KNL) Winlaton - Percy Main
- DAF SB120 / Wright 8242 (NA52BUV) Deptford - Winlaton
- Optare Delta 4740/1 (G740/1RTY) Deptford - Bishop Auckland
- Optare Metrorider 415 (P415VRG) withdrawn from Deptford
- Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano 8279 (T413LGP) in to service at Deptford

Additionally, it records the purchase of Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 8289 (Y558KUX) and shows that the full batch of Dennis Dart / Caetano (new to Limebourne) is 8276-87 (T403/7/13/26-30LGP, V434-7KGF) and that Leyland Olympian / Alexander 3950 is registered (G183WGX). Volvo B6 / Plaxton 8402/12 (L402FVN, L412GPY) are no longer listed on fleet strength. Not noted on the site is the entry of service of Dart 8288 (X94FOR) at Stanley.

**Tees Valley Coaches** were the winning bidders for Leyland Olympian / Alexnader C637LFT on ebay.

### 20/01/06

Stuart Gray brings some very interesting news from **Arriva Durham County** at Bishop Auckland. He reports that the first of six Leyland Olympian / ECW that originated in London has arrived from Arriva East Herts and Essex. It is D256FYM and is currently awaiting conversion to single door and revised destination layout. To make room for additional vehicles the existing storage shed is being refurbished and the stored vehicles cleared out. Heavily stripped Optare Vecta 1501 (J661UHN) [or should that be 1502 (J620UHN)?] was towed away today - destination unknown. Additionally, driver taining Lynx 9992 (H339UWT) has donated it's engine to sister 5019 (H338TYG) after the latter suffered engine failure.

### 19/01/06

David Johnson reports that it was today announced that **Go North East** will be closing their Bishop Auckland depot after operations on 07/04/06. While services 722/724/684/X23/X27 are expected to remain in Go North East operation, much of the commercial work is expected to pass to Arriva and the contract work will, of course, go out to re-tender. This will effectively bring an end to the empire of OK Motor Services - something which will sadden many.

### 17/01/06

Some of the former First Stop Mini Darts stored with **Arriva Northumbria** have been moved about. 1796 (Y259KNB) is now parked up at Ashington, while Dave reports that 1799 (SF04RHA) and one other are parked up at

Blyth. It is understood that 1799 could potentially become an extra bus for Whitley Bay Town services, given it's Euro 3 credentials.

Jonathan Tweddle reports that **Go North East** also now have Optare Delats 4741/2 (G741/2RTY) at Bishop Auckland.

There are currently a number of buses with North East links for sale on Ebay. Former **Go North East** Dennis Dart / Wright [8024](#) (J624KCU) is for sale a firebus(!), while a former **Busways** Leyland Olympian / Alexander (possibly [C637LFT](#)) is for sale in Gloucester and **Tees Valley Coaches** are selling former **Redby** Leyland Olympian / Alexander [B360LSO](#). Well done to Neil Wise and Scott Cooper for spotting the last two!

Gary Mitchelhill reports that **Classic, Annfield Plain** have new AlexanderDennis Dart LK55KZZ.

**13/01/06**

Something of a minibus rearrangement has taken place at **Arriva North East / Northumbria** following service changes and the transfer of services 48/447/448 from Ashington to Blyth on 08/01/06. This has concentrated all of the Mercedes Varios on Blyth, with the exception of 2658 (S822MCC) which is off the road awaiting a new engine. Metroriders 891/905-7 (N891RTN, R905-7JNL) have gone to Darlington, while 886/90/910/1/6 (N886/90RTN, R910/251/916JNL) pass to reserve and sisters 877/8 (N877/8RTN) are to be converted to crew buses for use at Stockton. 886 and 916 have since been pressed into use at, otherwise Metrorider-free, Blyth.

Andrew Lawson reports that **Go North East** Optare Delta 4740 (G740RTY) is now in use at Bishop Auckland.

**11/01/06**

Following the news of cuts in tendered bus services in Durham and North Yorkshire, it now looks like **Nexus** are to follow suit in Tyne and Wear. Nexus' [press release](#) does not give full details, but the proposals have been published in certain newspapers. Thanks to David Mallon for pointing me in the direction of the release.

**10/01/06**

**Arriva Durham County** have announced that their Richmond depot will close from 04/03/06. Press report available [here](#). While this is sad, it was not entirely unexpected. Thanks to all who contacted me about this. This comes on top of the news that North Yorkshire County Council is considering cuts to its tendered bus network.

Ross Sherwood tells me that the H6--BNL Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties noted in use with **Stagecoach in Darlington** may have been a loan from Stockton.

James Ingram has noted **Arriva Durham County** Optare Metrorider 2742 (P472APJ) working for Arriva Tees & District at Loftus. This may only be a loan.

**07/01/06**

Ross Sherwood tells me that a H6--BNL Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties has turned up with **Stagecoach in Darlington**. The exact identity is not yet known. (Note for Ross - thanks for this, tried to reply to you but your email account bounced it back!)

Sam Edmondson has noted a further ex Newcastle Dennis Dart in use with **Stagecoach in South Shields**. This time it is 37244 (L744VNL).

Scott Cooper has spotted the widely anticipated third Volvo B6 / Alexander with **Alrite, Middlesbrough**, it is L842CDG and is in full Alrite livery.

Scott also reports that **Tees Valley Coaches** now have Leyland Olympian / ECW A658OCX ex Yorkshire Traction.