

## The Latest News - May 2006



**29/05/06**



John Hart has provided the above view of **Stagecoach in Newcastle** new MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22409 (NK06LUT). This and 22408 (NK06LUR), at least, both carry names, being "Bess the Express" and "Bubbles".

**26/05/06**

A number of interesting changes are due to take place at **Arriva North East/Northumbria** over the coming days, a number of them due to service changes in Blyth/Cramlington. Bishop Auckland receive B6s 4539/40 (identities unknown) from Arriva NW, allowing Lynxes 5012/3 (J652/3UHN) to go on loan to Scotland West. Blyth gain Scania 271 (P271VRG) ex Jesmond, but lose MPDs 1725/7 (V725/7VNL) to Redcar, who in turn lose Optare Vectas 1510/37 (K510BHN, L537FHN) to reserve. Vario 2658 (S822MCC) is revived for Ashington, displacing Metrorider 912 (R912JNL) to Alnwick allowing 909 (R909JNL) to transfer to Scotland West. Olympians 7225/6 are now listed for disposal, so are presumably D231/40FYM, which may be stored at Peterlee.

The **Go North East [website](#)** shows that Dennis Dart / Marshall 8121 (N121WBR) has moved from Stanley to Deptford, seeing off sister 8093 (M803GFT). Driver training Leyland Nationals 4711/8 (FTN711W, TJR718Y) have been stood down, while Optare Deltas 4734/9 (G734/9RTY) have been sold - David Turner has noted these in a service station on the A1 near Ferrybridge.

Peter Tuck brings an interesting update from **Weardale, Stanhope**. Now in stock is an ex Citybus (Hong Kong) Leyland Olympian (tri-axle) / Alexander, still carrying HK reg FS5611 and fleetnumber 386. Also, another ex Dublin bus example is J640CEV.

Wayne Picknett tells me that ex **Leven Valley, Middlesbrough** Mercedes 811 / LCB M479YSG is now with Tommies, South Shields.

19/05/06



One of my regular correspondents has passed me the above picture of one of **Stagecoach North East's** new MANs, which his anonymous correspondent kindly gave permission to reproduce here.

John-Paul Lavery, Wayne Picknett and Bryn Mcgloin have provided some updates on **Arriva Tees & District**. Mercedes OH1416 / Wright 3027 (N750LUS) and Optare Vecta 1537 (L537FHN) have returned to use at Redcar, while Optare Delta 4096 (G257UVK) is now on loan to Loftus.

Tony Walshaw reports that **Compass Royston** Volvo B10M X947PAJ and Mercedes 709 J172CNU are now both in white livery with Procters-style fleetnames.

Steven Oliver reports that the Optare Metrorider kept by **Perrymans** is M865KCU.

He also reports that **Travelsure, Seahouses** now have Leyland Tiger / Plaxton GJZ3039, which appears to have replaced Duple bodied A185MKE, while sister WBB348Y now sports retrimmed seats. Optare Metrorider J721CUM is now branded for service 32 Berwick - Swinton.

15/05/06

A belated updated on **Stagecoach North East** (Chris Redpath kindly sent much of the following info about a week ago!). A second ex Stagecoach Merseyside Dennis Dart is 32182 (K857LGN). City Sightseeing MCW Metrobuses 15914/7/22/80003 (LAT514V, SAG517W, A722UOP, B58WUL) are again listed in stock, plus I have also noted 15901 (BYX241V) in operation. Dennis Dart / Alexander 32563 (K563NHC) is now listed for disposal for scrap. Additionally, as publicised on the Stagecoach website, several new MANs have been delivered to Slatyford for new Kickstart-funded service X47 Newcastle - Kingston Park. While the website states that there are six, there may only be five - indeed the latest Stagecoach handbook shows 22409-13 due for *Walkergate* - though this may be incorrect or a separate order.

The **Go North East [website](#)** shows a few further fleet movements. Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 8290/2 (S726KNV, T438EBD) have entered service at Stanley, while MPD 520 (NK51MKC) has moved from Chester-le-Street to Deptford. Deptford also gain Dennis Dart / Marshall 8102 (M812GFT), but

lose SPD 8221 (V221ERG) to Winlato. Leyland National 2 4681 (UPT681V) has been withdrawn from the driver training fleet, while Metroriders 416/7 (P416/7VRG) have replaced 401/11 (L471YVK, N411NTN) as crew ferries. Optare Metroriders 419/20/2-4/6 (P419/20/2-4/6VRG), Optare Deltas 4738/40/801-4/6 (G738/40RTY, J801-4/6VHN), Dennis Dart / Marshall 8098/100/1/4/6/7 (M808/10/1/4/6/7GFT), Dennis Dart / Plaxton 8113 (M813HCU) and Volvo B6 8422 (M422PVN) have all left the fleet. It is understood that the majority of the Darts have gone to Go Ahead's operations in the midlands and the other vehicles have mainly gone to Ensign.

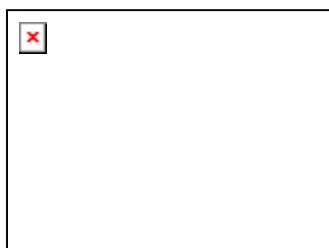
**13/05/06**

Tony Walshaw must again be thanked for providing a very comprehensive update on happenings at **Compass Royston, Stockton**. The big news is that Procters, Leeming Bar have taken a 50% stake in Compass Royston and the associated ITC repair business. The deal for ITC was done in January, and that for Compass Royston this last week. An early sign of this has been the loan of Procters Mercedes 709 / Alexander M196SRR to Compass Royston. Volvo B12B / Sunndegui FJ54ZDL has been sold to Commercial Coaches, Middlesbrough with Mercedes N776WEF and P557DPY coming in part-exchange. Sister FJ54ZDM is now a 49 seater (ex 41 with tables) partly to replace ZDL and partly because Scarborough FC no longer require its services since being demoted. Added to stock from Alpha, Hull are Mercedes 709 / Plaxton J171/2CNU, with sister J170CNU also coming for spares. Bristol VR / ECW WWY119S and Leyland Atlantean / Alexander EJ107W are both now confirmed withdrawn, while VR BUH235V and Volvo B10M / Plaxton 4695WY have both now gone for scrap following heavy cannibalisation. Also now withdrawn is the final Leyland Leopard / Duple 322XTJ. VR MOU746R has been returned to use. Volvo B10M YIL1227 is now white with branding for Blackpool service X30, while Setra BX55FYK is in Leger Tours livery and B10Ms V453KPY and X947DAJ are all over white.

Scott Cooper, Peter Nardone and Alex Bettaney all report that **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe** currently have MCW Metrobus A944SUL in use ex Stephenson of Easingwold. It is not clear if this is on loan or purchased.

Neil Wise has observed a further Leyland Olympian / ECW with **Garnetts, Tindale Crescent**. It is OFS688Y.

**09/05/06**



John Hart has kindly provided the above photo of **Go North East** Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 4993 (S590KJF) which is now in service at Gateshead.



Steven Oliver has very kindly provided an extensive update on **Perrymans**, who, of course, took over much of the town work in Berwick when Arriva pulled out. Four Optare Solos have joined the fleet from Bebb, Llantwit Fadre, these being CE52UXA-D, which join existing fleetmembers SL52BFU and MX04VLW. This is allowing the withdrawal of former Arriva Northumbria Optare Metroriders M859/60-2/4/5KCU, with three due to go to a Glasgow operator and two to an operator in Cornwall, with one retained as a spare vehicle for now. It should be noted that Solos CE52UXA-D are route branded for service 253 Berwick - Edinburgh.

**06/05/06**



There have been further developments at **Arriva Durham County** in Bishop Auckland. In addition to previously noted Optare Vecta 1515 (K515BHN), Bishop Auckland is now also home to ex Arriva Tees & District Optare Delta 4017 (K417BHN). Further recent acquisitions in service at Bishop Auckland (as noted by Andrew Tyldsley) are DAF DB250 / Northern Counties 7448 (R204CKO) [NOTE THAT THIS HAS NOT TAKEN UP THE EXPECTED NUMBER OF 7447!] and Leyland Olympian / ECW 7224 (D146FYM).

Now in stock at **Stanley Taxis** is former Bob Smith Travel Leyland Lynx F295AWW, noted on the MC1 today.

Wayne Picknett reports that **Arriva Tees & District** again have Optare Delta 4096 (G257UVK) at Redcar. He and others have reported the failure of Metroriders 906 (R906JNL) and 2643 (P643FHN) - the latter has been towed back to Darlington.

**05/05/06**



The first of three former Stagecoach Merseyside Dennis Darts has now been noted in use with **Stagecoach on Teesside**. The first identified is 32173 (K582MGT) and, as can be seen if you look closely at John Atkin's photo (above), it features hard plastic seating.



Gary Mitchelhill tells me that **Go North East** Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 8291 (S783RNE) has now entered service at Stanley and wears a slight variation of the new livery.

**04/05/06**

Between them, Mark Gibbon, Ian S and Paul Francis tell me that **Arriva Durham County's** Peterlee depot is now home to Optare Deltas 4015/96 (K415BHN, G257SRG).



Superb additions to stock at **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe** are former Powells, Hellaby Leyland Olympian / ECW OFS680Y (new to Lothian) and one time Stagecoach East Midlands Leyland Leopard / Duple (Dominant bus, rebody) DWF23V. The latter joins VDV117S and URN324V in school bus yellow livery and both are now used on services 871/2 to Laurence Jackson School, Guisborough.

Additions to stock at **Alrite, Middlesbrough** are ex Go North East Optare Metrideriders N413NTN, P418VRG, both operating in GNE livery - it was interesting to see both of these and Go NE Volvo Olympian 3826 (S826OFT) all parked in Middlesbrough Bus Station at once today!.

**Abbey Coaches, Middlesbrough** have returned Optare Metrorider VIL6938 to service after some months.

**02/05/06**

With Viva Tees Valley kicking in fully today, there have been a number of interesting reports and sightings over the weekend from **Arriva Teesside / Tees & District** (Thanks to Bryn Mcgloin, Mark Gibbon, Wayne Picknett, Colin Davidson, Craig Bell and Lee-James Worsfold for these). Optare Vecta 1515 (K515BHN), officially now listed as reserve, has been pressed into use at Bishop Auckland, while in a similar vein, Optare Delta 4014 (K414BHN) was noted working for Loftus on a school contract. DAF SB120 / Wright 1920 (W81PRG) remains defective at Redcar, so Stockton have Optare Delta 4096 (G257UVK) instead. DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4109 (L533EHD) has not yet moved to Peterlee due to an engine fault. An additional Optare Metrorider at Redcar is 2643 (P643FHN) from Darlington, while there are also reports that 908/9 (R908/9JNL) may come from Alnwick. With Mercedes 3026/7 (L100SBS, N750LUS) away for new engines, Redcar are currently retaining DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4089 (J930CYL).

Peter Tuck and Garry Luck have provided a wealth of information on the latest happenings at **Weardale**. MCW Metrobuses A633BCN, C751/65/8/77OCN are on loan along with Leyland Olympian / ECW C665/72LJR to work school contracts taken over from Go North East while other vehicles are sourced. These services involve two vehicles for Staindrop (expected to be outstationed at evenwood), a service originating with Lockkeys, and five vehicles for Willington Parkside school (once a Bond Bros. operation), which are outstationed on an industrial estate near Crook. Further ex Dublin Leyland Olympian / Alexander are 91D10060/119, which are under preparation for service with 91D10112 - their English registrations are not yet known. Further Olympians are expected, including a tri-axle example (consideration had been given to a tri-axle Metrobus). A Mercedes minibus in stock is V66BJT.