

The Latest News November 2005



30/11/05

The **Go North East** [website](#) has been updated. Added to stock is Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano 8288 (R94XOR), ex Cheney, Banbury, while Leyland Olympian / ECW 9258 (D258FYM), Optare Metrorider 410 (N410NTN) and Dennis Dart / Plaxton 8114 (M814HCU) have left the fleet. Allocation changes noted on the fleetlist are as follows:

Stanley gain Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 3957/8 (G548/9VBB), displacing Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3904/5 (R262/3LGH) to Gateshead and Chester-le-Street respectively.

Gateshead lose Optare Spectras 3852/4 (K160PGO, K322FYG) to Chester-le-Street, with Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3940 (R399LGH) making the opposite move.

The entry into service of the DAF SB220GSs at Stanley has allowed Optare Deltas 4734/6/8/40/1/3 (G734/6/8/40/1/3RTY) to move to Gateshead (4736/8), Percy Main (4734), Deptford (4740/1) and Chester-le-Street (4743).

Stanley gain Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 3953/4 (G548/9VBB), displacing Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3904/5 (R262/3LGH) to Gateshead and Chester-le-Street respectively.

Daniel Smith tells me that the eight new MAN 18.220 / Alexander for **Stagecoach in Newcastle** have now arrived. These will allow completion of low-floor conversion of service 22 Throckley - Wallsend.

28/11/05

Tony Walshaw tells me that previously illustrated **Compass Royston** Mercedes Sprinter BX55FYD is in fact only on loan from Evobus, with the permanent additions being BX55FYE/F, which are in red livery and feature automatic gearboxes. Tony also tells me that Volvo B12B / Sunsundegui is now in 41 seat format with tables for use as the Scarborough FC team coach. Bristol VR / ECW BUH235V is off the road awaiting a new gearbox.

27/11/05

Graeme Warnes has kindly provided the answer to my question about **Jayline Solo VU52UEE**. It is now with Pegasus in West Yorkshire for recently won contracts.

David Mallon has informed me that **Scarlet Band's** operation of Park and Ride services will step up to operation from three sites from 03/12/05 (a single-bus service has been operating already). As a result, Arriva's Saturday-only service ran for the final time yesterday.

David has also kindly pointed me in the direction of some further [information](#) on the proposed cuts to tendered services in county Durham. He notes that the list of routes in appendix 3 contains some minor errors and is expected to change slightly.

26/11/05

Neil Wise tells me that **Jayline, Horden** still have Solo VU52UEF in use - anybody seen UEE of late?

21/11/05

The **Go North East** [website](#) shows that recently acquired DAF SB220GS / Northern Counties 4983-8 (R971/2/5/9/82/3FNW) are in the process of entering service at Stanley. Dennis Dart / Plaxton 8116 (L315XBB - the final ex Hammel vehicle), Optare Metrorider 427 (P427VRG) and Volvo B6 / Plaxton 8407 (L407GDC) have been sold.

It would appear that **Jayline, Horden** no longer have Optare Solos VU52UEE/F following the loss of service 148 to Go North East, as the only Solo noted in service on Saturday was MX03YDD.

Richard Smiles kindly confirms that **Compass Royston** have a second Mercedes Sprinter, all-red BX55FYE.

20/11/05

Stockton on Tees Borough Council have now published detailed proposals for bus services in the Tees Valley in their "daughter" local transport plan. It is available to download [here](#). The changes are fairly extensive (and may not go down well in certain communities!). Cheers to John Atkin for alerting me to the existence of this detailed information.

Stagecoach in Newcastle has received a trio of former Oxford Tube MAN coaches to displace the existing Megabus Olympians to other locations where there high capacity will be used to cover for Neoplans receiving modifications. One of the three is 50058 (T58BBW) which I noted on the A1 this afternoon.



Compass Royston, Stockton are now receiving their low floor Mercedes Sprinters. The first is BX55FYD. Solo MX54VLV remains on loan.



Stephenson's of Easingwold have had something of a double deck clear out, with only Olympians JWF146Y, A280ROW, B132DTO and one MCW Metrobus noted at their depot today. One or two more may, however, be outstationed and engineless B102PHC was also on site. A recent addition is VDL SB120 / Wright YX54HBB. Also in stock is DAF MB230 / Duple D901EAJ, new to OK Travel.



New at **John Smiths, Thirsk** is Mercedes Sprinter YX55EHG.



New at **Procters, Bedale** are Cummins engined Optare Solos MX55BXR/S. A further Volvo B6LE / Alexander in use is R7KSP, while ex Stagecoach Volvo B10M / Plaxton WSU873 (ex 52134) is in use. From Weardale comes Leyland Atlantean / Alexander UVK292T.

15/11/05

Alex Kennedy tells me that **Arriva Tees & District** have Scania L113 / East Lancs 281 (N281NCN) at Loftus in exchange for DAF SB220GS / Ikarus 4077 (T78AUA) which is with Ashington. It is not known if this temporary or permanent.

To meet a shortfall in funding, Durham County Council will be reducing subsidies on certain services from early next year. This will see a number of services cut back, especially late in the evenings. A number of operators will be affected, though so far only [Go North East](#) has released details. It remains to be seen exactly how other operators will be affected.

13/11/05



Neil Wise has supplied this photo of **Go North East** DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4869 (S869ONL) wearing the experimental new fleet livery - I'll let you judge for yourselves whether it looks nice or not! The company [website](#) shows the following fleet changes:

Chester-le-Street gain Optare Metrorider 418/28 (P418/28VRG) from Deptford and Stanley respectively

Stanley gains Optare Solo 455 (S255KNL) from Winlaton.

Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 3953 (G522VBB) is now in use at Stanley, displacing Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3933 (R392LGH) to Gateshead, in turn Optare Spectra 3851 (K124PGO) has returned to Chester-le-Street seeing off loaned Leyland Olympian / ECW 9046 (C46CHM).

07/11/05



John Hart has kindly supplied the above photo of **Northumbria Coaches** Volvo B6BLE / Plaxton 2000 NK54PHV.

Neil Wise reports that **Stagecoach in Darlington** now have Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14182/92 (G182JHG, H192WFR) in use on schools work.

04/11/05

The **Go North East website** shows some further fleet changes. The batch of six DAF SB220GS / Northern Counties added to stock are 4983-8 (R971/2/5/9/82/3FNW), while an additional Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties is 3953 (G522VBB). Previous additions 3949/61 (H589EGU, G545VBB) have entered service at Bishop Auckland allowing Leyland Olympian / ECW 9024/65/258 (C24/65CHM, D258FYM) to return to Ensignbus, while 3954/6 (G527/9VBB) have entered service at Stanley joined by 3960 from Chester-le-Street, displacing Volvo Olympians 3903/7/9 (R261/5/7LGH) back to Chester-le-Street. Chester's 3929/34 (R388/93LGH) are now at Gateshead in exchange for Optare Spectras 3853/5 (K321/3FYG). MPD 515 (NK51MJU) has moved from Winlaton to Percy Main.

Gary Mitchelhill tells me that **Northumbria Coaches** now have the Volvo B6BLE / Paxton 2000 NK54PHV that was previously with Gardiners of Spennymoor and loaned to Weardale.

03/11/05

The [Evening Gazette](#) carries a report on the new buses for **Arriva Teesside's** Kickstart MIBus service. According to the report they are to be AlexanderDennis Enviro 300s with high specification interiors.

Correction! The **Arriva North East / Northumbria** allocation actually shows Optare Delta 4012 (K412BHN) as being at Jesmond and not 4010 (K410BHN) which is of course now allocated to Durham, as confirmed by Andrew Tyldsley.

02/11/05

The latest round of government "Kickstart" routes has been announced. North East beneficiaries are as follows:

Arriva Teesside are to operate a new service under the "MIBus" banner linking Stockton and Ingleby Barwick via the new link road (it is reported that this service may also extend to Middlesbrough and James Cook Hospital)

Arriva Tees & District service 81 is to be doubled to half hourly Monday to Saturday day times.

Arriva Northumbria service 518 is going to be enhanced to run half hourly between Widdrington and Newcastle (not quite sure where this will leave Northumbria Coaches' service 618!)

Go North East services 135/136 are to be increased in frequency once the Queen Alexandra bridge reopens (I understand work on this bridge is over-running somewhat) and service 639 is to be increased to half hourly.

Stagecoach in Newcastle are to operate a new service X47 linking Kington Park and Newcastle.

It is understood that some of these services are to utilise new low floor buses.

Chris Redpath has very kindly provided details of more movements at **Stagecoach North East**. Leyland Olympian stock at Stockton is much reduced with 14618 (C618LFT) going to Darlington and sisters 14182/9/92/8/655 (G182/9JHG, H192WFR, J198HFR, C655LFT) now in reserve, leaving just the three Northern Counties bodied examples (and, of course, the Volvo variants). Darlington and Hartlepool lose 14645/8 (C645/8LFT) to reserve also. City Sightseeing MCW Metrobuses 15901-3/7/17/66 () have finished for the summer, leaving the remaining four for the winter. Mercedes 709 / Alexander 40092/462/3/6/7/92/5/500/792 (K492FFS, N462/3/6/7/92/5/501RVK, N342KKH) are now listed for disposal along with Leyland Lynx II 29621 (J901UKV), while Scania N113 / Alexander 28926/7 (G926TCU, G113SKX) have gone to Stagecoach Bluebird. Ross Sherwood (Sorry Ross, I seem to have trouble replying to your emails as your account won't accept my replies!) reports that 14182/98 and some of the C-LFTs are now parked up at Darlington.

Neil Wise confirms the identity of **Procters, Bedale's** Dennis Dart SLF / Alexander as VIL1584.