

The Latest News *November 2008*



26/11/08

Lee Wardle notes that **Arriva North East** Dennis Dart / Plaxton 1696/7 (M186/97YKA) are both parked up at Jesmond, the latter being prepared for repaint. It was also noted that most of the red Scania deckers appeared to have been moved out.



steven Hodgson reports that **Go North East** SPD 8213 (V213ERG) is now at Deptford and that Scania Omnicity 5263 is now in full cream.

It is reported that the first of the latest batch of new **Stagecoach North East** Alexander Dennis Enviro 400s is now arriving for service 1 in Newcastle. Four have been delivered as 19430-3 (NK58FMO/P/U/V), with thirteen more due. Chris Redpath notes that Volvo B10Ms 20272/722 (M712KRH, K722DAO) are moving over to driver training duties.

Joe Curry has spotted **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe** Dennis Javelin / Plaxton RPP514 and Volvo B10M / Jonkherre M10TVT on ebay.

James Stoker notes DAF SB3000 / Plaxton (Paramount 4000) RJ18609 with **Park Lane Travel, Middlesbrough** ex Sussex Coaches - I beleive it has been in stock since August.

23/11/08



Ten **Arriva North East** vehicles transferred from Loftus to Redcar with the transfer of services X3/X4, comprising Optare Prismas 3003/6-8/14/6 (M303SAJ, N806-8XHN, N514/6XVN) and Optare Vectas 1524/8/34/6 (L524/8/34/6FHN), as reported by Wayne Picknett. Alex Kennedy notes that Loftus have received Optare Prisma 3002 (M302SAJ) from Durham, while Lee Wardle notes that Blyth now have DAF SB220GS / Ikarus 4075 (T75AUA) in use after repaint. Andrew Sewell notes that three further red Scania N113 / East Lancs have arrived at Jesmond from the Midlands, these veing N160/3/4VVO. Stu Gray notes that Optare Metrorider 2643 (P643FHN) is now stored at Bisop Auckland and Lee Wardle notes that sister 921 (R921JNL) is stored at Hexham. DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4056 (S356KHN) is out of use with minor fire damage.



Steven Hodgson reports that **Go North East** Dennis Trident / East Lancs 2865 (W865PNL) is now pink and Scania Omnicities 5267/8 (NK56KKC, NO07GJO) are now cream, one now with Coaster logo on the front. He also notes that MPDs 535/6 (NA52AWX/Y) are now in a similar shade of blue to that used on the park & ride Solos, MPD 541 (NA52AXF) is white, Scania L94UB / Wright 4938 (NK51OKX) is white and at Washington, and that Dennis Trident / Plaxton 3891 (NK51UCU) now has updated DFDS vinyls. "Slimlinesolo" notes that the new Bargain Bus X44/X45/144 routes begin tomorrow and that the X44/144 should use two Volvo Olympians and a DAF, with the remaining Bargain Bus services being all provided by DAFs. Volvo B10B / Alexander 4809/75 (L209KEF, N950TVK) are expected to remain at Ashington, with the other B10Bs and Deltas becoming redundant. Lee Wardle notes that ex Bargain Bus Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 3953 (G522VBB) now has School Bus vinyls and that the branding on the Lime vehicles has been ammended to reflect their use on the 15.

Richard Smiles reports that **Stagecoach North East** MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22199 (T199MVM) is now in use, refurbished at Stockton, while Danny Howard reports Volvo B10M / Northern Counties 20300 (M410SPY) is repainted but its new allocation (ex Stockon) is not yet known.

Paul Thompson tells me that his **Leven Valley** fleet has returned Optare Solo 1 "Iona" (T11GAJ) to Mistral at the end of its lease, freshly repainted white. Note that the cherished plate has been retained, so the Solo will presumably gain an MX56xxx plate. Richard Smiles adds that sister vehicle 2 "St Columba" (T12GAJ) is also repainted white, but is to remain in stock for the time being.



Lee Wardle reports that **Hunters, Tantobie** have Mercedes 709 / Alexander M196SRR in stock ex Procters.

John Atkin and James Stoker provide some sightings from **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe**. A pair of Plaxton bodied Dennis Javelins are in stock, one being WLT642, the other arriving as WIL9574, but reverting to an "E" plate. Also in stock is Volvo B10M / Van Hool 852YYC. Leyland Tiger / Plaxton C212PPE is sold to Skelton Coaches, while JIL and PIL are sold and POG592Y, RPP514 and M10TVT are for sale.

John Atkin reports that **Skelton Coaches, Charltons** Leyland Tiger / Plaxton C212PPE and YIL2179, the former ex Tees Valley and the latter ex Glovers, Ashbourne.

James Stoker reports that **M&D Travel, Thornaby** have Toyota Coaster / Caetano J71JUR in stock.

15/11/08



Steven Hodgson reports that **Arriva North East** Volvo olympian / Northern Counties 7377 (M377FTY) has gained an eye-searing overall advert for Nokia and that Scania L113 / East Lancs 282 (N282NCN) is a second one repainted and on the X1 for Durham. Neil Wise reports that Optare Metrorider 2724

(R724MHN) is now at Alnwick, while sister 2722 (R722MHN) is now stored at Peterlee. Vehicles removed from Redcar depot (largely by Trevor Wigley) are Optare Metroriders 887-9/92/3/7/901, 2630/6/7/45, 2720/1 (N887RTN, N192RVK, N889RTN, P892/3XCU, P56/61XTN, P630/6/7/45FHN, R720/1MHN) and DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4087 (J414NCP) - thanks to Wayne for the reports.



Steven Hodgson, Jeff Hodgson, & Gary Mitchelhill between them report that **Go North East** Dennis Trident / East Lancs 3863/4/8 (W863/4PNL, W178SCU) are at Chester-le-Street. 3863 is now pink and 3868 retains white livery. Conversely, Scania Omnicities 5266/8 (NK56KKB, NK07GJO) are at Percy Main, both in cream. Steven also illustrates DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4891 (S891ONL) in Bargain Bus livery. Services X1/X2/X3/X30/X31, which were recently re-routed via the Swing Bridge on northbound journeys are to return to using the Tyne Bridge owing to a combination of opposition from Newcastle City Council and unexpectedly long journey times via the swing bridge.

Stagecoach North East Volvo B10M / Alexander 20730 (K730DAO) is parked up out of use at the Wheatsheaf, while Dennis Darts 32182/701/42 (K857LGN, J701KCU, L742VNL) are stored at Stockton.

Stu Gray reports that **Scarlet Band, West Cornforth** have acquired Mercedes Vario / Mellor S280LGA.

Andrew Rasmussen reports that **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe** Dennis Condor / Duple Metsec G863FVX is confirmed as having left the fleet.

04/11/08

Various people report that **Arriva North East's** Loftus depot is to lose services X3/X4 Middlesbrough - Loftus to Redcar depot from 17/11/08, as the run down of Loftus kicks off. Stuart Gray notes that Scania L113 / East Lancs 288 (N288NCN) is now at Bishop Auckland, while OPptare Vectas 1549/51 (L549/51GHN) have moved from there to Stockton. Wayne Picknett reports that Optare Metroriders 892/7 (P892XCU, P56XTN) are now withdrawn at

Redcar (as is 2721, I believe) and that Dennis Dart / Plaxton 1697 (M197YKA) has moved to Ashington.



Steven Hodgson notes that **Go North East** Dennis Trident / East Lancs 3804/61 (V804EBR, W861PNL) are both now pink at Chester-le-Street, with Scania Omnicity 5265 (NK65KKA) being in full cream at Percy Main, as also noted by Daryl Mitchelhill. Steven also notes that DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4870 (S870ONL) is another now in Bargain Bus livery at Ashington. Other recent movements not previously listed are of Scania Omnicity 5264 (NK56KJZ) to Percy Main, Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3811 (S811FVK), DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4867/8 (S867/8ONL) to Ashington, MPD 487 (V187ERG), Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3831 (S831OFT) to Washington, Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4896-8/911 (V986-8ETN, W411SCU) to Stanley, MPDs 488/9 (V188/9ERG), Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano 8282-4 (T429/30LGP, V424KGF), Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 8289/91 (Y558KUX, S783RNE) to Chester-le-Street, Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4922 (X922WGR) to Gateshead and MPDs 491/6-500 (V191/6-9/820ERG), SPDs 8214/5 (V214/5ERG), Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3932 (R391LGH) to Deptford. Dennis Dart SLF / Marshall 575-7/9-82 (T101-3/5/10KGP, T272RMY, T112KGP), Optare Delta 4759/89-91 (K759SBB, M789-91HCU) and Optare Sigma 4779 (L479CFT) are withdrawn, while Optare Delta 4752 (G752UCU), Leyland Tiger / East Lancs 4994 (C141SPB), Leyland Lynx II 4995 (J652UHN) and Optare Solos 449/52/63/5 (S249/52KNL, T463/5BCN) are sold. Steven Hodgson notes that Dennis Trident / East Lancs 3867 (W177SCU) is now in the latest DFDS scheme. Jeff Hodgson reports that the full Angel/Coaster swap is expected to encompass Dennis Tridents 3803/4/61/3-5/8/72 (V803/4EBR, W861/3-5PNL, W178/82SCU) and Scania Omnicities 5262-9 (NK56KJX-X/KKA-C, NK07GJO, NK56KKE). Former OK Travel rear-engined Leyland Tiger / ECW Q723GHG, now preserved with TM Travel, made an appearance at the Lincoln Museum on Sunday, looking smart in an OK-esque adaptation of TM Travel livery.



Photo courtesy and © Joe Curry

Joe Curry notes that **Durham City Coaches** have Volvo B10M / Van Hool A16TVL ex Sim's, Eskdale.