

The Latest News October 2005



31/10/05

The latest **Arriva North East / Northumbria** allocation show some interesting movements. MCW Metrobus 631 (B91WUL) is now for disposal (understood to be after fire damage) and it's place at Jesmond is taken by Optare Delta 4012 (K412BHN). Volvo Olympian / East Lancs 7421/3 (M685/7HPF) have been reallocated to Alnwick in line with the return of two 518 diagrams (though whether this is ever realised by the literal allocation is open to question!).

The **Go North East** [website](#) records the arrival of Leyland Olympian / Alexander 3949 (H589EGU) and Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 3954/6/61 (G527/9/45VBB). Hired Olympian 9049 (C49CHM) has returned to Ensignbus.

Chris Redpath has kindly provided some up-to-date **Stagecoach North East** information. I have updated my fleetlist and these are the highlights: Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14615/7/36/58/61 (C615/7/36/58/61LFT) are all held in reserve with sister 14633 (C633LFT) now with Stagecoach Cheltenham and Gloucester. The Scania N113 / Alexander 'deckers' 15301-10 (H421-30BNL) continue in the process of transfer to Fife. Single deck Scania N113 / Alexander 28926/7/31 (G926TCU, G113SKX, H431EFT) are removed from service, while sisters 28907/11/2/6 (F907/11/2/6JRG) have all left the fleet. Mercedes 709 / Alexander 40461/3/4/6/7/78/9/85/92/5/8/500/791/2 (N461/3/4/6/7/78/9/85/92/5/8/501RVK, N341/2KKH) are in reserve and sisters 40093/4/281/3/468/82/96/793 (K493/4FFS, G281/3TSL, N468/82/96RVK, N343KKH) are no longer listed in stock.

30/10/05

Pete Greensmith has spotted former **United/Tees/Northumbria** Leyland Olympian / ECW (7)237 (A237GHN) for sale with [marshopper](#).

29/10/05

It can now be confirmed that **Arriva Durham County** MCW Metrobus 614 (GYE515W) remains in service at Durham in lieu of 617 (OJD858Y) which is parked up at Stockton with accident damage. Neil Wise reports that Darlington are to gain Optare Delta 4020 (L420FHN), the latter to replace 4002 (G210HCP) which is now at Redcar for spares. This weekend DAF SB220 / Plaxton 4082 (V653LWT) is due to move to Durham along with a 723

diagram, while two 98/48 diagrams return to Darlinton from Redcar with DAFs 4056/7 (S356/7KHN).

The recent arrival of Mercedes OH1416 / Wright 3027 (N750LUS) at **Arriva Tees & District's** Redcar depot was in exchange for DAF SB120 / Wright 1921 (W82PRG) which has gone to Scotland.

Although officially off stock, **Arriva Northumbria** currently retain Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 7279 (G756UYT).

Scarlet Band, West Cornforth were recently awarded the contract for Durham's new Park and Ride system. A number of Optare Solos are being delivered for the services, the first noted being NX55FFO. Note that it is of the Cummins-engined variety.

Gavin Miller reports that **Abbey Coaches, Middlesbrough** Volvo B10M / Plaxton K20CCL has been reregistered 801CXK.

From the sightings of myself and Scott Cooper it would appear that **Alrite, Middlesbrough** have a further three Iveco Daily minibuses in stock. They are M116RHD, M825WWT and P1ONT.

26/10/05

Neil Wise and Stuart Gray bring some welcome updates on **Arriva Durham County**. Optare Metroriders 2611/3 (P611/3FHN) remain in use, standing in for 920 (R920JNL) and 887 (N887RTN) which are out of service. Optare Delta 4106 (F701ECC) has been sold to a West Yorkshire operator.



Richard Kennedy has kindly supplied details of what is currently at **Go North East's** Saltmeadows. Firstly, there are the three DAF SB220 / Plaxton listed below, of which one is being painted as a trial for a new livery layout [thanks to Andrew Tyldsley for clarifying this] (see photo above - it will be interesting to see the end result!). Stored in the rear yard are Optare Metroriders 410/27 (N410NTN, P427VRG), the remains of Optare Spectra 3846 (K314FYG), Leyland National 4707 (FTN707W), Optare Delta 4750/1 (K755/1SBB), Dennis Dart / Plaxton 8114/6 (M814HCU, L315XBB), Volvo B6 / Plaxton 8401-4/7/10-2 (L401-4FVN, L407GDC, L410-2GPY) and Volvo B6 / Alexander 8413/4/6/8/31/3-5 (L413/4/6KEF, M418PVN, M431/3RDC, N670/1VUP).

23/10/05

Mark Westgarth tells me that former **Arriva Durham County** Optare Delta 4001 (G209HCP) is now at Dixons, Annfield Plain for scrap. I understand that the other ex Arriva Vehicles on site comprise Optare Metroriders 869/74, 2604 (M869KCU, M874LBB, L604FHN), Leyland Olympians 7242/64/5/301 (A242GHN, CWR514/8Y, C263XEF), Leyland Tiger 218 (F188HKK) and the remains of a few others. "Andrew17" reports that Dart 1635 (S635KHN) remains in the North East, so 1615 (S615KHN) would appear to have been sent to Arriva Cymru in it's place.



Not previously noted (though new in March) at **Weardale, Stanhope** is Scania K124 / Berkhof Y6WMS.

22/10/05



Arriva Northumbria service X64 Prudhoe - Newcastle starts tomorrow. MPD 1751 (W752SBR) was today noted carrying branding for the service. Robert Hall tells me that the resultant increased requirement at Jesmond has led to the transfer of service 74/75 Newcatsle - Matten/Great Whittington to Hexham depot, for which they have received MPD 1716 (V716DNL) from Peterlee. Metrorider 879 (N879RTN) today left Hexham for Scotland.

Neil Wise and Mark Gibbon inform me that **Arriva Teesside** Optare Metrorider 875 (M875LBB) did not see service at Stockton and has now been taken to Darlington for cannibalisation. Neil Wise also tells me that **Arriva Durham County** Optare Delta 4090 (G251SRG) has gone to Peterlee for storage pre-preservation, while newer sister 4021 (L421FHN) is back on the road with a new engine. Andrew Tyldsley reports that Optare Metrorider 870 (M870KCU) is now with Town Lynx, St Helens. **Arriva Tees & District**, meanwhile, are still somewhat short of operable buses at Redcar, though Optare Deltas 4094/104 (G255UVK, H266CFT) are reported as present (presumed for cannibalisation) and withdrawn Volvo B10Ms 2872/3/5 have now vanished from the yard.



John Hart and Richard Smiles bring some repaint news from **Stagecoach North East**. In a green-based livery for Egg are Volvo Olympian / Alexander 16719/23 (N719/23LTN), while Stockton based Volvo B10M / Alexander 20101 (N101LTN) and Northern Counties bodied sister 20247 (M547SPY) have received welcome repaints. Gary Mitchelhill has also sent the above picture of the AD122 Optare Solo making a rare appearance on the Q1 in place of a Designline Olympus.



The **Go North East [website](#)** records the arrival of Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 3959/60 (G544/6VBB), while Gary Mitchelhill reports that sister 3955 (G528VBB) is freshly repainted. A number of second hand low floor buses are in the process of being acquired, the first to arrive being DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4984/6/7 (R972/7/82FNW).



Northumbria Coaches, Ashington have placed their Marshall Minibus 35 (P459EFL) into service after a lengthy refurbishment. It was noted in Morpeth on the M1 service today.



Gary Mitchelhill reports that **Low Fell, Gateshead** now have Optare Solo MX03YCZ in stock ex Konnectbus, Dereham and previously with Speedwell, Glossop.

Brian Robertson kindly reports that **Burnside, Burnhopefield** have new Mercedes O814 Vario / Plaxton Cheetah NK55HKD.

19/10/05



Photo courtesy and © Robert Hall



Photo courtesy and © Robert Hall

Robert Hall has kindly supplied photos of the two **Tyne Valley** Volvo B10Ms that were referred to a couple of weeks ago.



Photo courtesy and © Gary Mitchelhill

Gary Mitchelhill has supplied the above photo of **Arriva Tees & District** Mercedes OH1416 / Wright 3027 (N750LUS).

16/10/05

Ray Barber reports that **Arriva Durham County** have sent Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1615 (S615KHN) to Arriva North West and Wales. It is not clear whether this has been sent in place of 1635 on purpose, by mistake or whether **both** have gone!



Photo courtesy and © John Hart

John Hart has very kindly supplied the above photo of **Classic, Annfield Plain's** spectacular new delivery, Scania K124 / Irizar YN55PXX. This is to act as team coach for both Newcastle and Sunderland (hence, why it is

neither red nor black!). Former team coaches, Volvo B10M / Berkhof V1SFC and V1NFC are now providing their services to Darlington and Hartlepool FCs respectively.



A major rail replacement exercise took place in Manchester this Saturday, a surprising number of the vehicles having north east connections. Most obvious was the use of four **Compass Royston, Stockton** coaches - mainly on Airport shuttles. Former **Stagecoach Darlington** Volvo B6 / Alexander L242/54CCK were in use on Piccadilly - Guide Bridge runs with County, Stockport, while a former **Northern / OK** Leyland Tiger / Plaxton E183GRG (I think this was JCN822 when operated with Northern/OK) was stricken at Stockport station with a flat tyre!

Daniel Stazicker has reported that **Teen Challenge Teesside** now have a Leyland Olympian / ECW (C119CHM) which is used to provide assistance to young people on the streets of Middlesbrough. This has replaced an Atlantean. Fulfilling a similar role until recently was Bristol VR / ECW AHU518V as **Walter's Kitchen**.

14/10/05

Arriva North East Mercedes OH1416 / Wright N750LUS has been confirmed by Martin Brigham as being numbered 3027. Dave confrims that **Arriva Northumbria** now have their full compliment of Mercedes Varios at Blyth. This should now mean that Optare Metrorider 884 (N884RTN) is with Stockton and in turn DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4049 (S349KHN) has gone to Bishop Auckland to see off Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1635 (S635KHN). Neil Wise reports that Optare Metrorider 904 (P904DRG) has moved from Ashington to Richmond (this was a change of plan from intended 937). Highlights from the most recent fleet allocationa are the transfer of Optare Metrorider 879/85 (N879/85RTN) to Arriva Scotland West, the movement of sister 899 (P58XTN) to Richmond from Durham and the replacemnt of Darlington Optare Delta 4090 (G251SRG) with sister 4012 (K412BHN). A large number of buses now listed as having left the fleet comprise Optare Deltas 4001/5 (G209/14HCP), Leyland Lynx II 5021 (J371YWX), Leyland Olympians 7242/4/63/5/6/79/80/3/4/302/407-9 (A242/4GHN, TPD116X, CWR518/9Y, G756/7/80/1UYT, C264XEF, C260-2UAJ), Leyland Tigers 214-7 (XSV691, YSU870/1, F188HKK) and Optare Metroriders 863/6/7/70/1/6, 2604, 2730/2/4/6 (M863/6/7/70/1KCU, M876LBB, L604FHN, M444/6/8HPF, M452HPG).

11/10/05

A number of people have reported that **Arriva Tees & District** have Mercedes OH1416 / Wright N750LUS at Redcar (presumed on loan) - quite a rare machine!

Anth reports that **Stagecoach in Newcastle** now have Volvo B10M / Northern Counties 20269/72 (M709/12KRH) at Walkergate ex Stockton - quite a characterful pair, too.

09/10/05

Arriva Tees & District currently have Optare Delta 4008 (K408BHN) on loan at Redcar from Peterlee.

The number of C-LFT Leyland Olympians operating for **Stagecoach on Teesside** appears to be reducing further with just 14618/55 (C618/55LFT) on the "in service" line yesterday (though one more had been present the previous evening). Fairly major service cuts have taken place today, with a PVR reduction of six expected on Mon-Sat. Vehicle movements are anticipated over the next few days as a result.

Former **Arriva Northumbria** Leyland Tiger / Plaxton 214 (XSV691) was noted making it's way to it's new home at **Skelton Coaches, Charltons** yesterday.

John Carr kindly tells me that **Tyne Valley** have had Volvo B10M / Plaxton YSU919 for some time and that it was new to Durham Travel as P58XNL. He also tells me that a recent acquisition is Volvo B10M / Van Hool R780WSB, new to Highland Heritage and currently operating in a silver livery.

Alrite Travel, Middlesbrough have added another Iveco 59-12 to stock, this time K717UTT. This is presumably in preparation for new service 23 Middlesbrough - Elton PARK (via Portrack and Stockton) which begins tomorrow (partially replaces Stagecoach service 39).

Neil Wise tells me that **Proctors, Bedale** now have an Alexander ALX 200 bodied Dart or B6 for the Tesco duties. Further details if/when I get them!

06/10/05

Andrew Tyldsley tells me that **Arriva Durham County** now have DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4034 (R434RPY) from Stockton to replace Dennis Dart SLF/ Plaxton 1634 (S634KHN) which is off to Wales. The process will soon be over, I will provide a summary when appropriate. Optare Metrorider 2611 (P611FHN) remains in use at the moment, regularly on town service 90.

Elliott Stuffins informs me that **Stagecoach North East** have now lost Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14181/5 (G181/5JHG) to Stagecoach in Merseyside.

The fleetlist on the recently introduced **Northumbria Coaches** [website](#) shows that MAN 11.220 / Marshall R412/4XFL have now left the fleet. Colin

Davidson tells me that Volvo B10M / Plaxton L588HSG was used in Morpeth on Tuesday to give away timetables and free journeys for service 618.

Tyne Valley, Acomb have added a Volvo B10M / Plaxton to stock, in a liver resembling that of Thornes of Bubwith. It carries registration YSU919 from a native Leopard.

03/10/05



Northumbria Coaches started operation of service 618 Amble - Newcastle, today using refurbished and branded Volvo B10M / Plaxton K563/5GSA, K572DFS.

Withdrawn **Arriva Northumbria** Leyland Tiger / Plaxton 214/6 (XSV691, YSU871) and Leyland Olympian / ECW 7244 (A244GHN) have now vanished from Ashington.

02/10/05

The report on **Arriva Tees & District** Volvo B10M / East Lancs 2872/3/5 (H923/5/17XYT) may have been a little premature, as at least one of these has been reported running for Redcar in the last week.

Andrew Tyldsley reports that **Arriva Durham County** Optare Metrorider 871 (M871KCU) was being prepared for disposal on Friday, with logos removed and black paint added. He and Neil Wise also report the return to service of Metrorider 2612 (P612FHN) after major accident repairs. Contrastingly, sister 2611 (P611FHN), which is listed for disposal, remains in temporary use at Bishop Auckland.

Jayline, Horden currently have Mercedes 811 / Alexander KCZ5771 for sale on ebay.



John Hart has kindly provided the above picture of **Tyne Blue Line** Optare Delta G735RTY working service 603 in it's modified Go North East livery. Arriva are to introduce a half-hourly competing service X64 later in the month.