

TLB715

The London Bus

Number 715
March 2024



London Omnibus Traction Society
www.lots.org.uk



The 'Superloops' keep coming. Route SL3 (Thamesmead–Bromley North) began on 24 February, with LTs operated by Stagecoach Selkent from Bromley garage. LT129 departs from Thamesmead on the first day. *(Jimmy Sheng)*

Ongoing maintenance issues with London Underground 1992 Central line stock has meant a reduced service in operation. As a result, additional peak hour journeys have been provided on route 150 between Ilford and Hainault, using Transport UK GB Kites. 1707 approaches Barkingside. *(Steve Maskell)*



Front cover: TfL spec Volvo BZL/MCV double deck demonstrator MVB1 entered service with Go Ahead London General from Sutton garage on route 213 in February and is seen here in Cheam. *(Richard Godfrey)*



THE LONDON BUS
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London Omnibus Traction Society
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TLB Backnumbers from Charlie Turton, 21 Coleridge Walk, Langney, Eastbourne, BN23 7QJ.

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This issue was finalised on 6th-9th March and is due for posting on Tues 19th March.

Closing date for TLB716 is Weds 3rd April and due for posting on Tues 16th April.

Booked later closing dates are Wednesdays 1st May, 5th June and 3rd July 2024.

Editorial

You may have noticed that the last few issues of TLB have included quite a lot of **retrospective vehicle transfers** from earlier months (or, in some cases, years). These have mostly been uncovered by using the history functions on the London Vehicle Finder website (LVF. I will be writing more about this excellent resource in a future issue). It is not ideal to show moves many months after they took place but we are mindful of the fact that TLB also serves as a historical record of bus changes, so it was deemed appropriate to include them. Hopefully we have now caught up with most of the backlog of moves that were previously missed, so future issues should be more confined to just the most recent changes.

Since the publication of **SUP45A** last autumn, several people have asked if this title replaces the previous SUP39 series. This was never the intention, with SUP45 being seen more as a “snapshot” of the fleets and routes at the time of publication. It was certainly not designed to be manually updated. A new edition of SUP39 (D) is now in production and should be available from the beginning of April. See the next page for more details.

Many thanks to everyone who wrote to express their appreciation for the efforts of the (partially new) TLB team over the past few months, and/or to wish Dave Stewart and Julian Bowden-Green well. There is not much to report on the latter; both are still in hospital but generally stable or improving.

LOTS Meetings

We now meet at The Gallery at 77 Cowcross Street, Farringdon. It is 3-mins walk from Farringdon Station (Met/H&C/Circle lines, Thameslink plus Elizabeth line). Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

Dates in 2024 are Mondays 13th May, 17th June (AGM, *changed from 24th June*), 30th Sep, 18th November. The 13th May meeting will be a presentation by Ian Ross of the Crich Tramway Museum

Coming Events (LSS = LOTS Sales Stand due to attend).

Sat 23rd March: Barking Garage open day 11:00-16:00, with vintage buses on 62 & 145. (LSS)

Sat 6th April: South East Bus Festival at Detling (Kent Showground, Maidstone). (LSS)

Sun 7th April: Classic buses in rural Hertfordshire - running day centred on Hertford.

Sun 14th April: Spring Gathering at London Bus Museum, Brooklands. (LSS)

Sun 21st April: LT Country Bus Rally, East Grinstead (provisional date).

Sun 12th May: HCVS London to Brighton run.

Sat/Sun 18/19th May: Faversham Transport Weekend (bus event on the Sat).

Sun 19th May: Chiltern Hills Rally, Weedon Park, near Aylesbury.

Sun 2nd Jun: Classic buses in High Wycombe Bus Station.

Sun 9th Jun: Free heritage operation on route 406 (Kingston to Epsom and Tadworth).

Looking ahead: London Bus Museum's other major events at Brooklands in 2024 are on 23rd June and 20th October. The Alton Bus Rally and Running Day is back, now to be held on 21st July. An RM70 event is planned for 20th/21st July on the site of Chiswick Works (full details are still not to hand).

Payments for membership and orders to Postal Sales

You can pay through the banking system if you wish. Our account number is 11725054, sort code 16-32-45. Please just add your name to the paying-in slip and then send us an e-mail to lotsmemsec@gmail.com (for membership) or lotspostalsales@gmail.com (for postal sales) with your name, address and membership number (if known) to tell us what you have subscribed to. Occasionally we receive payments without any idea as to what they were for.

For anyone wishing to pay for Membership and Sales at the same time, please use “Mem + Sales” as the reference on the bank payment in addition to your name / Membership Number. The ‘lotsmemsec’ email address can be used to query membership matters and to query non-arrival of TLB or LBM, missing or damaged pages. Queries about Postal Sales to the ‘lotspostalsales’ email above.

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A full Sales List was in TLB711 and is also on our website. Orders from the Sales List or a letter are perfectly acceptable. In all cases above, if you send a cheque, please don't staple cheques to the form - they really won't get lost by us but might be when the banks try to process them electronically!

LOTS Postal Sales

The Newest LOTS items:

- ****NEW****: **London Bus Magazine No.207 Spring 2024** (£6.00). Includes a photographic record of 50 years of Showbus by Tony Wilson, a history of Green Line route 727 by Richard Moseling and anecdotes from a London Transport staff canteen by Jeff Morss.
- ****NEW**** (due April): **London Bus and Tram Fleetbook 2024** (£8.50). The usual 128 pages packed with information and updated to 6th March 2024.
- ****NEW**** (due April): **SUP-39D TfL's Bus Operators - Fleet Allocations and PVRs** (£5.50). Also updated to 6th March 2024, this lists the fleets of all TfL bus operators (in fleetnumber order), followed by a list of all TfL routes showing the garages, types and PVRs.
- **London Bus Review 2022** (£17.00) A4 glossy, 80 pages, 135 colour pictures with extensive captions. This is the ORIGINAL annual Review made with about 50 years' experience.
- **SUP-45A London Bus Garages, allocations and routes** (£5.50). This lists all garages (irrespective of operator) from A to X. Each has a based fleetlist and a list of routes, types allocated and basic M-F PVR figures This first edition is dated September, ie to match info in TLB709.
- **SUP-24J Service Vehicles - current fleet April 2023** (£5.00)

From other publishers:

- ****NEW****: **London's Classic Red Buses, a black & white album** by Mick Webber. Mainly covering the RT and early RM years. 120 pages. Capital Transport. £25.00
 - ****NEW****: **Tiles of the Unexpected Underground** by Douglas Rose. New expanded edition detailing the tiles and tiling patterns used on the London Underground. 224 pages. Capital Transport. £40.00
 - ****NEW****: **The London Mini & Midi Bus Types** by David Beddall. Looks at the various types that have operated on Greater London area routes from the 1950s to the 1990s. 100 colour and 100 B&W photos. 224 pages. Pen & Sword Books. £35.00
 - ****NEW****: **Buses in the Border towns of London Country - South of the Thames 1969-2019** by Malcolm Batten. Covers areas from Slough to Gravesend. 144 pages. Pen & Sword Books. £25.00. *A follow-up covering North of the Thames is expected in April.*
 - Bus maps from Mike Harris: **Greater London Bus Map No. 40 - 29/4/2023** £2.00
and **Greater London Night Bus Map - 29/4/2023** £4.00
 - **London's Post-War Smaller Classes** (STD, TD, G436, RLH, RFW, GS, RW, XA, XF, RC) entering service between 1946 and 1965, by Ken Blacker. Includes over 200 photos. Capital Transport. £35.00
 - **A London Country Busman, 1975-1990** by Matthew Keyte. Detailing a career from bus conductor to management. 144 pages. Capital Transport. £30.00.
 - **Tracks of London's Trams 1949-1952** by R J Harley. Tells what it was like to work and ride on the trams in their final years. 80 B&W photos and 25 colour photos. Heathfield Publishing. £25.00
 - **Bluebird Reborn: The History and Restoration of LCC No. 1**. Edited by Lynn Wagstaff. The book tells the story of LCC No. 1, built in 1929 and recently restored at the National Tramway Museum. LRTA. £35.00
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GENERAL and INDUSTRY NEWS

Section Editor: Andrew Boag, 88 Marine Parade, Brighton BN2 1AJ or by e mail to andrewj.boag@gmail.com.

National News, TfL and Politics

The Government has re-allocated £4.7 billion from the cancelled northern leg of HS2 to local leaders for **transport improvements in the north and Midlands**. The funding will be spread over seven years starting in April 2025 so it will not be available until after the next General Election. There will also be £8.3 billion to resurface roads and £1 billion to improve bus services in the north and Midlands. The latest funding package will be directed to areas outside the major conurbations, which have already been awarded more money for transport improvements.

The final part of the initial **Superloop** network began on 2nd March, one week earlier than expected, for no obvious reason. New route SL2 runs between Walthamstow Central and North Woolwich via Ilford and Barking, operated by Arriva using double-deckers. One further Superloop route, SL4 will commence next year when the Silvertown tunnel opens. This will run between Canary Wharf and Grove Park via Blackheath. Grove Park is hardly a major hub and it remains to be seen whether the SL4 gets extended to Bromley to connect with Superloop routes SL3 & SL5. Concerns have been expressed in Havering about the absence of any plans for Superloop routes in the Borough and The London Assembly Transport Committee has asked the Mayor to consider this. The implementation of Superloop around London in just a few months is a tremendous achievement and shows how a regulated transport authority can implement changes quickly. The issue now is to implement significant bus priority measures to further improve journey times and reliability.

New names have been announced by TfL for London Overground lines. These are intended to help passengers and ease confusion on the much expanded network. The new names are:

- **The Lioness line** is the Euston to Watford Junction service (traditionally known as the DC line). The new name refers to the very successful women's football team who have played at Wembley stadium.
- **The Mildmay line** is basically the former North London line between Richmond or Clapham Junction and Stratford via Highbury & Islington. This line is named after the hospital that played a key role treating HIV/AIDS patients in the 1980s.
- **The Windrush line** runs from Highbury & Islington to New Cross/Crystal Palace/West Croydon and commemorates the Windrush generation of immigrants who settled in inner London in the last century.
- **The Weaver line** runs from Liverpool Street to Cheshunt/Enfield Town/Chingford through areas of London associated with the textile industry.
- **The Suffragette line** runs from Gospel Oak to Barking Riverside (traditionally known as the Goblin line). As well as serving parts of the east end where several suffragettes lived, it commemorates one of the longest living survivors of the movement who died in Barking aged 103.
- **The Liberty line** runs between Romford and Upminster and takes its name from the Liberty shopping centre in Romford and references the areas historical independence.

TfL has awarded a new ten year contract for the **IBus** bus control system to INIT, an organisation described as having 'a global track record of supporting transport companies'. INIT will provide the replacement of on-board hardware and back office services for all buses in the TfL vehicle fleet. The current system, operated by Trapeze has been in use since 2007. The new system should provide more accurate real time information regarding delays and diversions and will use data from previous journeys to estimate arrival times at stops on each route.

Corporate and company news

Go Ahead Group could be for sale again, just a year after it was last sold. However the Chief Executive of Go Ahead has denied a report in the Sunday Times. Go Ahead is currently owned by Australian bus operator Kinetic and Spain's Globalvia. Meanwhile in London, Go Ahead has announced plans for a **new garage** in South West London with a planning application to Merton Council for a site in Garth Road, SM4 for 43 buses. Outside London, Go Ahead claims to have sold **more £2 single tickets** than the population of England since the national bus fare cap was introduced in January 2023, with substantial increases on longer routes in Sussex, Yorkshire and Buckinghamshire. Metrobus routes 270-273 between Crawley or East Grinstead and Brighton have seen a 30% increase in usage while Carousel Buses route 102 from High Wycombe to Heathrow Airport has seen a 40% rise in passenger numbers.

Flixbus has announced its first electric coach service between London, Bristol and Newport. It will be operated by Newport Transport which already runs electric buses. New Yutong TCe12 coaches are being purchased with a claimed range of 200 miles. These will be charged in Newport and in London. Newport Transport is also buying seven Yutong GT12 diesel coaches for other Flixbus services. Flix, the parent company of Flixbus, has reported a 43% growth in income during 2023, passing 2 billion Euros in global revenue. **National Express** is also planning to introduce electric coaches with trials commencing this month between London and Stansted Airport using a 53 seat Yutong GTe14 tri-axle coach.

Other General News

The Daily Mail has reported that electric ADL buses with BYD batteries built between 2019 & 2023 need a modification due to a fire risk. This turned out to just affect heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units which should be turned off when the vehicles are unattended and should not affect vehicle availability. However it could explain why some electric buses have had their heating turned off this winter. An ADL representative explained that this was not linked to recent fires on different vehicle types and technologies.

The number of registrations of buses, coaches and minibuses rose in 2023, led by a sharp increase in sales of double-deckers, according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. There were 944 double-deck buses registered, 174% more than the previous year. Single-deck registrations were up by 53% to 1610. However these figures are 16% below 2019 totals and substantially less than those recorded in 2016 which was a bumper year.

Serious reliability issues have hit the **Central line**. Its 1992 tube stock is now 30 years old and has a high failure rate, mostly due to defective motors. The line needs 77 trains for a full service. This was reduced to 71 to allow for refurbishment of 1992 stock but in recent weeks far fewer trains have been running leading to gaps and overcrowding. From 26th February the Monday to Thursday service has been reduced, requiring 49 trains on the primary timetable with 11 supplementary trains that will only run when stock is available. It has been reported that on some days only 44 trains have been in service. Special shuttle bus services are running at peak times between Epping, Loughton and Chingford to connect with London Overground (Weaver line) services to Walthamstow Central and Liverpool Street.

Bus service franchising is being recommended by the **South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority** to address a 'continual cycle of decline'. It claims bus mileage has fallen by 42% over the past decade and that bus services have suffered sustained underinvestment. A decision to proceed was likely to be agreed at a meeting of SYMCA on 12th March. The **West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

is considering a similar move although local bus operators are claiming an ‘Enhanced Partnership Plus’ would deliver improvements much quicker than franchising. **Transport for Wales** also plans to introduce bus service franchising and has indicated it is likely to propose around nine franchising zones. Timelines are still to be confirmed but TfW envisages the first regulated services will begin in 2026 and should be completed by 2028.

GREATER LONDON AREA - Route Developments

Section Editor: Stephen Floyd, 4 Turnpike Gardens, Bedford, MK42 0AJ or by e-mail to stevefloyd1959@gmail.com This section covers local TfL bus services within the Greater London County boundary. Fuller detail of any commercial or county services enter the Greater London County from outside will be in the Country Area Route Developments section that follows this section in TLB. Night services are indicated by e.g. =24 night only or 24/= day and night (24 hour) services.

LONDON BUSES - TENDERED ROUTES UPDATE

Routes 34, 36/=, 66, 90, 103, 172, 192, 222/=, 257, 323, 343/N343, 370, 618, 639/670, E1, H13 and SL1 from tranches 877A, 880A, 888, 890A, 892, 896, 898A, 898B, 902 and 906 awarded starting on 25th May (E1), 8th June (639/670), 31st August (66, 90, 618), 7th September (H13), 14th September (222/=), 12th October (103, 257), 2nd November (370), 9th November (34, 192, SL1), 11th January 2025 (323), 1st February 2025 (343/N343), 8th February 2025 (36/=) and 15th March 2025 (172).

- 34 Retained by Arriva London North using new electric double-deck vehicles (pvr 18).
- 36/= Retained by Go-Ahead London Central using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles (pvr 27 to 29).
- 66 Retained by Arriva London North using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles (pvr 15 to 14).
- 90 Retained by Metroline Travel using new electric double-deck vehicles (pvr 16 to 17).
- 103 Retained by Arriva London North using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles (pvr 14).
- 172 Retained by Go-Ahead London Central using new electric double-deck vehicles (pvr 14).
- 192 Retained by Arriva London North using existing diesel single-deck vehicles (pvr 15).
- 222/= Retained by Metroline West using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles (pvr 17).
- 257 Retained by Stagecoach East London using new electric double-deck vehicles (pvr 16).
- 323 Retained by Stagecoach East London using existing electric single-deck vehicles (pvr 4).
- 343/N343 Retained by Go-Ahead London Central using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles (pvr TBC).
- 370 Retained by Arriva London North using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles (pvr 11 to 13).
- 618 New Route (Ivybridge - Syon Lane) awarded to Transport UK using existing hybrid double-deck vehicle (pvr 1).
- 639/670 Awarded to Transport UK using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles. Currently operated by London United from Tolworth (TV) garage (pvr 2).
- E1 Awarded to Metroline West using existing diesel double-deck vehicles. Currently operated by London United from Hounslow (AV) garage. (pvr 8 to 7).
- H13 Retained by Metroline West using existing diesel single-deck vehicles (pvr 6).
- SL1 Retained by Arriva London North using new electric double-deck vehicles (pvr 11).

Routes 34, 90 172, 257, 323 and SL1 are for 7 years;
Routes 66, 103 and 370 are for 6 years;
Routes 36/= and 343/N343 are for 5 years;
Routes 192, 222/=, 618, 639/670, E1 and H13 are for 3 years.

Some more tendering news: The contracts for routes U1, U2, U3 and U4 in Tranche #875 were extended by 6 months to October as U1, U2 and U3 are under consultation; whilst U4 was unaffected the existing contract in this tranche was also extended by 6 months with the new contract starting in October for 7 years.

The Silvertown Cycle bus, also under consultation, and without a route number, has now been allocated to Tranche #879B.

Also, the option of granting extensions of 2 years to 5-year contracts is no longer on offer as contracts can now legally be offered for up to 7 years. Whilst some residual ones remain listed below for now, eventually these will no longer need to be shown in the future. Indeed, increasingly contracts are being offered for shorter terms. Whilst most 7-year tenders are being awarded for electric vehicles and the associated infrastructure work, other tenders for existing hybrid and diesel vehicles are for shorter terms.

However, this is not to say this is “official” policy for now: the situation may of course change after the next Mayoral election and future funding settlements. As noted under future service changes, tenders can be extended or terminated by agreement between TfL and/or the operator for commercial and other confidential reasons.

The current designations remain though; most contracts are incentivised for performance (Quality Incentivised Contracts - QC) whilst school and special routes are not (Quality non-Incentivised Contracts - QX), the code letters being used as internal references for the contract along with the tranche number the contract was awarded with.

The 2024/25 tendering programme is now as follows:-

Tranche No. and start dates	Routes out on offer (with current operators)	2-year extensions granted
#879B (02/25)	Silvertown cycle bus (New Route)	--
#884A (06/24)	65/N65, 71, 281/=, 371, 406/418, 681, K5 (London United)	--
#887 (08/24)	Tranche cancelled	533
#893A (09-11/24)	49, 117, 697 (London United), 398, H9/H10 (London Sovereign)	--
#893B (09-11/24)	290 (London United)	--
#894 (09-12/24)	4, 6/=, 98/N98, (Metroline Travel), 341/= (Arriva LN)	--
#894A (09-11/24)	148/= (London United)	--
#895 (09-10/24)	669, 672 (S'ch Selkent)	--
#895A (10/24)	160/660, 180 (S'ch Selkent)	--
#896 (10-11/24)	150, 175 (Arriva LN)	--
#897 (10-12/24)	22/N22, 88/=, 170 (GA London General), 33/N33, 419 (London United)	--
#899 (11-12/24)	18/N18, 94/=, 266/N266 (Lon United), 218 (Lon Transit) ...	--
#899A (11/24)	414 (London Transit)	--
#900 (11-12/24)	176/=, 188/=, 360 (GA London Central), 355 (GA Metrobus)	--
#900A (11/24)	45 (Transport UK)	--
#901 (12/24-02/25)	258 (London United), 278 (Transport UK)	--
#901A (01/25)	655 (London United)	--
#902 (01-03/25)	444 (GA London General)	212, 357, 497
#903 (01-02/25)	121, 141, 329 (Arriva LN), 153 (GA London General)	--
#904 (01-03/25)	41/=, W4, W6 (Arriva LN), 657 (GA London General)	29/N29
#904A (02/25)	299/389/399 (Sullivan)	--
#905 (01-02/25)	99, 269, 401 (Arriva LN), 233 (GA Metrobus), 422, B14, SL3 (S'ch Selkent), B16 (GA London Central)	--
#905A (03/25)	R1, R2, R3, R4, R6, R8, R11 (GA Metrobus)	--
#906A (02/25)	118 (GA London General)	--
#907 (02-03/25)	423, H22, H37, H98 (London United), H28 (Transport UK)	--

Tranche No. and start dates	Routes out on offer (with current operators)	2-year extensions granted
#908 (03/25)	282 (Metroline West), 482 (Transport UK)	--
#909 (03/25)	161, 181, 284 (S'ch Selkent), 225 (GA London Central), C10 (Transport UK)	--
#910 (03/25)	138 (GA Metrobus)	126
#911 (03/25)	169, 247, 287 (S'ch East London)	--
#912 (03/25)	68/N68 (Transport UK), 468 (Arriva LS), SL6 (ex X68) (GA London Central)	--

ROUTE AND SERVICE CHANGES

Saturday 13th January 2024: As in TLB714.

Saturday 20th January 2024: As in TLB714.

Saturday 27th January 2024: As in TLB714.

Saturday 10th February 2024: Widened timetables for routes 6, 12, 14, 22, 52, 74, 87, 91, 188 and 390 for roadworks in Charing Cross Road, Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly Underpass) and Surrey Quays Road.

3 (*Transport UK-WL*) (Victoria Station & Crystal Palace) and

N3 (*Transport UK-QB*) (Oxford Circus & Bromley North Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

122 (*Stagecoach Selkent-PD*) (Crystal Palace & Plumstead Garage) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

201 (*Transport UK-BC*) (Morden Station & Herne Hill Station) Revised daily timetables for reliability.

PVR changes from 10th February 2024:

Stagecoach Selkent: no change to 122 PVRs;

Transport UK: 201 to 11/10/7 #BC201+, no change to 3/N3 PVRs.

Saturday 17th February 2024: 120 normal timetable re-introduced.

189/= (*Metroline Travel-W*) (Marble Arch & Brent Cross Shopping Centre) Bifurcation introduced in both directions at Claremont Road via Parkview Avenue and Arbour Street to serve Brent Cross West Station.

EL1/= (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Ilford Hill & Barking Riverside, Northgate Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters.

EL2 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Becontree Heath, Leisure Centre & Dagenham Dock Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters.

EL3 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Little Heath, Haw Bush & Barking Reach, Mallards Drive, SDO jnys to Barking Riverside, Northgate Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters.

U3 (*Metroline West-UX*) (Uxbridge Station & Heathrow Airport Central) Additional daily early morning trips introduced.

PVR changes from 17th February 2024:

Go-Ahead Blue Triangle: EL1 to 18/17/10 #RR101+, =EL1 to 3 every night #RR161+,

EL2 to 14/11/7 #RR121+, no change to EL3 PVRs;

Metroline Travel: 189 to 16/16/13 #W501+, =189 to 3 Su-ThN, 4 Fr-SaN #W771+;

Metroline West: U3: 11/10/6 #UX31+ (no actual change to PVRs, but to note that #UX501/502 also appear on Mon-Fri only as self-contained runnings).

Saturday 24th February 2024: Arriva London North re-opened Stamford Hill (SF) garage, having been mothballed since 7th November 2020 (see TLB675/676). However, Ash Grove (AE) garage operations ceased from the same date, thus becoming solely a Stagecoach East London operation as (HK) garage.

242 (Aldgate Station & Homerton Hospital) and

N242 (Tottenham Court Road Station & Homerton Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Stagecoach East London from Ash Grove (HK) garage using new electric Volvo BZL/MCV double-deck vehicles in due course, though with AD40H Enviro400H hybrid double-deck vehicles initially. Previously operated by *Arriva London North* from Clapton (CT) garage using HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles.

254 (*Arriva London North-AE*) (Aldgate Station & Holloway, Nag's Head) Re-allocated to Stamford Hill (SF) garage.

277 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Dalston Junction & Crossharbour, ASDA) and

N277 (*Stagecoach East London-BW*) (Islington, White Lion Street & Crossharbour, ASDA) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing vehicles though converting to new electric Volvo BZL/MCV double-deck vehicles in due course later in the summer.

283 (*London United-V*) (East Acton, Brunel Road & Hammersmith, Bus Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing DLE-class E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles. Early morning frequency on Saturday and Sunday early AM increased from x20 to x15 mins and revised daily running time.

SL3 NEW ROUTE (*Stagecoach Selkent-TB*) (Thamesmead, Town Centre & Bromley North, express) via Crossway, Carlyle Road, then via route 301 via Abbey Wood Station, Long Lane, then via route 422 via Bexleyheath Station and Broadway, then Albion Road and a loop (in both directions) to serve the stop at Bexleyheath Library. From Bexleyheath to Sidcup the route runs southbound via Townley Road, Arbuthnot Lane, Bridgen Road, Parkhill Road, Hurst Road, Foots Cray Lane, Faraday Avenue, Hatherley Crescent, Station Road and northbound via Station Road, Hatherley Crescent, Faraday Avenue, Foots Cray Lane, Penhill Road, Danson Underpass, Lodge Lane, East Rochester Way (A2), Upton Road and Townley Road. (The original intention is to serve Penhill Road in both directions once infrastructure work at the roundabout at Hurst Road is completed.) from Sidcup, then via route 269 via Queen Mary's Hospital and Chislehurst to Bromley North, using LT-class new Routemaster vehicles. Mon-Sat daytimes every x12mins and Sundays and evenings every x15mins.

PVR changes from 24th February 2024:

Arriva London North: 254 to 23/20/17 #SF101+, 242/N242 withdrawn;

London United: No change to 283 PVRs;

Stagecoach East London: 242 to 14/14/11 #HK21+, N242 to 5 Su-ThN/6 Fr-SaN #HK21+ (from daytime running numbers), 277 to 15+/14+/14+ #WH151+ (+N277 from BW),

N277 to 4*+Su-ThN/5*+Fr-SaN #BW301+ (*277, +2 ex 277);

(note: there are crosslinks to and from both routes and garages);

Stagecoach Selkent: SL3 to 15/15/13 #TB231+.

Fridays 24th February 2024 from 22:00 to Monday 26th February 2024 until 05:00:

Further to TLB713/714, the southbound bore of Blackwall Tunnel was closed and route 108 was split to run in two sections overnight. Further closures are planned for the weekends of 16th-18th March and 13th-15th April, although other "contingency" dates may involve other weekends.

Saturday 2nd March 2024 (Croydon/Sutton scheme):

As noted last month the new contracts for the Croydon/Sutton scheme are confirmed as below. The proposed change to split route **407** was not proceeded with, the new route number was originally **443** which would have diverted via Croydon Old Town. As mentioned last month, there was no explanation for this change of plan as far as I could find. An original consultation to extend route **470** to Epsom

Hospital would also be abandoned in its original form, although further consultation(s) could always be issued in the future. Also, this consultation stretched over a Covid period and there were obviously many comments hence the long gestation period and secondary report!

- 80 (*Go-Ahead London General-A*) (Hackbridge, Reynolds Close & Belmont High Down & Downview) Partial re-allocation to Goat Road (GM) garage, the electric double-deck vehicles remain at Sutton with WHV-class hybrid double-deck vehicles from Goat Road.
- 164 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Wimbledon Station & Sutton Station) The extension was cancelled once again, although the intention to extend the route to Belmont and to the London Cancer Hub at the Royal Marsden Hospital complex remains on hold for now.
- 166 (*Arriva London South-TC*) (West Croydon Bus Station & Banstead, Marks & Spencer, extended Mon-Sat to Epsom General Hospital) Re-routed in both directions from South End via Warnham Road and Pampisford Road, replacing route 455 over this section.
- 312 (*Arriva London South-TC*) (Norwood Junction & South Croydon Garage) Extended daily from South Croydon via Brighton Road to Purley, Old Lodge Lane, thus replacing route 455 over the section to Old Lodge Lane. This now precludes previous occasional appearances of double-deck vehicles because of the low bridge in Old Lodge Lane. Formally converted to ENL-class AD E200Dart Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles, from route 325.
- 434 (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-C*) (Rickman Hill & Whyteleafe South, Wapses Lodge Roundabout Daily, except evenings). Extended from Whyteleafe South to Caterham Station. The current route between Purley and Whyteleafe, via Northwood Avenue, was taken over by new route 439. The original intention to divert this route via Higher Drive cannot be achieved until roadworks are completed at Wattendon Road, so operates direct via route 407 and Godstone Road. Frequency unchanged.
- 439 NEW ROUTE (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-C*) (Whyteleafe South, Wapses Lodge Roundabout & Waddon Marsh, Sainsbury's) via route 407 via Godstone Road, Kenley Station, then via Park Road, Oaks Way, Oaks Road, Northwood Avenue Higher Drive, Beaumont Road, Foxley Hill Road, via previous route 434, then via Godstone Road, Purley Cross, Banstead Road, Foxley Lane (return direct), Purley Way, then via existing route 289 to Waddon Marsh, Sainsbury's via Purley Way. Every x30 mins daily though widening to x35 mins in peaks and weekend midday. No evening service after 20:00. Operated by S Ee-class AD20 Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles.
- 455 (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-C*) (Wallington Station & Old Lodge Lane, Canons Hill) ROUTE WITHDRAWN. Replaced by routes 166, 312 and S4, although a short section of St.Peter's Road in South Croydon was left unserved. There is also no direct replacement from West Croydon to Waddon Marsh, passengers were advised to use Tramlink.
- 470 (*Go-Ahead London General-GM*) (Colliers Wood Station & Epsom, Town Centre, Mon-Sat) Route withdrawn from Sutton Station & Epsom, Town Centre and re-routed in Sutton Common via Marlborough Road, Dibden Road and Stayton Road in both directions, replacing route S3 via this routeing.
- S1 (*Go-Ahead London General-GM*) (Lavender Fields & Banstead, Marks & Spencer) Re-allocated from Goat Road (GM) garage to Croydon (C) garage, thus novated to Go-Ahead Metrobus. Operated with a mix of diesel single-deck vehicles displaced from route 455.
- S2 NEW ROUTE (*Go-Ahead London General-A*) (St.Helier & Epsom Town Centre) From St. Helier Station, via existing route S4 via Green Lane, Rose Hill, Wrythe Lane, Whitby Road, Duke of Edinburgh Road, Edinburgh Road, Grennell Road, Benhill Road, Oakhill Road, Thicket Road, Benhill Avenue then Sutton (one way system), then via previous route 470 via Mulgrave Road, Worcester Road, York Road, Dorset Road, Northey Avenue, Sandy Lane, Station Way, Ewell Road, Cheam Road, Ewell By-pass, Reigate Road. Epsom Road, East Street to Epsom High Street. Frequency every x20 mins Mon-Sat, x30 mins Sundays & Evenings, thus introducing a
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Sunday service to parts of the former routes. Operated by SEe-class AD20 Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles.

- S3 (*London United-TV*) (Malden Manor Station & Belmont Station, Mon-Sat except evenings) Rerouted in Sutton Common area via erstwhile 470 routeing via Angel Hill and Sutton Common Road.
- S4 (*Transport UK-BC*) (St.Helier Station & Roundshaw, Wilson's School, Mon-Sat) Withdrawn from St.Helier Station and Sutton Town Centre, standing in Marshalls Road. Then via existing route via Sutton (one way system), to Roundshaw, Mollison Drive, then extended, replacing previous route 455 to Waddon Marsh, Sainsbury's via Plough Lane, Croydon Road, Hillier's Lane, Beddington Lane, Marlowe Way (serving ASDA), Beddington Lane, Coomber Way, Ampere Way, Purley Way, Trafalgar Way and Drury Lane. Frequency increased from x30 to x20mins Mon-Sat daytimes and introduced on Sunday every x30 mins.

Saturday 2nd March 2024 (other routes):

Other changes listed below, also note that SL2 was introduced on this day having been brought forward a week from previous notification! Widened timetables for 5 for Romford cycle road works and 15 for effect of Charing Cross Road works.

- 58 (*Stagecoach Lea Interchange-LI*) (East Ham, Central Park & Walthamstow Central Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing vehicles though converting to new electric Volvo BZL/MCV double-deck vehicles in due course later in the summer.
- 97 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Stratford City, Bus Station & Chingford Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing vehicles initially, although awarded to Stagecoach Lea Interchange, so will be transferred to Lea Interchange (LI) garage using existing Wrightbus StreetDeck HEV96 hybrid double-deck vehicles from 30th March (*see later*). Evening frequency increased from x15 to x12mins.
- 101 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Wanstead Station & Beckton, Bus Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new Ee-class electric double-deck vehicles in due course.
- 123/= (*Arriva London North-AR*) (Ilford, High Road & Wood Green Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 153 (*Go-Ahead London General-RA*) (Finsbury Park Station & Liverpool Street Station) Because of a banned left turn at Palmer Place to Holloway Road, permanently re-routed northbound via Liverpool Road.
- 158/= (*Arriva London North-EC*) (Stratford, Bus Station & Chingford Mount, Prince Albert) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 159/= (*Transport UK-QB*) (Oxford Circus & Streatham Station) Revised Daily timetables for reliability.
- 215 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Lee Valley Campsite) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters. LTs had been making frequent appearances of late anyway.
- 238/= (*Stagecoach East London-WH/BK*) (Stratford, Bus Station & Barking Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD40D Enviro400 diesel double-deck vehicles initially but converted to AD40H Enviro400 hybrid double-deck vehicles displaced by electric vehicles later. Re-allocated in full to Barking (BK) garage so West Ham (WH) allocation withdrawn.
- 275 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Walthamstow, St.James Street Station & Barking, Tesco) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 309 (*Stagecoach East London-HK*) (Canning Town, Bus Station & Bethnal Green, Bonner Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD20D Enviro 200 diesel single deck vehicles. Evening service increased from x20 to x15 mins.
- 325 (Prince Regent Station & East Beckton, Sainsbury's) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle from River Road (RR) garage, using SE-class AD20D Enviro 200 diesel single-deck vehicles until new SEe-class AD20 Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles become
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- available. Previously operated by *Arriva London North* from Barking (DX) garage using ENL-class AD E200Dart Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 650 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-DS*) (Romford, North Street Garage & Emerson Park School, SDO) AM journeys retimed to run 5 minutes earlier.
- 656 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-DS*) (Gallows Corner, Tesco & Emerson Park School, SDO) AM journeys retimed to run 5 minutes earlier.
- SL2 NEW ROUTE (Arriva London North-DX) (Walthamstow Central Station & North Woolwich, express) via Hoe Street, then via route 123, via Forest Road, A406, Woodford Avenue, Gants Hill, Ilford, then via route 169 via Ilford Lane to Barking, then via A406, then via route 474 via Royal Docks Road to North Woolwich, using HA-class AD E40H Enviro400H City hybrid double-deck vehicles. Mon-Sat daytimes every x12mins and Sundays and evenings every x15mins.
- W11 (*Stagecoach East London-AW*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Chingford Hall Estate) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new MetroCityEV electric vehicles in due course.

PVR changes from 2nd March 2024: (these are combined and changes up to this date will be incorporated into the new SUP39D).

Arriva London North: SL2 to 16/16/12 #DX1+, No change to 123/=, 158/= PVRs, 325 withdrawn;
Arriva London South: 312 to 12/11/6 #TC341+, No change to 166 PVRs;
Go-Ahead Blue Triangle: 101 to 9/9/8 #RR51+, 325 to 12/12/7 #RR401+; No change to 650, 656 PVRs;
Go-Ahead London General: 80 to 7/7/4 #A531+ and GM 8/8/4 #GM81+, 470 to 4/4/- #GM471+, S2 to 8/7/5 #A51+, No change to 153, 164 PVRs;
Go-Ahead Metrobus: 434 to 4/4/4 #C291+, 439 to 3/3/3 #C301+, S1 to 11/11/7 #C61+, 455 Withdrawn;
London United: No change to S3 PVRs;
Stagecoach East London: 97 to 20/20/17 #WH101+, 238 to 12/12/9 #BK501+, =238 to 3 every night #BK501+, (from daytime running numbers), 309 to 9/8/8 #HK111+, no change to 215, 275, W11 PVRs;
Stagecoach Lea Interchange: 58 to 15/15/12 #LI81+;
Transport UK: 159 to 20/21/13 #QB1+, S4 to 10/10/7 #BC181+, no change to =159 PVRs.

Sunday 3rd March 2024:

- 246 (*Stagecoach Selkent-TB*) (Bromley North Station & Westerham) seasonally extended on Suns/PH to Chartwell. No change to PVRs.

The planned route changes after our closing date are listed below but may be subject to change.

Saturday 9th March 2024:

- 167 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Ilford High Road & Loughton Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD20D Enviro 200 diesel single deck vehicles.
- 346 (*Stagecoach East London-RM*) (Upminster Park Estate, Waycross Road & Upminster Station, Mon-Sat) extended from Upminster Station via Hall Lane, Shepherd's Hill, Heath Road to Harold Wood Station then absorbing route 497 via the existing route to terminate at Dagnam Park, Dagnam Park Square. The revised service will run every x20 mins, daily, thus introducing a Sunday service.
- 379 (Chingford Station & Yardley Lane Estate, Boardman Avenue) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Stagecoach East London from Walthamstow Avenue (AW) garage, using new MetroCity EV electric single-deck vehicles in due course. Previously operated by *Go-Ahead London General* from Northumberland Park (NP) garage using WS-class Wrightbus StreetLite diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 497 (*Stagecoach East London-NS*) (Harold Hill, Dagnam Park Square & Harold Wood Station, Mon-Sat) Route WITHDRAWN and absorbed by route 346.
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Saturday 23rd March 2024:

- 20 (*Stagecoach East London-AW*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Debden Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E40H Enviro 400H City hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 76/= (*Waterloo, Bayliss Road & Tottenham Hale Station*) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Arriva London North from a re-opened Stamford Hill (SF) garage, (*see earlier*) using LT-class new Routemaster vehicles. Currently operated by *Go-Ahead London General* from Northumberland Park (NP) garage using LT-class new Routemaster vehicles.
- 259 (*Arriva London North-EC*) (King's Cross, Grays Inn Road & Edmonton Green Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class new Routemaster vehicles.
- 362 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Grange Hill Station & Goodmayes, King George Hospital) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D Enviro200D MMC diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 393 (*Metroline Travel-HT*) (Chalk Farm, Roundhouse & Clapton, Lea Bridge Roundabout) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing DEM-class AD E20D Enviro200D MMC diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 462 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Limes Farm Estate & Ilford High Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D Enviro200D MMC diesel single-deck vehicles.
- H98 (*London United-AV*) (Hayes End, Kingsway & Hounslow, Bus Station) Revised Monday to Friday timetable for reliability.

Easter Holiday 29th March to 1st April 2024: A Saturday service is planned for Good Friday 29th March and a Sunday Service on Easter Monday 1st April, with normal service on Easter Saturday and Sunday.

Good Friday 29th March to Wednesday 24th April 2024: Major engineering works for Tramlink so no services between East Croydon and Beckenham Junction / Elmers End / New Addington. Replacement buses will operate. On previous weekends, during March, no Trams operated between East Croydon and New Addington although passengers were advised to use normal bus services instead.

Saturday 30th March 2024:

- 2 (*Arriva London South-N*) (Marylebone Station & Norwood Garage) and
- N2 (*Arriva London South-N*) (Marylebone Station & Crystal Palace) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 19 (*Arriva London North-AR*) (Battersea Bridge, South Side & Finsbury Park Station) and
- N19 (*Arriva London North-AR*) (Clapham Junction & Finsbury Park Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class new Routemaster vehicles.
- 97 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Stratford City, Bus Station & Chingford Station) Re-allocated to Lea Interchange (LI) garage, using existing Wrightbus StreetDeck HEV96 hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 113 (*Metroline Travel-EW*) (Marble Arch & Edgware Station) and
- N113 (*Metroline Travel-EW*) (Trafalgar Square & Edgware Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new WDE-class Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliner electric double-deck vehicles.
- 249 (*Arriva London South-N*) (Anerley Station & Clapham Common Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 262 (Stratford, Bus Station & Gallions Reach, Shopping Park) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle from Henley Road (DS) garage, using new Ee-class BYD D8UR Enviro400EV-City electric double-deck vehicles in due course. Currently operated by *Stagecoach Lea Interchange* from Lea Interchange (LI) garage using Wrightbus Streetdeck hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 317 (*Metroline Travel-PB*) (Enfield Town, Little Park Gardens & Waltham Cross, Bus Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
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- 366 (*Go-Ahead Docklands-SI*) (Beckton, Bus Station & Redbridge, Roding Lane South) Re-allocated to River Road (RR) garage and novated to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle.
- 372 (*Stagecoach East London-RM*) (Hornchurch, Town Centre & Lakeside, Bus Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 376 (*Go-Ahead Docklands-SI*) (Beckton, Bus Station & East Ham, Newham Town Hall) Re-allocated to River Road (RR) garage and novated to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle. Currently operated by SE-class E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles, will be converted to a mix of existing and new SEe-class BYD D9UR Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles.
- 396 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Ilford Broadway, Sainsbury's & Goodmayes, King George Hospital) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new SEe BYD D9UR Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles in due course.
- 473 (Stratford, Bus Station & North Woolwich, Free Ferry) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle from Henley Road (DS) garage, using new Ee-class BYD D8UR Enviro400EV-City electric double-deck vehicles in due course. Currently operated by *Stagecoach Lea Interchange* from Lea Interchange (LI) garage using Wrightbus Streetdeck hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 493 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Richmond, Bus Station & Tooting, St. George's Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

Saturday 6th April 2024:

- S3 (Malden Manor Station & Belmont Station, Mon-Sat except evenings) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Transport UK from Beddington (BC) garage, using existing diesel single-deck vehicles initially until new electric single-deck vehicles are delivered. Currently operated by *London United* from Tolworth (TV) garage using DE-class E20D Enviro 200 diesel single-deck vehicles.

Saturday 13th April 2024:

- 195 (*Transport UK-GW*) (Charville Lane Estate & Brentford, County Court) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 306 (Sands End, Sainsbury's & Acton Vale, Bromyard Avenue) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Transport UK from Battersea (QB) garage, using new Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliner electric double-deck vehicles in due course. Evening frequency increased from x20 to x15 mins. Currently operated by *Metroline Travel* from Holloway (HT) garage using VWH-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 689 (*Arriva London South-TH*) (West Croydon, Bus Station & The Glade, Glade Gardens, SDO) Renewal of LBSL (QX) contract using new ES-class Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliner electric double-deck vehicle in due course, cross-linked from route 250.

Saturday 27th April 2024:

- 110 (*London United-AV*) (Hounslow, Bus Station & Hammersmith, Bus Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing DLE-class AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 206 (*Metroline West-WJ*) (Kilburn Park Station & Wembley Park, The Paddocks) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing DEL-class AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck and a VMH-class Volvo B5LH MCV Evoseti hybrid double-deck vehicle initially until new electric single-deck and double-deck vehicles are delivered in due course.
- 236 (*Stagecoach Lea Interchange-LI*) (Finsbury Park Station & Hackney Wick, Eastway) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing Wrightbus StreetLite diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 394 (*Stagecoach East London-HK*) (Homerton Hospital & Islington, Tolpuddle Street) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
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P4 (Brixton Station & Lewisham, Town Centre) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Go-Ahead London Central from New Cross (NX) garage, using existing SE-class diesel single-deck vehicles. Currently operated by *Stagecoach Selkent* from Catford (TL) garage using AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.

Saturday 4th May 2024:

28 (Kensal Rise Station & Wandsworth, Southside Shopping Centre) and
N28 (Camden Town, Bayham Street & Wandsworth, Southside Shopping Centre) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Metroline West from Willesden Junction (WJ) garage, using existing VW-class Volvo B9TL Wrightbus Gemini2 diesel double-deck vehicles. Currently operated by *London Transit* from Westbourne Park (X) garage using OME-class Optare Metrodecker MD1050EV electric double-deck vehicles.

May Day and Spring Bank Holiday 6th and 27th May 2024: Normal Sunday services.

SERVICE PROPOSALS

The result of the consultation for changes in the Bellingham and Downham proposals for route **336** was announced. There were 161 responses, most of which were supportive, although opposition to the removal of hail and ride was made from loss of parking spaces and safety for lone travellers at night. The consultation was also for the re-routing in the Downham area. This was introduced for “safety reasons” in August 2020, but TfL say this was not consulted at the time “owing to pressures caused by the coronavirus pandemic.” The routeing will now be made permanent so southbound journeys will be routed from Whitefoot Lane, via Haddington Road, Oakshade Road, Churchdown and Shrofffield Road to Downham Way. In the northbound direction this will be from Downham Way, Churchdown and Downderry Road to Whitefoot Lane. These sections, together with Brookhowse Lane and Fordmill Road in Bellingham will gain fixed stops.

A summary of the main proposals variously awaiting results and/or start dates:

TLB686 p12: 410 stop changes in Norwood;

TLB703 p13: 344 diversion away from Southwark Bridge s/b to operate via London Bridge.

TLB705 p14: 419 fixed stops in Barnes.

TLB708 p16: Oxford Street.

TLB708 p16: Silvertown Tunnel Cyclist’s service.

TLB708 p17: 281 Tolworth rerouting.

TLB708 p17: 309 Poplar rerouting.

TLB709 p15: E1 extension to Osterley, new route 618.

TLB710 p14: R1, R2, R3, R6, and B14 routes in Orpington.

TLB711 p12: 178, 335, B16 in Kidbrooke.

TLB711 p13: 91/N91, 123, 232 in Harringey Heartlands.

TLB712 p14: U1, U2, U3 and E7 in Hillingdon.

TLB712 p14: 394 in King’s Cross, Canal Reach.

TLB713 p18: 273 Lee area Hail & Ride and re-routeing.

TLB713 p19: N518 extension of N18 short workings to Ruislip

TLB713 p19: 188/= rerouting via Tunnel Avenue, North Greenwich.

FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN BRIEF

This list includes tenders that have been decided and principal route changes already in past TLBs. All dates and all details are subject to alteration or deferment. Just a note to say that contracts are increasingly being awarded or renewed for various lengths; all contracts do have “break” clauses and can be terminated by the operator or TfL at any time and for any reason, which remain commercially confidential of course!

Notes: CE+2 = Contract extended by 2 years. CR5 = Contract awarded or renewed for 5 years, with a potential +2 year extension. CR2 = Contract awarded or renewed for 2 years, CR3 = Contract awarded or renewed for 3 years, CR4 = Contract awarded or renewed for 4 years, CR6 = Contract awarded or renewed for 6 years, CR7 = Contract awarded or renewed for 7 years. The * suffix = award specified new buses; the # suffix = award specified part new bus allocation. Not all award dates will be necessarily the same date that new buses are introduced.

- TBA 2024: 77, 211 as part of the Central London review.
- 11th May 24: CR3 on 481 (London United to Metroline Travel).
- 18th May 24: CR6 on 464 (Transport UK).
- 25th May 24: CR6 on 272, 440 (London United), E11 (Transport UK), CR7 on E6* (Metroline West to Transport UK), CR3 on E1 (London United to Transport UK)
- 1st Jun 24: CR5 on 253/N253, 254 (Arriva LN), CR3 on E3 (London United)
- 8th June 24: CR3 on 639/670 (London United to Transport UK)
- 22nd Jun 24: CR3 on 260, 302 (Metroline Travel), R68 (Transport UK), CR6 on 120 (Metroline Travel), CR7 on 143* (Metroline Travel), R70* (Transport UK).
- 29th Jun 24: CR5 on 211 (London United to Transport UK), CR3 on 328 (Metroline Travel), CR6 on 465 (London United to Transport UK), CR7 on C1 (London United).
- 13th July 24: CR7 on 382* (Metroline Travel).
- 20th July 24: CR5 on 17 (Metroline Travel), CR7 on 280* (G-A London General), C11*, W8* (Metroline Travel).
- 17th Aug 24: CR7 on 243/=* (Arriva LN), W7* (Metroline Travel).
- 24th Aug 24: CR5 on 5/N15, 15 (G-A Blue Triangle), CR6 on 115, (G-A Blue Triangle), 130 (Transport UK), 410 (Arriva LS), CR7 on 50*, 194*, 250/N250*, 255* (Arriva LS), 320* (G-A Metrobus).
- 31st Aug 24: CR3 on 618 (new route to Transport UK), 640 (Sullivan to Metroline Travel), CR6 on 66 (Arriva LN), CR7 on 90* (Metroline Travel), 289*, 663* (Arriva LS), 314* (S'ch Selkent).
- 7th Sep 24: CR7 on W12*, (S'ch East London) W13*(S'ch East London to S'ch Lea Interchange), W14* (S'ch Lea Interchange). 549 (Sullivans - route withdrawn), CR3 on 395 (London Sovereign), H13 (Metroline West).
- 14th Sep 24: CR3 on 222/= (Metroline West).
- 21st Sep 24: CR7 on 210* (Metroline Travel).
- 28th Sep 24: CR7 on 131* (G-A London General), CR6 on 411 (London United).
- 5th Oct 24: CR3 on 201 (Transport UK), 661 (S'ch Selkent).
- 12th Oct 24: CR6 on 103 (Arriva LN), CR7* on (S'ch East London)
- 26th Oct 24: CR7 on U4* (Metroline West).
- 2nd Nov 24: CR6 on 370 (Arriva LN), 627 (Arriva LS),
- 9th Nov 24: CR7 on 34*, SL1* (Arriva LN), CR3 on 192 (Arriva LN).
- 11th Jan 25: CR7 on 323 (S'ch East London).
- 1st Feb 25: CR5 on 343/N343 (G-A London Central), CE+2 on 109/N109 (Transport UK).
- 8th Feb 25: CR5 on 36 (G-A London Central).
- 15th Mar 25: CR7 on 172* (G-A London Central).
- TBA in 2025: CR7 on 129*, CR7 on SL4* (G-A Blue Triangle).

OTHER SPECIAL and MISCELLANEOUS non-TfL OPERATIONS IN LONDON

BM Coaches, under contract to Heathrow Airport, have applied to run daily early morning service on route H30 From Hatton Cross, serving T4, Cargo areas, T5, BA Waterside and Heathrow Central Bus Station. Departing from Hatton Cross every x20 mins from 03:12 to 04:32, with return journeys from T5 at 03:25, 03:45, then every x20 mins from Heathrow Central from 03:50 to 04:50. Starting from 11th March, using single-decks.

DIVERSIONS, DEVIATIONS AND DISRUPTIONS

Central: From 17th to 29th February, owing to emergency water works, Baker Street from Marylebone Road to York Road was closed southbound. Routes **13/=, 74/N74, 139/=, 274 and N113**, as well as **NX** and Green Line **757** were diverted via Marylebone Road and Edgware Road. Routes **2/N2** were reduced during the daytime from Marylebone Station and diverted on departure via Melcombe Place, Gloucester Place, Park Road, to turn via the roundabout at Lords to return to Baker Street and join the diversion above. Routes **30, 113 and 189/=** were curtailed at Baker Street until 22nd February, then diverted as above via Marylebone Road and Edgware Road. From 16th February to 21st March, owing to water sewer works in North End Road, West Kensington, routes **28/= and 306** are diverted in both directions via Dawes Road, Munster Road and Lillie Road. From 26th February to 28th March, owing to cosmetic works in Elizabeth Street, Belgravia, route **C1** is diverted towards Victoria via Sloane Square, Lower Sloane Street, Pimlico Road and Buckingham Palace Road.

South-East: From 26th February to 2nd March, owing to electrical works in Fraser Road, Erith, route **99** was diverted eastbound towards Bexleyheath at the roundabout at Erith Quarry via Erith Road, Brook Street, Carlton Road and Bexley Road. Route **180** was curtailed at Erith. From 19th February to 21st March, owing to road works in Torridon Road, Hither Green, routes **181 and N171** are diverted in both directions via Sandhurst Road, Verdant Lane and Hither Green Lane. From 19th February to 8th March, owing to a water leak in Grove Park Road, Mottingham, route **638** (the only route on this stretch) was diverted in both directions via routes 124 and 126 via Marvels Lane and Dunkery Road. From 2nd March to 14th April, Canada Water Bus Station is closed for “Capacity improvements and drainage works”. Through buses on routes **47/=, 188/=, 381/N381, P12 and N199** continued along Surrey Quays Road, with terminating buses on routes **1, 199, 225 and C10** dispersed to temporary stands in bus lanes in Rotherhithe New Road or at Surrey Quays Leisure Park (C10).

South: From 9th to 19th February, owing to railway bridge works in Kingston Road, Leatherhead Common, routes **465 and Surrey routes 408 & 478** were diverted in both directions via By-Pass Road and the A243. From 10th to 23rd February, tram works were taking place between East Croydon & Sandilands. As on previous occasions, bus routes were diverted by Chepstow Road and tram routes were again isolated to run in separate sections. Thanks to member Martin for both reports. From 22nd February to 1st March, owing to a gas leak in Ullathorne Road, Tooting, route **G1** was diverted in both directions via Tooting Bec Road, Church Lane and Furzedown Road to and from Thrale Road.

South-West: Further to the Eden Street diversions reported in TLB714, it seems that the diversion should be reversed and operated in the northbound direction; although official information was re-issued, the TfL website still referred to a southbound diversion. Thanks to member David for the correction. From 25th February to 8th March, owing to a gas leak in Hounslow Road, Hanworth, routes **285/= and 490** were diverted towards southbound via Hounslow Road and Country Way including double running to roundabout with Nallhead Road. Route **SL7** was diverted southbound Faggs Road via Staines Road, Wellington Road South, Nelson Road, Hospital Bridge Road, Sixth Cross Road, South Road and Stanley Road. From 3rd January until 21st June (or until the route is restored to normal working from its temporary arrangement), owing to water works in Station Yard, Twickenham, route **R68** is revised to start journeys from London Road instead of York Street, standing instead in Arragon Road. From 5th to

27th February, owing to a collapsed sewer in Heston Road, Heston, route **120** was diverted in both directions via Thorncliffe Road, North Hyde Lane and New Heston Road.

West: From 3rd March to 12th May, owing to gas works in Oldfield Lane North, and ongoing works for HS2, route **E6** is curtailed from Greenford Station to Greenford Broadway. Thanks to member Haydn for the report.

North-West: From 9th February to 8th March (with a break between 24-26 Feb) owing to water works on Bridge Road, Wembley, route **223** was diverted westbound to double run via Forty Lane and The Paddocks to Salmon Street.

North: From 10th January 2023, owing to building works in Wimbourne Street, Hoxton, route **394** continues to be diverted eastbound via Croyley Street, Eagle Wharf Road, New North Road (northbound), Baring Street, Bridport Place, Poole Street and New North Road. Expected to last until 4th June. Thanks to member Joel for the report. (*Updates TLB704/713*).

East: From 19th February to 1st March owing to water works in Star Lane, Canning Town, route **276** was diverted southbound via Manor Road and Barking Road, and northbound via Hermit Road and Star Lane.

COUNTRY AREAS - Route Developments

Section Editor: Phil Miller, 63 Oakleigh Drive, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3EE or by email to tlbcountryroutes@hotmail.com. This section is set out in adjacent geographical areas anti-clockwise around London from Tilbury to Gravesend. It covers all local bus services of all operators running outside the Greater London County but within the traditional LT/ LCBS 'London Country' areas. All reports will be very gratefully received.

West and South ESSEX, including THURROCK

Nothing to report this month.

HERTFORDSHIRE and Southern BEDFORDSHIRE

Sunday 19th November (again!)

- 97 (*Arriva KT, Hitchin & Stotfold, daily except evenings*) There were indeed just timetable changes to this route from this date, but we missed the bigger change on partner route 98...
- 98 (*Arriva KT, Hitchin & Baldock, daily except evenings*) Rerouted away from Purwell Lane Estate in Hitchin (leaving this just to the 97), running direct instead via the A505 Cambridge Road. For completeness, worth noting that a couple of am peak journeys were doing this already.
- 385 (*Watford Morrisons & North Bushey via Whippendell Rd, M-F peaks*) This was listed only for completeness and to confirm that there was no change, but the operator should have been given as Red Eagle, not Red Rose.

Sunday 7th January (additional to TLB712 p.18)

- 500/X5 (*Arriva KT*) TLB712 incorrectly suggested that the 500 had been running between Aylesbury and Watford until this date, whereas in fact it had run only between Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead since October 2022. The X5 is thus just a renumbering of the 500, plus withdrawal of occasional journeys via Cow Lane at Tring and, despite the "X" prefix, it is *not* limited stop.
- 821 (*Arriva KT*) New route, SDO. Luton Interchange via route 321 to St Albans Girls School on Harpenden Road, then via Green Lane and High Oaks to New Greens (Townsend School). This was originally slated for November 19th (the same date that the old 821 was withdrawn) but was deferred.
-

Monday 5th February (not 4th) was the change date for the 303, 331 and 602 (corrects TLBs 713 & 714)

Monday 19th February (NOT Sunday 17th!!) (further to TLB 714 p.24)

9A/B (*Stagecoach, Bedford & Stevenage, Mon-Sat except evgs*) Correcting TLB714, and unlike Arriva's 100/ 101, these routes run direct via the A602 Hitchin Road and Lytton Way in Stevenage, rather than via High Street in the Old Town.

671 (*Redline, Aylesbury schools & Dagnall, SDO*) Afternoon journey revised to pick up in Wendover Rd (near Wendover Way), rather than in Aylesbury schools coach park. Revised timetable pm only.

Sunday 3rd March (further to TLB 714 p.24)

755 (*Arriva the Shires, Luton Leagrave & London Victoria*) The pm peak journeys run only Luton Interchange & Luton Leagrave, timed to connect with an inbound 757.

757 (*Arriva the Shires, Luton Interchange & London Victoria, daily including nights*) The current pattern of an hourly through service (with some longer gaps at night), plus daytime hourly shorts between Victoria & Luton Airport and omitting Bricket Wood, is increased to x30 at all times except 0145 to 0745 southbound and 0635 to 0835 northbound (hourly at these times). Bricket Wood is now served by all journeys except M-F peaks, when all journeys now omit it.

Sunday 7th April

46 (*Centrebus, Luton & Hemel Hempstead, Mon-Sat except evenings*) An early evening service added Mon-Sat.

Sunday 14th April

16/A (*Vectare Central Connect*) New route, renumbered ex 22/A. Waltham Cross Bus Station to Waltham Abbey (Shernbrook Road) via Eleanor Cross Rd, Waltham Abbey, Farm Hill Rd, Honey Lane. The M-F service is just one return journey each M-F peak plus an evening journey, but Sats is x60. The 16A (ex 22A) is a solitary journey at 1806 on Sats from Highbridge Roundabout in Waltham Abbey to Waltham Cross, effectively a westbound short journey.

20 (*Arriva KT, Holywell Estate & Hemel Hempstead, daily*) Revised timetable for punctuality.

22/A (*Vectare Central Connect, Waltham Cross Bus Stn & Waltham Abbey Shernbrook Rd*) Withdrawn (renumbered 16/A).

302 (*Arriva KT, Hemel Hempstead & Welwyn Garden City, daily*) Revised timetable for punctuality.

320 (*Arriva KT, Hemel Hempstead & Maple Cross, SDO*) Revised timetable for punctuality.

322 (*Arriva KT, Hemel Hempstead & Berry Lane Estate or Maple Cross, daily*) Revised timetable for punctuality.

328 (*Arriva KT, Mt Vernon Hospital & Abbots Langley, M-S exc. evgs*) Revised timetable for punctuality. The M-S daytime short journeys between Mt Vernon and Watford Town Centre extended to Watford Junction (previously it was just a couple of am peak shorts that did this).

361 (*Red Eagle, St Albans & Bricket Wood, M-S daytimes; also M-F peak journeys to New Greens & Garston*) No change to the peak journeys to Garston/ New Greens but the main hourly Mon-Sat service is to be extended from Bricket Wood via Station Road, Smug Oak Lane, a new residential development named Hanstead Park, then Watling Street, Radlett, Theobald Street, Organ Hall, Elstree & Borehamwood Stn, Shenley Road, Tesco then route B3 via the Well End loop and return. We are promised "additional" journeys on the new stretch between Hanstead Park and "Borehamwood" and there is a fairly strong suggestion that the B3 will be replaced but no other details yet. Full details in TLB716.

B3 (*Sullivan, Borehamwood local service- Organ Hall/ Well End/ Tennyson Ave, M-S exc. evgs*) There has been nothing published by Sullivan to suggest that the B3 will change from this date but the 361 changes above seem to replace all of it except the Tennyson Avenue journeys. Herts CC are apparently "awaiting formal cancellation". Photographers beware!

Tuesday 16th April

29,30,31 (*Red Eagle, Hemel Hempstead & Berkhamsted via Studham (29), Great Gaddesden (30) or Nettleden (31), one return M-F daytime journey on each route*) Withdrawn without (as yet) any replacement other than the HertsLynx DRT service. LDO will be Monday 15th April.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE and EAST BERKSHIRE (incl. eastern borders of Oxfordshire)

Monday 25th March

701 (*Reading Buses, Reading & Legoland/ Slough, daily early & late jnys only*) Minor timetable changes.

702 (*Reading Buses, London Victoria & Legoland, daily*) Minor timetable changes.

703 (*Reading Buses, Bracknell & Heathrow Terminal 5*) Minor timetable changes.

SURREY and northern parts of WEST SUSSEX

Monday 19th February

408 (*Falcon Buses, Epsom & Cobham, M-F except evgs*) Revised timetable for reliability. One early morning journey between the Wells Estate and Epsom Stn withdrawn (replaced by the diverted E5 journey).

615 (*Falcon Buses, Chipstead Valley & St Andrews School, SDO*) Minor timetable changes.

E5 (*Falcon Buses, Langley Vale & Watersedge, M-S except evgs*) Minor timetable changes. One early morning journey which had omitted the Wells Estate is revised to serve it (as per the majority of journeys), replacing a journey on the 408.

Saturday 24th February

20 (*Metrobus, Fastway Pease Pottage & Horley/ Langshott, daily*) Frequency increased M-S from x25-30 to x20-25. Introduced all night, thus becoming a 24/7 service. The night service began Saturday night into Sunday.

23 (*Metrobus, Worthing & Crawley, daily except evgs*) Rerouted between Bewbush and Crawley Road from Sullivan Drive via Somerset Road (the eastern end of which is a new stretch of road) and Calvert Drive in order to serve Kilnwood Vale, ex Sullivan Drive (southern end) and Horsham Rd.

32 (*Metrobus, Redhill & Guildford, Suns except evgs*) Two of the three short journeys each way between Guildford and Strood Green extended to run through to Redhill. No change to the Mon-Sat service by Compass Travel.

200 (*Metrobus, Horsham & Gatwick, North Terminal & Bewbush, 24/7, extended except late evgs and nights to Horsham; no daytime service between South Terminal and North Terminal*) Daytime service extended to Gatwick North Terminal and the late evening and night service to Horsham restored. Thus now 24/7 throughout. Rerouted between Bewbush and Crawley Road as per 23 (qv). Minor rerouteing in Horsham via Hurst Road and North Parade ex Richmond Road.

Monday 18th March

446 (*White Bus, Woking & Hatton Cross, daily*) Revised timetable to better match with hospital shifts.

Monday 25th March

C3 (*Chatterbus, Cobham & Stoke d'Abernon Stn & either Cobham Sainsbury's or Cobham Free School, M-F daytimes*) Three of the four journeys that run to Cobham Free School are extended via Fairmile Road to the new Audley Fairmile Retirement Village.

Monday 1st April

50 (*Buses4U, Dorking & Horsham Tues & Fri only, also one pm peak journey M-F on request Dorking- Walliswood*) The pm peak "on request" journey withdrawn, to be covered by the Surrey Connect DRT service. So, now just Tuesdays & Fridays. LDO for the withdrawn journeys will be Thursday 28th March.

North and West KENT

Monday 19th February

408 (*Redroute Buses, West Kingsdown & Sevenoaks, Riverhead Tesco, SDO*) Rerouted between Borough Green and Wrotham via St Mary's Platt, Wrotham Heath and London Road ex direct via the A227 Borough Green Rd (partly replaces withdrawn S11, ref TLB 714 p.24).

Sunday 3rd March

414A (*Arriva KT, South Darenth & Wilmington Academy, SDO*) One additional short journey introduced in each peak between Dartford (Home Gardens) and Wilmington Academy.

Fastrack A (*Arriva KT, Dartford to Greenhithe Stn 24/7, extended to Bluewater except nights*) Revised timetable for reliability.

Fastrack AZ (*Arriva KT, Dartford & Gravesend via Amazon, daily at peak times only*) The temporary diversion away from Ingress Park is adopted permanently, thus now runs direct via London Road in the Greenhithe area.

Fastrack B (*Arriva KT, Temple Hill & Gravesend, daily*) Revised timetable. The long-term (and very long) diversion away from Galley Hill Road, where a landslip occurred on 10th April 2023, is now registered as the permanent routeing. From Ebbsfleet Station, via International Way, Ebbsfleet Gateway, the A2, the B255 and London Road, picking up line of route at Craylands Lane/ Manor Way.

Sunday 7th April (Last days of operation Thurs 28th March, first days Monday 15th April)

223 (*Redroute Buses, Gravesend to Tonbridge, Weald of Kent School, SDO*). Operation transferred to Brian Jones Coaches under KCC tendering.

489 (*Arriva KT, Gravesend & New Ash Green, M-S exc. evgs*). School journeys between Longfield Academy and New Ash Green transferred to Redroute Buses under KCC tendering. No change to main service.

695 (*Arriva KS, Istead Rise to Rochester Grammar Schools, SDO*). Transferred to Redroute Buses under KCC tendering.

Monday 15th April

305 (*1st Bus Stop, Vigo & Gravesend Schools, SDO*) Withdrawn without replacement. Last day of operation at the end of the Spring Term, circa March 28th.

AN OVERVIEW OF CHRISTMAS 2023 AND NEW YEAR 2024 SERVICES (excluding TfL services in Greater London)

Further to John Bull's piece (which appeared in the February TLB), a couple of additional points have come to light.

The Epping Ongar Bus Service up to the 24th December was not a public 339 but a "Park & Ride" for ticket holders on the Santa Specials. This ran Epping Station and Town to North Weald or Ongar to North Weald. Some buses carried special blinds with seasonal destinations - "North Pole Station" (North Weald), "Elving Station" (Epping) and "Snowgar, Two Reindeers" (Ongar, Two Brewers). There were no buses for the lights trains, so no service after 24th December until the railway resumed for half term on 15th February (again Railway Ticket Holders only) or 17th February (339 Epping & North Weald only, on railway days only) with the full 339 service to Shenfield resuming at Easter on 29th March.

Croydon Tramlink also ran in service over the Festive period, except for Christmas Day, and including a partial night service after midnight on New Year's Eve and into New Year's Day morning.

PUBLICITY NEWS

Section Editor: Andrew Webb, 11 Tentelow Lane, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4LQ or by e-mail to andrew_d_webb@hotmail.com (note the two underscores).

Two further sections of the Superloop network have been introduced in the last month, prompting the release of double sided A5 leaflets to raise awareness amongst the travelling public. March 2nd saw the launch of “**SL2 Walthamstow to North Woolwich Ferry**”, whilst a week earlier on 24th February it was the turn of “**SL3 Thamesmead to Bromley North Station.**” Both are in the established style with one side having narrative about the route illustrated with the type of bus allocated, accompanied by a line diagram of stops served on the reverse. Readers hoping to obtain copies of Superloop leaflets should note that they have generally only been available from staff posted at bus stops on the launch day. Copies do not appear to have been provided to local stations, enquiry offices or libraries.

Two further items with limited availability covered the public launch of the six new line names for the London Overground network on 15th February. “**London Overground Line Names**” is a multifold A5 leaflet which briefly outlines the rationale for each of the new identities. Printed on high quality glossy card, the upper half of the cover has six horizontal lines representing the new colours, with an orange lower half. The same style is adopted for “**Tube map Special edition February 2024**” which shows how the new identities fit into the wider TfL railway network. This has yet to be seen at stations (or indeed on Ebay!) but a report about the launch in Metro is illustrated with a person holding a copy of the closed map.

London Bus Museum have printed “**What are we doing today?**” for distribution to passengers using routes 62 and 145 during the Barking Garage Centenary running day on 23rd March. The single sided A5 sheet has narrative about the day printed over a line-up of RT1987 blinded for route 145 and RT1989 displaying route 62. This is accompanied by an advertising banner for the museum plus a QR code which links to the museum’s website.

Edition 2 of Heathrow’s “**Free Travel at the Airport**”, is dated 26th August 2023 and presented in the same multifold slimline format as Edition 1 reviewed in TLB707.

A painting of a river scene adorns the cover of White Bus’ “**446**”, a multifold slimline valid from 4th December 2023. When opened, one side has a full timetable for the service linking Woking with Hatton Cross whilst the reverse has a full route map accompanied by fares information.

Safeguard’s Burlingham bodied AEC Reliance 200APB adorns the front cover of “**Centenary Celebration**”, a multifold slimline which outlines the celebration held at Guildford Cathedral on 16th March. This impressive leaflet outlines the activities on offer, details of how to reach the event plus a map showing regular routes 4 and 5 as well as free heritage routes A, B and C. One panel is dedicated to the Fountain Centre, a charity helping families and children affected by cancer, which is receiving all the profits from a booklet produced to mark one hundred years of Safeguard operations.

CURRENT VEHICLE NEWS

Section Editor: Chris Jennings, 30 Kingcup Avenue, Green Lane, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4GF or by e-mail to chris_routemaster@hotmail.co.uk. This section covers the current vehicle news (including initial disposals) of bus operators within the ‘TLB’ area, roughly comprising the old LT/LCBS areas.

General news:

The Winter Bus Event at the Epping and Ongar Railway on 25th February saw vintage buses running on routes 327, 346, 347, 381, 393, 396 and 718 in addition to the normal 339. Star attraction was newly-restored “Provincial” Weymann STL2692 in 1950s green, while other attendees included GS17, LNC45, RFs 13, 136, 180 and 636, RLH48, RM1159, RMCs 1453 and 1513, RTs 113, 1700, 1702, 3228 and 3238, SMA8 and XF1 plus service vehicle 971J (ex STL1470).

ARRIVA LONDON (part of Deutsche Bahn)

ARRIVA LONDON NORTH - AD, AR, CT, DT, DX, E, EC, GY, SF and WN.

ARRIVA LONDON SOUTH - BN, N, TC and TH.

ENX6/14 have received Superloop SL5 branding, joining ENX7-13/15/17/18. Note ENX16 has not been done and serves as a spare for route 166, 312 and SL5 at TC.

Stamford Hill (SF) garage duly reopened on 24th February, when route 254 was transferred in from the now closed and unneeded Ash Grove (AE) garage. Route 76 will additionally move into SF on 23rd March, when the route is taken over from Go Ahead London (NP).

Both Clapton (CT) and Stamford Hill (SF) garages are now exclusively operated by LT class buses. Clapton (CT) operates route 38/N38, 73/N73 and 253/N253 and Stamford Hill (SF) route 254.

Following the loss of route 242/N242 to Stagecoach London (HK) on 24th February, the Volvo B5LH hybrid double-decks HV233-48 are earmarked to replace E400s on route W3 (WN).

Barking (DX) garage in recent years has been unfortunate in losing routes, however Superloop SL2 (Walthamstow Central - North Woolwich) was a welcome addition on 2nd March. The route uses a batch of E40Hs (HA36-53), made available from the loss of route 133/333 earlier in the year. HA36, HA39, HA45, HA48, HA50, HA52 and HA53 have received Superloop SL2 branding thus far. A rarity on the first day of Superloop SL2 was DW333.

Following the loss of route 325 (DX) after 1st March, the E200s (ENL61-74) were quickly redeployed that night to South Croydon (TC) to operate route 312, which was extended beyond South Croydon Garage to Purley, Old Lodge Lane from 2nd March. There is a low bridge on Old Lodge Lane, so double decks are no longer permitted on the route. At this stage, it is unknown whether the Optare MetroCity EVs (EMC1-9/11-14) which were operating route 312 will be retained, as they are currently not in use with all but one now parked at CN in storage.

Following the recent tender re-award of routes 66, 103 and 370 at Grays (GY), hybrid double decks from within the fleet will be transferred in to replace the large batch of 09-reg DB300s (DW201-46). This process is expected to start later in the year.

HT18 was a rarity when operating on route 194 in the afternoon on 25th February.

The 16-year-old 57-reg E200s (EN13/18/20) still continue to work alongside the newer EN/ENR E20D MMCs on route 318 (AR), with just EN35 (the last of the ex route 377 E20Ds) still to transfer in from E. The 57-reg trio are earmarked for withdrawal in the coming weeks.

Recent repaint/refurbs noted include HV202, HV384, LT223, LT229, LT238, LT327, LT333, LT339, LT346, LT351, LT352, LT526, LT527, LT532 and LT534.

Transfers:

EN5 ECu/ECw (exact date unknown). Last used on the 28/03/2023.

EN12 ARu/ARw (exact date unknown). Last used on the 03/08/2023.

T7 DTu/DTw (exact date unknown). Last used 20/09/2023.

(June 2023): LT827 CT/CTu.

(July 2023): T27 ECw/Ect.

(August 2023): T68 TC/TH/TC (update to TLB708).

ARRIVA LONDON continued

(September 2023): EN21 AR/ARw. LT573 EC/ECu.

(October 2023): HV171 AD/ADu. LT576 EC/ECu.

(November 2023): HV22/31 BN/BNw. LT349 AE/AEu. T186 Nu/CNw. T227 BNu/CNw.

(January): EMC2/3/9 TC/CNu. ENS15-27 Nu/Nw. HV1/7/9/19/24 BN/BNw. T38 DT/DTu.

T108 TH/THu. T147 TH/CNw.

(February): DW424 DTu/DT. DW502 EC/GY. EMC1/4/6/7/12 TC/CNu. EN34/37 E/AR.

ENX16 TH/TC. HA15 AEu/BN. HA16-18 AE/BN. HV233-48 CT/CTu.

LT180/83/84, 220/38, 328-48/50 AE/SF. LT237 AEu/u (has been VOR since May 2023). LT327

CT/AE/SF. LT349 AEu/u. T109 CNw/Nw.

(March): EMC5/8/11/13 TC/CNu. ENL61-69/71-74 DX/TC. HA17 BN/DX.

HA36-40/42-53 DXu/DX. HA41 BNu/DX. HV235/37 CTu/WN. T293 BNu/CNw.

Livery changes

EA3 from advert for Ovo Energy to one for Ovo Energy 2

EA6 from advert for Bruichladdich back to Red

HV178 from advert for £5.25 All Day back to Red

HV305 and HV411 from adverts for £1.75 Hopper back to Red

LT191 to advert for M & S BraFit

LT524 to advert for Loreal Panorama Mascara

LT537 to advert for Sol De Janeiro

LT539 from advert for Apple TV+ Monsters back to Red

LT594 and LT716 to adverts for Gucci Ancona

LT963 from advert for Uniqlo HeatTech back to Red

ARRIVA'S 'COUNTRY BUSES' (within ASC and ATS)

Vehicles in each part that are based at the relevant garages are covered in full, with any transfers to or from other areas of Arriva the Shires (AtS) and Arriva Southern Counties (ASC) outside our sphere of coverage mentioned where necessary. These are: Colchester (CO), Southend (SE), Milton Keynes (MK), Gillingham (GL), Maidstone (MD) and Tunbridge Wells (TW).

Part 1: North West Kent (NF garage, Arriva Kent Thameside (AKT) licence).

Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 516CDi 1106 (RJ19 HXD) is confirmed as still based at NF and is in silver Arriva Click livery and has been here since January 2023.

Part 2: Hertfordshire and West Essex (HA, HH, SV, WE garages, all on AKT licence)

Transfers: AC008 HHu/HHs. 1011 WEw/WE.

Out on loan: AC011 HHu/MKs (as a ferry vehicle).

Part 3: Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire (AY, LD and WB garages, on AtS licence)

Following the move of two additional double decks into High Wycombe (WB), this garage now has a fleet of 10 (11 if you include withdrawn 4749), consisting of 3 Volvo B7TLs, 3 Volvo B9TLs and 4 E400s. Aylesbury (AY) in comparison has a fleet of 9 E40D double decks and Luton (LD) a fleet of 6 double-decks, consisting of 1 x Trident and 5 x Volvo B7TLs.

Optare Versa 2979 had been off the road since 8th August 2023, is now back in use on 16th February. Volvo B8RLE 3972 was involved in a fatal RTC with a pedestrian whilst on the Luton Busway, near Hatters Way in the early hours of 8th February and sadly a man in his 40s passed away.

Fleet renumbering: 3972 (LF71 DLO) has been renumbered to **3981** (see above).

Into the fleet:

2151 (CX08 DJJ) AD E20D - AD Enviro200 10.8m B38F from Arriva Wales (Rhyl). Formerly 2141.

6139/44 (FJ06 ZPW, FJ56 OBE) Volvo B7TL/ Wright Eclipse Gemini 10.6m H41/29F from Arriva Maidstone.

ARRIVA's COUNTRY BUSES continued

Transfers:

2151 (ex 2141) Arriva Wales/LD (February). 2979 WBU/WB. 6139/44 AKS MD/WB (February).

A2B TRAVEL GROUP, Royston

Scania OmniDekka UL55 UNO and Scania/ Optare Olympus PN09 EMX are both stood down.

BEAR BUSES, Shepperton

Dart SLF Y986 TGH was stood down in September 2023 and Volvo B7TL Y823 TGH in November.

CARLONE BUSES, Lyne, Surrey

Update to TLB713, pg.24; Mercedes-Benz minibuses YK73 FFM/N are the 517CDi model, not 516CDi

CAROUSEL BUSES, High Wycombe

E20Ds 520/521 (YY66 PDV/Z) were planned to transfer in (currently with Thames Travel), after an engine upgrade to euro 6, for onward use on the Uxbridge (LEZ) area routes 581/583. This plan is currently on hold and the loaned grey liveried 'Connector' E20Ds 511/512 (YX69 NVE/F) are still here and allocated to these routes for the time being.

Newly acquired Mercedes-Benz Citaros 890/1 (BF62 JZL/P) have been repainted red, joining 889 (BF62 JZJ). 889/890 had been on loan to Oxford Bus in early February, with 889 moving onto Thames Travel, but both are now back at Carousel by early March.

Out of the fleet:

870 (LF57 OXF), 938 (LX58 CWG), 940 (LX05 EZO) and 941 (LX05 EZP) to Thames Travel.

CENTRAL CONNECT (Galleon Travel 2009 Ltd), Harlow and Stansted

StreetLites 48 (CC11 BUS) and 910 (CC10 BUS) were stood down in October and December 2023 respectively. E200 913 (LJ57 USU) was withdrawn in early February (see disposal below). 917 (SN57 DWZ) and 920 (LK08 DWE) were withdrawn in early February (see disposals below). E20D SF66 ARW is now known to be fleet numbered 342.

Into the fleet:

350 (YY73 TGU) AD E20D - AD Enviro200 MMC 10.9m (B40F) in plain white.

Disposals:

E200s 913 (LJ57 USU), 917 (SN57 DWZ) and 920 (LK08 DWE) and Scania OmniCity 2006/10 (YP59 OEU/W) all left the fleet in February.

CENTREBUS, Luton

Correction to TLB714; E20D 502 (YX67 VGJ) is a 'standard' E20D and not MMC.

ENSIGNBUS, Purfleet

It is now known that open top Enviro500 368 (68 EB) is on loan from the Newmans, usually allocated to the Southend 'Seaside Service 68' in the Summer season and was not an acquisition in March 2023.

A recap on heritage buses on loan from the Newmans to fulfil ongoing Private Hire work: ER882 (WLT 882), RF319 (MLL 956), RM54 (LDS 279A), RM371 (WLT 371), RM1361 (VYJ 808), RMC1485 (485 CLT), RML2405 (JJD 405D), RML2588 (JJD 588D), RML2734 (SMK 734F), RT1499 (KGK 758) and RTL453 (KLB 648).

Acquired:

RML2658 (SMK 658F) AEC Routemaster in August 2023 (See TLB710, pg.29). This bus was originally shown as acquired into the dealer stock, although we now know that the bus is undergoing a major refurbishment and is intended for use in the heritage fleet.

364-367 (MX58 DXS/T/V/Z) Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini. These were formerly fleet numbered 37405/6/8/10 within First Group and were H45/29F, however they are being converted to open top for potential deployment on the Southend 'Seaside 68' this summer.

ENSIGNBUS continued

Into the fleet:

EB2022 (YX61 FZT) AD E200 - AD Enviro200 10.8m B31D (See also TLB695, pg.34). This bus was initially acquired in January 2022 in the dealer stock and was used as a 'film bus' by July 2022. This bus was in use on Rail Replacement work in the Loughton area in February 2024.

FALCON COACHES, Byfleet

Volvo BZL/MCV single deck 'electric demonstrator' BV72 KPF has been in use for trials from 16th to 23rd February, used in service on route 436 and 461.

Correction to TLB704, pg.25; E20D YX19 ONP is confirmed as B30F (not B28F).

E20D YX68 UJP has had its route 461 branding removed.

Disposal: E200 KX58 GVE left the fleet in February.

FIRST in BERKSHIRE (First Beeline Buses Ltd) (RG, SH depots)

StreetLites 47687 and 47691 have been repainted into the orange front/ purple rear livery with 'Beeline' fleetnames.

Disposals: Update to TLB714; 69920/24 (not 39920/24) were scrapped.

E20D 44560 (YX63 LKV) has been sold onto Go North West by October 2023.

Volvo 7900H 69922 (BV13 ZCK) was scrapped in June 2023.

Volvo 7900H 69926 (BV13 ZCT) and 69928 (BV13 ZCX) have been scrapped (February).

GO-AHEAD LONDON

BLUE TRIANGLE - RR, DS; **DOCKLANDS BUSES** - SI; **LONDON CENTRAL** - BX, MG, NX, PM, Q; **LONDON GENERAL** - A, AF, AL, GM, NP, LZ, RA and SW; **METROBUS** - C, MB.

Outstations: FK=Folkestone, KL=King's Lynn, LD=Lower Dicker, LZ=Leighton Buzzard.

Correction to TLB714, pg.40; route 333 was won from Arriva London (not Transport UK).

Following the stand down of the Optare MetroDecker EVs (Me1-17) at AL, following the engine fire on Me12 on the 11th January, route 200 continues to be operated by mainly single deck E200s. The batch are undergoing 'recall' and preventable measures to limit a reoccurrence and expected to re-enter into use on route 200 in late March/ early April.

SEe232, the fire victim from 24th January within Putney (AF) garage, has now been towed away via BYD Heston for onward repair.

E205 was involved in a RTC with a police van whilst on route 36 by the junction of Clapham Road and Kennington Park Road on 14th February.

Route 476 is progressively being converted to hybrid double-deck operation, with MHVs arriving into NP to replace the Volvo B9TLs (WVL/WVN). Thus far 16 MHVs have arrived. In practise the MHVs work alongside the EHV's on route 91 and 476.

Volvo BZL/MCV double-deck 'demonstrator' MVB1 (LF73 DXZ) was in use at Sutton (A) from 6th to 24th February, operating solely on route 213. Electroliner 'demonstrator' EL1 (LY71 GHZ) has transferred into Sutton (A) for route trials, first used in service on route 151 on 28th February, continuing into March.

New route 439 (Waddon Marsh - Whyteleafe South) began on the 2nd March, operated by Croydon (C) garage initially using 9.7m E200EVs borrowed from route 450, which in turn is topped up by some of the 10.2m E200EVs (SEe261/62/67/68) stored for eventual use on route P12 (PM). The ordered trio of E200EVs for route 439 (SEe329-331) are forecast for delivery in April.

New route S2 (St Helier Station - Epsom Town Centre) also began on 2nd March, with its brand-new batch of E200EV electric single decks (SEe304-12) and is operated by Sutton (A) garage. WHV71-79 were transferred from Sutton (A) into Goat Road (GM) to make space for new route S2 and its E200EVs. WHV71-79 form part of the route 80 allocation with the rest of route still covered by Sutton (A) using BYD/E400EVs. Consequently Sutton (A) no longer has any Volvo B5LHs.

On the same day, route 455 was withdrawn, with its Optare MetroCity (OM2-4/6-10/13) single decks returning to their native S1 route territory, as route S1 transferred from Goat Road (GM) back into Croydon (C) on the same day.

GO-AHEAD LONDON continued

Route 325 was won from Arriva London (DX) on 2nd March, now operating with E200s from River Road (RR) until their ordered batch of E200EVs (SEe291-303) arrive. Some of the loaned E200s are 10.8m long, leading the way for the longer 10.9m E200EVs, which in the time Arriva ran the route, was restricted to the 10.2m long ENLs only.

Route 366 is due to move from Henley Road (DS) into River Road (RR) on 30th March, subject to the successful electrification of the garage to accommodate its E200EVs (SEe200-19). This will directly make room at Henley Road (DS) for route 262 and 473, which are both won from Stagecoach London (LI) on the same day.

A new site has been identified at 220 Garth Road, Morden, SM4 and is currently in the early stages of seeking planning permission from the London Borough of Merton to redevelop the site into a bus garage. Subject to approval, the intention is to house up to 43 buses, ancillary offices, a 2-bay workshop and bus washing facilities.

Recent repaint/refurbs noted include LT403, LT422, LT508, MHV59, MHV62, SE251, SE257, WHV47, WHV49, WHV75, WHV79, WHV95 and WS61.

New deliveries (February):

SEe304-312 (LG73 FPA/C/D/E/F/J/K/L/N) for new route S2 (A).
BYD D8UR - AD Enviro200EV (MMC) 9.7m B24D.

New deliveries (March onwards):

Ee205-217 (LF24 ZJV/X/Y/Z, ZKA/B/C/D/E/G/H/J/K) for route 57 (AL).
BYD D8UR-DD - AD Enviro400EV-City 10.9m H42/23D.

Update to registration number information in TLB713 (pg.29):

Ee243-62 have now been registered with '24' plate registration numbers and not the provisional ones, that were supplied in TLB713. They are now LF24 ZGC/D/E/G/H/J/K/L/M/N/O/P/R/S/T/U/V/W/X/Y. These are forecast to transfer into Merton (AL) in March/ April for allocation onto route 157.
BYD D8UR-DD - AD Enviro400EV-City 10.9m H42/23D.

Seating detail change:

SEe6, 10-15, 18, 23, 25-29 are confirmed as now up-seated from B21D to B33D, completing the batch SEe1-36/41-51.

Transfers:

(April 2021): MHV56 MG/Q
(July 2021): SE88 MGu/MG (update to TLB683).
(June 2023): SEN16 MG/MGw. WS108 MG/MGu.
(July 2023): WHV106 DS/RR (update to TLB708).
(September 2023): SE173 GM/AL. SEN47 BX/BXu. WS78 AF/AFu.
(October 2023): EH195 C/Q. LT57 SW/SWu. MEC46 MG/MGu. SOE12 AL/ALu. WHV63 DS/RR. WHV154 MG/Q.
(November 2023): EHV5 SW/SWu.
(December 2023): Me13 AL/ALu. SEe272 DS/DSu. SOE30 GM/AL.
(January): Me1-11/14-17 AL/ALu. MHV92 stayed at AF and didn't transfer to SW (update to TLB714). SE146 AF/AL. SE171 GM/AL. WHV66 A/RR.
(February): EL1 Qu/A. EH87/118 RR/Q. MHV12/17/18 NX/NP. MHV11/13/14/56/59/60/62 Q/NP. MVB1 u/A/u. SE170 GM/AL. SEe232 AFu/u (sent away for repairs). SEe261/67/68 Cu/C. SEe265/66 Go Ahead Swindon/AF. SEe287/90 BYD Hounslow/ Go Ahead Swindon (storage). SEe304-12 -/Au. SOE8 C/RRu. WHV67/68 A/RR.
(by March): SOE12 ALu/RRu.
(March): Ee205/6 -/Qu. SE97 SI/RR. SE123/126/127/130/132 AF/RR. SE125/133-135 AL/AF. SE128 BX/RR. SE167-169/172/174/180 GM/AL. SE233 MB/C. SE234 MG/C. SE240 GM/C. SE269/270/272 u/RR. SE276/278 AL/RR. SE277 AL/MG. SE287 AF/RR. SEe304-12 Au/A. SOE31/33/35 GM/AL. WHV69 A/AL/RR. WHV71-79 A/GM. WS79 NPu/NP. WVN2 NP/DS.

GO-AHEAD LONDON continued

Livery changes:

Ee36 from advert for Ovo Energy to one for Ovo Energy 2
Ees 154, 156, 163 and 169 from adverts for Zero Emissions back to Red
Ee 244 and 245 to adverts for GoAhead Women (not yet in service as of 4th March)
EP1 from advert for Ovo Energy to one for Ovo Energy 2
LT58 to advert for NatWest
LT60 to advert for Gucci Ancora
LT234 from advert for Gucci Cosmos back to Red
LT451 from advert for Samsung Galaxy S24 back to Red
LT860 to advert for Gucci Ancora
LT865 to advert for Loreal Panorama Mascara
LT867 to advert for Vueling Airlines
LT874 to advert for NatWest
WHVs 182 and 196 from advert for £1.75 Hopper back to Red
WVL296 from advert for £1.75 Hopper back to Red

Disposals:

DOE29 passed onto Swindon's bus company (Part of Go South Coast) by September 2023.
EH161 was destroyed in an engine fire on 12/01/2024.
SEN16 left the fleet in August 2023. Last used on the 12/06/2023.
VWL45 left the fleet in August 2023.
WVL295 left the fleet in February 2023. Last used on the 25/11/2022.

GO-COACH HIRE, Swanley

Updating TLB701, pg.32 and TLB700, pg.31 respectively; Optare Versas 6003 (LX58 CHO) and 6008 (YJ58 VBX) are confirmed as still operational within the fleet and were not sold.
E400 9001 (SK07 DZA) is currently on loan to Hulley's main operation in Baslow, Derbyshire (photo on the back cover of TLB714).
E400 9012 (LK57 AYB) was initially on loan to Hulley's in January 2023 and is now permanently based in Baslow, Derbyshire and no longer part of the Go-Coach fleet.

LITTLE JIM'S BUSES, Berkhamsted

Disposal: Optare Solo MX58 AAJ left the fleet in February.

LONDON DIAL-A-RIDE

Please re-add to fleetbook: D611 (HX06 FMJ) Mercedes-Benz 111CDi - SCC 3-seater.

Seen on 23rd February at the Mandela Way HQ base and still owned.

Note: the 7 Mercedes-Benz 111CDi minibuses (D571/74/76/83/95, 608 and 611) are usually allocated to staff 'ferry' duties and not directly on London Dial-A-Ride journeys.

Disposals:

D8001/7-10 left the fleet in December 2023. Note: With D8002-6 also sold (see TLB714, pg.42), this confirms that 246 Volkswagen T6 minibuses are still in the fleet.

LONDONER BUSES, Wandsworth (Part of Transpora group)

RCL2226 (CUV 226C) has been on loan in mid-February, seen in service on route T15 on 17th and 24th February. RM1650 (650 DYE) and RML2344 (CUV 344C) are still on loan from London Bus 4 Hire.

Acquired:

RML2480 (JJD 480D) AEC Routemaster (See also TLB714, pg.50).

RML2681 (SMK 681F) AEC Routemaster (See also TLB631, pg.35 and TLB699, pg.23).

This bus was acquired by the Transpora group in February 2017 and is now known to be part of the Londoner Buses fleet. This bus is undergoing a lengthy restoration and is expected to enter service later in the year.

LONDON GANGSTER TOUR

Scania OmniCity YN56 FBX was stood down in October 2021, when its MoT expired and has had a change of ownership in December 2023 and no longer in the fleet.

METROBUS, Crawley and Copthorne (part of B&H Buses within the Go-Ahead Group)

The full batch of GB Kite Hydroliners 6051-70 are now in use, allocated to Fastrack routes 10 and 20.

Update to TLB712; 6059/60/67/70 (LV23 EEA/B, EXX, EYC) have transferred from Copthorne (storage) into Crawley (CY) and entered service, 6059 on 19th February, 6060 on 7th December, 6067 on 13th December and 6070 on 5th December.

6065 (LV23 EEO) came out of storage at CY and entered service on 4th January.

Ex Southdown PSV E20D 6709 (YX68 URB) has been repainted into Metrobus two tone blue livery.

METROLINE (part of Comfort DelGro of Singapore) including:

METROLINE TRAVEL - AC, AH, EW, HD, HT, KC, PA, PB, PV, SG and W, also

METROLINE WEST - G, HZ, UX and WJ.

(within the Comfort DelGro of Singapore).

At EW 12 Volvo BZL/MCV single decks (VMSL class) are now in service on route 251, with 3x DELs still in use here. Once the other 2 VMSLs transfer in, these DELs will move on elsewhere.

At PB only 5 Volvo BZL/MCV single decks (VMSS class) are in use on route 384 thus far, with the route still largely operated by the E20Ds (DEM class). 3 Volvo BZL/MCV single decks (VMSSs) have transferred into WJ for driver type training duties, prior to the batch (VMSS2809-2833) entering into service on route 187 and 487 in the Spring.

A rarity was StreetDeck Hydroliner WHD2718 on route 90 on 2nd February, when it completed a round trip in the evening time.

Lampton (SG) garage is an outstation of Brentford (AH) and has an allocation of 19 VWs (VW13**/14**) for allocation on route 81, VWH2133-35 for route 635, VWH2266-84 for route 120. Routine maintenance, repairs and servicing is carried out by the parent garage AH, leading to regular transfers for short periods between the bases.

Route 306 (HT) is lost to Transport UK (formerly Abellio London) on 13th April and route E6 (G) on 25th May. Recent tender awards, will see route 28 taken over from RATP (X) on 4th May, to be operated by WJ garage with existing diesel double decks. Route 481 is won from RATP (FW) on 11th May, to be operated by Brentford (AH) and route E1 is won from RATP (AV) on 25th May, to be operated from Greenford (G) with existing diesel double decks.

Recent repaint/ refurb are LT552, LT556, LT559, LT656, VWH2305, VWH2311, VWH2313, VWH2331, VWH2332, VWH2342 and VWH2343.

Transfers: (h suffix = Hertfordshire Commercial Fleet).

TE880 HZu/HZw (Now known to be withdrawn, exact date unknown). Update to TLB683.

DE1029 HZu/HZw (exact date unknown).

(August 2020): VW1403 SG/AH/SG (update to TLB673).

(June 2022): VWH2267 PB/AH/SG (update to TLB694).

(October 2022): VW1292 PB/HT (update to TLB691).

(February 2023): WDE2769 PBt/PB (update to TLB700).

VWH2133/34/35 SG/AH/SG (update to TLB703).

(September 2023): TEH1223/24 W/u (location unknown). TEH1217/19/31 Wu/u (location unknown).

(October 2023): TEH1218/20-22/26/27 W/u (location unknown). VWH1415 AC/ACu.

(November 2023): TE1423 EW/EWu. TEH1456 Gu/G.

(December 2023): LT11 HT/HTu. VW1388 AH/SG. VW1825 PB/PBu.

(January): VW1393/98 AH/SG.

VMH2573/74/83 PV/PB/PV (update to TLB714). Note - was only used at PB for 1 day.

VMH2582 PV/PB/PV (update to TLB714). Note - was only used at PB for 2 days.

VMSS2835 PAu/PB.

(February): LT804 W/HT. VW1394/95/96 AH/SG. DE1640 WJu/HZw. VWH2061 AH/HT.

DEL2245/46 EW/WJ. VMSS2837 PAu/PB. VMSL2844/47/48/51 PAu/EW.

(March): TE1097 PAw/HZw. VMSS2811/19/29 PAu/WJt.

METROLINE continued

Livery changes:

BDE2621 from advert for Ovo Energy to one for Ovo Energy 2

BDE2646 from advert for Zero Emissions back to Red

LT641 from advert for COS back to Red

LT644 from advert for Gant back to Red

LT759 from advert for Ginori 1751 back to Red

LT789 to advert for Vueling Airlines

LT790 from advert for Brewdog to one for Gucci Ancora

LT791 to advert for Gucci Ancora

LT809 to advert for Loreal Panorama Mascara

OME2658 from advert for Ovo Energy to one for Ovo Energy 2

VWH2301 from advert for Low Emissions back to Red

VWH2380 from advert for Puma / Noah back to Red

VWH2427 from advert for Zero Emissions back to Red

VWH2430 from advert for £5.25 All Day back to Red

MULLANY'S BUSES, St.Albans

AEC Routemaster RMA22 (NMY 645E) is still in the fleet. This bus was moved from long term storage in Ireland (where it was registered 67-KK-501) in 2018 to Mullany's previous base in Watford for long term restoration, however the project was curtailed in 2019 and the bus has since moved to the St Albans base and is currently stored.

GRANT PALMER, Flitwick

A new outstation base has been established in Langford Road, Biggleswade, SG18 to house 4 buses.

RML2299 (CUV 299C) AEC Routemaster is no longer part of the operational fleet. This bus was previously used on Wedding/ Private Hire work, but since October 2023 has been privately preserved by the company owner.

RATP-DEV TRANSIT LONDON including:

LONDON UNITED - AV, FW, RP, S, TV, V and WK (ex HH)

LONDON SOVEREIGN - BT, CP and SO. (c suffix = commercial) and

LONDON TRANSIT - X

Six additional E200EVs moved across to BT in February, joining the existing four already there to give an increasing pool of BE buses available to operate on their intended route 226.

BCE47163 was a rarity working on route 23 in the morning of 27th February.

DLE30250/51/52 are the first of the batch of E20D MMCs (DLE30250-66) allocated to route 288 and 303 (BT) to be refurbished and repainted. DLE30276 is the first of the batch of E20D MMCs (DLE30271-83) allocated to route H18/H19 to be refurbished and repainted. Two (VH45154/55) of the batch of seven VHs (VH45153-56, 64-67) allocated to route 203 (AV) have been refurbished/repainted so far, with VH45194 at AV as a refurb 'float/ cover' vehicle.

Recent repaint/ refurb include DLE30217, DLE30222, DLE30250, DLE30251, DLE30252, DLE30276, VH45146, VH45151 and VMH45347.

Just to confirm VH45124-33, VH45156-63 have been refurbished/repainted a while ago.

Transfers:

(August 2020): DLE30001 AV/FW.

(August 2021): DLE30018 SO/FW.

(August 2023): ADH45289 SO/BT.

(September 2023): ADH45035 AV/X.

(October 2023): DLE30273 RP/BT (not Sept 2023 as shown in TLB710. Later moved back to RP as in TLB714). ADH45021 V/Vu. ADH45035 X/RP. ADH45258 BT/BTu.

RATP-DEV continued

(November 2023): LT72 S/Su. ADE40408 RP/RPu. ADH45290-97 SO/CP (along with route H14, see also TLB713, pg.33).

(December 2023): DE20127 BT/BTu. DE20167 NCu/NCw. DE20168 WKu/WKw.

DLE30026 TV/TVu. DLE30133 AV/S.

(January): VH45184 FW/WK.

(February): DE20114 BT/S/V. DE20116 RPu/V. DE20119 BT/NCu. DE20126/166 BT/S.

DLE30137 V/S. DLE30291 V/AV. DLE30293/94 V/WK. DLE30295 V/S. DLE30296 RP/S.

BE37089/90/92/99/100/101 WK/BT. VH45188 RP/BT/X. VH45190 V/BT/X.

(March): DLE30311 RP/SO.

Livery changes:

BCE47008 from advert for Fenty Creeper Phatty to one for Zidag & Voltaire

BCEs 47013 and 47066 from advert for Ovo Energy to one for Ovo Energy 2

BCE47031 from advert for Zero Emissions back to Red

BCE47167 to advert for Ovo Energy 2

BCE47168 to advert for Zadig & Voltaire

LT70 from advert for X-Box back to Red

LT85 from advert for Comfort to one for Gucci Ancora

OME46031 from advert for Bruichladdich to one for Ovo Energy 2

VH45234 from advert for £1.75 Hopper back to Red

VH45271 from advert for £1.75 Hopper back to Red (**Correction** - Not VH45273 as in TLB709)

Disposals:

ADH45039 left the fleet in February 2024 (RTC victim 10/08/2023).

DE20049, DE20117/118, DE20157-59/61-63/65/69-73 left the fleet in February 2024.

SP40050 left the fleet in January 2024.

WLS30037-40 have passed onto Ventura Bus Sales.

READING TRANSPORT and THAMES VALLEY BUSES

Brand new in the fleet are 3 AD Enviro400 MMCs, in two tone green livery and branded up for Flightline 703. These like brothers 731-736 are to a high spec with superfast wifi, USB and wireless phone charging by all seats and wood effect flooring.

Update to TLB709 - the Mercedes-Benz Sprinters 141-4 allocated to the 'Go2Gate' service (Dedworth area - Heathrow Airport, Terminal 5) are now known to be the 517CDi model and have been downseated from B16F to B12F to facilitate additional luggage space.

Into the fleet:

738-40 (FL73 LHR/ WND/ LGO) AD E40D - AD Enviro400 MMC 11.5m H47/28F.

Note: The registration numbers are personalised for 'Flightline' (FL) and represent places served on Flightline 703 route, ie. LHR (London Heathrow Airport), WND (Windsor) and LGO (Legoland).

RED EAGLE BUSES, Dinton near Aylesbury

Into the fleet:

LK08 FNF, YX58 DWV AD E20D - AD Enviro200 10.2m B29D. Originally First London DML44007 and DML44041, later Metroline DE1583 and DE1617. Both in red.

REDLINE BUSES, Aylesbury

The school bus and overflow yard in Griffin Lane, Aylesbury has now been vacated. A new, larger school bus & overflow yard is now located on the site of Verney House, a demolished office block, in Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury. The Head Office at International House, Griffin Lane, Aylesbury, remains unchanged.

REDROUTEMASTER, Isleworth

Update to fleet, Volvo B7TL B7 PVL is currently stood down. Trident LJZ 1450 is a regular bus used on Rail Replacement work in South West London area. Titan CUL 114V is still a special events vehicle and is currently parked up.

Acquired:

RM1245 (LDS 210A) Routemaster was acquired in February 2015. This bus is earmarked for a long-term restoration project, which is yet to begin and its eventual use is yet to be decided.

RML2744 (SMK 744F) Routemaster was acquired in August 2017. This bus is 'not in use' and was partially restored in 2017-2020, pending further work.

Disposals:

Volvo B7TL PJ02 RBZ left the fleet in October 2023.

Dart SLF GX06 DXF has also left the fleet.

RICHMOND'S, Royston

Newly acquired is Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Mellor Strada minibus LV73 ZPF.

This bus is in fleet livery of cream and dedicated to local Royston town service 16.

SAFEGUARD, Guildford

Correction to TLB708, pg.33 and TLB714, pg.46; the Optare Excels are X307/8 CBT (not XBT).

STAGECOACH LONDON (part of Stagecoach Holdings) incorporating:

EAST LONDON - AW, BK, BW, CS, HK, NS, RM, T and WH.

SELKENT - KB, PD, TB and TL; **LEA INTERCHANGE BUS CO** - LI.

Update to TLB714, we now know that 45 (not 40) Volvo BZL/MCV double decks are on order for route D7, 277 and 58. Of these confirmed fleet numbers 86181-90 are due first for route D7 (HK), with delivery anticipated for later in March. With other Volvo BZL/MCV buses on order within the national fleet, it is unconfirmed whether the buses on order for route 277 and 58 will follow numerically straight after.

Also 16 (not 17) x Wrightbus Electroliners are confirmed as on order for route 242/N242 and will be fleet numbered 82049-82064.

Correction to the text content in TLB714; E20Ds 36641-56 (not 33641-56) are the batch allocated to route 380 that moved from Catford (TL) to Plumstead (PD) on 20th January. 36651 is pending, awaiting repairs at TL before moving across. This garage move coincided with the tender re-award of the route.

10152 was involved in a RTC with a van, whilst on route 128 in the Becontree area on 9th February.

Superloop SL3 (Bromley North Station - Thamesmead Town Centre) duly started on 24th February, operating from Bromley (TB) garage. This is first route of the Superloop network to be operated by LT buses. The majority of these came from RATP (V garage), following the loss of route 9/N9 to Metroline in January. LT120-30/32-35, 239/240 are now in Superloop SL3 branded livery, with LT131 likely to follow once repairs are completed. The odd E40H has been used on the route, starting with 12362 on 1st March, followed by E40D 11074 on 2nd March and then E40Ds 11071/73 and E40H 12363 on 3rd March and others since.

Route 242/N242 was taken over from Arriva London (CT) on 24th February, now operated by Ash Grove (HK) garage and operated by E40D smart-hybrids (from route 277), until the Electroliners (see above) arrive. In turn, route 277 (WH) is now worked by E40Hs (12408-25) from routes 330 and 474, which in turn are in the hands of mainly E400s, that transferred into from a mix of garages. Following Arriva's exit from Ash Grove (AE) garage, HK are starting to utilise the available space to park buses, especially handy with the brand-new Volvo BZL/MCV and MetroCity EVs arriving.

MetroCity EV 45003 duly entered service on 27th February on route 124 (TL), joined by 45005 and 45007 on the 28th. This is a temporary measure to release some 8.9m E20Ds to move to AW for allocation onto route 379 (from 9th March), until their ordered MetroCity EVs (45009-11) arrive and garage electrification work is complete. Thus far E20D 36539 has moved into AW.

STAGECOACH LONDON continued

Route 238 moved from West Ham (WH) into Barking (BK) on 2nd March, along with 14 E400s (10101-12, 19852/53) as part of its tender re-award. This route is earmarked for E40H MMCs buses later in the year, to be released from route 277, when it is converted to Volvo BZL/ MCV double decks. Route 277 is earmarked for transfer from WH into HK, once their Volvo/MCV double decks arrive. Route 323 at WH with its 5 E200EVs (64201-5) is another route which is being considered to transfer across to HK.

Route 97 is due to move from West Ham (WH) into Lea Interchange (LI) on 30th March and at that point be converted to Wrightbus StreetDecks (18901-21), made available from the loss of route 262 and 473 to Go Ahead London. This will lead to the twenty plus Scania OmniCity deckers being stood down. The OmniCity won't be completely extinct, as 4 remain as training buses (15007-10) at WH as do 23 open toppers that are assigned to the Central London CitySightseeing work, also based at WH. Not forgetting PD also has 4 OmniCity deckers, although these are likely to be stood down in the near future.

The batch of 19 x Volvo BZL/MCV single decks for route 276 started to arrive in mid-February, with 66034 (LI), followed by 66026/32/44, which are stored at HK. 66034 is assigned to driver 'type training' duties in March, pending the delivery of the rest of the batch.

The MetroCity EVs ordered for route W11 (AW) are starting to arrive, thus far 67014/15 are here and stored at HK. Electrification work is progressing at AW at a slower pace than expected, which is delaying the introduction of the MetroCity EVs for route W5 and now route W11.

LT255 was involved in a RTC on 5th March, when it collided with a building in New Oxford Street whilst on route 8.

For the record, there are still 5 TfL owned Routemasters in long term storage at WH garage, which of course is TfL owned property. These buses are not part of the Stagecoach London fleet. For completeness, we have included these 5 RMs in Fleetbook 2024 under the 'TfL owned vehicle' section.

Recent repaint/refurbs noted LT261, 12149, 12373, 12378, 12387, 13062, 13064, 13065, 13066, 13067, 13069, 13070 and 37735.

E20D 37782 and Optare Solo 47809 have had red repaints.

New deliveries (February onwards):

66026-44 (LF73 DYA, LJ24 ZKE/F/G/H/K, LF73 DYB, LJ24 ZKL, LF73 DYC, LJ24 ZKM/N/O/P/R/S/T/U/V/W) - Volvo BZL/MCV 10.8m B29D.

New deliveries (March onwards):

67013-22 (YJ73 BXA/B/C/D/E, YJ24 BHV/W/X/Y/Z) Switch MetroCity MC950EV B22D.

Transfers:

(September 2020): 11050 stayed at WH (correction to TLB709, didn't transfer WH/RM).

(November 2020): 36587 KB/TL.

(May 2022): 12268 PDU/PD.

(August 2023): 37740 AW/HK/AW (update to TLB709).

(September 2023): 37583 LI/AW (update to TLB709).

(October 2023): 36349 AW/LI (not in August 2023 as was shown in TLB710). 36355 LI/LIu.

(November 2023): 13127 LIu/LI. 36352 WH/LI. 47991 HK/LIw.

(December 2023): 47999 HK/HKu.

(January): 15091 PD/PDw. 36363 BK/BKw.

Delete 36651 TL/PD in TLB714. It is still at TLu (as per TLB714, November 2023 transfer).

(February): LT120-30/32-35 TBu/TB. LT239/40 TBt/TB. 11017-20/22-25/27-29/31-33 WH/HK.

11036 PD/WH. 11054 WH/BK. 15036 PDU/WH. 19798 T/WH. 19828 BK/WH.

19861/63/64/66 LI/WH. 19862 PD/WH/LI. 19865 PD/WH.

36296 AW/AWu (had been used on driver route learning duties). 36297 LIu/LI. 36326 TB/TL.

36656 PD/KB. 36671 PD/TL/KB/TL. 37552 BKu/BK. 37583 AW/RM. 45003/5/7 TLu/TL.

66034 -/LIu. 84130 RM/BK. 84133 BK/RM.

(March): LT255 BW/BWu. 10101-12 WH/BK. 19137-40 RMt/WHt. 19852/53 WH/BK.

19862 LI/WH. 36539 TL/AWu. 36568/69 LIt/WHt. 39121/22 LIt/WHt. 66026/32 -/LIu.

66027/36/38/44 -/HKu. 66034 LIu/LIt. 67013-17/19 -/HKu.

STAGECOACH LONDON continued

Livery changes

LT247 to advert for Gucci Ancora

LT253 to advert for NatWest

LT255 to advert for Vueling Airlines

LT359 to advert for Moon Boot (Red)

LT377 to advert for Loreal Panorama Mascara

LT382 to advert for Gucci Ancora

LT384 to advert for NatWest

11362 from advert for £1.75 Hopper back to Red

18905 from advert for £1.75 Hopper to one for £5.25 All Day

18918 from advert for Low Emissions back to Red

TfL owned buses stored at WHu and not part of the Stagecoach fleet: RM652 (WLT 652), RM2050 (ALM 50B), RM2060 (ALM 60B), RM2071 (ALM 71B) and RM2089 (ALM 89B).

Out of the fleet:

15033/37 returned to Stagecoach South East (East Kent) in October 2023. They had been on loan since August 2023 (TLB710) for use at WH on driver training duties.

Disposal:

19133 sold to City Sightseeing, Dublin.

SULLIVAN BUSES, South Mimms

StreetLite SL98 (SL15 ZGR) has been withdrawn. Last in use in September 2022.

Transfers: SL95 SM/SMu (October 2023). SL97 SMu/SM (February). SL98 SMu/SMw (March).

TRANSPORT UK, formerly Abellio London (BC, DH, GW, QB, TF, WL)

The rebranding exercise of the fleet is progressing, with increasing numbers of buses now displaying the 'Transport UK' name. To date, the legal lettering on the fleet is still under the Abellio London Ltd and Abellio West London Ltd credentials for now.

Following on from information in TLB714, on subsequent weekends in February (10th/11th, 17th/18th and 24th/25th), some of the new Wright GB Kite single decks have been used on Elizabeth line Rail Replacement work, covering UL16 (Stratford City - Romford). These buses have also been utilised to cover additional Monday to Friday peak journeys on both TfL routes 20 (Debden- Walthamstow Central) and 150 (Hainault - Ilford) in February, to help assist the Central line, as their fleet of 1992 stock trains are experiencing increased levels of 'motor failure', leading to more trains unavailable than usual, causing reduced frequencies. 1706/7 were seen in use on route 150 on 14/02, 15/02 and 16/02 and 1706 was in use on route 20 on the 22/02 to name a few.

Please note 1703/5 have been seen in use, but not 'polling' on LVF at the time. Just 1702 still to enter into service. 1710 has transferred into Twickenham (TF) and been in service on route R70 from 4th March, joined by 1707 on the 5th. This is a temporary measure, as the batch (1701-12) are intended for route E7 (GW).

Whilst the instance of 3011 working the 285 all day back on 18th October 2023 passed unrecorded, sister vehicle 3006 was a more recent visitor on 11th February, although this new trend was repeated on some following days. Similarly, visits by these vehicles to the 267 are becoming more common of late. 3032 ventured out as a 'first' of its kind to stray onto route 45 on 20th February

The Electroliners ordered for route 363 (3031-7) are starting to transfer into WL, with 3032-4 thus far, with 3031/35-37 to follow. These had been used on route C3 (QB) initially, as they had arrived and route C3 started, before route 363. 3031 is still in use at TF on route 111.

With another of the route E5 MetroCity EVs in use at QB, they now have a generous pool of 18 MetroCitys to meet a PVR of 10 on route 322. MetroCity 1012 has moved across to GW, the first of the E5 batch to reach its intended home garage, although driver type training will need to be take place before use and success in electrification work.

TRANSPORT UK continued

Route S3 (Belmont Station- Malden Manor Station) is won from 6th April and will be operated by Beddington (BC) garage, using existing 9.0m E20Ds within the fleet. These are earmarked to be 8146-54, which will be made available when route E5 converts to MetroCity EVs (1012-24).

As part of the contract renewal for route 195 from 13th April, its batch of E20Ds (8876-92) are starting to be refurbished and repainted, with 8882/3 completed so far.

Recent reported repaints/ refurbishes include LT158, 2554, 8212, 8217, 8868, 8882, 8897 and 8898.

Transfers:

(January 2017): 2443 QB/WL.

(April 2023): LT1000 GW/u.

(September 2023): 3024 TF/TFu.

(December 2023): LT145 GW/GWu.

(January): 8568 DH/GW. 9523 GW/DH. 9524 GW/QB.

(February): 1012 QBu/GWu. 1014 QBu/QB. 1540 WL/BC/WL. 1543 BC/WL/BC. 1701/4 QBu/QB.

1705 BCu/BC. 2417/19 WL/QB. 2464 QBu/QB. 3033/34 QB/WL.

(March): 1707/10 BC/TF. 8126 TF/BC. 8206 TF/BC.

Livery changes:

3422 from advert for Ovo Energy to one for Ovo Energy 2

LT684 from advert for Go Kerala to one for Vueling Airlines

LT707 to advert for Vueling Airlines

LT779 to advert for Gucci Ancora

LT786 to advert for NatWest

UNIVERSITYBUS (t/a uno), Hatfield

Further details to TLB710, pg.28; the 5 Volvo B8L/MCV tri axle buses on order for route X10 (Luton - Hatfield) are now expected in Summer 2024, intended for deployment in September 2024 to coincide with the start of the new academic year.

It is now known that the HertsLynx service in Dacorum is run and operated by Hertfordshire County Council directly and not assisted by Uno. The East & North HertsLynx service is operated by Uno and has a pool of eight Mercedes-Benz minibus for a PVR of 7.

Two additional E400s have arrived in February to help support the existing TfL double deck fleet, for allocation onto their school routes (see into the fleet below). Adding to information in TLB714, pg.49; E200 605 (C17 UNO) has undergone a recent internal refurbishment, during its time VOR in late 2023.

9th March was the last day of operation for the Northampton group of services (18/19/19A/21) and from 10th March, Stagecoach Northampton have incorporated these into their existing local bus network. Routes 59/60 have also been taken over by Stagecoach and remain so numbered. E20Ds 518-29 were the buses assigned to Northampton and these are likely to replace older vehicles in the Hatfield fleet. Uno initially commenced operating routes 18/19 in Northampton in September 2012, joined by route 21 in 2013.

Volvo B8RLE/eVoRa 358 (BV21 ONO) has been VOR since 30th August 2023, when it was involved in a serious RTC with a pedestrian in the Shenley area whilst on route 602.

Into the fleet:

1487/88 (LK60 AFY/AGY) AD Trident - AD Enviro400 (formerly with Metroline as TE1087/1092).

Not in fleet:

YE73 EUT, YE73 RBU/V. Mercedes-Benz 517CDi/EVM are operated and looked after by Hertfordshire County Council.

VALE TRAVEL, Aylesbury

Correction to TLB714; Dart SLF Y844 TGH (not T844 TGH) has left the fleet.

Disposal: Dart SLF Y803 TGH has been sold to Mr Edward Bishop for preservation (February 2024).

WESTBUS (part of Comfort DelGro of Singapore)

Further information to TLB712, pg.28; acquired Scania Ayats Eclipse double deck 198 (192-G-1178) has now received a UK registration number LJ19 CEL. This bus is confirmed as an 88-seater.

WHITE BUS SERVICE, Winkfield

Optare Solo M925H 51 (YJ62 FML) has been of the road since December 2023, having only been used for 2 days in December 2023, 1 day in November 2023 and no days in October 2023.

New in the fleet:

54 (YY73 RFZ) AD E20D - AD Enviro200 (MMC) 9.7m B34F (in white).

59 (SK24 XPL) AD E20D - AD Enviro200 (MMC) 9.0m B30F (in white) (delivered as SK73 CWA).

60 (YY73 RFX) AD E20D - AD Enviro200 (MMC) 9.7m B34F + in fleet livery.

61 (YX73 PKN) AD E20D - AD Enviro200 (MMC) 9.0m B30F (in white).

Disposals:

E20D MMCs 54 (YX70 OHS) and 61 (YX68 ULY). Note that both fleetnumbers have since been re-used on new buses.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (Subsequent vehicle disposals)

Section Editor: Andrew Morgan, Easton House, Easton Lane, Bozeat, Northamptonshire NN29 7NN or by e-mail to andrew@morgan1368.co.uk Note that the former London company names are listed in code to allow more space for narrative detail. AB=Abellio/Transport UK, ALN=Arriva London, FLN= First London, GAL= Go-Ahead Group London, LU= London United, ML= Metroline, SLN= Stagecoach London.

Routemasters:

RM1933 (ALD 933B) has been repainted by London Bus Company back to the 1933 style General red, black, white and silver livery that it carried in 1983. It is planned to be used on a free shuttle between Abbey Wood Station and Crossness Pumping Station Museum on their open days, initially on a three-month trial, from March onwards.

RML2403 (JJD 403D) further to TLB698, after use by the film company it then passed via Oddball Trucks, Bristol to Ensign Bus (dlr), Purfleet, Essex (February).

Olympians:

NV164 (R364 LGH) (ex GAL) further to TLB709, this NV passed direct from Green Bus to Mr P Webb, Bedford, Beds. (May) for preservation and was not sold previously in 2021. It was then repainted into pseudo LCBS livery of green with a yellow relief at the end of the year. It is noteworthy as one of the few that remain with dual doors.

NV172 (R372 LGH) (ex GAL) from Mr P Webb to Mr D Tossell, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset (February) for continued preservation.

Miscellaneous low-floor double deck types:

9455 (LJ09 CDO) (ex AB) is now in City Sightseeing livery with Belfast City Sightseeing.

9502 (LJ09 OLT) (ex AB) re-registered S5 STX by Stanley Travel in December.

DW5 (LJ03 MWV) (ex ALN) from J & B Travel to Hunter Coaches, Leeds, West Yorkshire (by February).

DW59 (LJ04 LFE) (ex ALN) from Hunter Coaches to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (April 2023).

- DW111 (LJ05 BHP) (ex ALN) from Peter Godward Coaches to Harpurs Coaches, Derby, Derbys. (January 2021), and then to Freeway Coaches, Pinton, Derbys. (September).
- DW116 (LJ05 BHY) (ex ALN) from Base Coach Sales (dlr) to Mullanys, St Albans, Herts (January) and is presumably on loan.
- DW129 (T88 PGC, ex X23 SLF, ex LJ05 GKY) (ex ALN) regained its original registration in September 2022 and then passed from Davey Travel to Cawthorne Travel, Aston, South Yorkshire (November).
- DW287, 293 (LJ59 LWP, LVY) (ex ALN) from Bus & Coach Centre (dlr) to Buslink, Drakelow, Derbys. (October). It is reported that DW287 has been re-registered but no further details are known.
- VLA46 (LJ53 BAA) (ex ALN) from Tyne Travel, Stanley to North East Bus, Blaydon, Tyne & Wear (August), and then to Travel Tyne, St Andrews, Fife (November). It is believed that these companies are all connected.
- VLA75 (LJ54 BEO) (ex ALN) was sold from WKN Coaches (January 2022).
- VLW64, 66 (LF02 PVL, PVO) (ex ALN) have been sold for scrap from Together Travel (October 2022).
- VLW196 (LJ53 BEY) (ex ALN) from Allanhill Farming to Travel Tyne, St Andrews, Fife (November). It is believed that these companies are connected.
- VLE612 (LJ07 XEO) (ex Arriva TOLST) has been withdrawn after the Cardiff operation closed in 2023; it remains with parent company Bath Bus.
- VLE615, 620 (LJ07 XES, UDD) (ex Arriva TOLST) from Bath Bus to Allens Tours, Belfast, Northern Ireland (December).
- VLE619 (LJ07 XEW) (ex Arriva TOLST) has been re-registered to TO07 APP by Bath Bus.
- YLY599, 600 (LO15 OLS, OLT) (ex Arriva TOLST) have been withdrawn after the Cardiff operation closed in 2023; they remain with parent company Bath Bus.
- DN33590, 33593 (SN09 CFD, CFG) (ex FLN) from Minibus Direct to Ensign Bus (dlr), Purfleet, Essex (February).
- TNL33090 (LN51 GMX) (ex FLN) was sold from Ebley Coaches (November 2020) and scrapped in August 2021.
- VN32100, 32112 (LT02 ZCJ, ZDL) (ex FLN) from First Eastern Counties to Ensign Bus (dlr), Purfleet, Essex (February).
- VN32101 (LT02 ZCK) (ex FLN) further to TLB714, this VN is confirmed as passing to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (October).
- VNL32203 (LT52 WTJ) (ex FLN) from First Eastern Counties to Ensign Bus (dlr), Purfleet, Essex (February).
- VNL32208 (HIG 8790, ex LT52 WTO) (ex FLN) further to TLB714, this VNL is confirmed as passing to Ensign Bus (dlr), Purfleet, Essex (December).
- WNH39001 (LK58 ECV) (ex FLN) from First York to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (December 2022).
- WNH39005 (LK58 ECZ) (ex FLN) further to TLB714, this WNH is now reported as passing from First West of England to S&B Training, Bristol (by February).
- AVL2 (V102 LGC, ex S2 STX), 46 (V146 LGC, ex S5 STX) (ex GAL) were sold from Stanley Travel for scrap (October and September respectively).
- AVL27 (V463 OKE, ex V14 ASD, ex D10 ASD, ex V127 LGC) (ex GAL) from ASD Coaches to Ensign Bus (dlr) Purfleet, Essex (February).
- DOE20 (LX58 CXK) (ex GAL) is confirmed numbered 6973 with Go North East and is in red/blue.
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- E54 (LX56 EUB) (ex GAL) further to TLB712, this E is confirmed with South East Omnibus, Burgess Hill, West Sussex and was in a red / yellow livery when seen in use on rail replacement work in February.
- PDL46 (PN03 UMF) (ex GAL) from Weardale Motor Services to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (by February).
- PVL87, 127 (W487, 527 WGH) (ex GAL) were sold for scrap from Go East Anglia (November 2021 and June 2022 respectively).
- PVL281 (PJ02 RBZ) (ex GAL) was sold from RedRoutemaster (October).
- WVL63 (LF52 ZTH) (ex GAL) further to TLB701, this WVL is confirmed as passing to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (August 2022) for scrap.
- WVL136 (LX53 AZL) (ex GAL) from Garnetts Coaches to Tomorrow's Travel, Bournemouth, Dorset (September).
- WVL165 (Y70 SYM, ex LX05 FCE) (ex GAL) from Airsym to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (by February 2023) for scrap.
- WVL224 (LX06 DZG, ex WSV 541, ex WSV 506) (ex GAL) was sold from Mayne Coaches (by October).
- WVL282, 284 (LX59 CYY, CZA) (ex GAL) were re-registered by Go North East to CU 7661 and JCN 822 respectively in December.
- WVL283 (LX59 CYZ) (ex GAL) has been numbered 6211 with Go North East and is now in dark blue and orange DFDS livery.
- WVL496, 497, 498 (LJ62 KXX, LXZ, KYA) (ex GAL) have been numbered 6156, 6157, 6158 with Go North East and are in a yellow livery with black diagonal stripes for Elite Training Academy.
- ADE40293 (SK07 DZA) (ex LU) has been on loan from Go Coach to Hulleys, Baslow, Derbys. since January; this is the ADE that is in London Country green livery with a yellow relief.
- SO2 (OBX 51, ex YN07 LHR), 5 (GSO 84V, ex YN07 LHV), 8 (EGB 60T, ex YN07 LHY) (ex LU) all re-gained their original registrations with West Coast in November.
- SP40153, 40154, 40156, 40157, 40158, 40162 (YP59 OEM, OEN, OER, OES, OET, OEX) (ex LU) have all left the fleet of Central Connect (all in February, except 40162 which was in October).
- SP40178, 40186 (YT10 XCB, XCK) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to Happy Als, Birkenhead, Merseyside (August).
- SP 40198 (YR10 FGE) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to Tootbus, Wandsworth, London (January). It has been converted to part open top and was repainted in February by Marden's to red, white and blue Union flag livery. Have any others been acquired ?
- TA314 (SN03 DZM) (ex LU) was sold from Hulleys (October).
- VA293 (SK52MKV) (ex LU) from Galloway Coach Travel to AOT, Nottingham, Notts. (November).
- VLE23 (PA04 CYF) (ex LU) from Abus to Centurion, Welton, Somerset (September 2021).
- TA101 (T201 CLO) (ex ML) from Green Bus to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (June 2022) for scrap.
- TE1074, 1075 (LK10 BZX, BZY) (ML) from North West Bus Sales to Hunter Coaches, Leeds, West Yorkshire (November).
- VP321 (LR52 BLZ) (ex ML) was sold from Tates Coaches (March).
- VPL164 (Y164 NLK) (ex ML) was sold for scrap from Belfast City Sightseeing (August 2021).
- VPL220 (Y12 ASD, ex LK51 XGP) (ex ML) regained its original registration and passed from ASD Coaches to Ensign Bus (dlr) Purfleet, Essex (all in February).
- VPL225 (LK51 XGV) (ex ML) from Keighley Bus Company to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (December).
- VPL234 (Y234 NLK) (ex ML) from Cawthorne Travel to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (February).
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VPL634 (LK54 FWO) (ex ML) further to TLB711, it passed from Mr J Boddice to Buslink, Drakelow, Derbys. (August).

TA17116 (V116 MEV) (ex SLN) was sold from N&U Travel (by October).

TA17132 (V132 MEV, ex 387 FYM), 17214 (V214 MEV) (ex SLN) from Sleafordian Coaches to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (by November).

TA17167 (V167 MEV) (ex SLN) from Swanbrook Coaches to Wigley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November).

TA17336 (X336 NNO) (ex SLN) was sold from Underworld Tours (November).

TA17489 (LX51 FMJ, ex VLT 217) from Stagecoach North West to Wigley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November).

TA17607 (LV52 HHS), 17886 (LX03 OPU) (ex SLN) further to TLB692, these were confirmed as passing to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. These were previously both recorded as sold in early 2022, but are now showing on the DVLA website as sold in October 2023.

TA18451 (LX05 LLM) (ex SLN) from Ripley to Hardwick, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (by December) for scrap.

Low-floor single deck types:

8118, 8120 (YX13 EHE, EHG) (ex AB) from Vision Bus, Bolton via Chartwell Bus Sales, Horsham to Ashcroft Travel, Liverpool (December).

8119 (YX13 EHF) (ex AB) from Vision Bus, Bolton via Chartwell Bus Sales, Horsham to Canavan, Glasgow.

8121 (YX13 EHH) (ex AB) from Vision Bus, Bolton via Chartwell Bus Sales, Horsham to Cruisers, Redhill (December).

8556, 8564 (YX11 AEE, AEO) (ex AB) from Vision Bus, Bolton via Chartwell Bus Sales, Horsham to Carolean Coaches, Walsall. Previously converted from B29D to B36F.

8557 (YX11 AEF) (ex AB) is with MD Bus & Coach (dlr), St. Helens, Lancs.

8563 (YX11 AEN) (ex AB) from Vision Bus, Bolton via Chartwell Bus Sales, Horsham to Hulleys of Baslow, Derbys. Previously converted from B29D to B36F.

ENL45 (LJ09 KPK) (ex ALN) from Stantons to Hulleys of Baslow, Derbys. via Chartwell Bus Sales, Horsham, West Sussex (February). It had previously been converted from B29D to B36F and entered service in Stanton's white, red and black livery as fleet number 19.

PDL70 (LF02 PTZ) (ex ALN) further to TLB664, this PDL had latterly been preserved by Mr A Mitchell, Blackpool in pseudo-Blackpool Transport green and cream livery and it passed to Blackpool Coach Hire, Blackpool, Lancs (January) for use on school service 509 (Winmarleigh to Garstang High School).

DML44008 (LK08 FNG) (ex FLN) from North West Bus Sales to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (October) for scrap.

DML44116 (YX09 FLH) (ex FLN) from Reg's Coaches to Nu-Venture, Aylesford, Kent (October) where it has been numbered 816.

DMS44402 (YX09 FMC) (ex FLN) from Redline Buses to Red Rose Travel, Dinton, Bucks. (November).

LDP247 (SN53 EUD) (ex GAL) from CT Plus / HCT Group to Hardwick, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (September 2022) for scrap.

SE12, 16 (LX07 BXV, BYA), 29 (SN57 DWV) (ex GAL) have all left the fleet of Central Connect (all in January, except SE29 which was October).

SOE7 (LX09 AYM) (ex GAL) further to TLB712, it is confirmed that it returned from Nu-Venture to Ensign Bus (dlr) and was not operated with Nu-Venture.

SOE25 (LX09 AZL) (ex GAL) has left the fleet of Central Connect (January).

DE20001 (YX58 DVA) (ex LU) from BBPG to South East Omnibus, Burgess Hill, West Sussex (September) and is in a red / yellow livery.

OT20308 (YJ11 EHP) (ex LU) was sold from Tanat Valley Coaches (September).

DEL849 (LK08 DWA) (ex ML) further to TLB714, it is now confirmed that this DEL was sold for scrap by December 2022 following an accident in September 2022.

DLF95 (LU52 YKB) (ex ML) from Chiltern Automotive to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (by December 2022).

DM963 (LK09 EKL) (ex ML) was sold for scrap from Mayne Coaches (April).

SERVICE VEHICLES

Section Editor: Thomas Young by e-mail to tom@ltsv.com or by post to Lombard address (see page 1) marked “TLB SVs”. The LTSV website at www.ltsv.com has an on-line database of service vehicles, with photos, plus the facility to record your own sightings and comments. A hash sign (#) after the livery of a vehicle below indicates that it has no markings.

LUL/LBSL/TfL Fleet

Withdrawals have included 8283F and 9043VW, the latter after accident damage. A few transfers reported are 8545R ACN to RKS, 8558R RPS to RKS, 8881R ? to GHO and 9053F SDD to LBD.

Bus Company Fleets;

No additions this month

Arriva London car BP72 VAO has been seen at Bexleyheath, suggesting a transfer from N to DT. FH65 BYW, DO19 GUA, HS19 FDE, RV22 OGY (AD206) and LG23 UKW (AD210) have been withdrawn. Also withdrawn are Arriva the Shires VK14 XEV (9746) and Arriva Southern Counties MD69 RNA.

Go-Ahead London's tow truck AF04 TOW has been withdrawn, and van EA69 MWK is at AL rather than AF.

Metroline AV18 ZTU is withdrawn, while minibus AV72 UCO is reported to have moved from PV to PB.

RATP D75121 (MJ69 ZBZ) is withdrawn, following accident damage.

Transport UK appears to have had a clear-out of older vehicles, although some would have gone while the company was known as Abellio. Departures are YS55 NHH (6747), YT56 XNF (6735), EJ57 WVE (6742), ND59 HUY (6758), FP10 AON (6760), EN11 WVV (6779), YS11 VPA (6778), FH61 EDU (6791/TW5), SD61 KTC (6792/TW2), YP61 HVC (6788), CA12 MVC (6798), CF12 FWY (6796/TW7), GF12 OMU (6802), HG12 WWC (6794), SH12 XBU (6797/TW4), NA62 WMF (6789/TW1), AO13 KKB (6807), EO13 DNU (6808), GN13 MUO (6805), OY13 LXF (6806), GU17 WFA and GJ23 TSZ. It is not known what (if anything) has replaced these. Transfers include UHZ 3496 DH to TF, DA12 FSE (6800) GW to BC and YE67 VPJ BC to DH.

RAIL REPLACEMENTS : Held over due to lack of space.

----- THE END -----



Illustrating the challenges in securing buses and drivers for rail replacement, Regional Transport (based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire) provided ex Arriva London DLA273 to SWR for Chessington South/Surbiton–Clapham Junction services on 17th/18th February. Seen here in Moor Lane, Chessington. *(Terry Wong Min)*

Safeguard Coaches celebrated their 100th anniversary this year, with an event on 16th March at Guildford Cathedral. Optare Tempo YJ06 FXM, from this always smartly turned out fleet, waits time at Knaphill on three days a week route 39A. *(Eamonn Kentell)*



Rear cover: Preserved STL2692 is now in the care of the London Bus Company, who have restored its final LT Country area livery. It appeared at the Epping Ongar Railway Country Buses event on 25th February. Photographed in The Plain, Epping. *(Richard Godfrey)*



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