

TLB704

The London Bus

Number 704

April 2023



London Omnibus Traction Society
www.lots.org.uk



The annual Red Nose Day charity appeared again this year. On Sunday 19 March RTL 1076 was an unexpected visitor to route 58 in east London. *(Haydn Davies)*

Southdown PSV is now in the Go-Ahead Group and fleet renumbering was soon the order of the day. Scania/ AD E400 504 (now 6990) is seen on route 410 at Nutfield Priory. *(Richard Godfrey)*



Front cover: A major recent operator change in London was route 91 from 4th February when Metroline surrendered the route to Go-Ahead. The small EHV class is often used thereon so we see EHV 8 in the Caledonian Road. *(Haydn Davies)*



THE LONDON BUS
The monthly newsletter of the
London Omnibus Traction Society
website at www.lots.org.uk



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Please note TLB closing dates at the foot of page 1, though we can usually include late items in the following three days if layouts allow it. Production will NOT be delayed for items received too late.

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Closing date for TLB705 is Weds 3rd May and due for posting on Tues 16th May.

Booked later closing dates are Wednesdays, 07June, 05July, 02Aug, 06Sep, 04Oct 2023.

Contents

Pages 2-3	Coming Events and Postal Sales
Pages 4-5	General & Industry News
Pages 6-17	Greater London Area - Route Developments
Pages 18-20	Country Area – Route Developments
Page 21	Publicity news
Pages 22-28	Current vehicle news of all operators
Pages 29-33	Where are they now? Subsequent vehicle disposals
Pages 33-34	Rail Replacements
Pages 35-36	Service Vehicles

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). We shall start and end earlier than at Conway Hall as the venue is locked at 9pm. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. Variable as necessary but time is allowed for Q&As and the Sales Stand. Booked dates are Mondays 15May, 26June, 25Sept, 20Nov. June is the AGM, the others we shall have guest speakers.

Exit from Farringdon station (Met. side), turn east and go up Cowcross Street until you reach the Leon restaurant. Opposite, go through the gated archway, up the passageway, cross the cobbled courtyard to the far right corner and go down the stairs to the basement meeting room known as 'The Gallery'. We would advise that you do not drive to the venue, parking space is rare and charges apply for 24 hours. There are several coffee shops nearby plus a Wetherspoons on Farringdon Road.

Monday 15May (NOTE change of date). Our speaker will be Fábio Tanniguchi who is a Software Engineer for Via and Citymapper. His talk title will be: "A bus enthusiast in the tech industry". Fabio is a bus enthusiast who works as a Software Engineer at Citymapper, a well-known journey planner app recently acquired by Via. Part of the presentation will be a biography showing how he found himself as a bus enthusiast in Brazil, ended up studying Computer Science and decided to build a tech career focused on public transport data. Then, he will present about Citymapper and summarise the work behind the scenes to make sure users have the best route options shown on their phones, including some challenges related to bus data.

Coming Events (LSS= LOTS Sales Stand should attend).

Sat 22 April: Open day at Stagecoach Romford North Street Garage (LSS). An additional feature will be a 'running day' on route 247 with visiting vintage buses between Romford Station and Collier Row every 12mins between 10:30 and 17:15.

B/HMon 8 May: Eastern National heritage running day, based on Museum of Power, Maldon, Essex.

Sat 27 May: NLETE Transport Bazaar at Theydon Bois Village Hall (5mins from station), Open 1100-1500, admission £3, children free, (also Sat 7 Oct).

Sun. 11 June: Running Day on routes 65/71, organised by London Bus Museum.

Sun. 18 June: 'Showbus Flyby' road-run between Brunel University Uxbridge via the A40 to High Wycombe and on to the RAF base at Walter's Ash, Naphill.

Sun. 25 June: London Bus Museum Brooklands; Major event 'On the Buses'.

Sun. 2 July: Eastbourne Running Day, based on Eastbourne Station.

Sun. 16 July: Alton Rally & Running Day: ALTON EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Sun. 30 July: Bus Rally on Worthing Sea Front (west end).

Sat. 19 August: The annual pilgrimage with Routemasters to Imber near Warminster, Wiltshire.

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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The most recent Sales List was included with TLB699 but in any case the Sales List on our website can be used. Orders from the Sales List or a letter is 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 Items:

LOTS Fleetbook 2023 £8.00

LOTS SUP 24J Service Vehicles - current fleet April 2023 £5.00

LOTS LBM – London Bus Magazine No.203 Spring 2023 £5.00. Principal articles are :

LT service vehicles in the 21st Century (Tom Young); Fifty years of LBM: A personal perspective (Tony Wilson); Modern destination blinds by McKenna Brothers (Bob Williamson)

LOTS London Bus Review 2021 (£14.50) A4 glossy, 80 pages, 127 colour pictures with extensive captions. This is the ORIGINAL annual Review made with about 50 years’ experience.

From Capital Transport:

A London Busman’s Career – 1946-1972 by Laurie Akehurst £19.95

London Underground Station Encyclopaedia by David Leboff. (416 pages covering the histories etc. of 272 stations).

Tube Trivia –new 2023 edition by Andrew Emmerson £4.95

Design on the Elizabeth Line £19.95; edited by James Whiting.

From Pen & Sword: Last Years of the RM by Matthew Wharmby £25.00

From S.E.C.: Southdown Fleet History Part 34 1969 £7.00 and Southdown Fleet History Part 35

1969 £7.00. (*Both books cover the assumption by Southdown of the Brighton Hove & District Fleet on 1 January 1969*).

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

With local elections in many areas on 4 May the Labour party is promising the biggest bus overhaul in 40 years with new devolved powers to re-instate withdrawn services and set ‘affordable fares’, according to an article in The Guardian. Shadow Transport Secretary Louise Haigh said the current system was ‘fundamentally broken’. This appears to refer to just refer to areas outside London where existing legislation already gives local authorities more powers through enhanced partnerships and opportunities for franchising.

TfL could be back in surplus next year according to the TfL budget for 2023/24, published on 29 March, which is promising 10km of new bus lanes, more zero emission buses and new DLR trains. It estimates that passenger demand will increase by 7% over the year and TfL should be able to create an operating surplus with Government base funding allocated to fund capital investment. Overall ridership now exceeds pre pandemic levels at weekends and usage of the Elizabeth line remains above predicted levels. The budget makes it clear that future funding from the DfT is vital from 2024/25 onwards and specifically states ‘retaining inner London bus routes’ which suggests no further significant cutbacks apart from those already announced.

One round of inner and central London service changes and reductions that is going ahead from 29 April (*see Greater London Area – Route Development for details*) will bring an end to the last ‘Red Arrow’ routes, 507 & 521 although they are no longer branded. The 507 has remained substantially unchanged since it was introduced in September 1968, linking the Horseferry Road area with Victoria and Waterloo stations. The 521 is newer, taking over the part of the 501 and the 513 in July 1992 providing the main link from High Holborn and St Paul’s to Waterloo and London Bridge stations. In their heyday standee single deckers carried vast numbers of commuters to and from main line termini at very high frequencies and they were the perfect role for bendy buses during their short reign. However, in the post Covid world far fewer commuters travel on a regular basis and demand has plummeted. Replacement services involve changes to existing routes at lower frequencies. The withdrawal of the 521 means buses will no longer use part of the former Kingsway tram tunnel under Aldwych which is restricted to single deckers.

Also notable from these changes are the end of a long-standing direct route linking Liverpool Street and Waterloo stations, currently provided by the 26 (which replaced former Red Arrow route 502 in 1992) while the 16 is diverted to Paddington replacing the 332, no longer serving Marble Arch and Victoria (where it is replaced by revised route 6). Route 11, often described by the media as ‘iconic’ is shortened. It will run from Fulham to Waterloo, breaking long standing links popular with tourists from King’s Road and Sloane Square to Whitehall, Trafalgar Square, Fleet Street, St Paul’s, Bank and Liverpool Street, although these journeys will be possible from Victoria by changing to the revised 26.

Ambitious plans for a network of ‘**Superloop**’ limited stop buses in outer London have been announced by TfL. They would incorporate existing services X26 & X140, supplemented by new services to provide an outer loop around London, which on paper looks similar to the long-established Outer Circle service in Birmingham. The London equivalent will be split into chunks which do not overlap. A TfL Press release states that Superloop has been made possible by the extra £6 million provided by the Mayor of London for outer London bus service improvements.

There will be five completely new Superloop routes, North Finchley to Walthamstow, Walthamstow to Royal Docks, Bexleyheath to Bromley, and Bromley to Croydon. There is no cross river link on the eastern side although the planned new service X239 (Canary Wharf to Grove Park) will become part of Superloop when the Silvertown tunnel opens. However the X239 route does not connect with the Superloop network. The X26 (Heathrow to Croydon) will be doubled in frequency to x15mins.

Other existing limited stop services X68 (Russell Square to Croydon) & 607 (Uxbridge to Shepherd's Bush) would be retained and branded as Superloop even though they provide radial rather than orbital links. Superloop buses will be branded and carry a new livery with the bottom half red and top half white. Recent data shows that usage of the X140 has increased by 10-15% since it was introduced, compared the previous 140 patronage.. Standard bus fares will apply which should help to encourage usage.

Initial reaction has been mixed with some already describing it as 'Superloo' or 'Superflop'. Perhaps 'super' is too ambitious a title as Superflop is a real risk if early expectations are not met. There was of course 'Stevenage Superbus' which was very successful for a while in the 70s. Inevitable comparisons have been made with the former Green Line network but that was designed for another era and its routes were far too long to run reliably in today's traffic conditions. I'm optimistic though, my local bus service in Brighton includes a 20-mile-long limited stop route to Eastbourne (12X). It parallels stopping services along the busy A259 running up to every 10 minutes at peak times and has been a huge success. Superloop routes could be just as popular, but crucial to this will new bus priority measures to make outer suburban bus links faster and more reliable.

TfL has announced that **London Overground lines are to be named**. The network is currently shown on the Underground map in orange with no differentiation between different lines. Some historical names have continued to be used by enthusiasts and within the industry, eg. North London Line and Watford DC line so it will be interesting to see what transpires. TfL has earmarked a budget of £4 million to rename six lines.

Corporate and company news

Arriva has pulled out of a £6.1 million deal to buy 27 battery electric buses with Herts CC for local services in Stevenage, partly funded through the Governments ZEBRA zero emission buses scheme. This follows a similar announcement by Arriva in Milton Keynes (TLB 700 refers). The Times has reported that company, which is owned by German state railways Deutsche Bahn (DB), has confirmed its intention to dispose of all Arriva bus and rail operations in 11 countries including the UK.

Other General News

The cost of the HS2 station at Euston has nearly doubled to £4.8 billion and The Government is delaying the opening, meaning trains will terminate at Old Oak Common for several years. HS2 is now expected to open at Old Oak Common between 2029 & 2033 but services may not reach Euston until 2040 or later, placing extra pressure on the Elizabeth line to carry passengers into central London. As a result, TfL is asking the Government for funding to buy more trains for Elizabeth line to cope with extra demand at Old Oak Common. There is a strong case for building the trains early as the Alstom factory in Derby is due to close unless further orders are received and it would be much more cost effective to continue an existing production line.

Transport for Greater Manchester has launched its new yellow 'Bee Network' livery which will be carried by buses on franchised services. The first repaint was a Diamond bus and other operators will start repainting vehicles in anticipation of the first round of franchised routes which begin in September. TfGM has ordered 170 Volvo BZL/MCV buses (150 d/d, 20 s/d).

The Luton DART people mover between the Airport terminal and Luton Airport Parkway Station which opened with a limited service on 10 March (TLB 703 refers), became a full 24/7 service from 27 March.

CAV Forth the Stagecoach operated autonomous (driverless) bus service over the Forth Road Bridge (TLB 702 refers) will start carrying passengers on 15 May. Ironically the initial service will have two members of staff on board, a safety driver in the driver's seat and a 'captain' in the saloon to take fares and answer questions.

On bus announcements are to be made mandatory on all buses in the UK from 2026. All new buses built from 2024 must also have visual information that can be seen by wheelchair users when travelling in a rearward facing wheelchair space. Only 30% of buses outside London currently have visual and audible announcements.

GREATER LONDON AREA - Route Developments

Section Editor: Stephen Floyd, 4 Turnpike Gardens, Bedford, MK42 0AJ, 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 that 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 23/=, 72/N72, 78, 189/=, 653, 683 and C3 awarded from tranches 837A, 838A, 839C, 846A, 847A and 854A awarded, starting on 22nd July 2023 (23/=), 26th August 2023 (653 & 683), 30th September 2023 (C3), 7th October 2023 (189/=) and 2nd December 2023 (72/N72 & 78). Routes 653/683 are for 4 years, 189/= for 5 years, 23/=, 72/N72, 78 and C3 for 7 years.

23/= Retained by London Transit using existing electric double-deck vehicles (pvr 16 to 14).

72/N72 Retained by London United using existing diesel single-deck vehicles (pvr 10).

78 Awarded to Go-Ahead London Central using 16 existing hybrid double-deck vehicles. Currently operated by Arriva London North from Ash Grove (AE) garage. (pvr 16).

189/= Retained by Metroline Travel using existing New Routemasters (pvr 15).

653 Awarded to Uno using existing diesel double deck vehicles. Currently operated by Sullivan from South Mimms (SM) garage. (pvr 3).

683 Awarded to Uno using existing diesel double deck vehicles. Currently operated by Sullivan from South Mimms (SM) garage. (pvr 4).

C3 Awarded to Abellio using new electric double-deck vehicles. Currently operated by London Transit from Westbourne Park (X) garage. (pvr 9).

Some further changes to the tendering programme. Tranche 844B (route 108/=) will not be retendered at the present time so this tranche is cancelled. Further to last month's news that routes W12, W13 and W14 were re-allocated to Tranche 865A, these will now terminate on 6th September 2024 and therefore allocated to Tranche 891A in the 2024/25 tendering programme. The contract for route 306 will now terminate on 12th April 2024 and is now added to the 2024/25 tendering programme as Tranche 872A. Tranche #813 is effectively cancelled, with route 11/N11 being re-assigned to the 507 contract, along with route 521 contract also being re-assigned to route 108/=, hence the cancellation of Tranche 844B. As mentioned in TLB701, route 16 is also transferred to route 332 contracts. Whilst these arrangements are strictly between TfL and the operators for commercially confidential reasons, hopefully it explains some of the recent complications to the tender programme of late. (*See also later route news for Central London revisions*). Finally, Tranche 860 is corrected, all routes are Arriva LS (Thanks, Alan!) along with Tranche 888, all Go-Ahead routes are Blue Triangle (Thanks, Martin!).

The rest of the 2023/24 tendering programme is now as follows:

Tranche No. and start dates	Routes out on offer (with current operators)	2-year extensions granted
#833 (6/23)	Tranche cancelled.....	--
#838A (9/23)	605, 628/688, (Sullivan)	--
#840A (9/23)	349 (Arriva LN)	--
#843C (9/23)	D7 (GA Docklands)	--
#844A (10/23)	321/= (GA London Central)	--
#844B (9/23)	Tranche cancelled.....	--
#845A (10/23)	381/N381 (Abellio)	--
#847A (10/23)	32/N32, (Metroline Travel)	--
#849 (10/23)	279/N279, (Arriva LN)	--
#851 (11/23)	39 (GA London General)	--
#851C (11/23)	14/=, 74/N74 (GA London General)	--

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

#855 (12/23-01/24)	237 (Metroline Travel), H26 (Abellio)	--
#856 (01/24)	388 (S'ch East London ex HCT Group), 476 (GA London General)	--
#858 (01/24)	603 (Sullivan)	--
#859 (1-2/24)	380 (S'ch Selkent)	122
#860 (1-2/24)	59, 133/N133, 137/N137, 333 (Arriva LS)	3/N3
#861 (01/24)	89/N89, (GA London Central), 601, 602 (S'ch Selkent)	96, 428, 472/=, 486/=, B15
#862 (02/24)	Tranche cancelled.....	43/=, 134/=
#862C (02/24)	242/N242 (Arriva LN)	--
#863 (02/24)	EL1/=, EL2, EL3 (GA Blue Triangle)	--
#863A (2-3/24)	439, S2 (New Routes Croydon/Sutton consultations). 455 (due to be w'dn!)	
#864 (2-3/24)	101 (GA Blue Triangle), 167, 238, 277/N277, 362, 462 (S'ch East London), 325 (Arriva LN)	--
#865 (3/24)	309, W11 (S'ch ex HCT Group); 379 (GA London General)	--
#865A (2-3/24)	W12, W13 (S'ch ex HCT Group), W14 (S'ch ex T.Transit).....	--
#866 (03/24)	20 (S'ch ex HCT Group), 58 (S'ch ex T.Transit), 97, 215 (S'ch East London)	123/=, 158/=, 275
#867 (03/24)	19/N19, 259, (Arriva LN), 76/= (GA London General) 393 (Metroline Travel)	--
#868 (03/24)	Tranche cancelled.....	--
#869 (03/24)	113/N113 (Metroline Travel)	317
#870 (03/24)	2/N2, 249 (Arriva LS)	493
#871 (03/24)	262, 473 (S'ch ex T.Transit), 396 (GA Blue Triangle)	372

The first part of 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
#872 (04/24)	S3 (London United)	--
#872A (04/24)	306 (Metroline Travel)	--
#873 (4-5/24)	464 (Abellio), 689 (Arriva LS)	--
#873A (03/24)	X26 (Go-Ahead Metrobus)	--
#874 (4-6/24)	195, E11 (Abellio), E3 (London United), E6 (Metroline West)	--
#875 (04/24)	U1, U2, U3, U4 (Metroline West)	--
#876 (04/24)	236 (S,ch ex T.Transit), 394 (S'ch ex HCT Group)	--
#877 (4-6/24)	110 (London United), 120 (Metroline Travel)	--
#878 (4-5/24)	206 (Metroline West), 272, 440 (London United)	--
#879 (01/25)	129 (GA London Central), X239 (New route for Silvertown Tunnel)	--
#879A (04/24)	P4 (S'ch Selkent)	--
#880 (06/24)	253/N253, 254 (Arriva LN)	--
#881 (06/24)	143, 260, 302 (Metroline Travel).....	--
#882 (6-7/24)	681 (London United), R68, R70 (Abellio).....	--
#883 (06/24)	211, C1 (London United)	--
#884 (06/24)	406, 465 (London United)	--
#885 (7-9/24)	210, 382, C11, W7, W8 (Metroline Travel)	--
#886 (7-8/24)	17 (Metroline Travel), 243/= (Arriva LN)	--
#887 (08/24)	Tranche cancelled.....	533
#888 (08/24)	5/N15, 15, 115 (GA Blue Triangle), 66 (Arriva LN)	--

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

#889 (7-10/24)	50, 255 (Arriva LS), 201 (Abellio), 280 (GA London General)	--
#890 (08/24)	194, 250/=:, 289, 410 (Arriva LS), 663 (GA Metrobus)	--
#891 (8-10/24)	130 (Abellio), 314, 661(S'ch Selkent), 320 (GA Metrobus)	--
#891A (9/24)	W12, W13 (S'ch ex HCT Group), W14 (S'ch ex T.Transit).....	--

ROUTE AND SERVICE CHANGES

Saturday 4th February 2023: As in TLB703, with a minor correction to N91 PVRs, 7 operate on FrSa & Su nights. (As with most night services, daytime running numbers also appear on first and last journeys)

Saturday 11th February 2023: As in TLB703.

Saturday 11th February to Sunday 19th February 2023: As in TLB703; the Tram replacement service was operated by Abellio, therefore route 718 (Queen's Park & Harrow & Wealdstone) was operated by Sullivan Buses.

Saturday 18th February 2023: As in TLB 703.

Monday 20th February 2023: As in TLB703.

Saturday 25th February 2023:

- 233 (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-MB*) (Eltham Station & Swanley, Beechenlea Lane) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- H28 (*Abellio-GW*) (Hayes, Bull's Bridge Tesco & Osterley, Tesco) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

PVR Changes from 25th February 2023:

- Abellio: H28 no change to PVRs;
- Go-Ahead Metrobus: 233 no change to PVRs;

Saturday 4th March 2023:

Widened timetables introduced on routes 31 and 332 for road works in Kilburn High Road.

- 187 (*Metroline West-WJ*) (Central Middlesex Hospital & Finchley Road, Sainsbury's) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new Volvo BZL /MCV 10.2m electric single-decks in due course.
- 423 (*London United-WK*) (Heathrow Terminal 5 & Hounslow, Bus Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 427 (*Abellio-GW*) (Uxbridge, York Road & Acton, High Street) Route withdrawn between Southall Broadway and Acton but revised to terminate at Southall, Merrick Road via South Road.
- 487 (*Metroline West-WJ*) (South Harrow Station & Harlesden, Willesden Junction). Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new Volvo BZL /MCV 10.2m electric single-deck vehicles in due course.
- H22 (*London United-AV*) (Hounslow, Bell Corner & West Middlesex Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- H32 (Hounslow, Bus Station & Southall, Town Hall) LBSL QC contract awarded to Abellio using LT-class NRM New Routemasters from Southall (GW) garage. Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x10 to x12 mins. Previously operated by *London United* from Hounslow (AV) garage mainly using SP-class Scania N230UD OmniCity double-deck vehicles.
- H37 (*London United-AV*) (Hounslow, Blenheim Centre & Richmond, Manor Circus) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

Saturday 4th March, continued:

- H91 (Hounslow West Station & Hammersmith, Bus Station) LBSL QC contract awarded to Metroline Travel using LT-class NRM New Routemasters from Brentford (AH) garage. Previously operated by *London United* from Hounslow Heath (WK) garage using mainly VH-class hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- H98 (*London United-AV*) (Hounslow, Bus Station & Hayes End, Kingsway) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- N97 (Trafalgar Square & Hammersmith, Bus Station) LBSL QC contract awarded to Go-Ahead London General using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles from Putney (AF) garage. Previously operated by *London Transit* from Westbourne Park (X) garage using a mix of ADH-class or VMH-class E40H Enviro400H or MCV EvoSeti hybrid double-deck vehicles.

PVR Changes from 4th March 2023:

Abellio: 427 to 17/16/13 #GW601+, H32 to 10/10/9 #GW321+;
Go-Ahead London General: 430 to 13*/13*/12* #AF231+ (*N97);
N97 to: 3SuThN/4 FrSaN #AF191+ (+ jnys ex 430);
London United: 414 crosslink to N97 withdrawn; 423, H22, H37, H98 no change to PVRs;
H32, H91, N97 withdrawn.
Metroline Travel: H91 to 14/12/8 #AH181+;
Metroline West: 187, 487 no change to PVRs.

Sunday 5th March 2023:

246 (*Stagecoach Selkent-TB*) (Bromley North Station & Westerham) This is the first day of the seasonal Sun/PHol extension to Chartwell. This runs until Sunday 29th October 2023. There is no change to PVRs.

Saturday 11th March 2023:

Widened timetables introduced for routes 56, 106, 308 and 488 for Lea Bridge Roundabout cycle works, expected to last until October. Also for 237 at Brentford.

64/= (*Arriva London South-TH*) (Thornton Heath Pond & New Addington, Vulcan Way) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x7½ to x10mins. Note this is the early introduction of frequency changes under the new contract starting later this year.

PVR Changes from 11th March 2023:

Arriva London South: 64 to 17/16/13 #TH1+.

Saturday 18th March 2023:

Widened timetables introduced for Euston Road roadworks on routes 30, 73 and 390.

- 138 (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-MB*) (Bromley North Station & Coney Hall, Princes Way) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 161 (*Stagecoach Selkent-PD*) (North Greenwich Station & Chislehurst, War Memorial) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 172 (*Go-Ahead London Central-NX*) (Aldwych & Brockley Rise, Chandos) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 181 (*Stagecoach Selkent-KB*) (Lewisham, Town Centre & Grove Park Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 225 (*Go-Ahead London Central-MG*) (Hither Green Station & Canada Water Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 284 (*Stagecoach Selkent-KB*) (Lewisham, Town Centre & Grove Park Cemetery) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- N15 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-DS/RR*) (Oxford Circus & Romford Market) Additional supplementary service, Fr-Sa nights only, increasing frequency in first hour from Oxford Circus, returning from Romford from 03:00. These extras are operated by Camberwell (Q) garage, so making this route jointly operated by Blue Triangle and London Central. (Note correction to operator!)

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

PVR Changes from 18th March 2023:

Go-Ahead London Central: N15 to add 2 Fr-Sa nights #Q671/672; no change to 172, 225 PVRs;

Go-Ahead Metrobus: no change to 138 PVRs;

Stagecoach Selkent: 161 to 16+/16/12 #PD51+ (+1/601), 601 to 7*/-/- #PD501+ (*96,161),

181 to 13/13/11 #KB81+, 284 to 12/12/9 #KB241+. (Please note this corrects SUP39C as the interworking was abandoned a couple of years before that!)

Saturday 25th March 2023:

Go-Ahead London General's Plough Lane (PL) garage closes, so several allocation changes and a new site established at Mitcham, Goat Road (GM) as an outstation of Merton (AL) garage. Also the Roehampton University commercial service was transferred from Putney (AF) garage to Mitcham (GM) garage.

39 (*Go-Ahead London General-PL*) (Clapham Junction, Falcon Road & Putney Bridge Station) Re-allocated to Putney (AF) garage).

152 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Pollards Hill, Westmorland Way & New Malden, Fountain) Revised daily timetable.

169 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Barking, London Road & Clayhall, The Glade) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

247 (*Stagecoach East London-NS*) (Barkingside Station & Romford Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

280 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Belmont Station & Tooting, St.George's Hospital) Re-allocated from Merton (AL) to Mitcham (GM) garage.

287 (*Stagecoach East London-RM*) (Rainham, Abbey Wood Lane & Barking Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

424 (*Go-Ahead London General-AF*) (Putney Heath, Green Man & Fulham, Football Club, M-Sa except evenings) Re-allocated to Stockwell (SW) garage.

470 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Colliers Wood Station & Epsom, Town Centre M-S) Re-allocated from Merton (AL) to Mitcham (GM) garage.

485 (*Go-Ahead London General-PL*) (Wandsworth, High Street & Hammersmith Bridge, South Side) Re-routed in both directions to serve Wandsworth Riverside Quarter development which had been consulted in 2018 and planned for introduction for some while. To and from Putney Bridge Road, and in both directions, operates in a loop via Point Pleasant, Osiers Road, Enterprise Way, Osiers Road and Point Pleasant. A Sunday and evening service also introduced running every x30 mins. Re-allocated to Merton (AL) garage.

493 (*Go-Ahead London General-PL*) (Richmond, Bus Station & Tooting, St.George's Hospital) Re-allocated to Merton (AL) garage.

690 (*Go-Ahead London General-PL*) (Norwood Garage & Earlsfield, Burntwood School, SDO) Re-allocated to Stockwell (SW) garage.

PVR Changes from 25th March 2023:

Go-Ahead London General: 39 to 14/14/9 #AF21+, 152 to 14/14/7 #AL241+,

280 to 14/14/11 #GM61+, 424 to 5/5/- #SW331+, 470 to 7/6/- #GM471+, 485 to 4/4/3 #AL281+,

493 to 16/15/9 #AL381+, 690 to 2/-/- #SW691+;

Stagecoach East London: no change to 169, 247, 287 PVRs.

Friday 31st March to Monday 3rd April 2023:

Further to the note in TLB702 about regular closures of Blackwall Tunnel, route 108 was split into two portions throughout this weekend, although from 24:00 on Sunday until 05:00 Monday, the service returned to normal albeit the southbound service was diverted via Tower Bridge.

Saturday 1st April 2023:

Widened timetables introduced for Lea Bridge Roundabout and Mile End on routes 25 and 425.

Various stopping arrangements in Uxbridge Bus Station changed as part of a trial on 27th August 2022 (*see TLB697*) and extended several times, now made permanent.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 1st April, continued:

- 36 (Go-Ahead London Central-NX/PM) (New Cross Garage & Queens Park Station) New Daily timetables for reliability.
- 68 (Abellio-WL) (Euston Station & West Norwood, High Street) and
- N68 (Abellio-WL) (Tottenham Court Road Station & Old Coulsdon, Tudor Rose) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 468 (Arriva London South-N) (Elephant & Castle & South Croydon, Swan & Sugar Loaf) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- U1 (Metroline West-UX) (Ruislip Station & West Drayton Station) Double-run via Uxbridge Bus Station withdrawn, operating direct via Belmont Road.

PVR Changes from 1st April 2023:

Abellio: no change to 68, N68 or 468 PVRs;
Go-Ahead London Central: 36 to 27/26/17 #NX1+, (PM unchanged),
436 to 17/15/12 #NX301+ (36, 436 crosslinks removed).
Metroline West: no change to U1 PVRs.

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

Easter Holiday 7th to 10th April 2023: A Saturday service operated on Good Friday 8th April and a Sunday Service on Easter Monday 10th April, with normal service on Easter Sat and Sunday.

Saturday 8th April 2023:

- 389 (Sullivan-SM) (Barnet, The Spires & Barnet, Western Way, Mo-Sa Shopping hours) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 399 (Sullivan-SM) (Barnet, The Spires & Hadley Wood, circular, Mo-Sa Shopping hours) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

Monday 17th April 2023:

- 628 (Sullivan-SM) (Kingsbury JFS & Southgate Station SDO, this direction only) journeys retimed to depart at 15:50 Mon-Thu and 13:40 Fri (now standard between Winter and Summer).
- 653 (Sullivan-SM) (Kingsbury JFS & Muswell Hill Broadway SDO) PM journeys retimed to depart at 15:40, 15:45, 15:50 Mon-Thu and 13:35, 13:40 and 13:50 Fri (both Winter and Summer).
- 683 (Sullivan-SM) (Kingsbury JFS & Friern Barnet, Town Hall SDO) PM journeys retimed to depart at 15:40, 15:50, 15:52, 15:55 Mon-Thu and 13:35, 13:45, 13:47 and 13:50 Fri (both Winter and Summer). An additional trip M-F as required at 17:30 for “After school club”.
- 688 (Sullivan-SM) (Kingsbury JFS & Southgate Station SDO) PM journeys retimed to depart at 15:40, 15:50, 15:53, 15:55 Mon-Thu and 13:35, 13:45, 13:48 and 13:50 Fri (both Winter and Summer). An additional trip M-F as required at 17:30 for “After school club”.

Sunday 23rd April 2023:

The London Marathon returns to its traditional Spring date, so extensive road closures and diversions for South-East, East and Central London until roads are progressively re-opened from late afternoon.

Saturday 29th April 2023:

Major revisions to Central London routes as previously highlighted in TLB700/701 start today (but not all are changing on the same day – routes 77 and 211 being delayed until a later date). The last day of “Red Arrow” routes 507 and 521 will therefore be the day before. Normal timetables return to routes 108/=, 129 and 188/=.

- 3 (Abellio-QB) (Crystal Palace & Whitehall) Withdrawn between Lambeth Bridge and Whitehall but rerouted at Lambeth Bridge via Horseferry Road, Greycoat Place, Artillery Road, Victoria Street to terminate at Victoria Station, replacing route 507 over this section.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 29th April, continued:

- 6/= (*Metroline Travel-AC*) (Willesden Garage & Aldwych) Rerouted at Hyde Park Corner via Grosvenor Place, Lower Grosvenor Place, Buckingham Palace Road to Victoria Station returning via Victoria Street, Grosvenor Gardens, replacing route 16 over this section.
- 11 (*Go-Ahead London General-SW*) (Fulham Broadway & Liverpool Street Station) Withdrawn between Westminster and Liverpool Street but rerouted at Parliament Square via Westminster Bridge, Westminster Bridge Road, Station Approach Road, Cab Road (“Taxi Road”) to Waterloo Station, returning via York Road and Addington Street.
- 16 (*Metroline Travel-W*) (Victoria Station & Cricklewood Garage) Withdrawn in its present form between Edgware Road Station and Victoria but re-routed at Edgware Road via Bishops Bridge Road to Paddington Station (return via Eastbourne Terrace and Praed Street) and also extended from Cricklewood to Brent Park, Tesco, so in effect it is route 332 renumbered 16.
- 26 (*Stagecoach East London-HK*) (Hackney Wick, Eastway & Waterloo Station) Withdrawn between Aldwych and Waterloo but rerouted at Aldwych via the Strand, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Parliament Square, Victoria Street to Victoria Station, replacing route 11 over this section.
- 31 (*Metroline West-WJ*) (Camden Town, Bayham Street & White City, Bus Station) and
- N31 (*Metroline Travel-PV*) (Camden Town, Bayham Street & Clapham Junction, St John’s Hill) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 35/= (*Go-Ahead London Central-Q*) (Shoreditch, High Street & Clapham Junction) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing mix of EH-class E40H Enviro400H, MHV-class Volvo B5LH MCV Evoseti and WHV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles. Mon-Fri daytime frequency reduced from x7½ to x8 mins, Sunday and evening frequency increased from x15 to x12 mins.
- 40 (*Go-Ahead London Central-Q*) (Dulwich, Library & Clerkenwell Green) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract, using new Ee-class electric double-decks in due course.
- 59 (*Arriva London South-BN*) (Streatham Hill, Telford Avenue & Euston Station) Withdrawn between Holborn and Euston but rerouted at Holborn via Theobald’s Road, Drake Street, Proctor Street (eastbound), High Holborn, Holborn Viaduct, Giltspur Street to terminate at Barts Hospital, thus replacing route 521 from Waterloo Station to Holborn Viaduct, apart from the Strand Underpass in the northbound direction.
- 62 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Barking, Gascoigne Estate & Marks Gate, Billet Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-deck vehicles.
- 95 (*Metroline West-G*) (Southall, Town Hall & Shepherd’s Bush Green) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 133 (*Arriva London South-BN*) (Streatham Station & Liverpool Street Station) Rerouted at King William Street via Poultry, Cheapside, Newgate Street, Holborn Viaduct, High Holborn to terminate at Holborn Station at the Red Lion Square Stand. This replaces route 521, except routed away from Cannon Street. Route N133 is unchanged.
- 145 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Leytonstone, Bus Station & Dagenham, ASDA) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using a mix of existing AD E40D and E40H Enviro400 hybrid and diesel double-deck vehicles. Note that the weekend night service was withdrawn under consultation.
- 214/= (*Go-Ahead London General-NP*) (Highgate Village & Moorgate, Finsbury Square) Re-allocated to Waterloo (RA) garage.
- 253 (*Arriva London North-CT*) (Hackney Central Station & Euston Station) Widened timetables introduced daily for Lea Bridge Roundabout cycle works, expected to last until October.
- 254 (*Arriva London North-AE*) (Aldgate Station & Holloway, Nag’s Head) Widened timetables introduced daily for Lea Bridge Roundabout cycle works, expected to last until October.
- 294 (*Stagecoach East London-NS*) (Havering Park, Firbank Road & Noak Hill, Tees Drive) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-deck vehicles.
- 332 (*Metroline Travel-W*) (Brent Park, Tesco & Paddington Station) Route renumbered 16.
- 345/= (*Abellio-QB*) (Peckham, Bus Station & South Kensington, Cromwell Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E40H Enviro400H hybrid double-deck vehicles.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

Saturday 29th April, continued:

- 366 (Beckton, Bus Station & Redbridge, Roding Lane South) LBSL QC contract awarded to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle using new SEe electric single-deck vehicles from Docklands (DS) garage in due course. Currently operated by *Stagecoach East London* from Barking (BK) garage using AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 368 (Harts Lane Estate & Chadwell Heath, Wangey Road) LBSL QC contract awarded to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles from River Road (RR) garage. Actual types to be allocated to be confirmed in due course as some will be required to cover for electric bus deliveries. Currently operated by *Arriva London North* from Barking (DX) garage using a mix of T-class AD E40D Enviro400 and DW-class DB300 Wrightbus Gemini 2 diesel double-deck vehicles.
- 507 (*Go-Ahead London General-RA*) Route withdrawn. Partially replaced by revisions to routes 3 and C10.
- 521 (*Go-Ahead London General-RA*, M-F only) Route withdrawn. Partially replaced by revisions to routes 59 and 133. Note that the Strand Underpass will no longer be used by buses.
- C10 (*Abellio-WL*) (Canada Water Station & Victoria Station) Rerouted at Elephant & Castle via St George's Road, St. George's Circus, Westminster Bridge Road, (towards Victoria, return London Road), Waterloo Road, Waterloo Station, York Way and Addington Street to Lambeth Palace Road. Frequency increased early Sat & Sun mornings to x12mins.
- N11 (*Go-Ahead London General-SW*) (Ealing Broadway Station & Liverpool Street Station). Withdrawn between Trafalgar Square & Liverpool Street Station.
- N16 (*Metroline Travel-W*) (Victoria Station & Edgware Station) Route Renumbered N32.
- N26 (*Stagecoach East London-HK*) (Chingford Station & Trafalgar Square) Extended from Trafalgar Square via Whitehall, Parliament Square and Victoria Street to Victoria Station.

Bank Holiday Mondays 1st, 8th and 29th May 2023: Normal Sunday services to operate.

Saturday 6th May 2023:

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place today with extensive road closures in Central London. Unfortunately, these had not been confirmed at time of going to press, nor had any supplementary bus services been confirmed, although the disruptions and security measures are likely to involve many temporary closures before the event. Any details will hopefully be available soon so that it can be recorded for historical posterity in next month's TLB.

Normal service changes: Note that the 147 is a contract renewal, not a 2-year extension, the other routes are included though and were missed from previous TLBs, sorry!

- 147 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Ilford High Road & Canning Town, Bus Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles. Actual types to be allocated to be confirmed in due course as some will be required to cover for electric bus deliveries.
- 196 (*Abellio-WL*) (Elephant & Castle & Norwood Junction, Grosvenor Road) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 241 (*Stagecoach East London-NS*) (Stratford City, Bus Station & Royal Wharf) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 330 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Wanstead Park Station & Silvertown) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 474/= (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Canning Town, Hermit Road & Manor Park Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

Saturday 20th May 2023:

- 406 (*London United-TV*) (Kingston, Cromwell Road Bus Stn & Epsom Town Centre via Ewell) and
418 (*London United-TV*) (Kingston, Cromwell Road Bus Stn & Epsom Town Centre via West Ewell)
Revised timetables daily on both routes to improve interworking.
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----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 27th May 2023:

- E2 (Metroline Travel-AH) (Greenford Broadway & Brentford, Commerce Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing VW-class Volvo B9TL Wrightbus Gemini 2 diesel double-deck vehicles. Note that the route was awarded with new electric double-deck vehicles, but for operational reasons, these will operate on routes 245 and 263 in due course, until at least 2025.
- E5 (Abellio-GW) (Perivale, Tesco & Havelock Estate, Toplocks) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new Switch MetroCityEV 8.7m electric single-deck vehicles in due course.
- E7 (Abellio-GW) (Ealing Broadway Station & Ruislip Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new Wrightbus GBKite electroliner electric single-deck vehicles in due course.
- E8 (Metroline Travel-AH) (Ealing Broadway Station & Hounslow, Bell Corner) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing VW-class Volvo B9TL Wrightbus Gemini 2 diesel double-deck vehicles. Note that the route was awarded with new electric double-deck vehicles, but for operational reasons, these will operate on routes 245 and 263 in due course, until at least 2025.
- 95 (Metroline Travel-G) (Shepherd's Bush Green & Southall, Town Hall) Withdrawn from the Dormers Wells area, but rerouted direct from Somerset Road to Lady Margaret Road.

Saturday 6th June 2023:

- 491 (Metroline Travel-PB) (Waltham Cross, Bus Station & North Middlesex Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

SERVICE PROPOSALS

A bit of a bumper issue in this section this month!

Several consultations were published the day last month's TLB went to print, so the following all have a closing date of 16th April, although the 315 also (confusingly) mentions 21st April. (I'm not the only one having trouble with dates sometimes!). In all cases, TfL say that "Following the Mayor's announcement that the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) will be expanded London-wide in August, we are undertaking a number of bus consultations across outer London to strengthen alternatives to private cars and maximise the benefits of expanding the ULEZ." In most instances new links are being provided to new developments. We start with the largest set of proposals to provide new links to Brent Cross West Station; the tender award of route **316** already provided for (*this as reported in TLB701, Jan 23*), being extended from Cricklewood garage via Edgware Road then via Geron Way in a northbound loop, returning via Edgware Road. Routes **102 and C11** will be withdrawn from part of the northernmost part of Claremont Road at Claremont Way and Tilling Road and re-routed in both directions via a new road to the south, "School Lane" being constructed as part of Brent Cross Town development, rejoining Tempelhof Bridge to terminate at Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Route **210** from the east is proposed to divert from Tilling Road via Claremont Road and School Lane and Tempelhof Bridge. Route **189** is proposed to divert in both directions at Clitterhouse Road, again serving new roads at "Claremont Park Road", "Brent Terrace" to serve Brent Cross West Station on the eastern side, then via "High Street South" to Tempelhof Bridge to terminate at Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Route **326** will be extended from Brent Cross Shopping Centre, via route 189 via Tempelhof Bridge and "High Street South" to terminate at Brent Cross West Station on the eastern side. Finally, routes **232 and 266** (and presumably N266?) will be diverted to operate in both directions via Tilling Road (on the south side of the North Circular Road) to serve the "Brent Cross Town" development, thus leaving Etheridge Road unserved by these routes, though still served by routes 112, 142 and 182. Note that although Brent Cross West Station is nearing completion, no opening date has been confirmed by Network Rail.

In the Alpertons area, route **79** is proposed to be diverted from Alpertons Station via Mount Pleasant and Beresford Avenue, via route 224 to terminate at Stonebridge Park Station, this to provide an "improved service and links to Wembley". Route **83** gains a short extension from Alpertons Station to Alpertons Sainsbury's as compensation.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Turning to the east, TfL have decided to revisit route **497** which was the subject of consultation announced just a year ago (*see TLB692 p17*). This time the idea is to strengthen route 497 at the expense of routes **346 and 347!** Route **497** is proposed to be extended from Harold Wood Station via Gubbins Lane, Squirrels Heath Road, Shepherd's Hill, Hall Lane, Avon Lane, then, via 346 routeing via Brunswick Avenue, Front Lane, Roseberry Gardens, Waycross Road at Upminster Park Estate returning via Moor Lane to Upminster Station. Route **346** is withdrawn and although route 497 regains a Sunday service, TfL admit this will involve a halving of frequency to replace route 346. Alternatively, there is an option for route 497 to run from Hall Road direct to Upminster Station and taking over route 346 from that direction. Route **347** (Romford to Ockenden) which only has 4 off-peak journeys Mon-Sat (and qualifies for TfL's least frequent day time route?) is withdrawn entirely. This will leave part of St. Mary's Lane beyond Lichfield Terrace and Clay Tye Road (admittedly rural) sections unserved. Alternative facilities are available using routes 370, the re-routed 497 and other routes between Romford, Gallows Corner and Harold Wood.

Finally in the south it is proposed to extend route **315** from Balham Station via Balham High Road, Trinity Road, Glenburne Road and Springfield Drive to terminate at Springfield University Hospital. This is being redeveloped to provide "a modernised hospital to provide state-of-the-art mental health care, over 800 new homes, a new care home, new shops and cafes, a new 32-acre public park and land for the development of a new school." Route G1 currently serves the site from the north as a double-run from Burntwood Lane.

A further consultation was published on 15th March, this time with a closing date of 25th April. TfL state: "As part of redevelopment plans, Brent Council is holding a separate public consultation that proposes to reconnect North End Road with Wembley Park Drive with access for vehicles, including buses. It is also proposing to move First Way from one-way to two-way operation." This consultation therefore proposes changes to routes **92, 206 and 440**. Route **92** is proposed to be rerouted in both directions via Great Central Way, Fourth Way, First Way and Engineers Way. Route **206** is proposed to be re-routed in both directions via Great Central Way, Fourth Way, Fifth Way, Fulton Road, Albion Way, North End Road and Bridge Road. Route **440** is proposed to be extended and rerouted via Engineers Way, Fifth Way, Atlas Road, Hannah Close and Great Central Way to a new stand, departing via Fourth Way.

An update to the Silvertown proposals has also been published on 28th March. (*see TLB700*) New Route **X239** will operate via Orchard Place to serve Leamouth Peninsula. Consultees were also asked whether the route should serve Wood Wharf, but as this is not expected to open before 2027, the route will operate via Baffin Way and Trafalgar Way in the interim and kept under review. Route 129 had two possible routes in the Royal Docks area. Whilst most consultees preferred the route via Tidal Basin Road, the London Borough of Newham "have advised they would be unable to make the necessary highway changes to the Tidal Basin Road/Silvertown Way junction." TfL have decided the best option will be via Dock Road which will serve eventual new development. Route **108** is confirmed as being rerouted to access North Greenwich Station via the new slip road connecting to Millennium Way when travelling towards Lewisham.

Route **X239** will also form part of the "Superloop network." which was also announced as open for engagement on 28th March.

SERVICE PROPOSALS – The SUPERLOOP NETWORK

This network of limited stop express services consists of existing routes **X26** Croydon to Heathrow Airport and **X140** from Heathrow Airport to Harrow. The "Superloop" is completed (apart from the intervention of the River Thames!) by new routes from Harrow to North Finchley, via Northwick Park and Hendon; North Finchley to Walthamstow, via Arnos Grove and Edmonton; Walthamstow to Royal Docks via Ilford. The southern section is completed by new routes from Croydon to Bromley and Bromley to Bexleyheath via Sidcup. Routes **607, X68 and new route X239** would be included in the network. This was announced by the Mayor at a press launch to pledge to improve connectivity,

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----
 especially through outer London, by improving orbital type journeys and to encourage more use of public transport as part of the ULEZ expansion planned to occur by the end of August 2023. It was launched using Abellio's 3438 sporting a new livery of normal red lower deck, light grey between decks and upper-deck (likely to be a vinyl wrap) and a new "Superloop" roundel with pastel shades of blue, orange, purple and light green.

However, this is for engagement; full consultation and suggested routeings will be published for each route, which are unlikely to be introduced or tendered to be in time for August 2023, and likely to continue over following months or even into 2024. Indeed, the first new limited stop route between Harrow and North Finchley "will be subject to consultation in the coming months."

The routeing between Croydon and Bromley isn't specified, but notable that Croydon to Bromley and onwards to Bexleyheath used to be part of the Green Line routes **725/726** that was withdrawn, leaving the western part to the X26. Older readers, including me, may also recall the "Speedbus scheme" proposed 50 years ago by London Transport to the GLC, to introduce 10 limited stop routes connecting busy radial routes across London, which relied on much more bus priority schemes and in an era when Green Line routes suffered from congestion that resulted in their gradual demise. However, times have changed since then and there are also new links provided by the Jubilee, and Elizabeth lines, the DLR, Tramlink and a modernised London Overground which the "Superloop" network intends to complement along with the existing bus network. Readers are encouraged to send their views to haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk.

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.

And all of the above!

FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN BRIEF

This list includes tenders that have been decided and principal route changes already in past TLBs.

Notes: CE+2 = Contract extended by 2 years. CR = Contract awarded or renewed for 5 years, with a potential +2 year extension. CR2 = Contract awarded for 2 years, CR4 = Contract awarded for 4 years, CR7 = Contract renewed for 7 years. All dates and all details are subject to alteration or deferment.

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.

24th June 23: CR7 on 26/N26 (S'ch East London)

1st July 23: CR7 on 57/=#, 213/=*(G-A London General), 265* (London United to G-A London General), CR7 on 85/=, 216, K4 (London United), 643 (Metroline to Uno).

8th July 23: CR7 on 377* (Arriva LN).

15th July 23: CR7 on 86/N86* (S'ch East London).

22nd July 23: CR7 on 23/= (London Transit), 53/N53 (S'ch Selkent).

19th Aug 23: CR7 on 417* (Arriva LS).

26th Aug 23: CR7 on 64/=*, 612* (Arriva LS), CR4 on 653/683 (Sullivans to Uno).

2nd Sep 23: CR7 on 114 (Metroline West), CR7 on 251* (London Sovereign to Metroline Travel),

CR7 on 216 (London United), CR7 on 288, 303, H11, H14, H18/H19 (London Sovereign), CR7 on 340 (Arriva LN to London Sovereign), CR7 on H17 (London United to Metroline Travel), CR7 on 626 (Sullivans to Metroline Travel), CR7 on 634 (Metroline Travel), CR2 on 685 (Arriva LS).

9th Sep 23: CR7 on 83/N83*, 483 (Metroline Travel).

16th Sep 23: CR7 on 199/N199* (S'ch Selkent), 276* (G-A Docklands to S'ch East London), 376 (G-A Docklands to Blue Triangle), D3* (S'ch East London to G-A Blue Triangle).

30th Sep 23: CR7 on 1/N1, 42 (G-A London Central), 346 (G-A Blue Triangle to S'ch East London),

CR7 on 404 (London United to Abellio), CR7 on 450* (Arriva LS to G-A Metrobus), CR7 on C3* (London Transit to Abellio).

7th Oct 23: CR on 21/N21 (G-A London Central), CR7 on 107 (Metroline Travel), 316* (Metroline West, P12* (G-A London Central), CR on 189/=, 632 (Metroline Travel).

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

14th Oct 23: CR7 on 223 (London Sovereign to Metroline Travel), W3 (Arriva LN).

4th Nov 23: CR7 on 221 (Arriva LN).

11th Nov 23: CR on 38/N38 (Arriva LN) CR7 on 363# (G-A London Central to Abellio).

18th Nov 23: CR7 on 430 (G-A London General), CR7 on 436/N136 (G-A London Central), H20, U7 (Abellio).

25th Nov 23: CR7 on W19 (S'ch East London).

2nd Dec 23: CR7 on 72/N72 (London United), 78 (Arriva LN to GA London Central), 152* (G-A London General), CR7 on 157* (Arriva LN to G-A London General).

30th Dec 23: CR7 on U9 (Abellio).

20th Jan 24: CR7 on 228* (London United to Metroline West).

27th Jan 24: CR on 9/N9 (London United to Metroline Travel).

OTHER SPECIAL and MISCELLANEOUS non-TfL OPERATIONS IN LONDON

Hearns Coaches Ltd have applied to operate a service called “Eco Transfers A25” to be introduced from 17th April, running a daily service from Victoria, Bullied Way via Paddington, Harrow Road, Baker Street, Marylebone Road, St.Pancras Station, Coach Road then non-stop to Stansted Airport. An approximate 90-minute service daily, starting at 02:00 to 20:45 from Victoria, returning from Stansted at 04:45 to 23:45.

DIVERSIONS, DEVIATIONS AND DISRUPTIONS

Central: A correction from last month: it was route **56** that was prevented from getting to St.Bart’s Hospital. From 27th March to 12th May, owing to gas works in Shaftesbury Avenue route **14/=** is diverted southbound via Southampton Row, Theobalds Road, Drake Street, Procter Street and High Holborn. Route **176/=** is revised to start and finish at New Oxford Street. From 3rd April to 21st July, owing to gas works in Farringdon Lane on the terminus working, route **40** is revised to start and finish journeys in Farringdon Street, set down Snow Hill, pick up St Bride Street. From 3rd to 16th April, owing to pavement works in Elizabeth Street, Belgravia, route **C1** is diverted towards Victoria via Lower Sloane Street, Pimlico Road and Buckingham Palace Road, and towards White City via Ebury Street and Eccleston Street to rejoin the ongoing diversion at Belgrave Place

South-East: From 10th to 20th March, owing to water works in Cumberland Drive, Belvedere, route **422** was diverted southbound via Bedonwell Road and Long Lane. From 15th to 21st March, owing to water works in Cameron Road, Bromley/Hayesford Park, routes **246 and 352** were diverted in both directions via Hayesford Park Drive. From 29th March to 18th April, owing to electrical works in Chislehurst Road, Petts Wood, route **61** was diverted in both directions via Poverest Road, Cray Avenue and High Street and also Perry Hall Road towards Chislehurst. From 3rd April to 12th May, owing to bridge works in Creek Road, Deptford, routes **188/=, 199/N199 and N1** are diverted eastbound via Deptford Church Street, Deptford Bridge, Greenwich High Road and Greenwich Church Street. From 3rd to 28th April, owing to road works in Page Heath Villas, Bickley, route **336** was diverted in both directions via Southborough Road, Bickley Park Road and Page Heath Lane. From 3rd to 14th April, owing to gas works in Wickham Way, Park Langley, route **352** was diverted in both directions via Brabourne Rise, Hayes Lane and Barnfield Wood Road.

South: Further to the ongoing roadworks in Croydon, the second phase was extended to 1st April. From 15th to 23rd March, owing to telecommunications works in Lansdowne Way, Stockwell, route **196** was diverted northbound via Clapham Road, South Lambeth Road and Parry Street, and southbound via Wandsworth Road (northbound), Kennington Lane and South Lambeth Road. Route **P5** was diverted via Union Road in both directions (and Union Grove westbound). Whilst I don’t normally report short-term diversions, member Guy reported that on 14th March, owing to an RTC at Gravel Hill, New Addington the road was blocked requiring investigation until 18:00. Route **466** was curtailed at Coombe Lane Roundabout with route **130** diverted in both directions via Coombe Lane, South Park Hill Road, then via route 64 to Addington Village. Tramlink seemed to have been unaffected though. From 3rd to 11th April, owing to sewer works in Burntwood Lane, Tooting, route **G1** was diverted in both directions via Burntwood Lane (West), Garratt Lane, Earlsfield Road, Windmill Road and Trinity Road.

South-West: From 1st March to 18th March owing to a water leak in Hill Street, Richmond, routes **33/N33, 110, H37, R68, R70 and 969** were diverted northbound via St Margarets Road (33, 490, R68, R70) then The Avenue, Twickenham Road, Kew Road, The Quadrant, The Square, Eton Street, Paradise Road and Red Lion Street to George Street. Route **490** follows the above diversion to terminate at Pools on the Park. Routes **65/N65** were diverted northbound via Star & Garter Hill, Queens Road, Sheen Road, Paradise Road and Red Lion Street. Thanks to member Graham for the report. From 20th March to 28th April, owing to cosmetic works in Brook Street, Kingston, routes **71, 281/=, 406, 418, 671, K2, K3 and N65** are diverted southbound via Eden Street, High Street and Kingston Hall Road. Route **65** is revised to terminate at Eden Street

North-West: From 14th March to 14th April, owing to sewer works on Kilburn High Road, routes **31/N31, 316, 328, N28** were diverted southbound via Kilburn Park Road and Kilburn High Road. Routes **32, 206 and 632** were revised to start from Kilburn High Road Station/Belsize Road.

North: From 13th March to 16th October, owing to building works in Wimbourne Street, Hoxton, route **394** is diverted eastbound via Croypley Street, Eagle Wharf Road, New North Road (northbound), Baring Street, Bridport Place, Poole Street and New North Road. From 20th to 31st March, owing to gas works in Delancey Street, Camden, routes **88/= and 274** were diverted towards south and westbound via Bayham Street, Crowndale Road, Mornington Crescent, Harrington Square, Lidlington Place, Hampstead Road and Euston Road, with route 274 continuing via Great Portland Street (east and west arms), Albany Street and Parkway. From 28th March to 12th April, owing to a collapsed sewer in The Avenue, Tottenham route **W4** was diverted eastbound via Downhills Way, Lordship Park, Westbury Avenue, Boreham Road, Lordship Lane and Bruce Grove. From 3rd to 14th April, owing to water works in Morris Place, Finsbury Park, routes **210, W3 and W7** were diverted towards Finsbury Park via Lennox Road and Clifton Terrace. Route **W3** was also diverted between 3rd to 29th April, owing to drainage works in Alexandra Palace Way, eastbound via High Street Hornsey, Turnpike Lane and High Road Wood Green.

East: From 9th to 22nd March, owing to a collapsed sewer in Brentwood High Street, route **498** was revised to start and finish in William Hunter Way west of Sainsbury's, departing and arriving via Western Road and Weald Road. From 1st to 9th April, owing to works on Marsh Wall, Millwall, route **135** was temporarily diverted towards Crossharbour direct via East Ferry Road, with route **D6** diverted via Manchester Road and East Ferry Road. From 3rd to 14th April, owing to road works on Frizlands Lane, Becontree Heath, route **499** was diverted via Bull Lane and Rainham Road North. From 3rd to 22nd April, owing to utility works in Bromley High Street, Bow, route **D8** was diverted southbound direct from Stratford High Street to Blackwall Tunnel Northern Approach. From 3rd to 14th April, owing to road works on Minter Road, Barking Riverside, route **EL1/=** was diverted in both directions via River Road and Renwick Road, not serving Rivergate Centre area.



Edenbridge is at the very south-eastern extremity of the LT/LCBS areas. In June 1975 Merlin MBS 270 is at Crawley about to follow the 'boundary' line around to Edenbridge, calling at East Grinstead on the way. *(Mike Harris)*

Although Edenbridge retains buses from Metrobus and Southdown PSV, a short-lived town service (E1) by a Go Coach Solo was withdrawn after running on Friday 10th February once Kent CC withdrew funding. *(Richard Godfrey)*





On 18/19 February a running day was arranged based on North Weald and several long-gone local routes were re-created. There were some types from the 1970s including BL 88, the now rare Bristol LH on the 247. *(David Heath)*

Another class almost forgotten was the Leyland National. The London Bus Company's GLS 444 is on the former 250 route and is one of the 'Greenway' conversions. *(David Heath)*





A grand running day organised by London Bus Museum was staged on Saturday 24th March on routes 174/175. STL 2377 is in Romford on Main Road. *(Russell Young)*

The Capital Citybus era in Romford was recalled by Olympian 250 (J135 PVC) at Chase Cross, Gobions Avenue. *(Richard Godfrey)*





It wouldn't be Romford without RTs – and there were a few! RT 4275 is in Harold Hill, Hilldene Avenue displaying the blue Express blinds to recall the short lived peak hour 174 variation. *(Richard Godfrey)*

In 1975 there was a brief allocation of RMAs. The lack of blinds on these buses caused slipboards to be used for the 175. One-time RMA 50 (once BEA No.2) is on Chase Cross Road. *(Russell Young)*



COUNTRY AREAS - Route Developments

Section Editor: David Stewart, 5 Kathleen Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 4JH or by e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.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.

West and South ESSEX, including THURROCK

Saturday 1st April:

22, 44, 66, 73/a, 77/a, 83, 88/a/c, Z1 (*Ensignbus*) Minor timetable changes registered, no detail advised.

Sunday 16th April:

2, 3, 6, 8 (*Arriva KT*) (Harlow town services) and 59 Timetable changes registered, no detail yet.

86 (*Arriva KT*) (Waltham Cross & Harlow, Templefields, M -F) Withdrawn.

505 (*Vectare*) (Waltham Abbey & Harlow Bus Station, Sats) No change on Sats. A M-F service introduced as 505 and this runs on between Waltham Cross and Harlow, Templefields to replace 86.

HERTFORDSHIRE and southern BEDFORDSHIRE

Monday 6th March:

Whitbread Wanderbus changes:

W1 and W2 Meppershall & Bedford: Both continue to run on Weds.

W3 Meppershall & Biggleswade (Mon) revised to run via Broom, Southill, Stanford and Stotfold.

W3S Mepperahall & Biggleswade (Mon) revised routeing at Lower Stondon and Stotfold.

W5 Meppershall & Biggleswade (Fri) additional stops at Henlow and Stanford.

Saturday 25th March:

951 (*Sullivan*) Borehamwood & Thorpe Park) Resumption of annual service, Sats, Public Hols and M-F in school holidays (but NOT on Suns).

Sunday 26th March:

9 (*Arriva KT*) (Watford & Leavesden Park, M-S) Revised timetable but certain early and late journeys withdrawn due to low usage.

242 (*Arriva KT*) (Waltham Cross & W.G.City, Suns) From *Arriva KT* to *Central Connect*. Curtailed back from WGC City to Welham Green. No change to existing frequency.

352 (*Vale Travel*) (Hemel Hempstead & Watford, M-S) from *Vale Travel* to *Red Eagle*. A later Saturday journey added from Watford to Hemel.

401 (*Arriva KT*) (W.G.City & Panshanger, Daily) Minor timetable changes Mon-Sat but withdrawn on Sundays.

403 (*Arriva KT*) W.G.City & Great Gannett, Daily) Mon-Sat reduced from x30mins to hourly.

404/405 (*Arriva KT*) (W.G.City & South Hatfield, Suns) Revised timetable, mostly to the same frequencies but 10mins later than before.

S1 (St Albans Centre & Cell Barnes). The Sunday and P/Hol service now operated by *Redline*.

S4/S5 (*Redline*) (St Albans & Cottonmill) Mon-Sat service from *Redline* to *Red Eagle*. The Public Holiday service (only S4) stays at *Redline* but is also to run on Sundays.

Monday 27th March

Leighton Buzzard town services: The 36C transferred from *Centrebus* to *Arriva the Shires* joining existing AtS routes 34/35.

Sunday 1st April:

17 (Royston & Guilden Morden, M-S): From *A2B* to *Myall's*.

----- *Country Route Devts* -----

Sunday 16th April:

907 (*Centrebus*) New route, Daily hourly: North Stevenage at Corey's Mill Sainsbury's via Lister Hospital, Stevenage Bus Station, Bragbury End, then via A602 to Ware (certain isolated M-F journeys deviate via Watton-at-Stone), Ware, Hertford, Pinehurst, Hoddesdon, Broxbourne to Brookfield Centre at Cheshunt.

Monday 17th April:

9A/9B/9C (*Stagecoach East*) (Hitchin & Bedford, M-S) Revised timetable but still overall x30min.

366 (*Centrebus*) (Luton & South Hatfield, M-F) Withdrawn. Any replacement t.b.a.

Wednesday 26th April:

S1 (St Albans City Station & Cell Barnes) No change to Red Eagle M-S service. Redline is to work a Sunday and Public Holidays service.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE and EAST BERKSHIRE (incl. east ern borders of Oxford shire

January 2021: 48 (AtS) The correct re-routing from High Wycombe Bus Station is in both directions via Bridge Street, Osford Road, West Wycombe Road, Mill End Road, Lane End Road and as before.

8th January 2023: 41 (Carousel) All journeys operate via Amersham Hill.

Saturday 18th to Sunday 26th March Thorpe Road level crossing between Egham and Staines was closed for Network Rail work. First Berkshire route 8 was diverted between Egham and Staines via The Avenue and The Causeway. A shuttle service, route 8C every 30 minutes daily between 6.00 and 2000, was operated by First Berkshire on behalf of Network Rail from Egham High Street (west end) via Church Road (the town centre bypass), Vicarage Road, Pooley Green Road to Thorpe Lea Road, returning via Vicarage Road and same route reversed.

Sunday 2nd April:

Thames Valley Buses services:

- 2 (Slough & Dedworth via Datchet and Windsor, Daily). Reverts to the direct (-ish!) route between Slough and Windsor (TLB699 p 16 - see 5; unchanged White Bus route P1 connects Datchet with Windsor on Mon-Fri only).
- 5 (Slough & Cippenham via Chalvey, Daily). With financial support from Heathrow Airport one journey per hour, daily, is extended from Slough via Datchet (replacing rerouted 2), Horton and Poyle to Heathrow, Terminal 5; the first (small hours - daily) journey from Cippenham continues to Heathrow Central Bus Station. A daily, hourly evening service is added over the whole route. The Cippenham terminal working is altered, daily, to an anti-clockwise loop from ASDA via Richards Way, Streamside, Earls Lane, Lower Cippenham Lane, Mercian Way, Moor Furlong and existing route (Hunters Way, Eltham Avenue) to ASDA; the former M-S only terminal loop beyond Moor Furlong via St Andrew's Way and Bower Lane is abandoned.
- 12 (Slough & Burnham, Priory Estate via Manor Park, Trading Estate, Lynch Hill, returning via Burnham village, Sunday plus M-S evening journey). Extended Sunday from Priory Estate via Hunterscombe Lane, M4 and M25 to Heathrow, T5. Because of this, Sunday journeys from Slough serve Burnham village before Priory Estate (First Berkshire Mon-Sat daytime service 12/13 is unchanged).

----- Country Route Devts -----

Sunday 2nd April, continued:

First Berkshire changes:

- 3 (Slough & Uxbridge, Daily) and
- X74 (Slough & High Wycombe, Daily). Both retimed on Sundays so as to inter-work at Slough.
- 4 (Heathrow & Maidenhead via Slough, Daily). Withdrawn from Maidenhead (see 6) and rerouted at Cippenham via the length of St Andrew's Way to the turning circle. Frequency to x30min daily, over the whole route.
- 6 (Slough & Wexham Estate, Knolton Way Daily except evenings). Extended from Slough to Maidenhead to replace route 4. The daily evening service to Maidenhead formerly provided by route 4 is withdrawn, leaving the town without any evening buses.
- 7 (Britwell & Heathrow via Slough and Langley, Daily). M-F daytime frequency increased from every 30 to 20 minutes.

Mon 3rd to Sat 29th April: 16/17 (*Red Rose*) Temporary timetable for this period.

Tuesday 11th April:

- 17 (*Red Rose*) Revised timetable in peaks with the current short journeys on 16 between Westcott Venture Park and Aylesbury renumbered 17.
- 60/60A (*Red Rose*) (Aylesbury & Buckingham) Revised timetable.
- 613 (*Red Rose*) Stone & Waddesdon School, SDO) Withdrawn.
- 617 (*Red Rose*) New SDO route: Morning: Aylesbury Bus Station to Waddesdon School, then to Westcott Venture Park. Return Waddesdon School to Aylesbury and on to Wendover Way.

Sunday 16th April:

- 9/9A/9C (*AtS*) (Aylesbury & Stoke Mandeville Hospital) Main M-S service from x15 to x20min. Sunday 9C withdrawn. At the Hospital, Saturday service diverted via Ambulance Station.
- 280 (*AtS*) (Aylesbury & Oxford, Daily) Timetable adjustments, no change to frequencies..
- 300/X30 (*AtS*) (Aylesbury & High Wycombe) M-F and Sats from x15 to x20mins. Now mainly 300, but a heavy reduction in journeys numbered X30.

Sunday 30th April:

- 16 (*Red Rose*) Revised timetable with certain M-F peak journeys diverted via Parkway Station.

SURREY and northern parts of WEST SUSSEX

Monday 17th April:

- 83 (Connaught Park via Bagshot to Collingwood College, SDO) From *Diamond* to *Cardinal*.
- 87 (Chobham via West End to Collingwood College, SDO) From *Diamond* to *Stagecoach South*. Minor timetable changes in the afternoon.
- 520 (Aldershot & Guildford, Tue/Wed/Fri) (*Stagecoach South*). Wed jny at 1405 now 1345.
- 617 (Banstead & St Andrew's School, SDO) Transferred from *Cardinal* to *Metrobus*.

North and west KENT

Saturday 1st April:

- 202 and 211 (Tonbridge locals) From *Arriva K&S* to *Nu-Venture* (KentCC r e-tendering)
- 204 and 210 (Tonbridge & Underriver or Brasted) Retained by *Autocar*.

From 1st April King Street Gravesend is closed to buses. All traffic approaching Gravesend town centre from the east via the Clock Tower now follow the (previously temporary) diversion along the one-way system used briefly during some phases of the construction of the Bus Hub, via Milton Road, Parrock Street, Lord Street, Windmill Street, Woodville Place, Wrotham Road and Clive Road.

PUBLICITY NEWS

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

Issue 40 of Ensignbus' "**Thurrock Area Bus Times**" is valid from 1 April 2023, featuring Streetdeck 170 working route 22 on the cover of the thirty six page A5 book. The only indication that the company is now part of First is two adverts announcing Ensign ticket validity with First Essex on route 100 between Lakeside and Socketts Heath and route 200 between Grays and King Edward Drive. First Essex customers can use their tickets on routes throughout the Ensign network (except X80). These arrangements came into force from 10 March.

Oxford Bus Company have two items valid from 8 January 2023 for the express coach services to London's two main airports. "**the airline from/to Oxford Heathrow & Gatwick**" is a twenty page slimline book with blue cover featuring passengers boarding a coach. Inside it has a full timetable, maps of boarding points in Oxford and the airports plus information about the service. Turismo 34 bound for Gatwick is on the cover of "**the airline from/to High Wycombe Heathrow & Gatwick**", a multifold slimline giving departure times from High Wycombe to Heathrow, High Wycombe to Gatwick and return. These are accompanied by simple maps and fares information.

Also catering for the 'jetset' is "**railair & you're there**" valid from September 2022. The multifold slimline features a plane and GWR Hitachi train either side of one of the Irizar coaches allocated to the route. Inside is a full timetable for route RA1 linking Reading with Heathrow.

Sullivan Buses "**Service 951**" is a blue multifold slimline valid from 25 March 2023, with a picture of Thorpe Park on the cover. Connecting journeys on route 306 are shown on the timetable, allowing passengers between Borehamwood and Watford to connect in the latter's High Street. The reverse has a calendar showing dates of operation between March and December.

Following the eight reviewed in TLB703 a further twenty three A6 leaflets from Metrobus have been reported, completing the expected set of thirty one. All have coloured covers with a cartoon (mostly single deck) bus on the bottom right corner and carry the date the timetable became effective rather than the print date. Pale green is used for multifold "**Route 1**" valid from 15 October 2022, which is the same date and format used on "**Route 2**" with a navy cover and "**Route 3**" with a mauve cover. "**Route 10**" is a twenty page book with orange cover valid from 25 February 2023, with the same page count in "**Route 20**" which carries 15 October 2022 on the light blue cover. Dating back to 17 April 2021 is "**Route 21**" which is a multifold with green cover. A pink cover is used on "**Routes 23**", (why a plural is used in the title is unclear) a sixteen page book valid from 28 August 2021. A caramel cover is used on multifold "**Route 32**" valid from exactly a year later on 28 August 2022. Back to 28 August 2021 on multifolds for "**Route 61**" with a purple cover and "**Route 65**" with an orange cover. Oldest of the batch is "**Route 84**", a caramel multifold dating from 1 June 2020. Dark green is used on the cover of multifold "**Route 93**" valid from 28 August 2021. Another rogue plural is found on the light blue cover of "**Routes 98**", a sixteen page book valid from 27 August 2022. Twenty pages can be found in "**Route 100**" with 25 February 2023 on the light green cover. Despite meriting one, the dark green cover of multifold "**Route 231, 233**" valid from 28 August 2021 does not carry a plural. The cartoon bus gains an upper deck on both "**Route 281**" with a blue cover and "**Route 291**" with a dark green cover. Both are multifolds valid from 27 August 2022. The cartoon single decker is on the purple cover of "**Route 318**", a multifold valid from 11 July 2022. The cartoon double decker and correct use of a plural appear on the red cover of "**Routes 420, 460 including 820**", a twenty-page book valid from 9 April 2022. Despite covering two routes the purple cover of "**Route 430, 435**" eschews the plural on the mauve cover of the twenty page book. Valid from 28 August 2021, it has the single deck cartoon. Service 460 makes a second appearance in "**Route 460 including 480**", a twenty page book with same red cover and valid from 9 April 2022. Epsom town services have two multifolds with single deck cartoon bus valid from 28 August 2021, "**Route E9**" has a green cover with a purple cover used on "**Route E10**". Each of these publications carries a map of the route(s) featured plus the 'Metrobus area bus routes' network map. Thank you to Trevor for answering the appeal for further reports and tracking these down.

CURRENT VEHICLE NEWS

This section covers the current vehicle news (including initial disposals) pertaining to bus operators within the “TLB” area, roughly comprising the old LT/LCBS areas. All current vehicle reports to David Stewart at 5 Kathleen Avenue, Wembley, HA0 4JH (e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.com)

General news:

Red Nose Days again this year on 17/18/19 March; Friday 17March: RM 1005 (Lord Peter Hendy) and RM 1400 (Paul Sainthouse) both on the 65; Saturday 18March: RT 8 (Newmans) on the 25. Sunday 19March: RML 903 (Metroline) on 134; RM 1993, RT 2150 and RTL 1076 on the 58,

I had not one single report on the day but the The Running Day on routes 174/175 on Saturday 25th March fielded these booked: RT 624, 714, 1658, 1790, 1798, 2177, 3871, 3933, 4188, 4275, 4548, 4779; G 351; STL 2377; RLH 53; RM 848, 1843, 1993, 2208; RML 2456, 2579; RMA 9, 50; T 66; RTL 1076, 1105; Capital Citybus 250; Reading 801; also BEA 2 (not in service).

ABELLIO LONDON (BC,QB,WL), **ABELLIO WEST LONDON** (DH, GW,TF garages)

A new ownership is now Transport Group (UK) but Abellio fleetname is retained.

Recent repaints/ refurbishes include LT 146, 150, 151, 153, 170 and 2475.

On 10th March E400 9528 was a first of type to substitute for an LT on route H32 since Abellio took over. Although the new electric buses for route 111 are all in stock, LTs still appear from time to time.

The batch 1535-43 has changed booked regns, now BV23 ZYX, ZYY, ZYZ. ZZB/C/D/E/F/G. although B30F was the official seat total, the decals on the buses read B31F.

LT 22, off since 9 April 2020, was back in service on 31 March 2023.

Transfers:

Correction to TLB703: LT 143/4/5/7/8, 150/2 went TF/GW (not QB/TF).

(December 2022): LT 161 QB/TF. (January): LT 162 QB/TF.

(March): 3003/09 Qu/TF. 3023 Qu/TF. LT 22 QBu/QB.

LT 146, 149, 151, 161, 162 TF/GW. LT 170 QB/GW. LT 1000 TF/GW.

2569/70/71/73/76 GW/QB. 2572/74 GW/BC. 8212 QB/BC.

Livery changes:

2006 and 2007 from Elizabeth line livery back to red.

3401/2/3 to route 63 branding.

3438 to advert for Superloop.

LT 22 to advert for Under Armour.

LT 29 to advert for Tu Clothing.

LT 158 from advert for H&M Move to one for Michael Kors.

LT 166 from advert for Boss to one for Intimissimi.

LT 697 to advert for Star Wars Jedi.

ARRIVA LONDON (part of Deutsche Bahn)

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

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

The small ENR class, 9.75m Enviro200s, redundant from route B13 at Dartford Garage moved to Tottenham for route 318. By early April, not all were yet in service.

Corrections to TLB703: HV 185, 194/5/8, 200 repaints were actually LTs not HVs.

Recent refurbishes/ repaints include HV 254; LT 5, 93, 176, 179. 180, 181,182, 183, 184, 187, 192,196, 199, 201, 209 and T 302.

LT 201 suffered damage in an accident in Chelsea on 5th April while on route 19.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

ARRIVA LONDON, Continued

Transfers: TLB703: T 36, 39, 41 transfers were ECu/ECw (not ECt/ECw).

(November 2022): LT 181 E/EC.

(March): DW 501, 502 E/WN. LT 181, 200, 214, 215 EC/AR.

LT 201 AR/ARu. T 131, 145 TH/GYu. ENR 1-7 DT/AR. ENX 30 DT/DTu.

Livery changes:

HV 248 from advert for Let's do London back to red.

HV 330 and HV 347 from adverts for Pure Gym back to red.

LT 319 to advert for Michael Kors.

LT 323 from advert for ITVX back to red.

LT 341 from advert for Ushuaia Hotels to one for Cos.

LT 717 from advert for Grand Palladium back to red.

LT 842 to advert for Star Wars.

LT 957 from advert for TRS Hotels to one for Michael Kors.

LT 974 to advert for TU Clothing.

More booked registrations for Electroliners: ES 1-16 (route 307) and 17-37 (routes 64+612):

1-16;- LV23 EBP/U/X/Z, ECA/C/D/F/J/N/T/W/X/Y/Z, EDC,

17-37;- LV23 EYF/G/H/J/K/L/M/O/P/R/T/U/W/X/Y/Z. EZA/C/D/E/F.

Disposals:

Further to TLB703, T 27 shown as to AtS should be ENL 27.

Further to TLB703, T 203 did go to Arriva Durham County (as fleet no.7513)..

ENL 102 to MD Bus, St Helens, Merseyside (February). (TLB702 p30 refers).

ENX 29 to Arriva Durham County (March) (as their T 29).

T 1, 2, 8, 9 to South East Bus Supplies. T 1 went on to the Bromley Bus Preservation Group.

T 40 to --?--, then onward (see Where are they now? column).

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 AtS and 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).

A plan that was devised some time ago was to convert the Stevenage town services to electric buses. In early March, Arriva pulled out of the scheme. Readers may recall that a similar plan at Milton Keynes was also abandoned some time ago.

Part 1: North West Kent (NF, AKT licence)

Solo 1518 (TW) has gained an M&D heritage livery in green and cream.

Sprinter 1023 (RX18 LNH) from Arriva North West is on loan to NF.

Part 2: Hertfordshire and West Essex (HA, HH, SV, WA and WE garages (all A-KT licence).

3798 (HA) to route 724 branding. (joining 3771). On 3rd April Sprinter 1012 noted on the 724!.

Repaints to the new lighter blue: 4236.

Transfers: 3561 SV/SVu. 3751 SVu/SV. 3762 SVu/WB(Area 3). 3873 HA/HAu. 3877 SVu/SV.

4042 HH/HHw.

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

Correcting TLB703, T 27 in from London should be ENL 27. Now as 'T 027' it went to Luton and was then loaned to NFt (area 1).

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

The new garage at Riverway, Harlow was put into use on 1st February, replacing Roydon.

Disposal: Tempo YJ11 EHW, listed in TLB695 p23 as exported seems to be either wrong or only parts went then, as its remains have gone to Shelton Motors (January).

CENTREBUS, Luton

Acquired: 554 (MX12 DZG) AD E20D – AD Enviro200 9.0m B28F.

CHILTERN AUTOMOTIVE, Cryers Hill, Bucks

Disposal: Solo MX58 AAJ to Little Jim's Buses, Berkhamsted

DIAMOND BUS SOUTH-EAST (Hallmark connections Ltd) Stanwell

(including Hel Hoppa) part of Rotala plc

Scania 40518 (LX59 CUZ) has returned to Stanwell/ (TLB696 p;23 refers).

FALCON COACHES, Byfleet

Acquired: YX19 ONP AD E20D – AD Enviro 200 9.0m B28F.

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

From the recent acquisition of E400s from Glasgow, at least 34377/79/80/82/87 have so far been treated to purple rear/ orange front. The E400s are habitually on route 7 (Britwell & LHR T5) although there have been occasional workings on 4 and X74.

1ST BUS STOP, Gravesend

Change of registration: LX53 JZN to B21 USS.

GO-AHEAD LONDON

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

Plough Lane (PL) Garage duly closed after 24th March, hence many transfers below.

The new garage at Goat Road, Mitcham (now coded GM) became operational from 25th March. It houses routes 280 (with WHVs) and 470 (with SEs); The 280 also uses a few Es from Merton.

Route 353 (MB) began using its Ee buses on 18th March but completed within a week.

The introduction of the Dart rail link between Luton Parkway Station to Luton Airport from 27th March resulted in the seven dedicated buses being stood down.

EL 1, the Electroliner demonstrator, has not been used here since 24 February. It had been used on route 40 from Camberwell. WHV 157 was unusual on route 91 on 6th April (minus blinds).

WS 136 suffered damage in an accident while on route 232.

Recent repaints/ refurbishes include LT 56, 67, 271, 274, 277, 278, 282, 283, 284, 285, 287, 289, 290, 291, 293, 297, 298, 299 and EHV 3, 9; WHV 46; WS 62, 63.

New deliveries: It is unclear which Ee and SEe buses have actually been delivered. The only Ee from 101 in service are Ee 103-113 and 101 is a trainer. I have already listed registrations of batches.

Transfers: Outstations at LS=Luton, FK=Folkestone, NH=Newhaven, RG=Ringmer, KL=King's Lynn. Note that the outstation base of AL at Mitcham (Goat Road) is coded GM. Although nominally at AL, WHV 18-30 and SE 235-242 are usually outstationed at GM for routes 280 and 470 respectively.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

GO AHEAD LONDON, Continued

Transfers: (March): E 129 PLc/?? (probably ALc). E 213 MB/RR. E 281/2/3 PL/GM.
Ee 101 --/At. Ee 103/4/5/6/7/8/9, 110/1 Qu/MB. WHV 51, 54, 55, 57 C/DS.
WHV 56 C/AF. WHV 59 C/RR. 6/7 AL/SW. WVL 301, 303 BX/BXw.
SE 49-53 PL/AL. SE 176, 178-193 PL/AL. SE 177 PL/AF.
WS 67-78, 87-90 PL/AF. WS 81-86 AF/SW. WS 136 NP/NPu.
MDL 1 FKc/?. MEC 18, 35, 40 LSc/Lsu.,. VWL 48 RGc/FKc. VWL 49, 50 LSc/FKc.
10180/1/2 (alias LUT 1,2,3), 66358 (alias LUT 5) LSc/LSu

Livery changes:

Ee 11 (not reported) from advert for Lenovo back to red.
LT 47 from advert for Boss back to red,
LT 305 from advert for Boss back to red.
LT 307 from advert for Cos back to red.
LT 394 from advert for M&S back to red.
LT 436 from advert for Ushuaia Hotels back to red.
LT 504 from advert for Converse to one for Cos.
LT 506 from advert for Hogwarts to one for Intimissimi.
LT 854 from advert for Hard Rock Hotels back to red.
LT 857 from advert for Marc Jacobs to one for Star Wars Jedi.
LT 872 to advert for Tu Clothing.
WHV 90 from advert for Let's do London back to red.
WHV 124 from advert for Naturium back to red.

Disposals:

EN 24, 25; WVN 1 to Ensign Bus (March)..
WVL 93 to Go East Anglia (March).

GO COACHHIRE, Swanley, Kent (incl. 'The Bus Doctor')

Acquired: 1201 (LG14 OFX Fiat Ducato minibus.
Disposal: Solo 5009 (YJ57 XWN) to Hulley's, Baslow, Derbyshire (March).

LANES COACHES, Dunstable

YN53 RZE and BX54 ECN have joined the withdrawn stock.
Disposals: WU51 LBE and BX02 LME gone from fleet (by December 2021).

LITTLE JIM'S BUSES, Berkhamsted

Correcting TLB703, the reference. To WJ56 WVH - it is YJ56 WVH.

LONDON BUS COMPANY, Northfleet and Ongar

RMC 1453, RMC 1464, RM 2217 acquired recently.
RM 85, 1979 and RML 2348, 2556, 2621, 2713 acquired from Premium Tours.

LONDON TRAMLINK, Croydon (Tram Operations Ltd t/a London Trams)

Car 2547, last used on 20 March 2019, in now being repaired.

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

The first GBKite Hydroliners single-deck buses, being hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, started to appear in late March. The batch will be 6051-70 regs LV23 EDF/J/K/O/P/R/U/X, EEA/B/F/G/H/J/O, EXW, EXX., EXZ, EYB, EYC. These are for the Crawley Fastway and have a new livery of dark blue front, lighter blue rear plus a light green diagonal between the two halves.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

METROLINE TRAVEL – AC, AH, EW, HD, HT, KC, PA, PB, PV, SG and W garages, also
METROLINE WEST – G, HZ, UX and WJ garages.
(within the ComfortDelgro group of Singapore)

Recent repaints / refurbishments noted include LT 9, 103, 106, 108, 111, 115; DE 1117, 1318, 1321; DEL 2065, 2068, 2069, 2150, 2152, 2153, 2260, 2261; TEH 2087; VWH 2090, 2101, 2118, 2195, 2199, 2214

DEL 2260, off road since 15 October 2022 when at AH, was back in use on 13 March 2023 at W.

It took only a couple of days for the occasional VWH to cover for LTs on route H91, 2123 being the first to appear on 9th March. Also there were occasional appearances of VMHs on route 43 during February and March, a type not seen on that route for a long time.

Ref in TLB703 to the H91, the buses came from RTP, not Abellio.

The first examples of the order for 38 Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliners have started to arrive, Registrations for the first batch of 18 are for WDE 2770-87 are LV23 DGU/X/Y/Z, DHA/C/D/E/F/G/J/K/L/M/N/O/P/X.

Following the installation and testing of the electric charging equipment at Edgware Garage, the stored BDEs were able to enter service in early April. The batch was ordered against the tender award for route 204 but their debut was on route 142, The first couple appearing on 8th April.

King's Cross (KX) Garage is due to close during April, with routes 30 and 274 being re-allocated to Holloway (HT) Garage.

New deliveries:

WDE 2770-2779 (March), 2780-87 (April) see regs above. Seat totals to be checked please.

BDE 2752-68 are reported ss H42/23D (check please!) and ULW 13607kg.

Transfers: (h suffix = Hertfordshire Commercial Fleet).

TLB703: Delete transfer of TE 976 PB/WJ.

(September 2022): TE 937 PB/PBu.

(January): TE 941 PB/PBu.

(February): TE 936, 978 WJ/PAw. TE 976 PB/PBu. (not ex WJ as in TLB703).

(March): LT 9 Wu/W. LT 110 PAu/AH. LT 112 HZu/AH. LT 116 AHt/AH.

TE 935, 981 PAu/PAw. TEH 1219 EW/W. VW 1376 PV/HD. TE 1574 W/UX. TE 1575 W/PAw.

VW 1817/18/19/21/28/30/33/36 PV/PAu. VW 1824 PV/HD. VMH 2456/57 PV/PB.

DE 863 HT/HTw/HZw. DE 1602, 1607 WJ/UX. DE 1616, 1654 W/PAw.

DE 1641 W/UX. DE 1648 WJ/PAw. DEL2260 AHu/W.

VHS 2748 WJu/ **w. VHS 2749 AHu/**w.

(March/April): WDE 2770-87 --/PAu.

Livery changes:

LT 558 to advert for Star Wars Jedi.

LT 641 to advert for Star Wars Jedi.

LT 654 from advert for Hard Rock Hotels back to red.

LT 754 from advert for Marc Jacobs to one for Tu Clothing.

LT 763 from advert for Hogwarts to one for Cos.

LT 804 from advert for ItvX to one for Cos.

LT 806 to advert for Intimissimi.

Disposals:

TE 935, 936, 938, 939, 940, 941, 976, 978, 979, 980, 981, 985, 987, 988 to Ensign Bus (March)

DE 860/1/4/5/6/7 to Geoff Ripley, Barnsley (March).

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

Grant PALMER, Flitwick, Beds

Solo 105 and Darts 201/2/3 have been withdrawn but remain in stock.

Registration change: 715 (YT61 GPK) to GP56 BUS.

RATP-DEV TRANSIT LONDON including

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

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

LONDON TRANSIT – X garage.

It is becoming clear that stored BEs nominally for route 226 (BT) are drifting to route 72 (S).

Recent repaints/ refurb include LT 130, 131, 132, 133, 134.

DE 20185 was a rarity on the H9/H10 on 5th April among the customary electrics.

Transfers:

Correction to TLB701: BCE 47163 was FW/SO (not FW/BT) (but moved again in March).

Correction to TLB703: BCE 47162 was BT/S (not SO/S) (but moved again in March).

(March): BE 37093/094/098 Xu/S.

SP 40043/045/046/048/052/054 AV/NCu. SP 40041/42/44 FW/**NC?u.

ADE 40483 TV/AV.

VH 45082 X/FW. VH 45107/108/110/113-122 X/RP.

VH 45135/138 X/FW. VH 45136/139/144 V/FW.

VH 45179/180/181 WK/FW. VH 45182/183/185/186 WK/TV. VH 45184 WK/V.

VH 45187/188/189 WK/RP. VH 45190/191//192 WK/V.

BCE 47087 FW/X. BCE 47162/165 S/X. BCE 47163 SO/X.

Livery changes:

LT 71 to advert for Tu Clothing.

LT 76 from M&S back to red.

LT 84 from advert for TRS Hotels back to red.

LT 677 to advert for Intimissimi.

VH 45235 from advert for Let's do London back to red.

OME 46030 from advert for Butternut Box back to red.

OME 36035 and BCE 47007 to adverts for OVO Energy.

BCE 47016 from advert for Codormio back to red.

BCE 47026 from advert for Lenovo back to red.

Disposals:

StreetLites WLS 30031-036 to Ensign Bus (March),

READING TRANSPORT and THAMES VALLEY BUSES (incl. Green line)

E200 671, one that had some fire damage, was back into service in March.

RED ROSE TRAVEL, Dinton near Aylesbury

Correcting TLB703: Regs YX12 AEF, AEU (not YX11).

E2/E3 RRT have lost their route 100 branding and E16/E17 RRT have lost their 50+55 branding.

Mercedes E10 RRT has been stood down but is still in stock.

Acquired (March): YX12 AKN and YX12 ARZ AD E20D – AD E200 10.2m B33F.

---Current vehicle news -----

SOUTHDOWN PSV, Copthorne (part of B&H Buses within the 80-Ahead Group)

In early March, the fleet is being renumbered into the B&H/Metrobus scheme and physical changes were on 12 March.

101>6731; 102/3/4>6706/7/8; 106>6949; 109-110>6732/33;

111-114>8322-35; 115-119>6709-13;

500-504>6986-90; 553/4/6/7 > 6945-48.

TOP VIEW SIGHTSEEING, LONDON SW**

This new sightseeing operator has acquired these buses from Ensign Bus;

Scania Y09 ZCO, Y09 BJX, YR59 FZC, FZF, Y09 FYT, FYZ, RXS, RYF; Y09 PBX; Y10 UWG, UWH; Y10 XBU, XBV, XBW, XBX and E400s SN12 EHD/F/J/K/R/T/W, EGY/Z.

STAGECOACH LONDON (part of Stagecoach Holdings) incorporating:

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

SELKE-T - KB, PD, TB and TL; **LEA INTERCHANGE BUS CO** – LI.

New vehicle orders are for 48 Wrightbus Electroliners, 34 for route 86/N86 and 14 for route 199/N199. Also a single-deck electric order is for 19 buses for route 276. New deliveries:

Recent refurb/repaints include LT 272, 361, 368, 376, 384; 19768, 36325, 36620, 37721, 39112
14138 had accident damage incurred on 18 May 2022.

New deliveries: 5001-003 (YJ23 EHS/T/U) Switch MetroCity 8.8m B**F.

Transfers:

(February): 14138 RMu/RM. 15001 RM/WH. 15002/003/004 LIu/WHu.

15005/036 RM/WHu. 15007/008/01/014 LIu/WHu 36544 WHu/WHw. 45001/2/3 --/LIu.

Livery changes:

12146 from advert for Callelujah back to red.

LT 239 to advert for Star Wars Jedi.

LT 244 from advert for Marc Jacobs back to red.

LT 265 from advert for Grand Palladium back to red.

LT 312 from advert for Boss back to red.

LT 377 from advert for Marc Jacobs back to red.

LT 378 to advert for Michael Kors.

LT 390 to advert for Intimissimi.

Trainer Scania 15008 to purple.

Detail change:

15002/003/004 to PO41/22D – and into City Sightseeing livery.

Disposals

Correction to TLB703: 15037 (not 15027) to East Kent.

36295 to Ensign Bus (March).

UNIVERSITYBUS (t/a uno), Hatfield and Northampton

On 23rd February E20D 603 was involved in an accident while on TfL route 383.

New 44 (RX72 SZT) M-B Sprinter/ EVM B16F (in black Herts Lynx livery).

VECTARE, Rettendon, Essex

Correction to TLB702: Ref to LJ16 should read SN16 OVP/OVR.

The "Where are they now" column (or: Subsequent vehicle disposals)

Section Editor: Andrew Morgan, Easton House, Easton Lane, Bozeat, Northamptonshire NN29 7NN.

Note – email address andrew@morgan1368.co.uk Note that the former London company names are listed in code to allow more space for narrative detail. ALN=Arriva London, FLN= First London, GAL= Go-Ahead Group London, LU= London United, ML= Metroline, SLN= Stagecoach London.

Routemasters:

RCL 2226 (CUV 226C) passed from Ensignbus to the Newman family, Essex (March). Subsequently this RCL was loaned back to Ensignbus, but has now been returned and was replaced by RM 1361.

RM 25 (VLT 25, ex 855 UXC), 54 (LDS 279A, ex VLT 54), 371 (WLT 371, ex EDS 281A), 1361 (VYJ 808, ex 361 CLT), 1543 (543 CLT), 1843 (843 DYE, ex D9251 H) all passed from Ensignbus to the Newman family, Essex (March). Subsequently RM25, 54, 371 and 1361 have been loaned back to Ensignbus.

RM 85 (711 XUW, ex VLT 85), 1979 (ALD 979B) from Premium Tours to London Bus Company, Northfleet, Kent (March).

RM 1790 (790 DYE) has returned to service with Brigit's Afternoon Tea Tours after rebuild by South East Coachworks with platform doors. It has joined RM 1776 on the Paddington Afternoon Tea Tour and is in full Paddington livery. It was first seen on the service in the first week of April.

RMA 50 (NMY 634E) passed from Ensignbus to the Newman family, Essex (March).

RMC 1477 (477 CLT), 1485 (485 CLT, ex TAS 417) passed from Ensignbus to the Newman family, Essex (March). Subsequently RMC 1485 has been loaned back to Ensignbus.

RML 882 (WLT 882), 2405, 2588 (JJD 405, 588D), 2734 (SMK 734F) all passed from Ensignbus to the Newman family, Essex (March). Subsequently all have been loaned back to Ensignbus.

RML 2348 (CUV 348C), 2556 (JJD 556D), 2621 (NML 621E), 2713 (SMK 713F) from Premium Tours to London Bus Company, Northfleet, Kent (March).

RML 2488 (JJD 488D) from Liquid Leisure Aqua Park to Whitemills Wake & Aqua Park, Sandwich, Kent (by April). It had previously been used as a static eating area / restaurant and will presumably see similar use at this new location.

Olympians:

L40 (C40 CHM) was sold from Voel Coaches to be converted into a mobile home (February 2015); subsequently there were no further reports for this L until it was reported as sold for scrap (by September 2022). Can anyone confirm ?

L 125 (D125 FYM) from Shears (dlr) to Mr S Crowther (c/o Southern Counties Omnibus Collection), Lewisham, London (date unknown), and was noted for sale in January.

NV 51 (R251 LGH) (ex GAL) is owned by Amber Vintage and was noted for sale on eBay in January 2023; it retains its orange livery.

NV 105 (P905 RYO) (ex GAL) was last reported with Naseby Primary school but was noted for sale with Fuzz Townsend in February.

NV 172 (R372 LGH) (ex GAL) from Don's Coach Travel to Mr P Webb, Bedford, Beds. (December) and was repainted to London red livery complete with a cream relief band in March.

NV187 (SUI 7838, ex R387 LGH) (ex GAL) from Hire your Transport to BBPG (August 2018).

V 46 (P246 UCW) (ex FLN) was sold from Spacebus (October).

N126 YRW (ex LU) was last recorded with Brecks International in 2013, where it was named 'William' until withdrawn in July 2018 and advertised for sale in September 2019. It was sold via Ripleys, Barnsley, South Yorkshire to British Bus Company, California, USA (August 2021) and was shipped to USA from Southampton on the MV Hawaii Highway arriving at Brunswick, Georgia in November 2021. The owner of British Bus Company, Fred Corlett, will be known to many, and he sadly died shortly after the arrival of this Olympian. It was later auctioned in February 2022 in Arizona.

----- *Where are they now?* -----

Miscellaneous low-floor double deck types:

- DLA 323 (LG52 DAU) (ex ALN) from BASE to Shires, Rushden, Northants. (February).
- DLA 327 (LG52 DBY) (ex ALN) is also reported as passing from BASE to Shires, Rushden, Northants. (February), but this one was last recorded as sold for scrap in June 2018 and is not showing as licensed on the DVLA website; can anyone confirm ?
- DW 5 (LJ03 MWV) (ex ALN) from Ripley to J & B Travel, Stanningley, West Yorkshire (by March)
- DW 291 (LJ59 LVW) (ex ALN) from Bus & Coach Centre to Yorkshire Buses, Leeds, West Yorkshire (February).
- T 2, 8, 9 (LJ08 CVT, CVZ, CWA) (ex ALN) from South East Bus Supplies to Bryan's of Enfield, Middlesex (March).
- T 40 (LJ08 CUO) (ex ALN) has also been acquired by Bryan's Coaches, Enfield, Middlesex (March), from Arriva London via ?? .
- VLA 46 (LJ53 BAA) (ex ALN) from BASE to Tyne Travel, Stanley, Tyne & Wear (February).
- VLA 157 (LJ55 BSU) (ex ALN) is confirmed as sold from Stotts to Tetley Coaches, Leeds, West Yorkshire (September).
- VLA 161 (LJ55 BSZ) (ex ALN) from Stotts to Tetley Coaches, Leeds, West Yorkshire (September).
- VLA 179 (LJ55 BVM) (ex ALN) from Bus & Coach Repairs to Seven Sisters Bus & Coach. Ringmer, East Sussex (March).
- VLW 15 (UUI 2949, ex LJ51 DFZ), 30, 31 (LJ51 DHK, DHL) (ex ALN) from Arriva Southern Counties to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (November).
- DN 33763 (SN12 EHP) (ex FLN) further to TLB702 and TLB703, this DN is confirmed as passing to Peoplesbus. (The previous sale shown in TLB702 was not completed.)
- SN 36035 (YR61 RPZ) (ex FLN) has not been reported since it left London in 2017, but is now confirmed with Longleat Safari Park, Warminster, Wilts.
- TN 33150, 33157, 33161 (LR02 LXJ, LXS, LXW) (ex FLN) sold by First Eastern Counties (March).
- TNL 33036 (LK51 UYE), 33085 (LN51 GMF) (ex FLN) further to TLB703 are confirmed as passing to Wigley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.
- VN 36122, 36131, 36154, 36158, 36165 (BJ11 DTK, DVR, EAA, EAG, EBN) (ex FLN) passed to First where they have re-gained their First fleet numbers with the acquisition of Ensignbus in March. These were latterly fleet numbers 138, 139, 133, 135 and 134 in the Ensignbus fleet.
- VN 37804 (LK59 FEP) (ex FLN) from Go Ahead London to Ensign Bus (March).
- VNW 32389 (KIB 260, ex LK04 HZX) (ex FLN) from GH Watts to Omega Busways, Warrington, Cheshire (by March) and has been repainted into all over white livery with orange stripes and fleetnames. It also re-gained its original registration in March.
- VNZ 32340 (LK53 LZA) (ex FLN) from Greenslades to Ensign Bus (March 2022).
- VNZ 32345 (LK53 LZF) (ex FLN) further to TLB701, this VNZ is confirmed as sold to Wigley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November).
- E 58, 59 (LX07 BYC, BYD) (ex GAL) are now numbered 4001 and 4002 with Go South West. Both are in Transport for Cornwall red livery and have been converted to single door.
- E 62, 63, 66, 70, 71, 72, 73 (LX57 CHV, CHY, CJF, CJV, CJY, CJZ, CKA) (ex GAL) are now numbered 4003 to 4009 with Go South West. All are in Plymouth Citybus red livery and have been converted to single door.
- EVL 26 (PN02 XCK) (ex GAL) updating TLB697, this EVL passed to CVA (dlr), Hemel Hempstead, Herts. (January), and then to Base Vans (dlr), Ashbourne, Derbys. (January).
- EVL 27 (PN02 XCL) (ex GAL) was sold for scrap from Go East Anglia (June)
- PDL 20 (PJ02 PZT) (ex GAL) further to TLB695, this PDL has returned to Mario Coach Travel, so is now thought that it was only loaned to Longridge Coaches.

----- *Where are they now?* -----

PVL 74 (W474 WGH, ex VJI 3968) (ex GAL) has returned to Go South Coast after loan to Oxford Bus Company.

PVL 184 (X584 EGK), 295 (PJ02 REU) (ex GAL) were sold from Go East Anglia (June) for scrap.

PVL 391 (LX54 HAE) (ex GAL) from Go North East to L&G Coaches, Birtley, Tyne & Wear (January).

WVL 8 (LG02 KHE) (ex GAL) was sold from Tom Hall Tavern (July 2019).

WVL 64 (LF52 ZTJ) (ex GAL) was returned off loan from Nu-Venture in December to unknown dealer.

WVL 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270 (LX06 EAY, EBA, EBC, EBD, EBF, EBG, EBJ, EBK, EBL, EBM, EBN, EBO, EBP, EBU, EBV, EBZ, ECA, ECC, ECD) (ex GAL) from Go North East to Go South Coast (December to January).

They appear to have retained their Go North East 69xx fleet numbers. WVL 263, 264 entered service with Bluestar in January; WVL 252 to 262 entered service with Bluestar in February; WVL 265, 268 and 269 entered service with Morebus in January; WVL 266 and 267 entered service with Morebus in February. WVL 270 has yet to be confirmed as entering service.

WVL 370 (LX60 DXA) (ex GAL) was re-registered to TIW 4227 in December by McGills Buses.

WVL 451, 452, 453, 468, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 479, 480 (LJ61 GWM, GWN, GWO, NWX, NWZ, NXA, NXB, NXC, NXD, NXE, NXF, NWL, NWN, NWO) (ex GAL) have fleet numbers 201, 202, 203, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 204, 206, 207 respectively and have gained the following names, The Three Kings, Roger Bamber, Bunty Bateman, Donald Edmonds, Friedrich Engels, Mercedes Gleitze, Sandra Goddard, Paul Hearne, BS Huntbach, Selma Montford, Helena Normanton, John Boulting, Norman Cooper, and Ruby Crane. WVL 469 (LJ12 CHC) and 478 (LJ61 NWM) have not been named but are now numbered 216 and 205.

WVN 1 (LK59 FEP) (ex GAL) – see corresponding entry above for VN 37804 (ex FLN).

ADE 40446, 40451, 40460, 40463, 40464 (YX62 BBO, BFU, BKO, BMY, BNO) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus, Purfleet, Essex to McGills Buses. These are the first of twenty to be sold to McGills, and delivery is expected over a number of weeks. ADE 40451, 40460, 40463 and 40464 were delivered in March. They are being converted to single door and repainted to a smart white and blue livery. ADE 40446 and 40460 have been seen in completed condition with Midland Bluebird fleet names and fleet numbers 8970 and 8969 respectively.

SP 70 (YT59 RXU) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus to Farleigh Coaches, Hoo, Kent (October) and was re-registered to CEZ 939 in the same month.

SP 99, 100 (YT59 SGX, SGY), 123 (YR59 FZE) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus to Dawsongroup, Milton Keynes, Bucks. (March).

SP 111 (YR59 FYS) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus to Salvation Army, Hadleigh, Essex (March).

TA 208 (SN51 SYG) (ex LU) was sold from Red Route Buses (by October).

VP 126, 129 (W474, 477 BCW) (ex LU) from Herberts Travel to Premier, Luton, Beds. (December).

WH 45252 (SK18 TKY) (ex LU) passed to First where it has become fleet number 35322 with the acquisition of Ensignbus in March. This was latterly EBS1972 in the Ensignbus fleet.

SN 1923 (YR61 RPZ) (ex ML) – see the corresponding entry for SN 36035 (ex FLN) above.

TP 310 (LT02 ZZZ) (ex ML) from Clydes Minibuses to Lloyd (dlr), Hixon, Staffs (October) for scrap.

TP 375 (M12 YEL, ex LR52 KWT) (ex ML) regained its original registration in February and then passed from Yellowway Coaches to Widnes Coaches, Widnes, Cheshire (March).

VP 530, 566 (LK04 CTZ, ELC) (ex ML) correcting TLB703, these passed from Southdown PSV to Scrapco, Paddock Wood, Kent.

VP 533 (LK04 CUG) (ex ML) further to TLB697, this VPL also passed from Southdown PSV to Scrapco, Paddock Wood, Kent.

VPL 159 (X659 LLX, ex R18 PLK) (ex ML) was re-registered by Wrights to V18 AWG in January.

----- *Where are they now?* -----

- TA 17011 (S811 BWC) (ex SLN) is the latest Trident to be fully refurbished by Johnson Bros.; it has been repainted into blue livery with yellow stripes and it was due to enter service in April.
- TA 17062 (T662 KPU) (ex SLN) was sold from The View Party Bus (November).
- TA 17078 (TSU 639, ex T678 KPU) (ex SLN) passed to First where it has become fleet number 32721 with the acquisition of Ensignbus in March. This was latterly 339 in the Ensignbus fleet.
- TA 17162 (V162 MEV) (ex SLN) was sold for scrap from Jan's of Soham (February 2022).
- TA 17333 (X394 NNO) (ex SLN) returned to Barry Devlin Services (dlr), Knockentiber, East Ayrshire (February 2020) after use by the Scottish Fire Service and it was then scrapped.
- TAS 17448 (Y448 NHK) (ex SLN) was sold from Moxon Coaches (by December).
- TAS 17470 (Y531 NHK) (ex SLN) was sold from Stagecoach North Scotland (by January).
- TA 17825 (LX03 BXY) (ex SLN) has been sold from A2B Group (by March).
- TA 17970 (LX53 JYN) (ex SLN) has been re-registered by 1st Bus Stop to B21 USS.
- TA 18476 (LX55 ERZ) (ex SLN) from Bus & Coach Repairs to Roselyn Coaches, Par, Cornwall (October).
- TA 18486 (LX55 BFE) (ex SLN) has been sold from Tetley Coaches (by February).

Low-floor single deck types:

- ENL 37 (LJ09 KRD, ex VB09 PAN) (ex ALN) from Panther Travel to J & B Travel, Stanningley, West Yorkshire (August) and has been reported as re-registered to J400 JBT.
- ENL 82, 83, 86, 87 (GN08 CGV, CGX, CHC, CHD) (ex ALN) were sold from Thandi Reds (82, 83 - November, 86, 87 - December). ENL 86 has subsequently been confirmed with Big Lemon, Brighton, East Sussex.
- ENL 109, 110 (LX11 AVZ, AWO) (ex ALN) – see the corresponding entry for 36268, 36276 (ex SLN) below.
- DML 44314 (YX12 AEA) (ex FLN) was in use with Buses of Somerset in October / November and is now with Mistral Bus & Coach Vehicle Sales. It is assumed that it was on loan last year. Some of the others in this batch are also understood to have been with Buses of Somerset in October / November and this could explain why it has taken so many months for these to re-appear.
- DML 44321 (YX12 ARZ) (ex FLN) latterly with Yellow Buses and passed to Red Rose Travel, Aylesbury, Bucks. (by March).
- DMV 44224 (YX12 AKN) (ex FLN) latterly with Yellow Buses also passed to Red Rose Travel, Aylesbury, Bucks. (by March).
- DMV 44226, 44250 (YX12 AEY, AKP) (ex FLN) these former Yellow Buses DMVs passed to Border Buses, Beccles, Norfolk (by March). Note – it is now understood that these DMLs and DMVs that were latterly with Yellow Buses have passed via dealer Mistral Bus & Coach Vehicle Sales.
- DMV 44233 (YX12 AZN) (ex FLN) correcting TLB703 page 31, this DMV passed to Redline Buses, and not Red Rose Travel.
- DMV 44275 (YX61 FZT) (ex FLN) passed to First where it has re-gained its First fleet number with the acquisition of Ensignbus in March. This was latterly EB2022 in the Ensignbus fleet.
- LDP 291 (LX06 EZW) (ex GAL) further to TLB701, this LDP is now confirmed with JJ Kavanagh, Urlingford, Ireland.
- DE 870 (LK08 DXD) (ex ML) from Stafford Bus Centre to Big Lemon, Brighton, East Sussex (by November).

----- *Where are they now?* -----

25303 (LX58 CHH) (ex SLN) from Stagecoach Highland County to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November) for scrap.

25306 (LX58 CHL) (ex SLN) further to TLB699, it is confirmed as passing to Erith Commercials, Dartford, Kent for scrap.

36268, 36276 (LX11 AVZ, AWO) (ex SLN) from Ensign Bus to Peoplesbus, Liverpool, Merseyside (March).

36269, 36278 (LX11 AWC, AWR) (ex SLN) – see the corresponding entries for ENL107 and ENL 103 (ex ALN) in TLB700.

36274 (LX11 AWM) (ex SLN) further to TLB703 as recorded under the entry for ENL102 (ex ALN), the disposal of this E200 is still to be confirmed although it was noted on YouTube on the 2nd March operating on route 99 Prescott Bus Station to Prescott Bus Station (Whiston Circular) for MD Bus & Coach (t/a Link Network) and according to the DVLA website it changed owner in October 2022.

36295 (LX11 AXO) (ex SLN) from Ensign Bus to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (March).

36327 (LX58 CCN) (ex SLN) from Stagecoach South East to Ensign Bus (March).

36329, 36335 (LX58 CCU, CDN) (ex SLN) are confirmed as passing from Stagecoach South East to Wolverhampton College, Wolverhampton, West Midlands (September). 36329 replaces the sale of 36328 in TLB701. 36328 has been retained by Stagecoach South East and is now being used for spares.

Rail Replacements: info via Managing Editor to davestewart297@gmail.com

Great Northern: 18/19Feb No Trains Kings X - Royston/ StNeots covered by Welham Travel, GoAhead, Arriva, ,BCC, ALM, COZY, Collins, Regs & Central Connect- and Wanderbus.

20-23Feb overnight Welwyn North & New Barnet by Metroline. 11 March overnight Potters Bar & New Barnet by Go-Ahead and Metroline. 27-30March overnight Finsbury Park & Stevenage by Go-Ahead and Metroline. 17 and 19 March overnight St Pancras & London Bridge by Metroline. 01/02April West Hampstead & Luton by Go-Ahead and Metroline.

Tramlink: From 08 to 19 Feb Abellio worked a bus replacement Waddon Marsh & Wimbledon. The vehicles in use used BC running numbers 901 + on 13 Feb LT 692/784/785 , 3430 9519/21/22/24/25 were in use. Abellio had a Nissan Van LL72YBB branded London Rail Replacement Engineering Support parked at Waddon Marsh.

Overground: 12March Gunnersbury & Willesden Junction by Metroline. 18March Richmond & Willesden Junction by Metroline. 19March Richmond & Camden Road by Metroline. 25/26March Gospel Oak & Seven Sisters by Metroline. 25/26 March Walthamstow Central & East Ham by Arriva and assistance by Metroline. 15/16April Richmond & Willesden Junction by Metroline, Abellio, Arriva and Metroline.

Central: 24March overnight Stratford & Woodford.

District: 23/25/26Feb Earl's Court & Olympia by Metroline. 25/26Feb Wimbledon & Hammersmith by Metroline.

Piccadilly: 3/4March overnight Hammersmith & Heathrow T5 by Metroline. Also Acton Town & Heathrow Central by Metroline assisted by Westbus, Arriva London, Ensignbus and Sullivan,

Metropolitan: 7-10April early & late Harrow-on-the-Hill & Baker Street by Metroline.

Jubilee: 7-10 April early & late Stanmore & Stonebridge Park by Metroline. 15/16April Wembley Park & Queen's Park by Metroline.

SERVICE VEHICLES

Section Editor: Thomas Young: e-mail to tom@ltsv.com or by post via 'The SUPs Editor (LTSV)' at our Lombard address (see page 1).

SUP24J (the latest edition of the current service vehicle fleet list booklet) should be available by the time you read this, and it includes all the updates shown below. See earlier in this TLB for more details

LUL/LBSL/TfL Fleet: Newly reported vehicles

None

Additional information and updates

8311R has finally been seen, the first time since it was new almost exactly 6 years ago! It is in standard LUL white/blue/red livery. 8932VW has also been seen and is confirmed as being in unmarked plain white and used by LUL. Correcting earlier information, 9135F is a van (not a crew van), while the livery of 9153F-9156F is actually white/red (i.e. no blue skirt), as per 9157F-9160F. No withdrawals to report this month, though it has been presumed that former Metroline Dennis Trident TP3 (T103 KLD) is no longer with the LT Museum as an education bus.

Allocations and transfers are as follows: 8179F GHO-?, 8185M SDD-LBD, 8194/6/7VW ACN-SDD, 8246VW SDD-?, 8262F SDD-?, 8265/6VW ?-SDD, 8293P LBD-UPD, 8307VW EWT-SDD, 8311R ?-AGS, 8319F ACM-?, 8349SM SDD-?, 8351F GHO-ACF, 8357R GHO-?, 8368R GHO-ACN, 8373R GHO-ERS, 8374R GHO-DES, 8378F ACH-?, 8407F NSD-ACN, 8436R SDD-GHO, 8449VW ACN-?, 8453T GHO-?, 8455R ?-EWT, 8470F NSD-ACN, 8474/8VW ?-ACN, 8508F ACN-?, 8528R LBD-EWT, 8529R LBD-SDD, 8542F ?-ACN, 8543VW ?-NSD, 8546R ERS-BKR, 8568F ACF-GHO, 8573/4T ?-ACN, 8575T SDD-?, 8577VW NPD-?, 8618R SDD-LBD, 8619R SDD-?, 8630T ERS-?, 8639VW PDD-ROE, 8643VW SDD-ACN, 8681R LNS-ACN, 8693F NPD-?, 8701VW ESC-?, 8706VW LBD-?, 8717R SDD-ACN, 8720R ?-ACN, 8742/3F ACF-?, 8744F ACF-GHO, 8748/53F ACF-?, 8756F GHO-ACF, 8757F ACF-?, 8758/9F GHO-?, 8760F ACF-ACN, 8767/70/2/7/8/9F ACF-?, 8785R ?-ACH, 8805F HAD-ACN, 8812R GHO-ERS, 8814/5R GHO-?, 8816R ?-ACF, 8817R ACF-?, 8818R ?-ACF, 8820R GHO-ACF, 8821R GHO-?, 8825R ?-SDD, 8827R ?-ACN, 8829R GHO-?, 8844F TFP-?, 8847F BWR-DES, 8865VW ACF-?, 8879R ?-ACN, 8881R GHO-?, 8887T TFP-?, 8909VW ACN-?, 8932VW ?-SDD, 8936R BKO-?, 8941R LBD-DES, 8943R ?-EWT, 8947VW LBD-?, 8973T ?-ACB, 8976VW LBD-SDD, 8979VW LBD-DES, 8981VW LBD-SDD, 8984R NPD-?, 9000VW GHO-?, 9005/6T ?-SWD, 9018F ?-ACN, 9053F LBD-SDD, 9098VW FPB-MDS, 9112T BKR-BKO and 9133/42VW ?-SDD. The large number of updates is due to my doing a tidy-up ahead of producing SUP24J. This involved looking at where vehicles had actually been seen (and sometimes where they had *not* been seen) over the past couple of years.

Bus Company Fleets; Newly reported vehicles

-	UHZ 3496	Vauxhall Astra Hatchback	Abellio	Red	?
-	MV16 OUK	Vauxhall Astra Hatchback	Abellio	Black	BC
-	MV17 LVH	Vauxhall Astra Estate	Abellio	Black	?
-	YE67 VPJ	Vauxhall Corsa Hatchback	Abellio	Silver	TF
-	LL72 YBB	Nissan Primastar Van	Abellio	White +	?
AD210	DG19 NUM	Seat Arona Hatchback	Arriva London	Silver #	AD
?	BJ72 SVV	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
?	BJ72 SVY	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
S8	BP72 DVV	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
S4	BP72 FJY	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
S1	BP72 HJF	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
S9	BP72 UJF	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
S2	BP72 VAO	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
S6	BP72 YYF	Seat Ibiza Hatchback	Arriva London	White #	N
-	FD72 ZVF	Vauxhall Combo Van	Arriva London	White	AD

----- *Service Vehicles* -----

-	EO68 PHF	Ford Transit Custom High-Roof Van	Go-Ahead London	Red #	GM
-	AV72 ZNL	Ford Transit Connect Van	Metroline	Red	?
-	AV72 ZNR	Ford Transit Connect Van	Metroline	Red	?
-	AV72 ZNW	Ford Transit Connect Van	Metroline	Red	?
-	AV72 ZPB	Ford Transit Connect Van	Metroline	Red	?

Additional information

Abellio LL72 YBB has an eye-catching livery of white with red side panels, orange/yellow chevrons in a waist band and on the rear, plus a bright yellow ‘mask’ front. It is lettered as “LRR London Rail Replacement, Part of Abellio London Bus, Technical Engineering Support”. As with earlier LO19 MUE, it may actually be operated by a contractor. The cars without allocations above were noted at Hatton Cross during a rail replacement. AO60 PTY has moved TF to BC and has lost its ‘local’ TW6 bonnet number. 6741 (YT06 DDX) and 6763 (EN12 ZFE) are withdrawn.

Arriva London’s new Seat cars at Norwood have small fleetnumbers on windscreen labels (as did the Vauxhall Corsa cars that they have replaced). At Palmers Green, cars are also now gaining fleetnumbers in the windscreens. As well as AD210 above, others reported are AD202 (DG69 AYN), AD204 (CX70 LVF) and AD207 (CX70 LTZ). HK63 YYL, FH65 BYV, WM66 AAO/ADZ/AEA/AEX/AFA/AFE, WP66 SXZ/SYH, HV17 SVK, CT19 UHD, PN69 OHE, DY70 ZCE, FD70 LZS, FL70 HKG, SH70 SWW, WR70 VKT, WO21 MJJ and WU21 YXK are all believed withdrawn or off-hire.

Falcon Buses EY62 UCN is withdrawn.

Go-Ahead London EO68 PHF was noted at the new Goat Road garage in Mitcham. RJ62 ZHB and RE13 CJY have been withdrawn. Several crew ferry vehicles have switched allocations recently. Those noted are EY67 WUB MG-AL, RX18 LLJ RR-DS, RX18 LLN SI-MG, RX18 LLP MG-BX, RJ19 HSK/HSZ BX-MB and RJ19 HSN/HSO MB-BX. Other transfers are EY67 WXM BX-NX and EF19 HFT NX-BX.

Go-Coach 302 (YN03 OMC), 303 (S114 KLR) and 401 (X215 HLW) have been withdrawn.

The new vans at Metroline were all noted newly-delivered at Perivale CELF in unmarked red, and reports of where they end up would be welcomed. DL70 RGZ and KV21 RZH are believed to have gone off-hire. Staff rest-bus DES799 was sold in July 2022. Certain other buses have seen similar use more recently (including a TE at Northolt), but to avoid conflicts of information, I don’t intend to include types that are still covered in the main Vehicle News section of TLB.

White Bus Service 94 (FL54 HVF) and 97 (AF06 XXL) are withdrawn.

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

This TLB closed on 7-9 April and due for posting on 18 April. Closing date for TLB705 is Weds 3 May and due for posting on Tues 16 May. To Editors by post or e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.com or to heads of sections for contact points. Next closing dates are Weds , 07June, 05July, 02 August, 06Sep, 04Oct 23. These dates are for us editors to have sufficient time to process, although extras can be slotted in as time and space allows.



Even though Potters Bar is not due to get Electroliners, the demo bus, Metroline WDE 2769 is being used at PB on route 134. This view is at Warren Street in north London. (Yoram Blumann)

Route 481 is mainly a London United route but a school bus is worked by Abellio. Electroliner 3011 calls at Wood Street, Kingston. (Yoram Blumann)



Rear cover: On 4th March route H32 in the Hounslow area was transferred from London United to Abellio. The buses went across with the route so LT 154 in Vicarage Farm Road stays familiar with the H32 roads! (Haydn Davies)



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