

Retro-look Volvo B9R marks Stagecoach's 40th anniversary



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**Dart SLFs
return to
Bedford**

**Oxford Tube
order back on
34 coaches due**

**London loan
buses: depot
allocations**

On the Cover



The return of Stagecoach 'stripes' at the company reaches 40. © Stagecoach East Scotland/ Twitter

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Editorial

Having started to recover from 'Lockdown', many bus and coach companies are again having to operate with localised Government advice focused around 'essential travel only' and the more widespread 'work from home' message.

Unless the bus industry gets ongoing Government support and the coach industry's challenges are recognised also, then the future looks bleak.

Bus operators have until the start of next year to restore services to pre-COVID levels - but what happens after that?

At least there has been support for bus operators, the coaching businesses have been cast adrift.

So what will 2021 bring? I suspect we will see further independent bus and coach operators call it a day. And what for the main bus operators?

Unless there is an end to the COVID Pandemic which allows a return to something akin to pre-COVID normal, then I suspect widescale timetable changes and service reductions will take place before the year is out.

I do hope, however, that I will be proved wrong.

Stagecoach confirms Oxford Tube coach order back on

The Oxford & Chiltern Bus Page reports that Stagecoach has confirmed the deferred £13million investment for new coaches for the Oxford Tube is back on.

Stagecoach says this major investment is for 34 new coaches and is the company's largest ever coach order. The first vehicles, Volvo B11RLEs with Plaxton Panorama bodywork, are due before the end of the year. The new coaches will offer passengers at seat charging and reading lights, free Wi-Fi, foot-rests for added comfort and three point seat belts.

With sustainability being key to Stagecoach's operations and values, five of the 34 coaches are being fitted with solar panel systems by the multi-award-winning UK company, TRAILAR. The 3mm solar panels will be fitted to provide clean solar energy to power all on-board electrical equipment, reducing the vehicles requirement to create electrical energy via the burning of diesel. The technology, which is the first for Stagecoach will aim to save over 1,500 litres of fuel and over 4 tonnes of CO2 per bus.



The coaches will be numbered 50421-54 and the first five will gain the cherished T40/44/50/55/60UBE registration marks. It is expected that the former Megabus coaches currently in use on Oxford Tube duties will be withdrawn with some of the remainder of the fleet being cascaded for further use within Stagecoach.

Image: © Stagecoach - Oxford Tube/Twitter

Stagecoach marks 40th Anniversary with retro-repaint



Stagecoach Group turned 40 on October 9th 2020 and to commemorate the event Stagecoach East Scotland painted Volvo B11R 53722 (Above) in the 'stripes' livery with original-style version of the fleetname.

© Stagecoach East Scotland

At Stagecoach South's Portsmouth depot three vehicles were specially lined up to mark the event and also show the original, 2000-era 'beach ball' and the current Stagecoach 'Local' liveries. © Stagecoach South/Twitter



Stagecoach London

The PSV Circle has confirmed that Optare Solo SR 48036 from **Stagecoach East** was not operated here having failed on transfer and was replaced by 48023, which accounts for 48023 transferring here some days after the other examples.

The vehicles on loan here from **Stagecoach East**, **Stagecoach West** and **Stagecoach South Wales** were initially allocated as follows:

Kangley Bridge Road: 36376, 48033/34

Bromley: 36378/79, 47632/38/42, 47847/48

Barking: 36913/41, 47641, 48024/25

Romford: 36042

West Ham: 36043/44, 48031/32

Plumstead: 36060/61/62/63/64/65, 48023/35

Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Trident 18327 has transferred from West Cumbria to Barrow as a replacement for 18144 which is now for disposal here. Also withdrawn and for disposal is Volvo Olympian 16793.

Being prepared for repaint into Stagecoach 'Local' livery is Enviro 200 37092.

Stagecoach Megabus/Joint Venture Operations

Former Stagecoach Gold Van Hool coaches 50301/04/06, which had been operated from the **Stagecoach West North Bristol** base were at **Stagecoach East Midlands'** Hull depot earlier this week.

50303/08 are also understood to be due to move to Humberside from North Bristol, joining the three already there.

We don't currently have any information on what use these vehicles will be put to.

Stagecoach East

Enviro 200s 37210 and 37211 were transferred from Peterborough to Bedford at the beginning of October 2020, although 36937 remains delicensed at Bedford.

Following the transfer of Dart SLFs from this fleet to **Stagecoach Midlands** and **Stagecoach Oxfordshire**, just six examples remained here at the beginning of October - 34535 and 34827/28/30/34 - all remain delicensed, whilst at the start of October 34537 was returned to service as part of the Reserve Fleet at Bedford.

We understand that Volvo B8R/MCV 21364 was returned to Fenstanton on 6th October 2020 following its extended loan to Bedford. Volvo B8RLE 21301 is now in all over ocean green livery.

Former Bedford-allocated Trident 18419, which was sold to **Ensignbus** earlier this year, is now with **Brylaine Travel**.

Stagecoach South Wales

Now in the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery is Porth-based Enviro 200 37016.

Optare Solo 47906 is now in the main fleet at Blackwood displacing similar 47891 which has transferred to Aberdare, whilst 47639 from the Reserve Fleet is now allocated to Merthyr.

Following repairs, Optare Solo SR 47974 has returned to service at Cwmbran.

Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire

Additional work here, covering Arriva schools contracts has seen two surplus, but unidentified, MAN/Enviro 300s, earmarked for transfer from **Stagecoach North Scotland [Highlands]**. Now here, and delivered to Gilmoor, is Trident 18328 from **Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire**.

Stagecoach North Scotland [Bluebird]

The first of the three Volvo B12B training coach conversions here is 53110. It is finished in all over blue.

Stagecoach Midlands

A further former Stagecoach East Dart SLF to enter service at Rugby is 34549. There are now seven Dart SLFs in the operational fleet at Rugby, which are generally seeing use on route 4 (Bilton-Brownsover) although use on other routes regularly takes place.

Stagecoach West

The latest Stagecoach 'Local' livery repaint here is Cheltenham's Enviro 200 36392.

Stagecoach East Scotland

Perth-based Volvo B9R 53722 has been given a retro-stripes livery to mark the 40th anniversary of Stagecoach. It entered service in its retro-livery on October 90th 2020.

Stagecoach South

We understand that Enviro 200MMC 37409 has transferred from Winchester to Andover.

Stagecoach South East

The first Scania OmniDekka in any Stagecoach UK fleet to receive the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery is Herne Bay-allocated 15049.

Stagecoach East Midlands

Lincoln-based Enviro 200MMC 37459 has been on loan to Scunthorpe. A further repaint into Stagecoach 'Local' livery here is Enviro 200 37003.

East Yorkshire

The second coach here to receive the new East Yorkshire Coaches livery is Caetano Levante-bodied Volvo B9R 84.

The fleet replacement plan here has seen large numbers of Plaxton President-bodied Volvo B7TLs withdrawn. Now just 17 examples currently remain in the operational fleet and these are allocated to:

Bridlington (2): 677/78

Hull (9): 681/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89

Scarborough (5): 671/72/73/74/79

Pocklington (1): 680

There are a further three examples, 9916/17/18 in the training fleet, although 9917 is delicensed.



Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President 672 is one of five examples of the type allocated to East Yorkshire's Scarborough depot.

© Steven Knight Media

Stagecoach Yorkshire

The former Lothian Country Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini vehicles which had been on loan here moved back north during the first week of October. 20795/96/97/98 were noted at Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire's Carlisle depot en-route north on October 8th 2020 and we understand 20794 may also have been moved north. All had been on loan.



Pictured operating route 14 in Hull is Stagecoach East Midlands MAN/Enviro 300 22773, one of seven vehicles of the type transferred to Hull in exchange for ADL Enviro 300s. © Ian Knott

Stagecoach Trading Statement shows steady recovery

Stagecoach announced on October 9th 2020 that its' UK Bus (regional operations) business continues to be affected by the substantial fall in passenger demand for public transport in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Passenger demand had been steadily recovering since April as COVID-related restrictions were relaxed, with commercial revenues returning to around 50-60% of the prior year levels. We are now operating vehicle mileage in excess of 93% of prior year levels.

The statement adds: 'The recent government announcements to impose further restrictions may discourage public transport use in the short-term. We are grateful for the measures put in place by the respective governments in England, Scotland and Wales, and by our local authority partners, to protect the continuity of local bus services throughout this period. In August, the Department for Transport confirmed that payments for the provision of these essential services by regional bus operators in England would continue until no longer required. These COVID-19 Bus Services Support Grant Restart payments are continuing, with an eight week notice period. While this and similar arrangements are in place, we expect to continue to generate positive EBITDA and avoid significant operating losses.

On London bus operations the company says that it is "pleased with the continued strong operational and financial performance of our London business. We continue to work collaboratively with Transport for London in response to the COVID-19 situation, and contract payments are now at normal levels with full service restored, while an agreement on Quality Incentive Contract income is under discussion. Our expectation is that profitability in 2020/21 will be broadly consistent with the prior year financial performance".

Proudly serving our communities for 40 years

9 October 1980
Stagecoach is founded by Brian Souter and his sister, Ann Glagg, with the first coach services running between Scotland and London



1989
We become the first UK transport group to expand overseas, buying buses in Malawi, Africa

1987
Stagecoach invests in several National Bus Company businesses

1985
Transport Act allows private operators to run bus services throughout Great Britain enabling Stagecoach to expand



1981
Princess Diana completes the fairy tale for the 700 million people around the world tuning into the most-watched wedding in history

1985
The first mobile phone calls in the UK are made



1986

Magic Bus launched in Glasgow. This budget bus service was used initially to run between Castlemilk and Easterhouse using former London Routemasters.



1990

1991
The World Wide Web goes global



1992
Stagecoach continues to expand overseas, entering the New Zealand bus market with the purchase of Wellington City Transport



1986
30 million people tune into Eastenders on Christmas Day to see Dirty Den serve divorce papers on Angie



1992
Stagecoach Rail is launched, offering sleeper train services from Scotland to London

1993
Stagecoach is listed on the London Stock Exchange, valued at £134m



1996
Stagecoach starts operating the UK's first privatised train service - South West Trains - marking the start of a 23 year railway journey

1996
Stagecoach becomes the largest bus operator in Scandinavia with the purchase of Swedish bus operator, Svebust, running 3000 buses in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.



1994
Stagecoach starts running its first bus services in London

1995
Britain draws closer to Europe with the Channel Tunnel opening



2003
Stagecoach transforms the low cost coach travel market with the launch of megabus.com



2000

Stagecoach enters the US market for the first time with a \$1.1bn buy out of American Bus and Coach USA



1997
Start of Stagecoach Supertram with a 27 year concession to run tram services in Sheffield



1998
Amazon and Starbucks launch in the UK



2005
George Psaradakis drives the number 30 Stagecoach bus which is involved in the tragic bombings in London's Tavistock Square



2007
The world's first iPhone is released



2007
We continue to innovate, introducing the first double decker buses in the US



2001
Tragedy strikes in the US with the 9/11 attacks



1999

The overseas bus expansion continues, as Stagecoach acquires Hong Kong's Citybus Group - the second largest franchise bus operator in Hong Kong



2007
New and innovative ideas keep flowing with the trial of a hovercraft between Fife and Edinburgh



2008

We launch Scotland's first carbon neutral bus network



2013
Martin Griffiths becomes Chief Executive of Stagecoach, and Ross Paterson becomes Finance Director



2010

We show our entrepreneurial spirit with the trial of an amphibious bus on the Clyde



2016
This was the year of harnessing technology with the development of plans to deliver contactless travel on every bus, completed in 2018



2014
Stagecoach delivers transport for the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup

2013
Stagecoach and TFL run a pilot to run buses on diesel made from used chip fat and other food waste



2012

Stagecoach enters in to the UK's first deep rail alliance with Network Rail



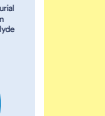
2011

Millions tune in to watch Prince William of Wales and Catherine Middleton get married



2010

We trial an innovative sleeper coach service between Glasgow and London



2016
Launch of the Stagecoach Bus App that now has more than 3m users

2014
We expand our budget megabus.com services into France, Germany and Italy

2013
Stagecoach launches the UK's first long term discounted bus scheme for jobseekers giving them half-price travel



2012

We play a huge role in the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, operating the media and athletes transportation



2011

We trial an innovative sleeper coach service between Glasgow and London



2016
We place a £97m order for 480 new buses which is part of more than £1bn of new greener buses introduced in the previous decade



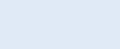
2018

Launch of Team-Train in Sheffield, the first of its kind in the UK



2018

megasightseeing starts running in London



2019

We bring our colleagues together with the launch of our new employee communication and engagement platform, Blink



2017
Stagecoach dedicates a bus to those killed, injured or affected by the terrible terror attack at Manchester Arena and to staff at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital



2018
We launch our industry leading bus driver apprenticeship scheme



2020
Stagecoach rolls out a fleet of 32 new electric double-decker buses in Manchester representing one of the biggest single investments in electric buses anywhere in Europe



2020

Launch of Tees Flex, a state-of-the-art demand bus service, in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority



2020
We're proud to serve with the launch of the new Stagecoach brand

