

Fleet Digest

No. 15

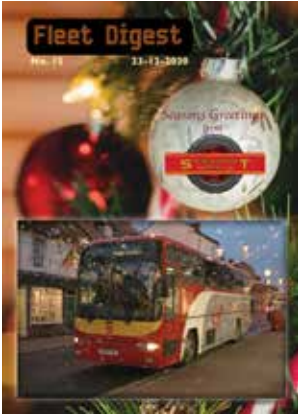
23-12-2020

*Seasons Greetings
from*

S STEVEN KNIGHT
— MEDIA — **T**



On the Cover



Stagecoach Volvo B10M 52332 (9737VC) in Virgin Trains Rail Links livery is pictured on a Virgin media special in Stoney Stratford. © Steven Knight Media

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Access all areas

Since I first joined the bus industry in 1974 I have been afforded access to depots, workshops and also to vehicles and special events.

In 2005 I was invited by Stagecoach to report on its Park & Ride operation for the Silverstone Grand Prix.

Stagecoach had been coordinating the shuttle services for several years and, as it does with many other sporting and entertainment events, provides a top class service.

You can look at a selection of Silverstone images in our feature starting on page 5.

But before that the ability to 'borrow' vehicles and drivers for days out and photo shoots has enabled a large archive to be built up.

We have used a number of these historic images in Fleet Ramblings and Fleet Digest and we hope that you have enjoyed looking at them as much as we have sorting, editing and captioning them.

We are the first to admit that some of the recording media from more than 40 years ago has not survived as well as we would have liked, but we have tried to clean them up but have to be realistic and accept that on some of them extensive blemishes remain. However, we believe their historic significance makes them worth using.



Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Open Top Volvo B5TLs 13802-05 have been delicensed for the winter season with 13801 and 13806/07 remaining in service at Kendal. Now allocated to West Cumbria is Volvo B12M 53029, which had been in the Reserve Fleet here.

Dart SLF 35191 has been sold whilst also sold are Volvo Olympian 16793 along with Optare Solos 47056/59/60 to **T Wigley (dealer)** and 47884 to **Cranberry Coachways** of Accrington.

Also now for disposal here and sold to **T Wigley** are former Dart SLF training buses 34704/05. They will be replaced in the training fleet here by 35246/48, which had been for disposal but will now be converted for training use.

Stagecoach North East

Now in Stagecoach 'Local' livery is Enviro 200 36977 and we understand that Enviro 300 27733 is being prepared for a visit to the Sunderland paint shop.

Enviro 400H Hybrid 12078 has returned to service at Walkergate with MAN/ALX300

22437 moving from the main fleet to the Reserve Fleet at Walkergate.

Dart SLF 34605 and MAN/Enviro 200 39710 are now at Sunderland (from Slatyford) for use as required on duplicate services.

Sold to **S & M Parton** is MAN/Enviro 300 22579.

Stagecoach Yorkshire

Now in Stagecoach 'Local' livery is Chesterfield-allocated Optare Solo 47324.

Wright Streetlite 39104 has returned to service at Ecclesfield following repairs, whilst vehicles delicensed in the last month have been Scania/Enviro 400s 15590 and 15708.

Reserve Fleet Dart SLF 35230 has been returned to service and allocated to the main fleet at Chesterfield.

Stagecoach Manchester

Transferred from Hyde Road to Middleton are Enviro 400s 19168 and 19177.

Additional Enviro 400H Hybrids now in the Magicbus fleet are 12239 at Sharston and 12232/51 at Hyde Road.



Stagecoach North East Enviro 200 36977, pictured in Sunderland, is a recent repaint into Stagecoach 'Local' colours. © Ian Hardie

Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire

Enviro 400s 19570 and 19572 have transferred from Chester to Birkenhead, whilst Dart SLF 34813 at Chester is now in the Reserve Fleet.

MAN/Enviro 300 24154 from the Reserve Fleet is now in the main fleet at Gilmoor.

It has been reported that Optare Solos 47476 and 47498 are due here from Stagecoach West Scotland.

Stagecoach East

Fenstanton-allocated Busway MCV-bodied Volvo B8R 21368 is currently away for repairs to major accident damage.

Stagecoach Midlands

Currently on loan here from Stagecoach West at Swindon are five 'Gold Spec' Scania/Enviro 400s, 15857/58 along with 15968/69/70. They arrived at Northampton depot on 13th December 2020 and are expected to return to Stagecoach West in the first few days of January 2021.

Also at Northampton is a further Enviro 400 on loan from Ensign Bus. LK08NVL



Another loan bus with Stagecoach Midlands at Northampton is Enviro 400 LK08NVL, which has come from Ensign Bus. Unusually it has been given the same fleet number as the vehicle which was recently returned off loan to Ensign Bus. © *Martyn Sacalof*

has been given temporary fleet number 80073, a number that has been re-used.

Stagecoach Oxfordshire

Van Hool Astromegas 50261-68 are confirmed as having been transferred to Stagecoach East Scotland with 50280-81 moving to Stagecoach West Scotland. Further departures from Oxford, believed to be to Stagecoach West Scotland, on 18th December 2020 were 50277/78/79.



Stagecoach Midlands has five Scania/Enviro 400s on loan from Stagecoach West until early January 2021. They are based at Northampton where four of the five are pictured shortly after arrival there on 13th December 2020. © *Martyn Sacalof*

Stagecoach takes Pole Position at Silverstone



Twenty ECW-bodied Leyland Olympians joined the United Counties fleet in 1981/82, with the first 11 being diverted from Alder Valley and Southdown. In later years a number gained Bristol VRT grilles. One such example was 14005 (ARP605X) which on 10th May 2005 was made available to publicise Stagecoach UK Bus' involvement in the Silverstone Grand Prix Park & Ride operation.

Images: © Steven Knight Media



As well as the public Park & Ride services, Stagecoach also had the contract for internal shuttles around the Silverstone Circuit. These were used to transport track marshals and provided a rare opportunity to pose Leyland Olympian/Alexander RL 14047 (G647EUV) on the starting grid, although we suspect acceleration was something less powerful than is normally experienced off the grid.

© Stagecoach Midlands/Northampton



The vehicles used for the Silverstone operation have changed over the years and investment in new and cascaded vehicles has taken place, whilst also reflecting the fleet make up at various depots. Top is a lone up of Volvo Olympians headed by 16109 (R109XNO), whilst

the other shows the arrival at the Sixfields Park & Ride site of a number of vehicles from Cambridge, headed by Trident/ALX400 17053 (T653KPU) which carried the 'neutral' version of the Cambridge Park & Ride livery.

© Steven Knight Media



Above: The Colours of Cambridge! A long focal length focuses in on the variety of Cambridge Park & Ride colours as the Tridents wait their turn to load at Sixfields Park & Ride site in 2005.

© Steven Knight Media



Centre: Not everything goes to plan, although problems over the years have been relatively few. In 2011 Enviro 400 19706 suffered a fuel system failure and with an on-site repair not possible it needed the assistance of Ratcliffe Heavy haulage's DAF XF to return it back to Peterborough depot.

© Steven Knight Media



Stagecoach in Warwickshire's former London Volvo Olympian/Alexander RL 16076 (R176VPU) at Silverstone in 2005 when it also retained its' London-style destination display which was later replaced with a green flip dot display.

© Steven Knight Media



The end of the day and a busy scene at Silverstone's temporary bus station as Alexander RL-bodied Volvo Olympians 16458 and 16729 load for the Hinton Park & Ride site whilst in the background Stagecoach Gold Scania/Enviro 400 15741 is on a service to Towcester. © Steven Knight Media



A day out at the 2015 event for Trident/ALX400 17054 (T654KPU), which at the time was part of the Stagecoach Midlands fleet at Leamington and carried 'Unibus' livery. It is parked next to Scania/Enviro 400 15677 (KX10KTG) which also carries branding, this for the X15/X18 Stratford-Coventry service. © Steven Knight Media

Stagecoach London are one of the many Stagecoach companies that provide drivers and vehicles for the Grand Prix shuttles. Having dropped its passengers back at Sixfields in 2015 is Scania 15081 (LX09AFN). This bus is now with Stagecoach East and based at Cambridge depot. © Steven Knight Media



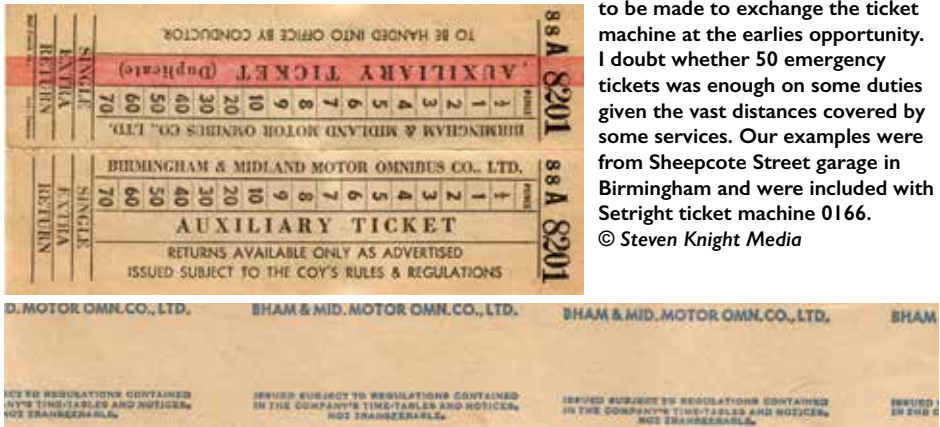


A trawl of our Midland Red archives has located some early 1970s examples of tickets and vouchers. They are basic compared to today's tickets



When Midland Red drivers and conductors signed for their Setright ticket machine when booking on they also signed for a small packet of Auxiliary (Emergency) tickets. These were two part and the value was clipped. One part of the ticket was given to the passenger whilst the other part had to be paid in with the takings at the end of the shift. Each pack contained 50 tickets with arrangements having to be made to exchange the ticket machine at the earliest opportunity. I doubt whether 50 emergency tickets was enough on some duties given the vast distances covered by some services. Our examples were from Sheepcote Street garage in Birmingham and were included with Setright ticket machine 0166.

© Steven Knight Media



Midland Red's Setright ticket rolls in the BMMO era had a yellow front, pink back and red text. We suspect the blue print on the example above was used in the West Midlands around the time of the transfer of Midland Red's Birmingham & Black Country services to the West Midlands PTE in December 1973. © Steven Knight Media



Passengers using Midland Red's ME2 London-Coventry-Nuneaton Motorway coach service could book through journeys even when the service they were travelling on only operated between London and Coventry. They were issued with a voucher which they handed to the Inspector in Coventry's Pool Meadow Bus Station. The inspector then made sure they then boarded the service bus to Bedworth or Nuneaton. © Steven Knight Media