

Epsom Coach & Bus News

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Coach News

Epsom Coaches have enjoyed another successful summer, with more tour operators joining our satisfied clients. We have also been successful in gaining the contract to operate Australian Pacific's newly introduced UK tour programme. In a two year deal we have contracted to operate 8, 13 day round Britain tours in 1999 and 16 in 2000. A new 49 seat touring coach will be required and an order is shortly to be placed for delivery in good time for the first tour in May of next year.

New Routes, New Buses, New Era for Epsom Buses

It was confirmed today, in partnership with

"This investment will significantly improve the working conditions of our driving team"

London Transport that both the S1 and 413 bus routes are to be equipped with new Super Low Floor Dennis Darts from January 1999. This investment in 11 new vehicles will significantly improve the working conditions of our driving team and provide a more reliable and

comfortable service to our customers. This in addition to four new Mercedes buses due for the revised K9 and 10 services with, for the first time automatic gearboxes. A further Mercedes has been ordered for new London Transport route 404. The new Mercedes are expected in late October

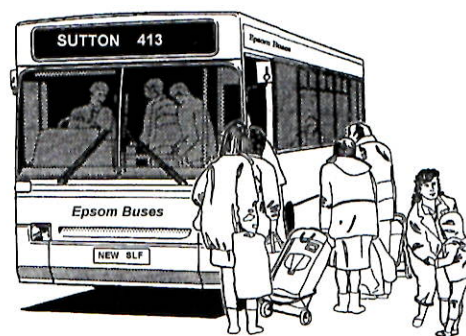
For Sale, one careful owner

With the new arrivals the Optare Metroriders and older Mercedes are to be sold,

Any offers.....

Millenium facts.....

- ◆ Epsom Coaches celebrates its 80th birthday in 2000
- ◆ The millenium bank holiday will be 4 days long.
- ◆ The millenium dome opens on 1st January 2000, admission £25.00
- ◆ The Queen Mother will be 100



New LT Tender starts September

London Transport have awarded service 404 between Old Coulsdon and Caterham on the Hill to Epsom Buses. This route requires an additional mini-bus which will arrive in late October 1998. As the service is currently operated on a temporary contract by Metrobus, an existing Mercedes will be used from the start date in late September until the new bus arrives. The 404 tender is for 5 years and will be integrated with the current 463 duties. The 463 service itself will be subject to re-tender in January 99 having established itself on a one year trial basis. Epsom Buses now operate 5 London Transport tenders using 19 buses

K9 & 10 Campaign

Due to overwhelming public support the K9 & 10 has been saved and is now a Surrey County Council tendered route. Epsom Buses have been successful in winning the five year contract with changes to the route in the Borough of Kingston to aid reliability-

Transport

White Paper

After much delay the transport white paper has been published and promises to devote resources from the motorist to public transport. How this will be introduced has still to be determined but road tolls and taxing employee car parking spaces has been suggested. One benefit will be the raising of the overall limit for coach weights from 17 to 18 tonnes leaving a little more margin for French beer!!!!

Duty Free

Duty free within the EU is to finish on 1st June 1999 and we are still assessing the likely impact on day trips to France. Special offers will encourage people to take advantage of the last few months of this concession.

New Corporate Brochure

Epsom Coaches new brochure designed for the corporate sector will be published shortly. It will be widely circulated to a range of potential clients. Sean Maher is the star of the front cover, pictured at The Canary Wharf Tower, in Docklands.

Staff News:

We warmly welcome the following members of our bus driving team, who have recently joined us:

John Davis, Don Burnell, Martin Banks, John Maher, Steve Jones, Adrian Arnold, Martin Bell, Mark Jenkins, John Bathe-Taylor, Andy McGowan, Ken Wells, John Lawrence, Jason Turner, Geoff Hobbs, Mike Fry, John Walton, Terry Orton, Paul Douglas, Shane Pemberton, Ian Sycamore, Paul Christmas (from Coaches) and Peter Dewdeney. Also joining us on a part time basis Keith Crump, Simon Benford, Tom O'Brien, Jason Earle, John Burke, Peter Hamilton, John Acock and Gordon Chipendale.

Coach Team.....

Joining our driving staff are, Bradley Gibb (from Buses), Donald Barnaby, Paul Bradley, Richard Attridge,

Paul Motram and Stephen Fairley. We look forward to a long and happy association with our Company.

Service.....

We welcome both Jamie Baer and Eddie Westley to the Service team.

Operations

John Bond now holds the fort on Saturday afternoons.

In sickness and in Health.....

We are sorry to hear that the following people have suffered ill health over the last few months and trust you are now well on the way to recovery.

Martin Banks, Shane Pemberton, Bob Din and Trevor Allen from the bus team and Debbie May who is still off, get well soon Debbie.....

Tying the knot.....

Congratulations to those just married or about to be including Terry Orton, Jason Turner, and Paul Mottram.

Epsom Tours

Despite the awful summer weather, Epsom Tours are enjoying a good season with bookings up on last year, although inevitably day trip numbers are down. A new tour brochure will be published in October and advance reservations are already being taken.

Training for a better future

Over 50 individuals have been trained to PCV licence standard in the past 10 months, with a further 30 trainees ready to start training over the next two months. You may have noticed our new training coach, which will be devoted to driver training and assessment. A dedicated vehicle will enable our driving instructors, Les Wernham, Syd Cannon and Geoff Hobbs to speed up the training process and save money by not requiring the use of outside training schools.

History note:

This coach is one of only three in existence, originally purchased by South Yorkshire Police in 1983 to police the Miners Strike.