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BAHN & BUS

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NORDIC



## Go-Ahead mobilises Manchester's first Bee Network buses



The first Bee Network buses left our Go North West depots in Bolton and Wigan on Sunday 24th September, at 5am. This marks the start of Transport for Greater Manchester's integrated system which will ultimately bring together all modes of local transport.

This has been a big mobilisation effort involving 50 routes, 320 buses and more than 600 colleagues from across The Go-Ahead Group – including bus drivers who have come from as far afield as Plymouth, London and Newcastle.

After months of preparation, it was a proud moment to see bus drivers, engineers, cleaners, and office staff from six operators come together as one – ready to deliver the Bee Network.



## BEE READY

**83**

### Bus drivers

from Go-Ahead companies across the UK have joined us in Manchester to support the launch of the Bee Network

**GoNorthWest**  
Part of GoAhead

**Plymouth Citybus & Go Cornwall Bus**

**Horabus, Blunsdon & Southern Vectis**

**Brighton & Hove**

**Go-Ahead London**

**Headlight & Cheshire**

**East Yorkshire**

**Go North East**



# Welcome

from Christian Schreyer



Dear colleagues,

One of the terrific things about The Go-Ahead Group is the willingness of people from our different bus and rail companies to pitch in together and help each other out.

Rarely has that been more evident than in the recent mobilisation of our first Bee Network bus services in Manchester – distinctive yellow buses that will form part of the city's integrated public transport network of the future.

More than 80 bus drivers from Go-Ahead companies across the UK – stretching from Cornwall to Newcastle – volunteered to be seconded to our depots in Bolton and Wigan to drive buses in Manchester for three months.

And dozens of colleagues from across Go-Ahead turned up in Manchester on launch weekend to help out – all wearing yellow 'Bee Ready' hoodies, and many giving up their free time.

A big thank-you, from me, to everybody who took part – including those at Go North West who worked

so hard on the mobilisation, and those who came from elsewhere in the country to offer their support.

It was an impressive team effort. And it showed that, although we value our devolved structure, Go-Ahead is stronger together as a collection of bus and rail businesses than we would be apart.

Exciting things are happening across the group. At our rail company Govia Thameslink Railway, we have just appointed a new chief executive, Angie Doll, who is a role model, in particular, for women working in transport. And colleagues at GTR are bringing their expertise to bear on a bid to run Go-Ahead trams in a city on the other side of the world – in Melbourne, Australia.

In Norway, our sleeper trains have become the transport mode of choice for the country's top ice hockey team. In Singapore, we recently marked our seventh anniversary of operating Go-Ahead buses and in Ireland, we're

proud to be a big sponsor and supporter of Gaelic sports, with teams wearing Go-Ahead's name on their shirts.

Back in the UK, we are leading the charge towards decarbonised transport – with electric bus infrastructure being installed at Camberwell depot in London and at Cowley depot in Oxford. It was pleasing to hear from the UK Government that there will be more funding available shortly for zero emission buses.

Everything we do contributes to our core goals – of connecting communities, and moving towards a lower carbon future for transport. Thank you for being part of it – and for delivering excellent transport services day in, day out.

Best regards

Christian Schreyer,  
Group Chief Executive



Left to right: Andrew Clark, Christian Schreyer, Angie Doll, Jan Strecker (Managing Director of WE AID), Nick Brooks (ALLRail) and Andy Bagnall (Rail Partners)

## Rail Partners with Ukraine

GTR (Govia Thameslink Railway) is proud to be a sponsor of Rail Partners with Ukraine, which raised £105,000 to provide food parcels for Ukrainian rail workers and their families at a fundraiser in London earlier this month.





## Happy 7th birthday Go-Ahead Singapore

Our bus company Go-Ahead Singapore commemorate seven years of serving Singapore's commuters - a milestone worth recognising.

To celebrate passengers were given the chance to win exciting prizes at our Pasir Ris and Punggol Bus Interchanges. A 'spin to win' capsule machine was set up and commuters shared what makes their journey with Go-Ahead Singapore special.

Go-Ahead Singapore currently operates 30 public bus routes and has delivered an exceptional service to its passengers since 2016.



## Norwegian ice hockey champions let the train take the strain

The reigning Norwegian ice hockey champions, have chosen Go-Ahead Nordic's night train for their journeys home from away matches, sending a powerful message of environmental awareness to the sports industry.

The Stavanger Oilers are the only team in Norway's highest ice hockey league to be based in the west of the country, which means they travel long distances to games. The journey on Go-Ahead's Sørlandsbanen route from Oslo takes just under 9 hours, so they've opted for overnight trains for comfort and a well-earned rest.

To celebrate the collaboration, Go-Ahead's rail company in Norway has created a special Oilers train.



## Angie Doll appointed Chief Executive Officer of Govia Thameslink Railway

Go-Ahead is pleased to announce Angie Doll is to become Govia Thameslink Railway's Chief Executive Officer at the end of November. She is replacing Patrick Verwer who is stepping away from day-to-day management of Britain's largest rail network and will focus on his role as Go-Ahead's Rail CEO.

Angie has been Chief Operating Officer of GTR since October 2021 – prior to which she was Managing Director of Southern and Gatwick Express. She joined the railway industry in 1999 as a station manager in Brighton and has held a series of roles at Go-Ahead rail companies.





## Tourism accolade for Oxford City Sightseeing

The Oxford Bus Company have won a TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Award for 2023.

Its iconic hop-on hop-off bus tours around the city received consistently very good and excellent reviews from TripAdvisor users, placing them in the top 10% of tourism businesses, according to the public.

The accolade from the respected international review site comes as City Sightseeing Oxford saw a strong performance this summer, with passenger numbers recovering beyond pre-pandemic levels, with up to 1,000 passengers on peak days.

City Sightseeing Oxford also retained its gold-standard Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme accreditation from Visit England for another year.



## 'Shaun the Sheep' art trail ... right here, right now

Brighton & Hove Buses is a proud sponsor of Martlets' Shaun the Sheep by the Sea, a baa-rrilant fundraising art trail that has seen 40 individually designed sculptures land across Brighton & Hove for eight weeks!

Brighton & Hove Buses were thrilled to play a part at the official trail launch in mid-September, providing an open-top bus that hosted Martlets Ambassador Norman Cook (aka Fatboy Slim) and Shaun creator Peter Lord (Aardman Studios) amongst many other VIP guests on a tour of the #BrightonFlock.



## Go-Ahead Ireland launches the Dublin GAA Club Awards

In mid-September, Go-Ahead Ireland launched the Go-Ahead Ireland Dublin GAA – (Gaelic Athletic Association) Club Awards, in partnership with Dublin GAA whom they have had a partnership with since 2021.

The awards recognise the work done by Dublin GAA clubs, which Go-Ahead Ireland serve throughout its network, officials, volunteers, and players both on the pitch and in their communities by inviting entrants (clubs) to nominate those who have gone above and beyond in their local area.

There are 2 awards for contention: The Go-Ahead Ireland Referee Recognition Award and the Go-Ahead Ireland Club Community Spirit Award. Go-Ahead Ireland looks forward to sharing the winners nominations in December this year.





# Go-Ahead London's Social Value Fund supports local charities

Go-Ahead London's Social Value Fund in partnership with longstanding cleaning contractor, Bidvest Noonan is supporting local communities and charities.

The Alzheimer's Society, a local charity supporting children with disabilities, community football teams and local cancer charities have all benefitted from financial and practical support in the last six months.



## Go-Ahead's rail staff undergo lifesaving training

Since 2019, GTR colleagues have made almost 600 lifesaving interventions, thanks to suicide prevention training. GTR recognises how important it is for colleagues and passengers to have the tools needed to support vulnerable people.

Paul, who works as a platform team leader at Southern Railway, said suicide prevention training has taught him how to spot signs suggesting somebody is in trouble, and how to safely intervene.

"A couple of months ago, I was on shift and my colleague alerted me to a woman who was clearly in distress in one of the toilets. She was very agitated and wanted to be left alone. I noticed that she was wearing a heavy metal T-shirt and started a conversation about music to help break her out of that negative mental state by chatting about a common interest. After 20 minutes of talking, she started to calm down."







## Happy competitors!

When a team from Go South Coast broke down on the way to the annual 'Bus Driver of the Year' competition in Blackpool, Oxford Bus Company stepped in to help.

The vehicle broke down in the Oxford area and the Oxford engineering team went to the rescue but unfortunately could not repair it at the roadside. The Go South Coast team faced missing out on the competition. However, the Oxford operations team then stepped in and loaned the team a minibus to get them to the event on time!

Go South Coast and Oxford Bus Company entrants did not win the big prize this year. Go-Ahead London secured the top two places for Go-Ahead in the event, with their highest ranked driver, Raj Viswanathan finishing a very respectable 5th overall.

## Great Days out by Bus

Go-Ahead bus company, Konectbus were pleased to welcome Age UK Norwich on board the 5B on the September 8th. They headed out to Wroxham for a day out on the Broads, which was just one of the Great Days Out By Bus, they can enjoy for FREE when they use their concessionary bus pass.



## The Great British Beach Clean

Colleagues from GTR (Govia Thameslink Railway) and Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus joined forces with the Marine Conservation Society and Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club at low tide to clean rubbish washed up on Brighton and Hove Beach, as part of The Great British Beach Clean.

We're so proud of the 35 volunteers who braved torrential rain and strong winds to collect an astonishing 589 pieces of litter from just a 100m stretch, ranging from crisp packets to bottle tops and cigarette butts.





## Love pouring from the skies for our buses

One hundred extra Go North East buses were provided to support the Great North Run event. Despite the unpredictable weather the team captured this amazing pic on the day!



## London to Brighton charity cycle in memory of Jim Collins

Congratulations to Andrei Stylianou for completing the London to Brighton cycle ride in 5 hours and 22 minutes! The Group's Engineering Graduate took on the challenge earlier this month to raise funds for the Brain Cancer Charity in memory of Jim Collins.

Andrei said: "Despite the 30-degree weather and a puncture a quarter of the way through, the cycle was really enjoyable and rewarding! It was motivating seeing so many people come together to raise money for people in need. There were quite a few bumps and great moments along the way, but I would say the highlight was making it up Ditchling Beacon".



## Rail Day celebrations in Germany

Rail Day was introduced last year and is a celebration of environmentally friendly mode of transport in Germany. This year over 300 events across the entire industry took place across Germany.

Go-Ahead Germany organised two recruitment events in Stuttgart and Augsburg, and rail graduates from three schools were given insights into the many training pathways in becoming a rail worker.

Transport Minister Winfried Hermann took the time to discuss with the students the importance of railway professions for the transport industry, encouraging any questions.







Get to know...

# Nina Winter

Train Driver at Go-Ahead Germany

## Tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm 27 years old and I've been working for Go-Ahead as a train driver since November 2022. Before that, I did a three-year apprenticeship as a railway worker in operational service at Deutsche Bahn in Munich, specialising in locomotive driving and transport.

## What has been the best experience you have had so far in your job at Go-Ahead?

The best experience I've had at Go-Ahead is that I've met a lot of great people here, some of whom have become good friends. For example, the trainees like to ride with me so they can experience the life of a train driver before they qualify.

## What do you like best about your job as a train driver?

I'm getting people to their destination - to work in the morning or, if you have late shifts or night shifts, you drive them to parties or home from parties. And I get to travel around a lot too.

## What is your passion?

I'm a regular on Instagram and would like to describe myself as an influencer. I want to show people that driving a train is not just about pushing buttons. I was contacted to become a TRAINfluencer, for Pro-Rail Alliance. Since I've been a TRAINfluencer, I'm in discussion groups with others, where we talk about everyday life as a train's driver, which is my main passion.

