

NEWS ACROSS THE GROUP

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GTR

oxford
bus company

METROBUS

Driver wins £1,000,000!

Steve Goodwin, 51, from Holsworthy in Devon, purchased the winning scratch card last month (April 10), which he bought while waiting for his doner kebab! The Go Cornwall bus driver said he quickly popped into the co-op to buy some bread and decided to buy the National Lottery Bank the Cash scratch card. The 51-year-old realised he had won when he got outside the store.

Steve called his mum and partner Heidi to tell them the news. "No one believed me, I had to take a photo and send a picture. I too couldn't really believe it."

Steve went straight into work the next day for his normal shift travelling between Launceston and Plymouth. He said: "As the people hopped on, I was chuckling to myself. There I was a bus driver, with a load of passengers on board, and nobody knows I'm a millionaire."

"I love my job, it's great to meet so many people and the countryside as you drive around is sometimes breathtaking. The people at my depot have been great with me as the new boy."

"When they found out I had won, they were delighted for me. They couldn't be happier for me."

Steve and his girlfriend Heidi have always rented, so they'll be buying a home together with the winnings.



Class 313 retire from service, more on page 7

Welcome

from Christian Schreyer



Dear colleagues,

Go-Ahead's London office is just around the corner from the Houses of Parliament – which sometimes comes in handy when we want to talk to politicians.

This month, I was proud to take part in a ceremony outside the House of Lords to hand over a hospital bus to the Ukrainian Ambassador for use in treating soldiers injured defending their country from Russia.

The bus, until recently operated by Swindon's Bus Company, has been fitted out inside with hospital beds, monitors and ventilators. It's a terrific initiative and I'm really pleased that Go-Ahead was able to donate it.

Inside parliament's buildings, there's been a lot happening on transport lately. In terms of buses, the £2 fare cap outside London has been extended to the end of October, and

will then become a £2.50 cap until November 2024.

It's encouraging that the Government is willing to spend money on our industry, and I know the £2 fare has been popular with customers. Thank you to everybody at Go-Ahead's bus companies who has helped to make it as visible, and available, as possible.

On rail, though, it's disappointing that progress has been so slow on an important reform everybody in the industry has been waiting for – the creation of Great British Railways, intended to be a new 'guiding mind' for rail. I know that many colleagues at GTR share my desire for action to put the structure of the industry on a firmer footing – but we'll continue to deliver exceptional rail services to passengers across the south-east, irrespective of political foot-dragging.

Over the next few weeks, there will be much to cheer on at our company. In Manchester, Go North West is recruiting 300 drivers in readiness for its new Bee Network services in Bolton and Wigan. In Crawley, we're testing our first hydrogen vehicles, to be run by Metrobus. And across the other side of the world, in Sydney, we're preparing for the launch of our first Australian buses.

It's an exciting time to be at Go-Ahead. Thank you for all your efforts in delivering outstanding bus and rail journeys.

Best regards

Christian Schreyer,
Group Chief Executive

Go-Ahead is pleased to support Campaign for Better Transport's **#BetterTransportWeek** (12-18 June).



Helping Hand Scheme, from the UK to Singapore

Go-Ahead Singapore has played a pivotal part in the roll out of a scheme for passengers with accessibility needs called the Helping Hand Scheme, across the country's bus and rail operations after its successful trials and following a commendation by Singapore's Land Transport Authority.

The scheme which was initially born in the coastal town of Brighton by Go-Ahead's bus operating company - Brighton & Hove Buses, is an award-winning assistance card scheme which will give bus passengers in Singapore the opportunity to ask for assistance discreetly and directly.

A launch event to introduce the yellow assistance cards with messages such as 'May I have a seat please?' 'This is a wheelchair' and 'Alert me when I am approaching my stop' was held on the 12th May inviting Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Transport, and Mr Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Sustainability, and the Environment & Ministry of Transport to support the launch.



Please wait until seated



Pushchair can't be folded.



Priority seating required.



Colleagues Pulse Survey

Why you should take part – Group Head of Colleague Experience, Claire Mahoney.

The Colleague Pulse Survey will be launching on the 19th of June until the 9th of July. This is a survey asking colleagues for their views on what it's like to work for Go-Ahead Group companies. There are five core questions – including questions asking the extent to which you're enjoying your work and whether you're proud to work for your company. Colleague surveying is a key way for us to understand your experiences of, and engagement in, working for Go-Ahead Group.

The results will give us feedback on what we're doing right as an employer, and what areas we need to improve. We'll provide an update later this year on what we've done in response. So, please take time to fill in the survey, it takes less than five minutes, and is completely anonymous and confidential. Your views are important in making Go-Ahead Group an even better place to work. We hope we can deliver in making Go-Ahead Group an enjoyable workplace for all our colleagues across the Group.



Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester visits Go North West

Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester visited our colleagues at Go North West. He shared his vision for transport in the region and thanked Go North West colleagues for their hard work in mobilising the Bee Network in Greater Manchester.



Nigel Featham, Managing Director for Go North West and Go North East said: "This is a Group-wide project bringing teams together from Go South West, Go North East and Go-Ahead London. It's a fantastic opportunity for Go-Ahead colleagues to learn and to develop their careers."

Go-Ahead hospital bus to provide vital aid for Ukrainians on the front line

Go-Ahead bus is converted to a field hospital to support Ukrainians on the front line, ensuring they receive immediate care and aids.

The bus, which until recently carried passengers in Wiltshire as part of Swindon's Bus Company, was presented to His Excellency Vadym Prystaiko, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom, in a ceremony outside the House of Lords.

The single-decker vehicle has been fitted with hospital beds and medical equipment for use as a mobile field hospital on the frontline as Ukraine defends its territory following Russia's invasion.

Seats have been stripped out of the bus to make way for three beds, facilities for heart monitors and drips. The bus has a fresh water tank fitted, bathroom facilities and a portable generator.

The project has been overseen by Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP), a local charity formed to help the war-torn country. Since Russia's invasion, SHAP has donated 925 tonnes of aid to Ukraine.



Rail colleagues train to be a Dementia Friend

Govia Thameslink Railway has partnered with the Alzheimer's Society to help employees recognise the signs of dementia and how to offer support in real life scenarios.

The rail operator set a target of getting 100 colleagues signed up to be 'Dementia Friends', an initiative created by Alzheimer's Society. However, with so many people resonating with the cause and having their own experiences to share, the company has almost doubled its target, with 185 sign-ups so far.





Flexbuss wins two contracts

Flexbuss is expanding its operations with two further contracts in the Borås municipality and Åmål Municipality in Sweden. The company will expand its fleet with 17 new vehicles as well as two new depots. The services will assist with school traffic and buses will begin operating at the start of the school term in August.

The vehicles include 7 electrical buses (19-22 passengers), 2 buses on biogas (31 passengers) as well as 5 buses on HVO (for 50-57 passengers) and will be an important step in the company's sustainability work to reduce its environmental impact by reducing its carbon dioxide emissions.

Flexbuss will commence the recruitment of employees in mid-August and introductory training will be carried out to welcome the new employees to Flexbuss.

Wake up to a taste of eco-friendly Norwegian spring water



As part of our environmental commitment, Go-Ahead has replaced complementary plastic water bottles with environmentally friendly water cartons on our sleeper trains, which operate in southern Norway.

The cartons are 88% plant-based and are recyclable, reducing the need to throw away thousands of plastic bottles every year. The water comes from Telemark, a county in southern Norway known for its forests, valleys and mountains.

They will be placed in every sleeping berth on our overnight rail service, which runs between Oslo, in the east of the country, and Stavanger, in the west. The typical journey time is just under nine hours.

Oxford Bus Company invests in new fleet as popularity of airline service takes off

Oxford Bus Company has invested £2M in a new range of luxury coaches and will increase its airline services to Heathrow Airport to every 20 minutes. An additional 12 departures will go between Oxford and Heathrow Airport

daily from 28 May onwards, providing an extra 4,536 seats weekly. The upgrade in services from every 30 minutes to Heathrow Airport to every 20 minutes is being made to meet passenger demand.



**Dementia:
Understand
Together**



Go-Ahead Ireland supports Dementia Campaign

Go-Ahead Ireland is proud to be part of the Dementia: Understand Together campaign and the launch of the new dementia inclusive community symbol. The symbol has been developed to show solidarity with more than 64,000 people living with the condition in Ireland and to encourage local communities to raise awareness. Go-Ahead Ireland join 40 partners, ranging from voluntary and community groups, health services and academia to retail, transport and financial services and over 500 community champions nationally to take action to help support people with dementia, their families and friends. As well as displaying and using the symbol on websites, newsletters and on social media, partners and champions are encouraged to take part in dementia awareness training.

GTR's fab four make it to the World Cup of Stations

The World Cup of Stations has been organised by the Rail Delivery Group since 2019, celebrating Britain's stations in a just-for-fun competition using Twitter polls. Forty-eight stations are split into 11 regional voting pools, plus one bonus round selected by rail influencer Tim Dunn.

GTR's Denmark Hill was shortlisted in the 'Education Stations' category for its artwork and STEM related exhibitions. Bishopstone stood out for its new community hall so earned recognition in the 'Creating Social Spaces' category. Whyteleafe and Bognor Regis made it through in the 'Supporting Local Business' category for their food bank and working hub respectively.

This year the tournament took place throughout Community Rail Week (22-26 May).



Visit from Malaysian Minister Nik Ahmad

Go-Ahead London colleagues were honoured to host Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, the Malaysian Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change on Thursday 18 May.

The Minister and his officials took time from their busy schedule to visit our Northumberland Park Garage to see how we are decarbonising London's iconic red bus fleet.

As Go-Ahead London is the capital's most experienced, innovative, and largest Zero-Emission bus company we are working with the Mayor of London, Transport for London and our supply chain partners to improve air quality.



Class 313 farewell tour



Hundreds of rail enthusiasts joined Southern Rail for a special charity tour in one of the coastal Class 313 trains that have now retired from service. The tour marked the end of the line for the Class 313s, which have been a mainstay of British railways for fifty years.

Trainspotting celebrity Francis Bourgeois, known for his popular social media videos also joined the tour which set off from Brighton.

A raffle raised around £25,000 for GTR's - Govia Thameslink Rail's chosen charities, the Sussex children's hospice Chestnut Tree House and the Railway Children.

U-Go Team Australia!

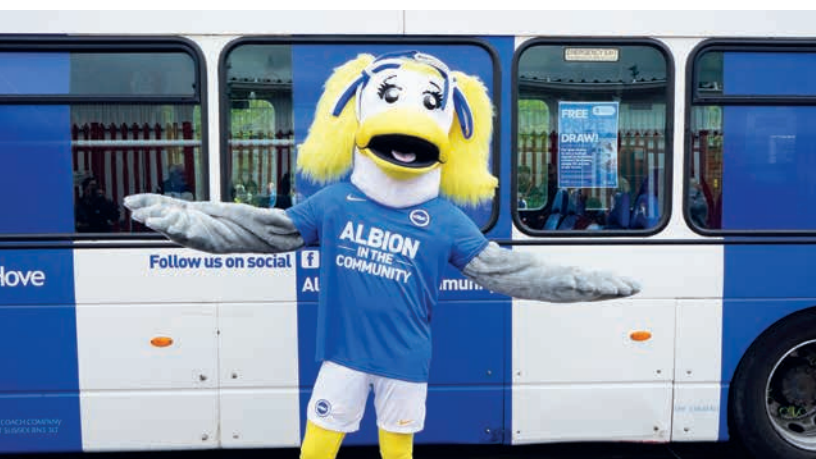
Go-Ahead begins running buses in Sydney on July 1st, which will make Australia the seventh country in which we operate public transport. We'll be carrying 500,000 passengers daily in the city's south and south-western suburbs.

Go-Ahead's mobilisation team came together to make plans in the shadow of Sydney Harbour Bridge. Our buses in Sydney will be branded as U-Go Mobility – a joint venture between Go-Ahead and Australia's UGL.



Oxford Bus Company celebrations at the Really Amazing Awards

Oxford Bus Company celebrated the achievements of colleagues at its 'Really Amazing Awards' ceremony held at the Ashmolean Museum. Members of the teams at Oxford Bus Company and its sister companies Thames Travel, Carousel Buses and City Sightseeing Oxford gathered to mark the successes of colleagues. Oxford Bus Company colleagues scooped up awards in nine categories, rewarding long service and exceptional performance by teams and individuals.



Football bus scores funds for charity in Brighton & Hove

Albion took on West Ham in the Women's Super League (WSL) on Sunday 7th May at the Broadfield Stadium, with the match being used to support and raise money for Albion in the Community (AITC).

Brighton & Hove Buses' AITC-branded double-decker was on display for supporters to get their photos in front of, with a free photobooth inside too.

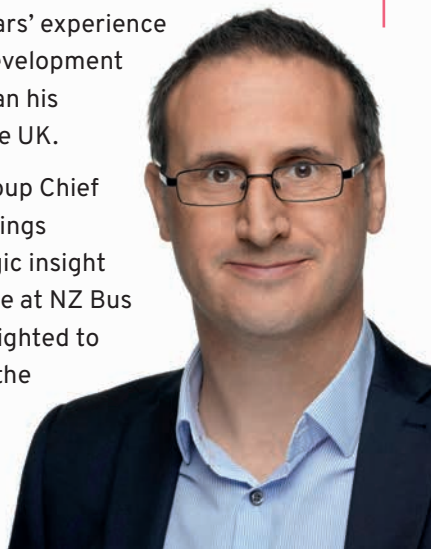
Our support helped raise funds for AITC's important work across Sussex, where they use the power of football to help people get active, learn new skills, and improve their well-being.

Ian Grose appointed permanent CFO

Ian Grose has been appointed Chief Financial Officer of The Go-Ahead Group on a permanent basis, having held the role on an interim basis since January.

Ian joined Go-Ahead from NZ Bus in New Zealand. He has 20 years' experience of financial strategy development and execution. He began his career at Deloitte in the UK.

Christian Schreyer, Group Chief Executive, said: "Ian brings experience and strategic insight to the role from his time at NZ Bus and at Deloitte. I'm delighted to have him on board for the long term."



Get around for £1

Go North East in partnership with Transport North East is offering young people aged 21 and under £1.00 single bus fares.

The '£1 21 & Under single' is valid for one single customer journey on eligible local bus services within Tyne and Wear, Durham County Council area and Northumberland County Council area.



Go-Ahead London's Metrobus operations turn 40

Go-Ahead London's Metrobus operation is 40 this year and to celebrate they will host a garage open day at Orpington bus depot in September.

Metrobus was effectively born on 24 September

1983, with buses initially adopting a blue and yellow livery. The company secured its first London Regional Transport bus contracts in 1986, for Routes 61 and 361, using 13 ex-London Transport Daimler Fleetlines.

David Cutts, Go-Ahead London's Managing Director, said: "In celebrating its distinguished past, we also look forward to a bright future that includes innovative electric buses on Route 358. We know from experience these events are very popular, as was the case at Orpington in 2013 when Metrobus celebrated its 30th anniversary, and further details will be shared over the coming months."



Fourth time winner at Go-Ahead Singapore

Go-Ahead Singapore's Senior Bus Captain Mohd Nizam Bin Haron won the Driver of the Year award for the fourth time. This year, he received a 50g gold bullion for obtaining the top prize.

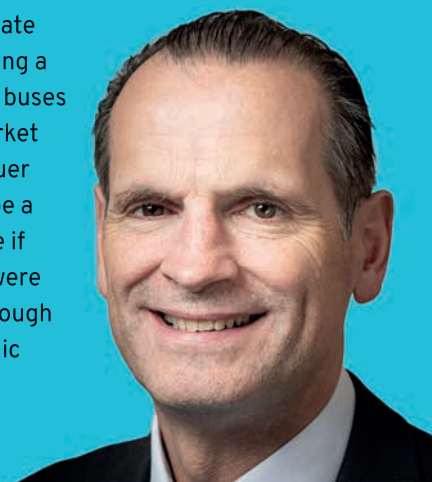
The award is given annually to the top 40 performing bus captains in Go-Ahead Singapore. They are evaluated based on driving performance, customer service delivery and other relevant conduct records.



Next stop - Westminster! Politicians must prioritise protecting vital bus services

Martin Dean, Go-Ahead's Managing Director, Regional Bus - urged politicians in an article published by PoliticsHome to prioritise protecting bus services.

He said: 'Private operators bring a great deal to buses – but the market cannot conquer all. It would be a crying shame if vital routes were scrapped through a lack of public funding.'



Morebus community fund to benefit Bournemouth families

Go South Coast, Morebus is offering help for local families who need transport to-and-from food banks within the area.

The bus operator is donating £250 worth of bus tickets to St Michael's Church of England Primary School in Bournemouth, through its community fund.

"Many parents of pupils at our school use the buses and don't have cars to travel here or to food banks," said Anthony Evans headteacher at St Michael's Church of England Primary School.

"At the moment, there are no food banks local to our area, so when we hand out food vouchers, families must travel by bus to Boscombe to pick up their items - which is an extra cost.

"This will make a huge difference to families who are already struggling to feed themselves. It will mean they will be able to access the food bank without having to find extra money to pay for the bus."





Princes Trust graduate left bartending for a railway career

A Prince's Trust graduate is celebrating three years on the railway after coming through Govia Thameslink Rail's (GTR) job experience partnership with King Charles's work programme.

GTR has worked with The Trust since 2015 on the 'Get into Railways' programme, something On Board Supervisor, Ephraim Tshola used to help him enter the world of rail. Ephraim impressed his managers so much that he was offered his On-board Supervisor role before he even finished the Prince's Trust programme and has now been working at Southern since 2020.

Since 2015, GTR has supported more than 200 young people through the training programme, with 160 still employed by the company. The latest cohort have just graduated, enabling even more young people to begin their careers in rail.

Fabian Amini elected to German Transport Forum

Fabian Amini, Managing Director of the German Go-Ahead companies, was elected to the Presidium of the German Transport Forum at this year's General Assembly. The German Transport Forum is the only cross-modal business association in Europe and has around 170 member companies. It sees itself as an advocate for mobility, wants to improve transport conditions and secure mobility in Germany and Europe.



Rebecca on Ice

A Go-Ahead colleague in Germany comes 12th place in the World Synchronised Figure Skating Championships. Rebecca, a business lawyer at Go-Ahead in Germany, took part in the championships in the USA as part of the “United Angels” team from Stuttgart. The championship was in Lake Placid, which also hosted Olympic competitions in 1932 and 1980.

Rebecca said: “The beautiful hall with 7000 seats was almost sold out and the atmosphere was unbeatable. Out of 23 teams, we made it to 12th place as World Cup debutants and are incredibly proud!”



Motivational Monday!

Don't you know yet?
It's your light that
lights the world.

– Rumi



[go_ahead_group](#)
our Instagram handle

Embrace your life journey with
gratitude, so that how you travel
your path is more important than
reaching your ultimate destination.

– Rosalene Glickman

London buses ‘photo opp’ for the King’s Coronation

Go-Ahead London celebrated the King’s Coronation with a commemorative livery on LT511, a Stockwell-based New Routemaster. The vehicle joined a select number of other London buses for a one-off Transport for London photocall in and around Parliament Square/Westminster.



Get to know...



Andy Benstead

Head of Engineering for East Yorkshire Buses

How did you get into transport?

I started as a mechanic apprentice for East Yorkshire Buses 17 years ago, a day after my 16th birthday. A family member told me about the opportunity, and it all started from there. I was promoted to a supervisor role, then Quality Engineer and recently I took on the Head of Engineering role.

Are there any challenges you've had to overcome in your career?

I was so young when I started my career. I remember the transition from school into the world of work was daunting, however, I had so much support. As part of the apprenticeship, I had to attend college in Coventry, meaning I was away from home a lot during that time. I don't have any regrets though - it just meant having to grow up fast and meeting new people from across the country, some who have become friends for life!

What's it like being the Head of Engineering for Go-Ahead?

I started the role on April fool's day 2023, so I'm very new to the role. I am responsible for a fleet of 224 vehicles across six depots and over 100 colleagues and the maintenance of vehicles, servicing, parts department, MOT's, plant and machinery and buildings. It's a busy role but I'm enjoying it. The standards are already high here at East Yorkshire Buses, so I want to maintain that and also look at ways we can improve, even if we're doing it really well already.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

It's my main priority to ensure buses are safe, reliable and maintained to a high standard. I enjoy helping others develop in their careers the most - this gives me job satisfaction. I'm very grateful for my journey and the opportunities so I want to do the same for others - to help them to progress and develop their careers.

What is your passion and what gets you out of bed?

A good coffee! Jokes aside, I am passionate about the ability to succeed and to help others. I strive to provide a good service for our customers.

What are your hobbies?

I like water sports, such as wake boarding and water skiing. In the summer I'll go out boating on the Mediterranean. I have a love for sport in Hull, supporting Hull city AFC and Hull KR.

