

STAGECOACH Group is to make a number of changes to its Board after it was announced that Chairman Sir George Mathewson and Chief Executive Sir Brian Souter are to step down from their current roles.

With effect from 1 May 2013, Sir George Mathewson is to retire as a director. Sir Brian Souter will be appointed as Chairman and current Group Finance Director Martin Griffiths will take on the role of Chief Executive from Sir Brian.

Current Director of Finance and Company Secretary, Ross Paterson is to be appointed to the Board as Group Finance Director and Senior Independent Non-Executive Director Garry Watts will be appointed as Deputy Chairman.

In addition, the Board intends to appoint a further Independent Non-Executive Director, who will chair the Audit Committee.

Commenting on the changes, Sir George Mathewson, Chairman, said: "I have been delighted to be associated with a company as strong and as successful as Stagecoach and I am confident that the changes to the Board announced today will mean the Company remains in good hands when I retire in April.

Sir Brian Souter, Chief Executive said: "I remain committed to the success of Stagecoach and consider now to be an appropriate time to plan to take a step back from the day-to-day management of the business. I fully support the Board's decisions to appoint Martin and Ross to their new roles, which reflects a further continuation of the transition in responsibilities that has

Board transition plans announced

Changes lead to new appointments



Sir Brian Souter will take on the role of Chairman next May.



Sir George Mathewson announced he is to retire as Chairman.



Martin Griffiths who will become Chief Executive next year.

occurred over recent years. With a combined shareholding of over 25%, my family and I remain committed shareholders in Stagecoach and I will devote whatever time is necessary to effectively discharge my responsibilities as Chairman when that time comes."

Martin Griffiths, Finance Director, added: "I am honoured and delighted to be taking on the position of Chief Executive. I am proud to be part of the Stagecoach success story,

working closely with Sir Brian. I look forward to continuing to work with Sir Brian and the team of talented people across the Group that underpin Stagecoach's success. I would like to congratulate Ross Paterson on his planned appointment as Finance Director – he has made a great contribution to the Group over the last 13 years and I look forward to continuing to work closely with Ross and the rest of our strong senior management team."

Surprise extra passenger!

STAGECOACH London driver Vently Hewitt was at the centre of a surprise delivery recently when a woman gave birth to a baby on board his bus.

Vently Hewitt (47) pulled over and alerted the emergency services when another passenger advised him of the situation. He then escorted around 20 passengers off the bus and assisted the paramedic by gathering equipment together to help deliver the baby boy in record time.

All went well and mother and baby were both in good health.

Vently said: "I was quite concerned because the woman seemed very upset. I told her the ambulance was coming and asked the other passengers to leave the bus.



London bus driver Vently Hewitt.

I did whatever the paramedic asked me, but apart from that I didn't want to intervene too much in such a private moment.

"I saw him after he was born and he was a nice little boy. I was just surprised that it had all happened so quickly, within half an hour. It was unbelievable. I didn't really think about it until later but it was a special moment and it was a day I'll never forget."



Medal-winning performance

AS the eyes of the world focused on London for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Stagecoach's bus and rail employees were at the heart of the action.

The Group's employees did themselves and the company proud by delivering an excellent transport operation for spectators, athletes and media. And the staff who stayed at home to ensure local services ran as normal deserve a big thank-you too.

See page 3 for more Olympic Fever...

You what?!

Overheard on a London Underground train

▶ Driver: "This is Paddington Station. Please leave your valuables on the train and I will collect them at the end of my shift."

Can you beat that? Send your weird and wonderful overheard comments to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com



Neville's big 6-0

▶ A CELEBRATION lunch was held recently at Winchester bus depot for 75-year-old Neville Gosling to mark his 60 years with the city's bus services.

Neville, from Winnall, joined what was then Hants & Dorset Bus Co. in 1952 and has worked for Stagecoach since 1987.

"We discovered five years ago that Neville is the longest-serving member of staff at Stagecoach and we believe he now holds the long service record for the entire UK bus industry!" said South Managing Director Andrew Dyer.

"I'm sure that everyone is delighted that Neville does not intend to retire and will continue to maintain the high standards

expected at the depot."

Stagecoach founder and chief executive, Sir Brian Souter added his own congratulations and thanked Neville for his loyal service over the decades.



(From left) Richard Alexander, Neville Gosling and Andrew Dyer.



The Berry Bus.

Berry bus on display

▶ A RESTORED vintage bus formerly used to transport berry pickers in the Big County – Perthshire – featured as part of the Dundee Flower and Food festival.

Stagecoach supplied the restored Leyland Tiger bus which was used as a venue for people from across the region to share their 'berry memories' during the event.

The 30ft former McLennan's bus was hired by Stagecoach boss Sir Brian Souter's late mother, Catherine, to transport berry pickers from Perth to the berry fields north of Spittalfield. It is now one of Stagecoach's heritage vehicles on display at the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum in Lathalmond, Fife, but is still fully licensed as a public service vehicle.

Tickets on the go

▶ SOUTH West Trains passengers can now buy their train tickets via their mobile phones, using the enhanced mobile version of the company's website.

The updated version of the mobile website allows passengers to purchase tickets and receive tailored information on their journeys while on the move. Tickets can be bought quickly and easily through the South West Trains mobile website and then collected from one of a thousand stations across the south of England.



Beside the sea

▶ STAGECOACH East Midlands introduced a faster bus service from Lincoln to Skegness for the school holidays to help people be beside the seaside more quickly.

To celebrate they brought a bit of the seaside to Lincoln with deckchairs and the famous Skegness Jolly Fisherman, who spent the day hopping on and off buses, greeting young and old alike.

Jolly helps promote the new service.

Pedal power

▶ STAFF at Preston Depot recently cycled from Manchester to Blackpool to raise money for Christie's Hospital in Manchester. Well done to all involved.

Pictured are Gary Campion, Liz Patfield, Wayne Price, Slawomir Krzyskow, Mark Charnock, Dean Collier, James Brown and Dave Myerscough.



Olympic fever



LOCOG Chairman Lord Coe stopped for a photo with South West Trains employees Frank Roberts and Matt Winnie at Windsor & Eton Riverside Station.

On board in Manchester

WITH nine Olympic football matches taking place in Manchester, Stagecoach was at the heart of the action in running the spectators between Old Trafford stadium, Manchester city centre and various park-and-ride sites.

Over the 13-day period of the games, Manchester's four depots turned out 368 extra buses, carrying over 152,000 people. Managing Director Chris Bowles said: "I'm sure we surprised and impressed a few people, and certainly did ourselves proud."

Olympic station investment

MILLIONS of passengers benefited from a £16million investment in a raft of station upgrades and improved accessibility for disabled passengers ahead of the London 2012 Games.

Vauxhall, Weymouth, Wimbledon, Windsor & Eton Riverside, Southampton Central and Clapham Junction were given a multi-million-pound makeover ahead of this summer's sporting events.

The improvements to facilities were made possible by investment from the South West Trains-Network Rail alliance and other stakeholders.



FROM buses to trains, Stagecoach's involvement in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games helped make the event a huge success. Thousands of the Group's staff did a fantastic job in helping media, athletes and spectators travel around London during the Games.

Group Finance Director Martin Griffiths said: "All of our employees involved in the Olympics and Paralympics should be very proud of themselves. We have played an important role in a hugely successful global event and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts, both those who were in London and our employees who kept our local bus operations running across the country."

On this page are some of our stories from the Games.



South West Trains employee Daniel Opoku (right), who was an official torch bearer, with a passenger at Waterloo Station.



Stagecoach Chief Executive Sir Brian Souter carried out Olympic duty along with thousands of Stagecoach staff. Sir Brian worked a shift to transport dozens of sports stars from the athletes' village to their competition and training venues at the main Olympic Park Games site. He is also pictured having a meal with other Olympic drivers at the athlete transport depot in West Ham.



Members of the USA Olympic diving team used East Midlands Trains to travel to London.



South West Trains Marketing Manager Maggie Banasiak hands out ice creams at Waterloo Station.



Happy East Midlands Trains passengers at St Pancras Station with their free ice lollies.



(Left to right) Marcin Aleksandrowicz, Traffic Manager Mark Whitelocks, and Paul Herbert.

Top drivers

STAGECOACH West held its regional Bus Driver of the Year trials at Cheltenham Racecourse, with 11 drivers taking part.

The eventual winner was Paul Herbert from Cheltenham Depot, with Marcin Aleksandrowicz, also from Cheltenham Depot, in second place and Sheila Maynard from Ross-on-Wye Depot in third.

Well done to all.

Devon expansion

STAGECOACH South West has launched an expanded bus network in Devon, providing new services and creating a small number of additional jobs.

The new network provides vital bus links in North Devon and will be operated out of the company's depot in Barnstaple.

Michelle Hargreaves, Managing Director of Stagecoach South West, said: "We look forward to providing local people on our new routes with a high quality bus service and value-for-money fares."

Hospice cash

AN event held in May to celebrate two anniversaries in the history of bus services in Aldershot has raised £1036 for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

The successful event commemorated the 100th anniversary of the founding of local bus company Aldershot & District Traction Co. Ltd on 24 July 1912, and 20 years of bus operations throughout the Aldershot, Farnham and Blackwater Valley area by its successor Stagecoach.

A dog's life

STAGECOACH East Midlands Gainsborough Depot recently assisted the local police force by allowing their specialist dog training to take place on board buses at the depot.



One of the local officers with his police dog.

Lily's thrilling ride

ELEVEN-year-old Lily Perkins has been rewarded for her charity fundraising efforts with an exciting helicopter ride donated by Stagecoach in East Sussex.

Brave Lily lost her mother, who was a patient at St. Michael's Hospice, when she was just eight years old. She has since raised over £550 for the hospice in memory of her mum.

Paul Southgate, Managing Director of Stagecoach in East Sussex, said: "We were extremely moved when we heard about Lily and don't think the trip could have gone to a more deserving little girl."



Lily in the cockpit.



Info on-screen

STAGECOACH Bluebird has launched a customer information system on board its Jet bus services, which serve Aberdeen Airport.

The information screens mark the second anniversary of the JET 727 route, which was launched in August 2010 and has since carried over 480,000 passengers.

(Left to right) Andrew Jarvis, Managing Director Stagecoach Bluebird; Derek Provan Managing Director Aberdeen Airport; Councillor Peter Argyle and Derick Murray, Director NESTRANS.

The Force is strong on this bus!



STAGECOACH'S Paignton open-topper found some rather unusual customers waiting at the bus stop the other week!

As part of the area's Children's Week, which is sponsored by Stagecoach South West, some of the world's best known sci-fi characters joined in and took a tour on the open top bus.

Picture of the Season

WIN A
£50
VOUCHER

THIS edition's winning Picture of the Season was taken by Stagecoach West driver Obert Sandor. It shows a summer's day at Swindon depot.

Congratulations to Obert who will shortly receive his prize of £50 of M&S vouchers.

If you think you have a picture that captures one of the four seasons, please send your image to Lindsay Reid, On Stage, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW, or email it to: lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com



Minister visits alliance team

RAIL Minister Theresa Villiers recently visited Basingstoke signalling centre to meet staff from the South West Trains/Network Rail alliance.

The alliance was formed in April to create one management team responsible for both trains and track in the south and south-west of England with the objective of delivering better rail services for passengers.

Tim Shoveller, Managing Director of the South West Trains/Network Rail alliance, said: "I am pleased the Minister of State for Transport has been able to get a personal insight into how our staff are working together to deliver a better service to our customers on a daily basis."

Rail Minister Theresa Villiers said: "Basingstoke is a really impressive example how on a practical level the creation of one management team can work to deliver a more efficient and a better railway."

Loud and clear

A new state-of-the-art public address system has been unveiled at Waterloo Station.

With 350,000 passengers using the station every day, the new PA system will help to ensure passengers have even better access to information.

Richard Anderson, Station Manager for Waterloo, said: "Passengers need to be able to hear any information which may affect their journey, particularly at busy times."

Tunes on the tram

SUPERTRAM users were treated to a 'secret gig' on board a tram as part of the Tramlines music festival in Sheffield.

Band 'Johnny Foreigner' performed a short acoustic set on board a tram, which was announced via social media at the last minute.

Top recognition for staff development

EMPLOYEES at East Midlands Trains, are celebrating after being awarded Investors in People (IiP) status. The IiP scheme recognises organisations that have improved their performance and delivery through the investment in and development of employees.

In recognition of its achievement, East Midlands Trains has received a certificate and plaque which will be displayed at its Derby headquarters.

David Horne, Managing Director of East Midlands Trains, commented: "Our staff are passionate about delivering the best service possible for our passengers and are committed to going the extra mile wherever they can. This is great news and we are determined to keep up the good work."



Clare McCartney, Human Resources Director and Jo Everill, Head of Human Resources for East Midlands Trains with the Investors in People plaque and certificate.



Ryan in the driving seat

SEVEN-year-old train enthusiast Ryan Ansley was given the train ride of his dreams as he was invited to ride in the cabs of three East Midlands Trains services.

He was also provided with insider information about the operation of the railway by East Midlands Trains staff.

The visit was arranged after Ryan wrote a letter to East Midlands Trains Managing Director David Horne.

Ryan in the cab of a Meridian train.

Hydrogen bus fleet launched



Mike Prowse celebrates half a century on the buses.

Driving dynasty

STAGECOACH driver Mike Prowse this week celebrates 50 years on the buses.

Mike began with Devon General back in 1962, following in the footsteps of his father Alan, who himself worked as a driver for 44 years.

Carrying on the tradition, Mike's son, Michael junior, has just completed his first three months as a driver, meaning that in the next few years the Prowse family will, between them, have put in 100 years of service on Devon's roads!

Mike said: "I love my job and I've got no plans to retire just yet – although I'm not sure I'll manage another 50 years!"



Brian with the Wee Gee Bus.

Wee Gee retirement

BRIAN Robertson, driver of Stagecoach West Scotland's Wee Gee Bus, is retiring after six years in charge of the award-winning project bus which has helped combat youth disorder and vandalism within the Glasgow area.

Brian has done a fantastic job – not only driving the bus but also delivering informative talks to thousands of young people about the dangers of vandalism and the cost to the community of such actions – and everyone who worked with him wishes him the best in his retirement.

STAGECOACH is to play a key role in a new multi-million-pound project to deliver Europe's largest hydrogen bus fleet as part of a new clean energy hub.

Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise funding of £3.3million will enable Aberdeen City Council, supported by Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group, to start the project with an order for 10 hydrogen fuel cell buses – which produce water vapour instead of carbon monoxide and other harmful emissions.

They will be operated on Stagecoach and First bus routes in Aberdeen by early 2014 and refuelled at Scotland's first large hydrogen refuelling station, which will also be able to refuel hydrogen-powered passenger cars, as they become available.

Andrew Jarvis, Managing Director, Stagecoach Bluebird, said: "Powering vehicles from renewable sources can make the bus an even greener and smarter option."



Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown (left) and Stagecoach Bluebird Managing Director Andrew Jarvis launch the hydrogen bus project.



London Managing Director Mark Threapleton presents a certificate to staff from Catford Garage.

The big switch off

STAGECOACH London took part in a Big Switch-off power-saving initiative to test how much energy could be saved by turning off electrical items which aren't in use.

Garage Green Team leaders encouraged all staff to switch off non-essential equipment such as PCs, printers, copiers, battery chargers, lights in empty offices and fans. Catford Garage was the winner, reducing its energy consumption for that day by 25% compared to Christmas Day 2011. The garage was given £1000 to donate to its chosen charity.

London Managing Director Mark Threapleton said: "This has been a great exercise to raise staff awareness. Our challenge is for everyone to do this all the time, which will improve our carbon footprint and control our costs."

Hear ye, hear ye

STAGECOACH West recently provided a specially liveried bus to promote the local town crier competition in Calne. Pictured are the wannabe town criers.



Wi-Fi for Chesterfield

SIX new buses fitted with free Wi-Fi internet access have been launched by Stagecoach in Chesterfield as part of a £1.1m investment.

The 80-seat low-floor, easy access vehicles feature the special Peel Monument livery, celebrating the services' connection with Dronfield. Each vehicle is also fitted with a Euro 5 engine which will produce lower levels of emissions than the Euro 4 engines currently used on the route.



Merseyside driver David Smith joins some of the carnival revellers.

All the fun of Rio – in Liverpool

STAGECOACH Merseyside was involved in this year's Liverpool Brazilian Carnival which swept through the streets of Liverpool City Centre.

Included in the parade were local, national and international samba schools and hundreds of performers took part in this Rio-style carnival weaving its way through the city centre with glittering costumes, floats and irresistible samba music.

megabus.com's new terminal

MEGABUS.COM has a new terminal and bus stop in downtown Montreal after acquiring a large space for its growing Megabus operations.

The terminal is located in the same building as many shops, cafes, restaurants, and even a skating rink.



James Hudson.

James arrives in Yorkshire

JAMES Hudson has taken on a new role as assistant engineering manager with Stagecoach Yorkshire at Barnsley Depot.

James originally served as a mechanical apprentice with Arriva Yorkshire before becoming a skilled mechanic based at Belle Isle depot in Wakefield.



The Mayor of Dover, Charlie Elphicke MP, and Stagecoach Managing Director Paul Southgate present the 'Local Diamonds' with framed pictures of their personalised buses.

Community heroes 'on the buses'

THE search by Stagecoach to recognise 'Community Diamonds' resulted in four very worthy winners. During June, buses on the Stagecoach Diamond network, which operates between Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Canterbury, were used to announce the competition and invite nominations.

The four winners have had their pictures

displayed on local Diamond Route buses to celebrate their achievements.

Divene Anderson, Marketing Manager for Stagecoach in East Kent, said: "There has been a great sense of community spirit this year with people coming together for Diamond Jubilee and Olympic events, so it seemed fitting that we should do something to celebrate this using our Diamond network of buses."



On the circuit

STAGECOACH Midlands once again played a vital role in the success of the 2012 Formula One British Grand Prix by providing hundreds of vehicles to transport spectators to and from the event held at Silverstone. The transport operation was a great success, thanks to the hard work of all involved.

Some of the vehicles used at Silverstone (photo credit – Steven Knight).



Loyal service celebration

STAGECOACH South Wales recently held a dinner to celebrate combined long service of staff of 564 years.

Clive hands over his keys

▷ **GAINSBOROUGH** driver Clive Griffiths has recently retired and will be missed by many staff at the depot who wish him all the best in his retirement.



Clive Griffiths.

Tommy's off

▷ **DRIVER** Tommy Monaghan retired from Cumnock depot after 43 years' driving service.

Tommy started with Western Buses as a conductor and has covered a variety of long distance and local service work during his time on the buses.

Long service

▷ **STAGECOACH** North East has celebrated the long service of 97 members of staff employed at its depots across Newcastle, Sunderland, Stockton, Hartlepool and South Shields.

Collectively, they've put in a staggering 2,685 years.

58-year-old driver Geoffrey Taylor was recognised for an impressive 35 years service with Stagecoach. He said: "I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at Stagecoach and it has been a privilege to be able to work for the company for so long. They've looked after me through thick and thin."

CONTACTS

Editor: Lindsay Reid, On Stage, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW

Email: lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

www.stagecoach.com

If you have a story for On Stage, please contact Lindsay Reid as above.

The copy deadline for the next edition of On Stage will be Wednesday 17th October.



The quickfire round - Brian Robertson

Stagecoach West Scotland

- ▷ **Who are you?** Brian Robertson from Stagecoach West Scotland – "Wee Gee" bus driver.
- ▷ **What do you like most about your job?** The job satisfaction. Teaching children, especially those with learning difficulties.
- ▷ **What do you like least about your job?** A cold bus in winter time. There's no heating in the Wee Gee bus. I once spent 6 hours digging myself out of a snow drift at St Marks primary in Barrhead.
- ▷ **Favourite TV show?** The Six O'Clock News and Question Time.
- ▷ **Biggest achievement?** Getting the Stagecoach Champion award in St Petersburg and the "Person of the Year Award" from the Rotary Club in East Renfrew
- ▷ **Worst job?** None – never had a bad job!
- ▷ **Most embarrassing moment?** 60 kids threw me a surprise dinner party at Caliba

Primary School summer camp. I was reduced to tears.

▷ **Dream Job?** The job I've been doing with 'The Wee Gee' these last six years! Job satisfaction from the kids makes it all worthwhile.

▷ **Favourite animal?** Rough Collies.

▷ **Most like to be stuck in a lift with?** Elkie Brooks!



The Quickfire Round features in every edition of On Stage and we want to hear from as many staff as possible. To suggest the next participant, email lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

Neil gets on board

▷ **EAST Midlands Trains** has appointed Neil Micklethwaite as its new Customer Service & Commercial Director.

Neil (39), a qualified accountant, has worked extensively in the rail industry. He joined British Rail as a graduate trainee 20 years ago and has held senior commercial roles at both First Great Western and Chiltern Railways. He joins East Midlands Trains from advertising company CBS Outdoor Ltd, where he was UK Bus & Rail Director.

He said: "I am passionate about driving improvements for passengers and join at a key time in East Midlands Trains development. East Midlands Trains has a great future and I am really looking forward to being a part of it."

David Horne, Managing Director for East Midlands Trains, added: "I am delighted to welcome Neil to the team, and he joins at an exciting and busy time."



Neil Micklethwaite.

Phillip's on board with training

▷ **PHILLIP** Morgan has been appointed the new Assistant Operations Manager in Cwmbran after completing his SDP 14 qualification.

Phillip joined Stagecoach in 2002 as a driver in Cwmbran.

He moved to Merthyr Depot as a Depot Inspector in 2007, before returning to Cwmbran as Depot Inspector/Megabus Controller in 2010.

Phillip Morgan.

