



▲ The Omnibus team at the NEC last year

Enhanced reports to be focus at Coach & Bus Live

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A new facility within OmniDAS, the multi functional depot allocation software, is a feature of the reporting function which measures absenteeism using The Bradford Factor (see page 3 of this issue).

Another new feature of OmniDAS deals with the increasingly demanding issue of complicated payrules in the system's characteristic, user-friendly way.

Peter Crichton, Managing Director for Omnibus, comments: "We are looking forward to seeing our customers in the relaxed environment of the NEC and showing them the latest developments to our extensive range of software solutions. At the same time, we welcome the

opportunity to make new contacts and introduce our products to a new audience."

Come to the Masterclass Theatre on Wednesday 2nd October at 2pm to see James Freeman (Chief Executive Officer of Reading Buses) give a presentation on how the company has improved the way they work through investment in technology such as OmniDAS and EBSR.

Land's End to John O'Groats – by bus

Visitors to the Omnibus stand at Coach & Bus Live will not fail to notice that the company is promoting a charity challenge being undertaken by two members of the team. Immediately after the NEC Show, Michael Meilton and Jeremy Howat will set out from Land's End to John O'Groats by local bus services. The aim is to raise £20,000 for a little girl with Spinal Muscular Atrophy to have the holiday of a lifetime and to give other children the chance of having their dreams come true through a donation to Make-A-Wish.

Ipswich Buses was amongst the first to offer support, so the route was changed to go via Ipswich. Omnibus is giving Jeremy

and Michael the time off work, covering their accommodation costs and donating £1,000.

Go-Ahead, First and Stagecoach have donated free bus passes for use along the route. First have also donated complimentary rail tickets while Stagecoach has kindly donated tickets on the sleeper coach back to London to get them home. From End to End Michael and Jeremy will be wearing branded sweatshirts donated by Cotton Traders and printed by Pasifik Design Limited.

Michael Meilton comments: "The bus industry is a close knit community and we

have been delighted by the response to requests for sponsorship, free bus passes and other support. We are already well on our way to reaching our ambitious target and, if we manage to surpass it then even more money can go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation."

Personal donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/Blossom-Appeal-Cariad-Rose-Trust

Companies can also help through corporate sponsorship. Please contact John Crompton at Omnibus on 0161 683 3101 and we will be more than happy to talk to you about any level of support you may wish to offer.

Reading Buses go live with EBSR

In the Summer issue of OmniNEWS we announced that Reading Buses had been given the green light by VOSA to transfer over to Electronic Bus Service Registration (EBSR).



Since adopting the technology of OmniMAP and EBSR modules to make the switch, the company has now registered all routes with VOSA electronically.

Reading Buses submitted a set of new registrations for a series of changes the operator introduced this summer.

Steve Bell, Operations Technology Manager for Reading Buses, comments: "Technically the system worked extremely efficiently and the update went very smoothly. We were also pleased to note that instead of the usual ten day delay before receiving acceptance of the changes by post, we received ours electronically within two days."

New Commercial Team

Omnibus has put together a team of specialists to work more closely with clients in order to help them get the most out of the Omnibus suite of software products.

The team of eight will dedicate their time to interacting with clients to better understand their businesses as they seek ever more efficient ways of working.

Headed by Director Carol Crichton, the team is thought to be the largest dedicated customer facing team in the industry.

The team was boosted recently with the addition of two new members of staff. Colin Voyce joins the team from Trapeze and also has a long history of scheduling experience with First Group and Stagecoach. Kieran Proctor joins Omnibus from Stagecoach where he also had scheduling experience and worked on Olympics transport projects.

One project the team has recently completed was a series of schedules audits for a customer; something that the team is increasingly being asked to do in order to improve operational efficiencies where clients do not have the resources to conduct a review in-house.



▲ Kieran Proctor (left) and Colin Voyce



▲ Bespoke bus stop displays by OmniSTOP

Breaking the Mould

OmniSTOP, the bus stop display software from Omnibus, removes the need for designers or other design software by importing data from OmniTIMES and automatically creating publicity material.

However, not all bus companies want the standard formats it creates. So Omnibus has started working with operators to create bespoke designs of new templates to order. Yourbus and Metrobus are just two of the companies around the UK who are already displaying their 'designer' bus stop displays created by OmniSTOP.

The Bradford Factor

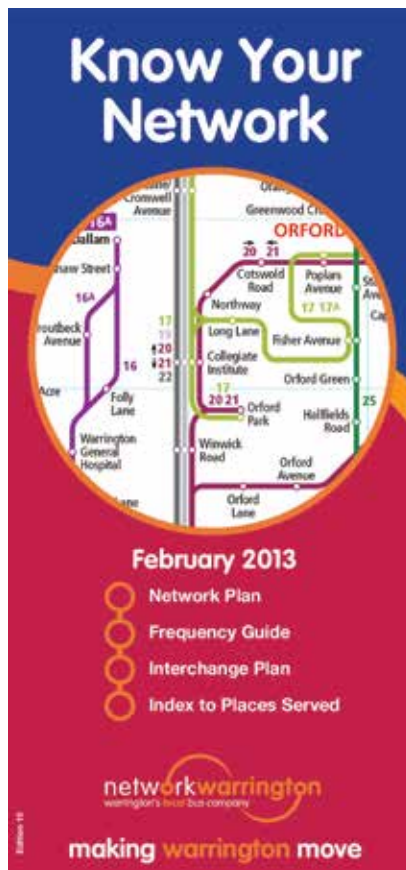
OmniDAS is a multi functional tool for bus operators and continues to set industry standards. One facility that some users may not be aware of is a feature of the reporting function which measures absenteeism.

The Bradford Factor is an established formula for measuring absenteeism used by HR professionals. It highlights the disproportionate level of disruption caused by short term absenteeism compared to single incidences of longer term absences.

The formula, which is built in to the OmniDAS software, creates an 'attendance score' which can be used to identify staff with a high number of short absences compared to those who are off for a single, longer period of time. The higher the score, the greater the disruption.

It is not designed to be an accurate measure, but can be used as a tool to identify areas for further investigation, once a certain score has been reached.





The value of a partnership

▲ Omnibus works in partnership with Network Warrington

The team at Omnibus prides itself on the way it builds partnerships with customers. They see themselves as an extension of an operator or local authority's own in-house resources at times of pressure.

This was clearly demonstrated when they received a call from Network Warrington requesting some assistance before Christmas.

With just a few weeks to meet the service commencement deadline, which, of course, coincided with a print deadline for timetables and with a Christmas break in between, Omnibus stepped in and provided no fewer than three experts to ensure the deadlines were met.

The work began with the preparation of timetables using OmniTIMES to meet the publicity deadlines. This data was then fed

into OmniBASE to create the bus workings, used by CrewPLAN to prepare the duties and OmniROTA to create the rosters.

Phil Pearson, Commercial Manager for Network Warrington, told OmniNEWS: "Without the assistance of Omnibus we simply would not have met our deadlines. They sent specialists in each of the three main areas of operations who knew our company well and by working together we delivered everything on schedule."

The Omnibus software had played its own part in assisting Network Warrington earlier

in 2012. The company needed to ensure that service frequencies were meeting changing demand. By using the software, the operator's schedulers were able to explore various permutations to trim certain journeys whilst maintaining services for passengers.

Phil Pearson explains: “We were able to make considerable cost savings by simply making a few tweaks to our schedules. We also saved a lot of man hours on this project as we were able to run each new schedule option through the system in a matter of minutes, which previously would have taken 2-3 weeks manually.”

Contact

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