

WILL WE SEE YOU AT ALBUM 2018?

We hope to see as many of our customers and industry friends as possible at ALBUM in Glasgow. Once again, we will be taking a team of experts, including a number of experienced schedulers, to talk to delegates about some of the operational issues that can be addressed using Omnibus software.

One of the main topics for us this year is to help operators to minimise driver costs, a significant proportion of operating costs. Our recently-enhanced crew scheduling module Crewplan is the ideal tool for creating the most efficient and robust schedules to operate bus services.

Due to its increasing popularity, we will also be focussing on our driver communication app myDAS Touch. We have responded to customer feedback and made many enhancements to myDAS Touch since its launch two years ago.

Visitors to ALBUM will also be able to explore the features of OmniSTOPdesign which gives all types of operators and local authorities infinitely more freedom to create bespoke displays. It is already being used by several operators and customers are calling it an 'evolution in bus stop design' as it makes creating bus stop displays easier, faster and much more flexible.

As we approach the final phase in the development process of the Bus Services Act, we will be discussing operators' data needs and ensuring that everyone we talk to is ready.



▲ Peter and Carol look forward to welcoming visitors to the Omnibus stand at ALBUM

Peter Crichton, Managing Director of Omnibus, comments:

"ALBUM is the perfect event for holding discussions about the future needs of our industry. We really want to challenge members to help them to get the most out of these complex software solutions to make their operations run as efficiently as possible, both now and in the future."

omnibus
OMNINEWS

Will this be your last issue of OmniNEWS?

Don't panic, we're not going anywhere! But, if you don't sign up for future issues of OmniNEWS, then this will be the last one you'll see!

New General Data Protection Regulations are coming into force this month so you must 'Opt in' via the link in the covering email or on our website.

Barry Drelincourt

Omnibus was saddened to learn of the passing of Barry Drelincourt, a lively industry character. We would like to express our condolences to his family and friends at this sad time.



▲ One of the DfT workshops held during the discovery period

Update on Bus Open Data from the Department for Transport

As the Bus Services Act progresses from a discovery period into a consultation period this summer, Meera Nayyar, Passenger Experience Team Leader (Buses and Taxis) from the Department for Transport gave OmniNEWS an update.

In November 2017, the Department for Transport's Bus Open Data team commissioned Deloitte and the Open Data Institute to deliver a 9 week discovery project to consider the type of open data platform that would be best suited to the bus industry. The final report was presented to the Bus Open Data Programme Board on 21st February.

The key recommendation was that bus open data should be delivered through a distributed model requiring operators to publish at source but index in a central location such as a Bus Open Data portal. This foresaw a transitional phase, during

which data aggregators and local authorities would still continue to support operators to publish data if that was required for that area or operator.

During early March the Bus Open Data Programme Board agreed the following key findings from the discovery project, to be taken forward as part of the programme:

- Set up a Bus Open Data implementation group
- Set up a Bus Open Data discovery portal
- Develop tools and training to support operators to publish
- Publish open data performance table by operator/region
- Define a phased plan for data requirements
- Set up a communications strategy and plan

These are now being developed into a set of policy proposals, with key questions for consultation during the summer, and with a parallel project to develop an open data portal.

Michael Meilton, Special Projects Manager, explains the role that Omnibus will play:

"We are committed to continuing our involvement with this consultation process which will lead to a significant requirement for companies to supply data. Our aim is to make this as painless as possible for users in the areas we can."

While further consultations take place, the timescale for implementation of the Act takes us into 2020. So it is important for Omnibus to continue to work with the DfT and operators of all sizes to ensure that they are able to meet the requirements in the most cost-effective way."

ON THE BUSES

Omnibus is proudly sponsoring the 2018 Buses Festival, being held at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon on 19th August.

More details about the event can be found at www.busesfestival.com

Organisers are promising over 100 modern, restored and vintage buses and coaches, many of which will be offering free rides through the Warwickshire countryside.

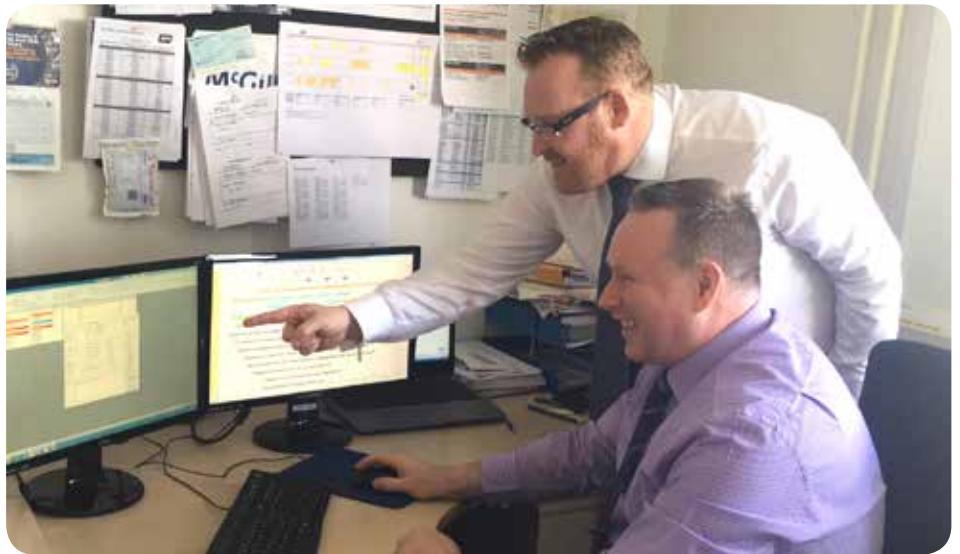
BUILDING A STRONG BRAND IDENTITY

McGill's, host of this year's ALBUM Conference, has been an Omnibus customer for many years. The relationship between the two companies has gone from strength to strength, with new modules being added almost on an annual basis as McGill's continues to expand.

McGill's Operations Director Colin Napier says the addition of the latest software, OmniSTOP, will have a big impact. "OmniSTOP represents a huge change in the way we operate" he says, "because of the sheer number of man hours that it will save us."

Previously, individual bus stop displays had been created manually by inputting timetable data into spreadsheets. Using OmniSTOP, timetable data can be brought across from OmniTIMES while marketing can be reinforced through easy to use branded templates.

McGill's has also made use of the Omnibus training programmes, not just for new recruits but also for members of staff who have used the



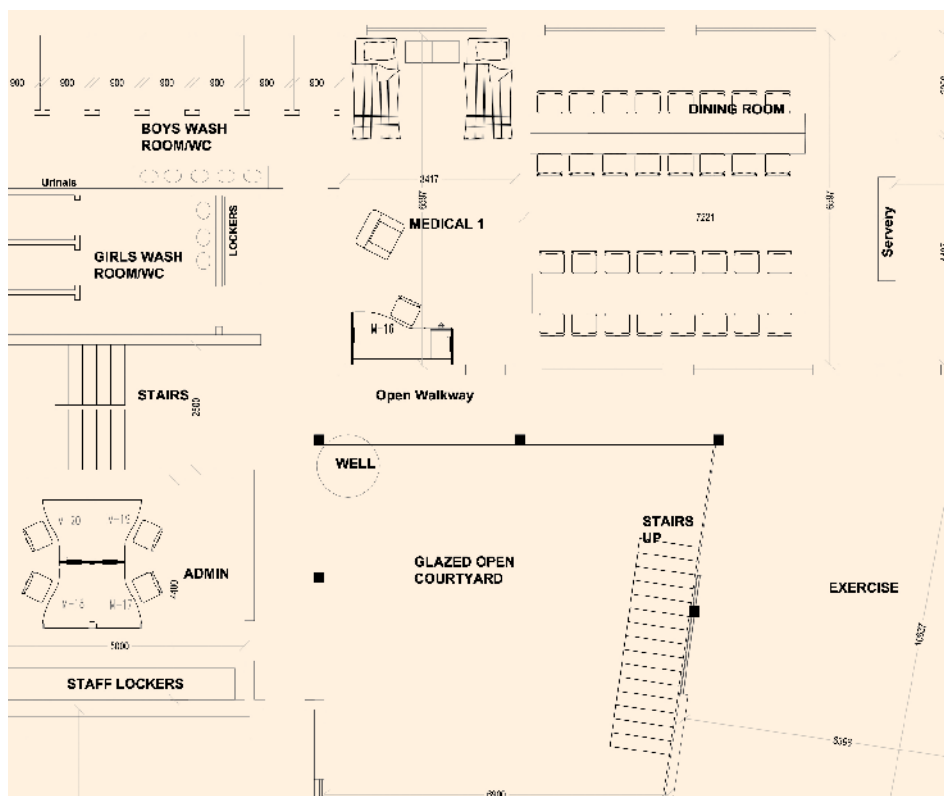
▲ McGill's Operations Director, Colin Napier (standing), and Commercial Manager, Jack Harkness

software for some time and may need a refresher or guidance on exploring other capabilities, to make sure that they are getting the most out of the software. Colin says that the Omnibus style of training has been particularly useful: "The format is very informal and the trainers are extremely friendly and approachable which reflects the

way that Omnibus works in every department, including the support team. They really understand our business and respond quickly and efficiently to any queries that we have." He concludes: "This is why the relationship between the two companies continues to develop year on year."

Transforming the lives of vulnerable children

While plans for the purpose-built drop-in centre for Kenyan street children being built by the Anam Cara Trust continue, founder Carol Crichton has found another way to support vulnerable children.



The Trust has donated £4,000 to Retrak, part of the Hope for Justice family of charities. The money will be used to pay medical expenses for vulnerable young girls in Uganda.

In thanking Omnibus Director Carol for the donation, the charity's Chief Executive Ben Cooley commented:

"Your grant will enable us to offer more comprehensive support to a greater number of girls."

He continues:

"Helping street children and reintegrating them into safe, caring families massively reduces their vulnerability to predatory traffickers."

◀ Proposed plans for the ground floor of the clinic



▲ Anlaby Road in Hull was the first EYMS depot to use OmniDAS

EYMS DRIVERS TO USE myDAS Touch APP

We have written about East Yorkshire Motor Services (EYMS) in previous issues of OmniNEWS. The company is a long-standing Omnibus client that continuously evolves and takes on more software to keep pace with its growth.

Two years ago the operator installed OmniDAS at its largest depot – Hull. At the end of last year the use of OmniDAS was expanded to include the Scarborough depot, bringing the number of drivers in the system to 290.

Bob Rackley, Commercial Manager for EYMS, explains why OmniDAS was a good fit for the operator: "It is really easy to use and the direct output into our payroll system is an extremely helpful feature and it integrates with our scheduling package seamlessly."

The range of reports that OmniDAS produces is also proving invaluable for EYMS. "Because it is central server-based this means that any authorised person can access them" says Bob.

Drivers will shortly be linked to OmniDAS through the driver communication app myDAS Touch.

As Bob explains, it will streamline communications at both depots: "they will be able to access information themselves without having to wait until they get to the depot and can ask the controller. They can check their shifts, holidays, request swaps and receive important information at any time and any location."

EYMS now uses the full range of Omnibus software, including OmniSTOP, OmniMAP and TransXChange, and uses the EBSR module to produce electronic registration files from the corresponding set of schedules in OmniTIMES and OmniBASE.

Training courses are filling up

In our Autumn 2017 issue of OmniNEWS we announced the launch of the Omnibus Training Programme, in partnership with Jim Hulme.

The first two-day manual scheduling course is due to take place at the beginning of June and places are already getting booked up.

The course has been developed to meet the demand for knowledgeable schedulers and

allocators who understand the principles, even when using a software package, and to train the schedulers of the future.

"It is essential that employees who are making commercial decisions on service changes have an understanding of basic scheduling principles," explains Omnibus MD Peter Crichton, "it's just not possible to create viable and efficient timetables, drivers' duties or rosters without that knowledge. Even when

using specialist industry software, you need to understand the data that you are inputting and what you expect to see as a result."

The manual scheduling course is not software based and therefore doesn't require delegates to have previous knowledge of or use any Omnibus software products.

For more details or to add your name to the list please email training@omnibus.uk.com

CONTACT

Omnibus
Hollinwood Business Centre
Albert Street, Hollinwood
Oldham, OL8 3QL
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)161 683 3100
www.omnibus.uk.com

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