

Show support strengthens

Mini and midi bus suppliers sign up for Coach & Bus Live in October

By Mike Morgan

Organisers of Coach & Bus Live 2009 are reporting an increased demand for exhibition space from mini and midi converters and suppliers.

Among those companies who will be exhibiting at Birmingham's NEC on 7-8 October this year are Bluebird, Mistral and CVI, along with such show regulars Q'Straint, Tawe and Unwin Safety Systems.

Seating manufacturers, Rescroft who are returning to Coach & Bus Live for their 10th time, will be hosting a stand with other mini and midi bus converters all keen to participate now that CTA has changed the dates of its Accessible Vehicles exhibition.

Rescroft Managing Director Alan Restall said: "The wheelchair accessible vehicle sector in the UK

and overseas is a very important market for the specialist products from Rescroft. The Coach & Bus Live exhibition is well organised, in a good location and attended by a wide range of customers and vehicle users. The show gives us the opportunity to present new products to the market and discuss their specific requirements with customers and fleet operators."

Delighted by this surge in interest from mini and midi bus manufacturers, Coach & Bus Live's Event Director Mark Griffin said: "The fact CTA has taken the decision to put their Accessible Vehicles exhibition back to February 2010 has created an increase in the number of requests for space. Many vehicle suppliers and converters within the accessible transport space, can't afford to wait until next February; it is simply too far away. They need to be promoting themselves this year so they are in pole position when we return to a more stable financial environment. The market supports the view that October 2009 is the perfect time for businesses from across the industry to be showcasing their

latest services and equipment to build their sales pipeline for 2010 and beyond."

Success within the mini and midi vehicle area has been mirrored elsewhere throughout the exhibition. Indeed, with more than six months remaining, there are already over 100 exhibitors booked for the show who, between them, have taken almost 7,000 square metres of floor space with all vehicle sites now taken and just 20% of space remaining.

Building on the success of two years ago, Coach & Bus Live 2009 will retain its highly successful two-day format and will continue to develop its well-received interactive element. In addition to such well-established favourites as Skills Test, the Volvo sponsored outdoor driving challenge, Question Time, the free seminar programme and On the Sofa, the informal advice clinic; the organisers have announced three brand new features for 2009:

- Technology Zone showcasing the latest developments in software, mobile technology, ticketing and information systems
- Training & Development Zone, sponsored by GoSkills, offering



Coach & Bus Live is scheduled

careers advice and support.

● Workshop Live, a two-day advice clinic providing operators with expert tips on how to run their coach and bus fleets more profitably.

Mr Griffin said: "It is precisely because of this new and innovative show content backed by an exciting new visitor marketing campaign we are confident Coach & Bus Live 2009 will attract in excess of 6,000 industry professionals from across the UK."

● To book a stand contact the Coach & Bus Live sales team on 01926 833052, email info@coachandbuslive.com or visit www.coachandbuslive.com

York driver remembered

When one of York City Sightseeing's drivers died of cancer last year his colleagues decided that something had to be done to remember him – and what better than name his favourite bus in his honour? Joe Jagger, who was 62, died just a few months after he was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

York City Sightseeing's General Manager Peter Dew said: "Joe was a real stalwart of the company and was well liked by staff and customers. He was a real character, with a wicked sense of humour and we all miss him."

"His colleagues all wanted to do something to celebrate his life and his work at City Sightseeing and so the bus he used to drive has been named 'Joe Jagger'. We know he'd have been thrilled to bits with it all. There's a small plaque inside the bus that tells Joe's story, so passengers can find out more about this remarkable man."

The open-top Metrobus double decker bus underwent an



Metrobus named Joe Jagger

extensive programme of refurbishment over the winter before last and much of the work was carried out by Mr Jagger himself, which makes it even more appropriate to name it after him.

Joe's widow Ann officially dedicated the bus in her husband's memory at a special ceremony last Friday (1 May), when it was driven by Dave Brigham, who worked on the bus's refurbishment.

Mr Jagger's children – sons Paul and Nick and daughter Joanne – were also at the naming ceremony.



Suffolk-based Galloway European has made such a success of its Sapphire Star-branded coach tours using four DAF-powered Van Hool T916 Astrons purchased in 2006 that it has embarked on a replacement programme that ensures these front-line vehicles remain youthful. Consequently its latest fleet additions are a pair of 09-reg Astrons painted in a slightly darker shade of the Sapphire Star livery to distinguish them from the earlier coaches.

