

## Minibus Update and Incidents

A Note by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

### Recent Changes

The last meeting of the Executive Committee saw the introduction of a new minibus strategy and the authorisation to purchase three new minibuses which renews the fleet and means we will be compliant with the Low Emission Zone which comes into effect in 2009. It has also ensured we have a scalable fleet that does not operate at a deficit, which is particularly important when we will be depleted the Union's reserves during Phase 3 of the building project.

Additionally, I have just approved the purchasing of a replacement minibus for the crashed minibus, OTR to ensure we will have delivery by this September.

### Planning Procedures

There are two notable periods that cause a number of planning problems, those being Summer tour period and Autumn term:

#### **Summer Tours**

Planning for the summer holidays is currently taking place. We need to decide who has priority over the overseas minibus as we having a booking conflict. This has been alleviated this year by Outdoor and Canoe no longer having clashing tours.

The Canoe Club have requested the use of a Union minibus to drive to Montenegro as part of their tour. I have expressed concern regarding the potential abuse the vehicle might suffer over the extended period of time and the potential driving conditions the van may experience. I would like a verbal discussion on this point and a ruling from CSB. This ruling is of course dependant on whether we are able to insure the van and get recovery cover.

#### **Autumn Term**

The Autumn term is a particularly busy period for minibus bookings. It would be prudent to mandate the RCC Chair or RCC Chair-elect to orchestrate when RCC clubs require the use of minibuses for Freshers' trips and the remainder of the Autumn term. This means we would avoid a previous scenario whereby Outdoor, Caving and Canoe are all away on one weekend and cannot obtain a second minibus when required and ensures we utilise our minibus fleet effectively.

### Incidents for Report

As per the Transport Policy, incidents are to be reported to CSB. An incident is classed as:

- a. A vehicle breakdown
- b. An accident or situation that could have easily resulted in an accident
- c. Use of the emergency equipment
- d. Any damage to the exterior or interior of the vehicle
- e. Any criminal driving offence or parking offence
- f. Consuming alcohol in the vehicle
- g. Use of a Union vehicle without permission, or on un-agreed terms
- h. Non-payment of charges for use
- i. Complaint from another road user
- j. Failure to report an incident in this section
- k. Any other incident that may give rise to action under the Union Disciplinary Policy or breach of Health and Safety regulations.

#### **Accidents/Incidents**

October

- No reported incidents

November

- Minibus reversed into stationary car in petrol station. No damage to our vehicle.

December

- Wing mirror damaged while minibus was parked.

January

- Bus clipped side of a car travelling in opposite direction while negotiating a complex T-Junction. No damage to our vehicle.

29<sup>th</sup> April 2008

- Bus driven too close to a low wall and paintwork scratched through on drivers side.
- Bus driven into by vehicle on M40. Damage to our vehicle resulted in it being written off (covered by insurance). Minor injuries to passengers.

February

- Wing mirror ripped from minibus while parked in South Kensington

March

- No reported incidents

April

- Driver took a corner slightly too tightly and clipped the side of a stationary caravan causing minor denting to a door panel.
- Whilst driving, a minibus was hit by an owl, driver pulled into a lay-by and clipped a parked another vehicle. Minor damage to our vehicle.

#### **Other Damage**

- Two unattributed very minor dents to side panels
- Unattributed damage to two wing mirrors
- Unattributed damage to front bumper section of a minibus

#### **Breakdowns/Mechanical Incidents**

- Failure of power steering pump on three of the new minibuses, repaired under warranty. Part now subject to a recall notice.
- Failure of propshaft universal joint of a minibus (due to be retired) whilst returning to London.
- Various small repairs.

#### **Criminal Driving Offences**

- One Union license suspended indefinitely after speeding. Currently awaiting ICU Court appeal hearing.
- Unattributed find of empty alcohol container on minibus. No further action taken.

#### **Criminal Driving Offences**

- 1 Prince Consort Road
- 1 Milton Keynes
- 1 Princes Gardens