

TRAM Lines



February 2008 Issue 13

Proud Paul is Employee of the Year!

Tramlines is pleased to announce that Infrastructure Maintenance team member Paul Fieldhouse has been selected as the Midland Metro Employee of the Year for 2007.

Paul, who many of our readers will recognise, was nominated by his colleagues as a result of the commitment and dedication he displayed following the vandalism attack on the Metro on 30 May 2007. The vandalism, which many Tramlines readers will remember, caused severe damage to the overhead power lines at Soho Benson Road causing the suspension of services between West Bromwich and Birmingham Snow Hill for a full week.

Fred Roberts, General Manager at Travel Midland Metro said;

"During this period Paul worked on several of his days off and worked long hours over an extended period of time to assist with reinstatement of the overhead line and get the Metro operating again as quickly as possible. He even worked on his 39th wedding anniversary, cancelling an anniversary meal that he'd booked with his wife - brave man!

Paul was presented with a certificate by Colin Robey, Centro's Head of Rail and Rapid Transit Operations, and receives an award of £200 and two additional days holiday in 2008. With £200 in his pocket he can now make it up to his wife!

Congratulations again to Paul on his much deserved award!



STAR! Paul (left) being presented with his certificate by Centro's Colin Robey

Advanced Birmingham improvements in pipeline



A new viaduct is now under construction adjacent to Birmingham Snow Hill between the tram stop and the adjacent tower block which is currently being built.

In the future, the viaduct will carry the Metro into Birmingham city centre and has been constructed in advance of the planned Metro extension to reduce the risk

of further disruption in the area. The viaduct has been entirely funded by developer Ballymore as a contribution to the Metro extension, saving £9 million on the project cost.

When completed, the development will have an "active frontage" to the Metro line, which will include shops, cafés – all in a "boulevard feel".

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A winner's pass



As we reported in the January edition of Tramlines, our Christmas crossword competition winner was regular Metro customer Nick Wright. Nick who lives just outside Wolverhampton, was presented with his Annual Travel card recently at Wolverhampton St Georges tram stop.

A delighted Nick spoke to Tramlines. He said; "I was really, really chuffed when I found out that I'd won the annual travel card. I entered into the Christmas competition as I felt it seemed like a really generous prize and I thought I had as good a chance as anyone of winning. I really was over the moon when I won as I've never won such a good prize in my life. Thank you once again to everyone at Travel Midland Metro."

Look out for further competitions in Tramlines. The next winner could be you!



WINNER! Delighted Nick with this annual travel card prize

Crossover at The Royal

The crossover just to the north of The Royal tram stop was reinstated earlier this month following substantial investment to carry out major refurbishment work.

The crossover allows trams to cross from one track to the other and its return to service will provide much improved

operational flexibility. In the event of an incident at Wolverhampton ring road or Wolverhampton St Georges preventing operation of trams into Wolverhampton it will now be possible to terminate tram services at The Royal rather than at Priestfield as has happened previously.

January service performance

A high level of performance was achieved throughout the month of January on the Metro with 98.35% of all scheduled services operated in accordance with the timetable.

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Lynne Lydell SCOOPS £1,000 JEWELLERY PRIZE!

National Express West Midlands (formally Travel West Midlands) and the Jewellery Quarter Marketing Fund are pleased to announce the winner of the £1,000 Jewellery Quarter competition which was run jointly by the two organisations in December 2007.

Bus passenger, Lynne from Aldridge has been confirmed as the lucky winner to be drawn from hundreds of entries. She has won a Jewellery Quarter shopping voucher worth £1,000 to spend at selected shops in Birmingham's sparkling jewellery haven.

Gail Jones, Sales Manager at National Express West Midlands said; "We're delighted that Lynne has won the shopping voucher and we had a tremendous response to the competition



£1,000 WINNER: Lynne Lydell from both bus and metro customers across the West Midlands. We have several bus services and of course the tram that travels through the Jewellery Quarter and therefore like Lynne, what better way to visit Birmingham's 250 year-old specialist shopping Quarter than by bus or tram! On behalf of everyone here at National Express, I'd like to congratulate Lynne once again."

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