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LOUGHBOROUGH MODEL CENTRE (DERBY)

TTCDiecast.com would like to offer our warmest welcome to this year's NEW LOOK Showbus event.

First a huge well done to the event organising committee for yet again, pulling off a marvellous display of vehicles for us all to enjoy. The work involved in moving venue must not be taken lightly so well done Martin, Dom, and all the team.



Optare Versa model – released today £64.99 each. (Only 150 pieces of each made).

For the two previous years we have been proud sponsors of this event, we had been questioned regularly “why do we pay so much to get in”, “why are we paying to see aeroplanes when we’ve come to look at buses?”, “I don’t go because it’s too expensive, or too far away”, “Good questions” I replied, and so we spoke with the organisers... maybe the root cause was under their feet!.

We stepped in at short notice two years ago, with a vision for the future, a new line of resin models, and a younger and more forward thinking sponsor. This was a great opportunity to kick start the future of a “New Showbus”, the new venue today is another step in proving the event will not stand still, It was not in the hands of the previous sponsor, but it is in the hands of a well capable organising committee.

The venue has always been in question from the public, and so it was decided by the committee quite soon after we sponsored the event, that it was time to move, The location of the venue, rent and fuel prices going up, are all having an effect on both stallholders and preservationist bringing vehicles from many miles away.

In fact this is true of all rallies, we must all remember that we are in the middle of a recession, and the owners of these superb examples of preserved vehicles, (and new vehicles as well for that matter) are having to put up with rising fuel costs, rising storage costs, and rising insurance costs, but still they get up early, clean their prize possessions off, and make their way to rallies at their own cost for us all to enjoy. We must not moan when vehicle count is down, but be grateful of the owners and vehicles that are there! I do not think there is a rally in Britain at the moment that is not worth the entrance fee, when you take into account the value of

assets on display and the costs (both in money and labour) the owners have suffered to get them here for us all to admire.

And so I come to my point, Showbus had to move, and moving to the Midlands will give chance for a few new buses to visit that would not have normally made a long trip to Duxford.

Back to business.

Our resin models have now started to make an impact into the market. Not just in the UK, but worldwide. We are now getting into full stride after what has been a very slow start. And expect at least one more new release before Christmas and another in the New Year. We understand our models are a Premium product and so it would be wrong to ‘flood’ the market, like other manufacturers have in the past so the plan is to produce just six models in 2014, going on to nine models in 2015.

The reason the take-off has been slower than we expected has been due to two reasons, one, we are in the middle of a recession, and our models are expensive, two, factory time in the Far East is still at a premium.

We now have eight models “off the shelf” and two kits, with another two variants of a new casting being launched today, (with a kit version of this new casting as well.) Four models already sold out, and are proving hard to get hold of now.



Optare Spectra model – two versions available today £69.99 each. (Only 200 pieces of each made).

What this has already proven though, is that our models are already proving very ‘collectable’ and some of the prices our commissions have realised on Ebay in the last year have proven that our models are certainly an “investment!”

I look forward to meeting customers old and new, and will have a new resin release on sale today, along with our usual code 3 showbus event model which will this year be a Britbus model, (look out for the 1:1 scale model too!!)

Chris Tipping, TTCDiecast.com