

**PRESS RELEASE**

**21 July 2008**  
**For immediate release**

**TRANSDEV SUPPORTS 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE BUS DRIVERS**

Transdev has supported a team of 12 bus drivers by loaning a Scania SP double deck bus to carry people and supplies for the 3 Peaks Challenge, helping to raise over £21,000 for Help for Heroes. The Challenge, which began on Friday 20 June, was to race across the 450 mile route and climb Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdon, within 24 hours.

The twelve drivers, three of whom are Transdev bus drivers, were part of the team selected for the cancelled London 2012 "Bus to Beijing" project. Undeterred by disappointment they set themselves the task of climbing the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales.

The drivers and support team were led by Mac Mackenney, from the expedition company Max Adventure, who was originally tasked with leading the team to Beijing. Mackenney was the right-hand man to Sir Ranulph Fiennes on his last North Pole expedition.

Having successfully completed the gruelling Bus to Beijing selection programme the twelve drivers were well prepared, both physically and mentally. Snow fell as they reached the summit of Ben Nevis, which at 4,400 feet is the UK's highest mountain. It was bitterly cold with wind-chill temperatures as low as -11°C. Going down was as hard as going up; using a satellite phone they contacted the support team based at the bus so they were prepared with food and medical support. The weather on Scafell Pike was kinder to the team, but a storm was brewing on Snowdon and by the time they reached the summit, they were in the full force of 85mph winds, torrential rain and hailstones.

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“It was no place to be,” commented Mac Mackenney. “We had to get off the mountain before exhaustion set in. Hypothermia was a real risk as we battled our way down the mountain track to Llanberis.”

By 11:00pm on Saturday 21st June, some 30 hours after starting, they arrived back at the bus cold, wet and exhausted, but proud of what they had achieved.

**Participants:** Sue Bates, Transdev, Wayne Ball, Transdev, Paul Bennell, Transdev, Deborah Murray, Go Ahead, Wayne Ashe, Go Ahead, John Hickey, First London, Shawn Hurley, East Thames Buses, Gagu Keshwala, Metroline, Sandro Lobina, Metroline, Rafal Biesiadecki, Arriva London, Jose Baxter, Arriva London, Diane King, Arriva London.

### Contact Details:

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## Notes to Editors

### London United and London Sovereign

Transdev-owned London United is one of the premier bus operating companies in the capital. It runs a network of routes across Central, West and South-West London, with over 150 million passenger journeys each year. The Company operates from six garages based in Fulwell, Hounslow, Hounslow Heath, Shepherd's Bush, Stamford Brook and Tolworth, employing more than 2000 staff and maintaining a fleet of 650 buses. London United became part of the Transdev Group in 1997. Sister company, London Sovereign, joined the Group in 2002. It operates 12 routes throughout North-West London from two garages in Edgware and Harrow. With a fleet of 100 buses it carries more than 25 million passengers a year.

### Transdev in the UK

As well as its London based operations Transdev also owns Bournemouth Transport Ltd trading under the name "Yellow Buses". In North and West Yorkshire and Lancashire, Transdev owns the Blazefield Group providing high quality bus services through its five subsidiary companies. In Nottingham, Transdev is a shareholding partner with Nottingham City Transport (NCT). As part of Arrow, the concessionaire company that designed and built the Nottingham Express Transit, Transdev operates this tram system in partnership with NCT. In Edinburgh, Transdev is working with transport initiatives edinburgh (**tie**), on the development and management of the new tram system. Once the building work is completed, Transdev will operate the tram services for and on behalf of **tie**.

### Transdev Globally

Transdev is a €3 billion group, operating around 100 local transport networks across Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the UK. It carries some 3 million passengers per day – more than 1 billion people per year in total. Transdev is the world's largest private tram operator, operating tram systems across Europe and in Australia.