

BR MARK I 4-BIG TRAILER RESTAURANT STANDARD BUFFET 69332

Most details from: <https://www.bloodandcustard.com/bournemouth1966.html#PushPull>

This Trailer Restaurant Standard Buffet (TRSB) was built at BREL York Carriage Works as part of Lot No. 30805 under Diagram No. 427 [latterly BR (SR) Code BP-1A which was superseded by BR Code EN2.60.1B]. It was believed to have been outshopped around Monday 23rd June 1969 as part of the Phase 2 series of units destined for service on London - Portsmouth trains. They were constructed to replace R E L Maunsell designed 4-COR units, built for the Southern Railway, which had been in service from their introduction in April 1937.

All Phase 2 units had BR standard 'Buckeye' couplers and were fitted with BR (S) 27-way electrical jumpers allowing multiple working with other units or any post-1951 SR EMU stock with electric pneumatic braking. As built 69332 contained 40 fixed seats, in a 2 + 2 configuration, had it's own motor generator set below the underframe (to supply power for the kitchen equipment) and weighed 34 tons. The under sole bar batteries also supplied power to the fridges when units were berthed away from the third rail or a shore supply. A separate water tank was also fitted for kitchen use.

TRSB 69332 was allocated within Unit 7051 along with DTC 76563; MBS 62279 and DTC 76573. However, a reduction in buffet facilities on Portsmouth services led to Unit 7051 being reallocated from Fratton depot to Brighton's Lovers Walk depot from Saturday 6th December 1980. On Monday 17th May 1982 it returned for another short period of service based at Fratton which lasted until transfer back to Brighton on Monday 21st February 1983

Around October 1990 Unit 2203 was face lifted which included fitting microwave cooking equipment to 69332. When originally outshopped from BREL York the unit had BR Rail Blue/Pearl Grey livery but this was repainted into the latter version of Network South East livery (darker blue and curved upsweeps along the cab sides).

On Tuesday 27th May 1997, BR recoding saw these 4-BIG units changed to TOPS Class 422/2 and unit number 2203 became renumbered to 1403. Four days later, on 31st May, 69332 was exchanged with 69311 in Unit 2257 due to defects arising in 69311.

Several TRSB's were stored at Eastleigh during late 1997/early 1998 when buffet services ceased altogether.

Fellow TRSB 69337 was sold to Hastings Diesels Ltd and moved to their St Leonards West Marina depot on Tuesday 10th March 1998. It was restored to fully working condition and now runs in the consist of their DEMU Unit 1001 on main line rail tours.

69332 was sold to Rolltrack Trains Ltd [company dissolved on 26th November 2013] for use with 4TC Unit 417. It was moved to MoD Kineton, being seen there in June 2000, before being transferred to the Dartmoor Railway at Meldon Quarry around February 2001.

At some stage 69332 became owned by RMS Locotec at the Dartmoor Railway but, along with many other assets, was put up for sale in March 2021. A group of 4TC Group supporters financed the acquisition of the vehicle and it was transported to the Swanage Railway early in August 2021.

69332 is seen as a strategic opportunity to bring catering to the 4-TC in the medium-long term, much like Hastings Diesels have with their Hastings unit. It is believed that restoration will cost at least £65,000 so it may be some time before enough funds are available to send it away for restoration to full operational condition.

Information compiled by Peter Sykes 23rd September 2021