

# Vehicle Profile: BOD 25C

An initial look at a vehicle in the TV&GWOT Collection



**THAMES VALLEY & GREAT WESTERN**  
Omnibus Trust

BOD 25C was new to Southern National Omnibus Company in September 1965 with fleet number 2065, passing to Western National when SNOC was wound up in 1969.

2065 was withdrawn and sold to Smith's of Newport in 1978 who operated it until final withdrawal in 1990 when it was left languishing in the yard.

William Staniforth took custody of 2065 in 2003 but unfortunately the storage site was victim to vandals who torched several vehicles. Thankfully 2065 survived but the nearside, particularly, was badly damaged and many internal fittings had melted.

Attracted by the Bristol BVW engine, complementing a Gardner engined-FLF already in his fleet, the current owner acquired 2065 in November 2004.

Extensive restoration has been carried out since then with fire-damaged framing replaced and complete repanelling. All the mechanical units have similarly been overhauled.

2065 is on long-term loan to TV&GWOT and attention is now focused on finishing tasks to paint the exterior and refurbish the inside, including new and recovered seat cushions.

Although an important restoration project in its own right, the skills involved restoring a vehicle of this era provide a fascinating contrast with those demanded for the early 1920s' vehicles which are being restored in parallel at TV&GWOT's workshops.

## DATA PANEL

**Registration:** BOD 25C

**Type:** Bristol FLF 6B

**Built:** 1965

**Engine:** Bristol BVW

**Body:** Eastern Coach Works H38/32F

**Operator:** Southern National