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480 horses in one indoor riding arena

Borussia Mönchengladbach takes over its new "Line 1900" team bus

At an exceptional bus christening, Borussia Mönchengladbach took delivery of its new MAN team bus. In an indoor riding arena in Mönchengladbach, an MAN Lion's Coach L with 480 hp was today christened with the name "Line 1900", referring back to the year in which the club was formed. Both the venue and the nature of the christening were allusions to the term "Colt Eleven" ("Fohlenelf"), which emerged during the 1970s.

Four dressage horses unveiled the initially concealed bus, before Rainer Bonhof, the club's current Vice President and a member of the legendary Colt Eleven in the seventies, took command of an historic fire brigade carriage. With the support of Martin Stranzl, Tony Jantschke and others, the occupants christened the new bus.

"That was certainly something different. It's not every day that a handover like this takes place in an indoor riding arena," said Rainer Bonhof. "Fortunately, the new team bus will be far more comfortable than the carriage," added Martin Stranzl with a smile.

In the run-up to the event, a heated discussion had broken out among Gladbach supporters on whether the new team bus should in fact be called "Joko" – the well-known TV presenter and Gladbach follower having called on his fans in the internet to vote for this name – or "Line 1900"? Although with the help of his fans, the entertainer was able to win the most votes, he relinquished the bus title. Instead, as a native of Mönchengladbach, he announced his respect for the Borussia fans and the club in a video message and ceded victory to the suggestion receiving the second-most votes. "'Joko' would of course have been quite something, but in view of our club's history, 'Line 1900' is naturally also a perfect fit", was Rainer Bonhof's comment on the outcome of the fan voting.

Boasting 480 hp, the MAN Lion's Coach L is amply motorized. The vehicle is 13.8 meters long and tips the scales at 24.9 tons. Luxuriously equipped

The MAN Group is one of Europe's leading industrial players in transport-related engineering, with revenue of approximately €15.8 billion in 2012. As a supplier of trucks, buses, diesel engines, turbomachinery and special gear units, MAN employs approximately 54,300 people worldwide. Its business areas hold leading positions in their respective markets.

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and fitted with every safety system, the MAN team bus will make certain that the players arrive at their venue safely and well-rested.

"Gladbach now makes it a round dozen for MAN's Bundesliga bus fleet. We're delighted that Borussia Mönchengladbach has also decided in favor of a team bus from MAN", said Andreas Lampersbach, Head of Corporate Communications at MAN SE. Eleven other first-division teams, including Borussia Dortmund and FC Bayern Munich, travel to their matches in buses supplied by MAN. "This means we're in the best of company. These buses have state-of-the-art fittings, offering the players optimal facilities to prepare for and regenerate after their games," concluded Gladbach trainer Lucien Favre.