

◆◆◆ Attracting many curious glances on British roads recently was a Dutch drawbar outfit that was certainly very 'different' from the DAF and Mercedes powered rigs usually used by Netherlands hauliers.

It was a Leyland Roadtrain and it was powered by the Rolls Royce 35Ti 350 bhp (261 kW) 12.2-litre turbo-charged and intercooled six cylinder engine. I first saw it parked at Leicester Forest East services on the M1 one Saturday night. It caught my attention immediately, more so when closer investigation revealed a tag axle under the rear end.

I was so intrigued I decided to approach the driver, who was in his cab sorting out his paperwork. He was 26-year-old Rien Verlaan from Neauveen, between Leiden and Amsterdam, and he was delivering a load of cut flowers to British markets, including Leeds and Nottingham, and later, Covent Garden in London, driving for A. AvanES of Rijssenhou, Holland.

He normally drives a Steyr but he had swapped this for the Roadtrain as a new contract delivering the cut flowers required a fridge box to keep them at a temperature between 10 and 12°C to keep them fresh. Rien's Steyr outfit generally carries house plants and these only require an insulated ambient temperature box.

Well impressed

He was well impressed with the Roadtrain and the power of its Rolls Royce motor driving through a Fuller 12-speed twin-splitter box. His Steyr has only 210 bhp (157 kW).

The truck is 21/2-years old and has only 314,000 kms on the clock, most of these notched up doing its normal run to Greece.

The bodywork on the unit is of Italian origin by a company called Galligani, refrigeration being supplied by a Thermo King unit.

Burgers of Aalsmeer fitted the body, and also built the body on the drawbar, which has a Netam Fruehauf chassis. The whole outfit rides on air suspension to minimise damage to the load.

The Roadtrain is not the only Leyland in the A. AvanES fleet. They also operate a Roadtrain artic, a four-wheeler Roadtrain and standard drawbar, and two Freighters.

Four Steyrs make up the rest of the international fleet which is employed on house plant and flower deliveries throughout Europe. A Leyland Boxer is used for local runs within Holland.◆

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FLORAL ROADTRAIN

**Some unusual
Dutch flower power discovered on
British roads by Dave Stretton — a mighty
350 bhp Leyland fridge drawbar outfit.**



Above: A. AvanES's Rolls Royce 35Ti-powered Roadtrain. Refrigeration is supplied courtesy of Thermo King.



Above: Loading with flowers. Below: Drawbar trailer has a Netam Fruehauf chassis and the whole outfit has air suspension.

