

Day in the life of a Trainspotter

The wind was whispering and blowing lightly against and through the trees near the busy station. A 15-year-old boy was at the end of the platform, standing behind the bright yellow line, watching all the hustle and bustle of all the rush hour commuters rushing to get on the trains to bring them home. This boy's name was Ben. Unlike the commuters, he was not in a rush to get home. He was told by his parents that he could be home by 6:30PM of that day.

Ben was busy looking at his phone, on the special websites, Live-Rail-Record.co.uk and Opentraintimes.com to track the one train that he had always wanted to see: the highly endangered Elizabeth Line class 315. The remaining handful of these trains still in service, were only running between Liverpool Street and Shenfield during the rush hour.



Ben's aim was to get a few photos and a video of it departing for Shenfield from the busy station of Stratford, located in Zones 2 and 3 of London.

While he was running down the main concourse towards the Elizabeth Line platform, towards Liverpool Street, to catch it departing bound for its final stop of Liverpool Street, he was thinking only about seeing it for his first time ever. He wasn't paying enough attention as he ran onto the Shenfield Platform. Realising this, he quickly ran to the end of the platform where he planned to catch it leaving the station.

After finding a comfortable and good angle to put himself and his camera, Ben decided to look behind him to see if anything was coming, to check for the dreaded sight that every trainspotter hated, which was another train getting in the way of the line of shot. To play it safe Ben decided to take a photo of the front of the train, unit number (315828).

Whoosh!

The speed of the other train coming into the platform that Ben was on, was blocking the view of 315828. The other train 345090 was trundling into the Shenfield bound platform and painfully slowing down and screeching to a stop. The back carriage of 345090 stopped right in front of his camera, completely blocking the view of 315828 departing from the Liverpool Street bound platform! The bleeps from 345090's door alarms and the hissing and whining of the doors opening deafened him as if he was in a small space like a tunnel. But he wasn't. He was in a busy station in London.

Turning to face 345090 from the side view, and still seeing 315828 sitting in the other platform relieved him. Now aggravated by 345090 blocking his perfect line of shot of 315828, he waited until the dreaded sound of the brakes of 315828 were released and the 1978 Alexander Powerhouse traction, with motors whining, started making its journey towards Liverpool Street, trundling out of the platform.

Ben who was obviously irritated by 345090 and watched sadly as 315828 pulled away from Stratford without being able catching it on video as a memento for at last seeing a class 315 before they were all gone for ever.