

ESSEX BUS NEWS

May 1996

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

385



Supreme Travel have this East Lincs bodied Bristol VR GHB 85W, The bus is seen in Pitsea working the shuttle service operating on Sundays between Canvey and Pitsea Market.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

SUNDAY JUNE 2nd SOUTHEND RALLY.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12th VISIT TO HARRIS BUS AT WEST THURROCK. 7pm

SATURDAY JULY 20th GROUP TOUR TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

GROUP COACH TOUR SATURDAY 20th JULY

A booking form is enclosed with this month's magazine giving full details of what should be a good day out.

Visits have been arranged to Cambus, Grettons of Peterborough, Viscount and Delaine, together with a lunch stop in Peterborough. It is hoped that this will provide some thing of interest to everyone.

The fare will be £12, which is cheaper than doing it by car and vehicles will be moved for you as well, so book now, demand is expected to be high.

GROUP TOUR SATURDAY 20th May.

We regret that this tour had to be cancelled, owing to a lack of bookings. our apologies to those who had planned to join us on this day, but in trying to visit some where different, there may not have been enough of interest for the majority. It is planned to run a replacement tour in September and plans are being put together. for what is hoped to be a good day out. Details will be given in a future edition.

CORRECTION TO EBN 384.

The two Leaside Metrobuses at County Bus Grays should be M790 and M996 my Whoopsy

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

Get those cameras clicking *****

NEWS HIGHLIGHT.

Nelsons of Wickford acquires two Neoplan saloon Demonstrators E101EWA & F616CWJ

Contributions for this EBN received from

Eastern National. Thamesway. Southend Transport. County Bus. Essex C.C. .

C Sigston. G Toon. B White. R Dennis. P Harvey

EASTERN NATIONAL

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

1839 WJN 559S Leyland National 11351A/1R B49F

Ex Thamesway and being used for spares

3234 NUM 339V Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB ECW H43/31F

Chassis number is 2418 and the body number is 24344.

This vehicle was ex Yorkshire Rider In 4/96 and is a replacement for 3223.

ALLOCATIONS

4/96 1839 ACQD - D/L(D), 2228/51 CF-D/L(D); 3223 CR-D/L(D); 3234 ACQD - CR

Mercedes 2661 was on loan from Braintree to Chelmsford during mid to late April. Similar 2652 was on loan from Clacton to Colchester during April, complete with a Colchester blind.

VEHICLES ON ORDER

There are currently 5 Mercedes 709's on order, for Harwich and Colchester depot's to replace the remaining 608's based there. They will enter service in August with P registrations.

Also on order are 13 Dennis Lance, which will be 49 seaters and are for leyland National replacement.

VEHICLES ON LOAN

Dennis Darts 947/8 have now been returned to Thamesway and 2810/17 have returned to Eastern National. This means that Thamesway 940 is still at Clacton, with 2821 still in use at Ponders End.

REPAINTS

3/96 1850 3221

4/96 1924

GENERAL

The outstation at Maldon is expected to move to Station Road during the next few weeks. The site is almost opposite the Tesco store. It will consist of an open air parking area with a Portacabin office.

In accordance with First Bus policy, all Eastern National (and Thamesway) vehicles are now using Shell low sulphur diesel fuel. It is claimed to reduce sulphur emissions by 75% and particulates by 20%.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflets for service 34 dated 15.4.96; 21/A, 31A, 37, 40/50, 41/51, 42, 45A/C, 47, 48/C, 54/A/55/A, 56/C/57, 72/A/B, 133, 350/1/2 all dated 29.4.96.

Summary timetable Chelmsford to Broomfield Hospital dated 29.4.96.

INITIAL DISPOSAL

2245 (C700 ECV) Hardwick, Carlton, (for scrap), 4/96.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

- 19.3.96 CR 1861 on service 64 (normally Dart)
- 28.3.96 CR 2806 on service 65 (VR working)
- 26.4.96 CR 2212 on service 64/A (this bus is normally on 70A)
- 3.5.96 CR 2805 on service 64/A (minibus duty)
- 7.5.96. CR 1899 on service 66A (normally Dart)
- 7.5.96. CR 2802 on service 75 (CN duty)

SERVICES

- 2 Revised timetable introduced from 27.5.96.
- 8A Revised evening timetable introduced from 28.5.96.
- 12 Revised timetable introduced from 27.5.96.
- 33/X Sunday service re-instated for summer period, from 26.5.96. to 1.9.96.
- 36 Sunday (ECC) service introduced from 19.5.96. Two hourly.
- 74B Additional services to replace 77 (below) on Sunday introduced from 26.5.96.
- 76C Revised timetable introduced from 19.5.96.
- 77 Sundays from 26.5.96. the 1851 ex Hospital and 1923 ex Wivenhoe withdrawn.
- 100 Clacton to St Osyth from 26.5.96. to 7.9.96. Hourly (Sunday Two hourly).
- 101 Holland to Jaywick from 28.5.96. Hourly Monday to Saturday only.
- 605 Colchester to Walton service introduced on Sundays from 26.5.96.
- 606 Walton to Harwich service introduced on Sundays from 26.5.96.
- 631 Saffron Walden to Burnham service introduced on Sundays only from 19.5.96.
- 698 Maylandsea to Burnham service introduced from 19.5.96.

HEDINGHAM

SERVICES

- 13 Hadleigh to Clacton service revised to Saturday only from 25.5.96.
- 31 Revised timetable introduced from 19.5.96.
- 601 Revised timetable from 19.5.96. with three journeys each way. Sunday only.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

BISS STANSTED Bova 696 BTV and Van Hool T815 114 UPH are both in new livery. Leyland Leopard KBH 861V was observed at Buzz, Harlow in early May and may have been sold. Bova 556 EHN has been sold and is now with Cooks in Southend.

BOON BOREHAM A further new vehicle is N653 OFW a Setra S250, which was displayed at last years Coach & Bus Show. It is named Hecmobili - presumed to be in memory of Hector Boon. It won Coach of the Year at the Brighton rally.

BUZZ HARLOW Have a new Mercedes/Plaxton minibus N68 GPU.

CARTERS Service 53 revised route in Chelmsford and timetable introduced from 19.5.96.

CHARIOTS CORRINGHAM As this appears to be the new trading name of the former Priory fleet, all notes will appear here in future. Mercedes 308D A209 YSF is in use here, in the livery of its former owner Commandery.

CROWN COACHES THUNDERSLEY Have introduced services 104/5 between Basildon and Langdon Hills (Tesco's) and service 110 between Basildon Bus Station and Pitsea from 7.5.96. Acquired minibuses are Sherpa D202 NON ex BJS Gt Wakering and C504 DYM an Iveco/Robin Hood, the latter being new to former London Buses subsidiary Roundabout at Orpington.

GOODWIN RAYNE Further to last month, TJI 2807 is a Bedford YNV/Duple 320 and was D101 PBM.

HARRIS BUS Service 661 between Southend and Wallasea Island was introduced from 19.5.96. Volvo decker WRJ 447X was damaged on 24.4.96. when it collided with a overhanging tree in Grays. Eight schoolchildren received minor injuries, which is more than can be said for the bus, which has about half its roof taken off. It is now out of use and is not expected to be repaired. Volvo D302 PEV spent a short time on loan to Ipswich Buses as a driver trainer (it has a manual gearbox). In its place came Dennis Falcon/East Lancs YDX 104Y. Nottingham Atlanteans XNN 664S and ARC 668T returned home on 14.4.96. and were replaced by BRC 680/1T.

HARRIS COACHES Bova C700 NHJ was sold in March. DAF/Van Hool 5970 FH has been altered to C53F.

KILO COACHES WICKFORD A further Talbot minibus is F190 LPP.

KIRBY RAYLEIGH A new Setra S250 Special is owned, but no details are known at present.

NELSONS Service 94 re-routed in Purleigh from 21.5.96.

SEYMOUR HARLOW Noted here is LIL 5072 Volvo B10M/Plaxton Viewmaster, which is thought to have replaced FIL 8540 a Volvo B58/Plaxton Viewmaster.

TRAVELRICH COPFORD Further to EBN 382, the second Neoplan is ex J21 XHE.

VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN From 7.5.96. services 11, 34, 59 and 313 had revised timetables introduced. Service 122 was withdrawn from the same date.

WHM CHELMSFORD Further details on recent re-registrations are that Volvo/Van Hool 823 NMC (A601 TGD) was re-registered A38 WEV and then again to LIL 7229. Olympian coach C295 MWJ has become 823 NMC and has also carried 4475 WE and 253 DAF before coming to WHM.

WILKINS TAKELEY Have acquired MVN 874P from the former Town Travel (AA Moore), Saffron Walden. Also here is a ?/Plaxton Viewmaster.

ESSEX SUNDAY SAVER

With the re-introduction of the Summer Sunday services, the now traditional Sunday Saver timetable book is available. Fares for a day out are Family £7.50, Adult £3.50, Senior Citizen (with Essex Pass) £3.00 and Child £1.80.

For those travelling further the Sunday Rover covering Beds., Bucks., Cambs., Essex, Herts., Norfolk, Oxfordshire and Suffolk is available. Fares are Family £10.00, Adult £5.00, Senior Citizen £4.00 and Child £3.00.

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GUILD

THE ORIGINAL EASTERN NATIONAL

LACK OF SPACE THIS MONTH, MORE NOSTALGIA NEXT MONTH.

Thamesway

The non-appearance of the Thamesway column last month was due to a lack of news. This has been overturned this month.

CO-ORDINATION RETURNS TO SOUTHEND

In a surprise move, Thamesway and Southend Transport are making significant and co-ordinated changes to their bus services in the Southend area from Saturday 18th May. The changes mean that Thamesway will no longer serve Shoeburyness and Southend Transport will no longer serve Canvey with each operator making improvements to services in their 'area'. Before the changes could be made, a green light from the Office of Fair Trading had to be obtained.

In addition to the service changes, a major feature will be the interchangeability of Thamesway and Southend Transport tickets issued in Southend, Castle Point and Rochford (the original co-ordination area). Day Returns, Day Rovers, Hopper Cards and Silvercards are all accepted and Stephenson's Coaches are participating.

The changes will address some much requested improvements which include direct links between Canvey, Benfleet and Southend Hospital, on Service 21 which Thamesway will operate as well as a fast service throughout the day Monday to Saturday between Canvey and Southend/Bournes Green via Essex Way. Additionally, more buses will run to and from Southchurch Royston Avenue serving the recently opened Southend Tennis and Leisure Centre and more bigger buses will be provided on Service 20 between Hullbridge and Southend. The Cliffs Pavillion will also be served every evening from Canvey, Benfleet and Leigh. In Shoeburyness, Southend Transport is introducing a new link along Campfield Road and in North Shoebury, the Northern part of Frobisher Way and Rivendale Way will get a service for the first time and in Thorpe Bay, Maplin Way North will also benefit from a bus service. Through journeys from Shoeburyness to Canvey (3) and Hullbridge (20) are effectively withdrawn.

The changes will be publicised by a route map delivered door to door and timetable leaflets available from company offices and also from an open top bus parked at Victoria Station/Plaza between 15th and 18th May.

3 Group Shoeburyness-Southend-Benfleet-Canvey

Service withdrawn Shoeburyness-Bournes Green

3 Southend-Leigh-Hadleigh-Tarpots-Winter Gardens-Canvey

3A Withdrawn

3B Bournes Green-Southend-Leigh-Hadleigh-Tarpots-Winter Gardens-Canvey

3C Bournes Green-Southend-Leigh-Hadleigh-Essex Way-Winter Gardens-Canvey-Newlands

16 Southend-Rayleigh-Thundersley-Benfleet Canvey

Rayleigh to Canvey journeys only to operate at peak hours. Services 15, 16 and 250 will operate a co-ordinated timetable between Southend and Rayleigh.

20 group Shoeburyness-Southend-Rayleigh-Hullbridge

Shoeburyness-Southend section withdrawn.

Some peak hour journeys extended along the seafront to Esplanade House.

20 Southend-Pritlewell-Carlton Avenue-Eastwood-Rayleigh-Hullbridge

20A Southend-Pritlewell Chase Eastwood-Rayleigh-Hullbridge (to replace 25)

20B/D Withdrawn

20C Lower Hockley Dome-Rayleigh connecting with through journeys to Southend.

21 group Southchurch-Southend-Prittlewell-Leigh
 Southend Transport operation transferred to Thamesway.
 21/A Southend-Prittlewell-Leigh-Hadleigh-New Thundersley-Benfleet-Canvey.
 Evening journeys extended to Westcliff Cliffs Pavillion.
 21B Southend-Prittlewell-Leigh-Hadleigh-Benfleet-Canvey.
 21C/D Southend-Southchurch-Prittlewell-Leigh-Hadleigh-New Thundersley-Benfleet-Canvey (21D serves Leigh Station)
 The 21 group provides a partial replacement for withdrawn 25.
 3 group, 21 group and 151 provide a co-ordinated 8 bus per hour service between Benfleet Station and Canvey.
 24 group Southchurch-Southend-Westcliff-Leigh-Hadleigh-Rayleigh-Roweth
 This group of services remains generally unchanged with timetable improvements to co-ordinate with services 29B and 250 and trains at Leigh and Rayleigh.
 25/A/B Services Withdrawn.
 26 New Service Rayleigh-Thundersley-Kents Hill Road-Canvey Village-Canvey to replace withdrawn section of service 16.
 27/A Shoeburyness-Southend-Hadleigh-Benfleet-Canvey
 Shoeburyness to Southend section withdrawn.
 Timed to co-ordinate with new service 26.
 29B Southend-Southchurch timetable adjusted to co-ordinate with 24 group.
 63 Southend-Temple Sulton
 Southend Transport operation transferred to Thamesway.
 Service diverted to serve the Tennis and Leisure Centre.

More information on the above changes will be available next month when the new timetables will have been published.

Regular correspondent Phil Ford tells me about a revised livery applied to new Darts 973-987 and repainted 1400 and a number of repaints do not have the Tower Bridge logo.. More details next month.

701

"There is no doubt in our minds that low-floor buses are the way forward" says Alan Barrett Thamesway's Managing Director at the end of the initial trial for their new low-floor Dennis Dart 701 (N701 CPU). The vehicle has been used on most routes in the Southend area and a positive response has been made by both users and drivers realising the benefits of the step less floor. The remainder of the batch of ten buses (702-10) will be delivered to Hadleigh later this year. These buses will differ slightly from 701 in that they will feature a wheelchair space. 701 has signwriting in white on the roof cant panels 'A New Design Of Low Floor Bus'.

New

973-987 N973-987 EHJ Dennis Dart 9.8SDL, Plaxton Pointer B40F new 4.96

973	N973 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13239	9610HXXN5316
974	N974 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13240	9610HXXN5317
975	N975 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13241	9610HXXN5318
976	N976 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13242	9610HXXN5319
977	N977 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13243	9610HXXN5320
978	N978 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13244	9610HXXN5321
979	N979 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13245	9610HXXN5322
980	N980 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13246	9610HXXN5323
981	N981 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13247	9610HXXN5324
982	N982 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13248	9610HXXN5325
983	N983 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13249	9610HXXN5326
984	N984 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13250	9610HXXN5327
985	N985 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13251	9610HXXN5328
986	N986 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13252	9610HXXN5329
987	N987 EHJ	SFD492BR5T13253	9610HXXN5330

973-987 entered service on 4.5.96 on route 191 from PD

Allocations to 1.4.96

301 PD - BN, 355 BN - BD. 392/3 have returned to BN(ex loan to PD).

Allocations to 1.5.96

209 BD - BN, 359 BN - BD, 4000 Pool - D/L(D)
947 EN - HH, 948 EN - HH, 2810 PD - EN, 2817 PD - EN

Repaints to 1.5.96

353 Magnus, Brentwood expires 2.97
359 Essex Park Toyota expires 4.98
363/6/7/9/73/8/84/9, 803, 910917, 1400 are all in new livery.

Withdrawn Leyland National 1839 has ben transfered to Eastern National for spares.

Chassis nos

701	SFD212BR188W10104	Pn 9610HJZ4439
851	9SDL3053/2892	
852	9SDL3053/2893	
853	9SDL3053/2894	
854	9SDL3053/2919	

Disposals - Initial

1839	WJN 559S	4.96 Eastern National (for spares)
1878	BNO 668T	4.96 Fleetmaster, ?
4000		4.96 Eastern Counties
9002	UCO 46L	3.96 Hardwik (dlr) Carlton
9013	WSU 452S	4.96 Heywood, Bedworth
9014	MRS 25P	Western National
9015	MRS 32P	4.96 Heywood, Bedworth

The following have been sold recently 1876,1898,1913,1920, 9715.

Disposals - Subsequent

501	D588 MVR	10.95 Finchley, New Southgate ex Kirkby (dlr)
502	D590 MVR	10.95 Southgate, New Southgate ex Kirkby (dlr)
506	D598 MVR	Turners,Maidstonereg TCT 51 ex Kirkby (dlr)
507	D601 MVR	10.95 Southgate, New Southgate ex Kirkby (dlr)

Service Revisions (not Southend)

32/A/B Minor timetable revisions commenced 5th February 1996.
374 Minor route alteration/timing point in the Thurrock College area commenced 31st March 1996.
391 Correction
Revised timetable in operation Monday to Friday only, weekend service withdrawn from 1st April 1996.

London Transport Bus Contracts

191 Operation commenced on 4th May 1996.
193 The new contract for this service requires new minibuses which are on order. Operation transfered from BN to PD on 9th March 1996.
389/99 New minibus service commenced 1st April 1996.
954 Thursday only Mobility Route, Dagenham Asda to Ilford revised to start from Rainham War Memorial via Bridge Road, Dovers Corner and New Road commenced 28th February 1996.

THAMESWAY
(DISPOSALS, INITIAL)

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
0033	D504 FAE	To Eastern Counties as Fleet No.734.	01/96
0034	D505 FAE	To Eastern Counties as Fleet No.735.	01/96
0035	D506 FAE	To Eastern Counties as Fleet No.736.	01/96
0512	B336 BGL	To Godward, South Woodham.	01/96
0513	B337 BGL	To Godward, South Woodham.	01/96
0514	E675 UNE	To Kirby, Anston.	01/96
0515	E676 UNE	To Kirby, Anston.	01/96
0516	F771 GNA	To Kirby, Anston.	01/96
0517	J45 SNY	To Kirby, Anston.	01/96
0518	J46 SNY	To Kirby, Anston.	01/96
0519	J48 SNY	To Kirby, Anston.	01/96
0520	J54 SNY	To Kirby, Anston.	01/96
0521	F613 XWY	To Yorkshire Rider.	12/95
0522	F614 XWY	To Yorkshire Rider.	12/95
1821	VNO 744S	To Hardwick, Carlton.	12/95
1854	YEV 312S	To Hardwick, Carlton.	12/95
1895	BNO 685T	To South Wales Transport.	11/95
2202	FDZ 984, (originally OHM 831Y).	To Godward, South Woodham.	01/96
4001	XHK 236X	To Eastern Counties.	01/96
4002	XHK 237X	To Eastern Counties.	01/96
4101	H101 K VX	To Eastern Counties.	01/96
4102	H102 K VX	To Eastern Counties.	01/96
4103	H103 K VX	To Eastern Counties.	01/96
4104	H104 K VX	To Eastern Counties.	01/96



Southend Transport Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties LR705 (N705 TPK in Rayleigh on 16th April. The one line destination blind is only a temporary arrangement.

LOOKING BACK

SPRING

1936 The business of Orsett based H Coppin & Son passed to Eastern National on 7th May. No vehicles were acquired and the journeys were absorbed into the existing Service 32. From the same date works services 80 - 84 linking surrounding areas and the Bata Works at East Tilbury were introduced. In the same month Service 27 from Colchester to Braintree was withdrawn.

1936 Colchester Corporation commenced Sunday evening circular tours on 6th May although the licence application was not heard until 5th June. This covered four tours and a maximum of 18 vehicles could be used, double decked if required, a strange stipulation since there were no saloons in stock.

1966 Southend Corporation acquired 122 (FYS679) a Leyland Royal Tiger Worldmaster/Weyman B44F. New to Glasgow CT in 1956 the vehicle was to be converted for omo use. It was quickly renumbered as 212 and joined from north of the border by FYS 677/8/86/72 numbered 210/1/3/4.

1976 New EN timetables, commencing 21st March, were published for the Central and South West areas price 12p each. Many services provided by other operators were included under an arrangement with Essex County Council. The decline in the use of public transport, particularly in the south of the county, was apparent from a list comparing depot allocations with those in 1966. 1966 figures first. Basildon 83/87: Bishops Stortford 17/13: Braintree 38/25 Brentwood 49/39: Canvey 9/13: Chelmsford 74/76: Clacton/Walton 40/39: Colchester 42/37: Dovercourt 11/0: Hadleigh 48/32: Halstead 19/9: Harwich 0/11: Kelvedon 21/0: Maldon 27/24: Silver End 0/14: Southend 112/74 Wood Green 11/12.

1986 A new Highwayman livery appeared when Leyland Tigers 1130-3 (C130-3HJN) were delivered to Eastern National. Five LN's acquired from South Wales Transport for spares and stored at Maldon. VR 3026/7 (WNO546L, NPU974M) entered Central Works for conversion to open-top. The April news sheet contained of all services registered by EN, CBT and ST that were to be operated commercially from 26th October when the 1985 Transport Act took effect. Details of the new Clacton/Walton mini bus services were detailed but their introduction was delayed from 21st April to 10th May. All but one (217) of the 25 minibuses had lined up on the sea-front the previous day for a launch of the new services by stars from Hi-Di-Hi. Manningtree area services to East Bergholt (30) Holbrook (31) and Lawford (32) were detailed but these were never operated, Robins Coaches having commenced a service from East Bergholt on April 1st. Twenty second hand vehicles were to be obtained so as to release others for LRT contracts won by Eastern National and to operate under the name Eastern National CityBus. Walthamstowe depot, became operational on 24th May. Located at the Borough of Waltham Forest's depot in Markhouse Avenue it had an allocation of 32 vehicles. The councils fitters to carry out routine maintenance. The May news sheet contained a listing of those services that the County Council would be putting out to tender for operation from 26th October.

MEDIA MONITOR

Speaking on BBC Essex the Public Transport Development Manager for the County Council said the Brentwood and Thurrock EasyBus services were being under used with nobody on some journeys. Route changes had been tried but the services just hadn't taken off. Severely disabled people needed a more flexible door to door service and dial a ride taxis may be considered as a replacement. The survival of the Chafford Hundred to Lakeside link would be dependent on the new owners of the LTS line providing support.

The Suffolk County Council budget for subsidy of bus services is to be reduced from £800,000 to £550,000 according to TeleText on 3. The East Anglian reported that a saving of £212,700 would be made this year and £270,000 next. The Conservative opposition opposed the cuts and called for the finance to be made available from other funds. They claimed the council had done a U-turn after constantly stressing the importance of public transport. Printing of the Sunday Bus Book was postponed until after the May 2nd meeting.

On arrival at Bishops Stortford on May 11th the driver of the 0640 ex Braintree Service 133 operated by Fargo found himself being ordered by a gunman to drive to Hundon near Bury St Edmunds. The bus was pulled up on the outskirts of the village, the driver tied up with plastic handcuffs to the rear seats and the gunman made off with £60. Anglia News footage included shots of Q394MPU.

Southend Transport

Vehicles:

NEW: LR 705/6/7 & 709 (N705-709 TPK)

Volvo Olympian VN2RV18Z4 /Northern Counties H47/30F
(709)DPH43/30F

Arrived at London Road Depot 12/4/96. In S.T. livery.
Entered service on 15/4/96.

FL 253 (Q553 MEV) is to be repaired and returned to service.

Withdrawn:

LN 728 (NEL 128P) is withdrawn without use.

Disposals:

VR 305 (DGR 4778) to Whiting Bros. Prontefract. (Dealers.)
LN 507 (EPD 507V) to London & Country, Reigate.

Hires:

Colchester LN 25 (EQN 825V) was on loan for 2 days at the end of April in exchange for Southend VL 568 (H372 PHK).

Repaints:

LN 745 (PJI 3745) into allover advert for Southend College.
(Red/Black).

Services:

Service Revision Commencing 18th May 1996

- 1 Existing route unchanged, one journey on Saturday mornings, the evening and Sunday service are extended from Central Bus Station via Southchurch Road, Bournes Green, North Shoebury Corner and Great Wakering to Shoeburyess East Beach.
- 1B NEW ROUTE:- Operates as existing service 1 between Rayleigh Station and Southend Central Bus Station, then via Southchurch Road, Bournes Green, Thorpe Hall Avenue, Thorpe Bay Station, Delaware Road, Elm Road, Eagle Way, Renown to Shoeburyess East Beach. Operates Monday to Saturday evenings with some early morning journeys on Saturday and one journey on Sunday evenings.
- 2 Basildon Hospital to Shoeburyess Renown, Mon - Sat
Existing route unchanged, but extended from Central Bus Station, then via Southchurch Road, Bournes Green, North Shoebury Cnr. and Great Wakering to Shoebury Station, then either Shoeburyess East Beach (early morning and early evening) or Smith Street, Campfield Road, Ness Road, Asda, to the Renown (day time).
- 2A NEW ROUTE:- as existing/new service 2 Basildon to Great Wakering Church, then Landwick. Operates Mon to Fri peak hours and 1 journey Saturday evening.
- 2B NEW ROUTE:- as existing/new service 2 Basildon Hospital (Mon - Sat) or Laindon (sun) to Bournes Green, then Thorpe Hall Avenue, Thorpe Bay Station, Delaware Road, Elm Road, Eagle Way, Renown, to East Beach. Operates early mornings, evenings and all day Sunday.
- 3 NEW ROUTE:-
Southend Central Bus Station via Southchurch Road, Bournes Green, Maplin Way North, Delaware Road, Elm Road, Eagle Way Renown, East Beach.
Operates Monday to Saturday (except early morning and evenings).
- 3A/3C Existing routes withdrawn and replaced by Thamesway.
- 3A NEW ROUTE:- MONDAYS to SATURDAYS Early morning journeys only.
From Southend Central Bus Station to Shoeburyess East Beach via Southchurch Road, Bournes Green, Thorpe Hall Avenue, Thorpe Bay Station, Delaware Road, Elm Road, Eagle Way, Renown, East Beach.
- 4/4A/4B Existing routes withdrawn (replaced by ser. 1, 2, 2A, and 17).
- 5 Existing route unchanged, but extended from Central Bus Station to Shoeburyess East Beach via Kursaal, Seafront, Maplin Way, Church Road, Ness Road, Elm Road, Eagle Way, Renown, East Beach, operates Mondays to Saturdays early mornings.
- 5A Existing route withdrawn between Canvey and Hadleigh Vic House Cnr, replaced by Thamesway, but still operates Hadleigh Vic. House via existing route to Central Bus Station then via Kursaal, Sea Front, Maplin Way, Church Road, Ness Road, Elm Road, Eagle Way, Renown to East Beach. Operates Mon to Fri peak hrs., Saturday mornings, Monday to Saturday evening and all day Sundays.
- 5B Existing route revised as follows:- operates Monday to Friday only.
One morning journey, from Thames Drive, via Hadleigh Road, Leigh Broadway, Leigh Road, London Road, Deeping, Southchurch Road, Bournes Green, Thorpe Hall Avenue, Sea Front, Maplin Way, Church Road, Ness Road, Elm Road, Eagle Way, Renown East Beach.
- Afternoon journeys: One operates Shoeburyess East beach, The Renown, Eagle Way, Elm Road, Ness Road, Church Road, Maplin way, Sea Front, Thorpe Hall Avenue, Bournes Green, Southchurch Road, Central Bus Station, then via 5 route to Eastwood Rise. The 2nd journey starts at Bournes Green and operates the same route to Eastwood Rise but omits Central Bus Station.
- 5C As service 5 but serves Leigh Station

6 Minor timetable changes - Last two Journey's withdrawn Southend to Rochford Monday to Friday.

7/8 Revised timetable.

7A Revised route, to operate via existing 7 route between Rayleigh Station and Shoeburyness Caulfield Road then via Elm Road,Eagle Way,The Renown to East Beach.

7B NEW ROUTE: As existing route 7 between Rayleigh Station and Woodgrange Drive then via Lifstans Way,White Horse,Bournes Green,Thorpe Hall Avenue,Thorpe Bay Station, Caulfield Road,Elm Road,Eagle Way, to East Beach. Operates Mon - Fri at school times.

7C Revised to operate as existing route between Canewdon and Southend, then via 7 route to Shoeburyness East Beach.

8A Revised to operates as service 8 between Rayleigh Station and Shoeburyness Caulfield Road then via Elm Road,Eagle Way,Renown, to Shoeburyness East Beach.
Operates Mon - Sat except evenings, only operates in this direction.

8B NEW ROUTE: As existing route 8 between Rayleigh Station and Woodgrange Drive, then via Lifstans Way,White Horse,Bournes Green,Thorpe Hall Avenue,Thorpe Bay Station, Caulfield Road,Elm Road,Eagle Way,Renown to East Beach. Operates Mon - Fri at school times.

8C NEW ROUTE: As existing route 8 but omits Hockley Station and Great Eastern Road. Occasional journeys only.

9 Existing route withdrawn between Hullbridge and Rayleigh Station repiced by Thamesway. Service then extended Mon - Sat(except evenings) from Central Bus Station via Kursaal,Sea Front,Maplin Way,Church Road,Ness Road,Asda,Renown to Shoeburyness East Beach.

10 No Change

13 No Change

14 No Change

17 Revised to operate as existing route from Belgrave Road to Deeping then via Southchurch Road,Bournes Green,Rose Inn,Barling,Little Wakering,Great Wakering to Landwick. Some journeys will operate via Central Bus Station but most operate direct to Southchurch Road. Operates mon - sat

Note: MOST JOURNEYS ON SERVICE 17 DO NOT SERVE CENTRAL BUS STATION

17A Revised to operate Belgrave Road to Leigh Station. One journey is extended via Leigh Broadway,Leigh Road,London Road to southend Victoria Circus. operates Mon - Fri peak hrs. this direction only.

17B NEW ROUTE: opertes from Landwick via Great Wakering,Little Wakering,Barling,Rose Inn,Bournes Green,Southchurch Road,Central Bus Station,London Road,Leigh Road,Leigh Station,Elms,Elmsleigh Drive,Coombes Corner,Woodcutters to Eastwood Belgrave Road. One afternoon journey on Mon - Fri in this direction only.

18 No Change

21/21A/21B/21C withdrawn but will be operated by Thamesway.

23 Revised route to operate from Belgrave Road via Woodcutters,Coombes Corner,Elmsleigh Drive,Elms to Leigh Station. Operates Mon - Fri peak hours only.

23A revised timetable.

- 28 NEW ROUTE: As existing service 29 between Belgrave Road and Central Bus Station then via Woodgrange Drive, Lifstan Way, White Horse, Bournes Green, Thorpe Hall Avenue, Thorpe Bay Station, Delaware Road, Asda, Frobisher Way, Mountbatten Drive and Ravendale Way to North Shoebury Corner. Operates Mon - Sat shopping hours. One afternoon journey operates from Asda to the renown instead of North Shoebury Corner.
- 29 Revised Timetable.
- 61A Re-numbered 61 with a revised timetable.
- 62/62A Revised timetable.
- 63 Withdrawn on Mon - Sat but replaced by Thamesway. Sunday journeys remain.
- 64/65 Revised timetable.
- 66 No change.
- 69 Revised timetable.

NOTE:-

Commencing 18th May 1996 Southend Transport and Thamesway have made an agreement, that each company will accept the other's Return, Day Rover, and Season Tickets throughout the Network as far as Tarpots.

Extension of this agreement beyond Tarpots to Basildon will be reviewed at a later date. These ticket arrangements are therefore wholly East of Tarpots and are not available on services 2, 2A, 2B City Saver and Green Line beyond Tarpots.

FLEET

County Bus

SERVING HERTS, ESSEX & LONDON

Vehicles on Hire

Further to the Stop Press in the April magazine ThamesSide is having problems due to vehicle shortages. On hire are two Cowie Leaside Metrobuses KYV 60X (M760) and A990 SYF (M990) at the Grays garage. They are currently being used on service 370 (Grays to Romford). Initially M760 was allocated to service 383 (Brentwood Road Estate to Grays to Lakeside). Coloured ThamesSide logos have been applied to the first front nearside windows of the two Metrobuses and also to the front close to the destination box.

Ware is also having problems with vehicle shortages as they are waiting for new vehicles to arrive. They have two Cowie Leaside Metrobuses GYE 509W (M509) and KYV 746X (M746) on hire. They are allocated to route 395 (Hertford and Ware local service), a route normally operated by Dennis Darts. This is expected to last for about 2 or 3 months.

Unusual Workings

Leyland Leopard WJN 818T (has also been brought into service, usually on service 383, recently. Also, the Atlanteans have been working on routes normally operated by minibuses in the Grays area.

New Vehicles For Grays

A total of £800,000 is being invested in 11 new Dennis Darts for routes 256 (Hornchurch to Harold Hill) and 346 (Upminster Station to Cranham), both operated from Grays garage. County Bus won the tender for these routes from London Transport for another 5 years from Autumn 1996.

Significant changes to the timetables are likely with an increase in the number of vehicles used at peak times, from 7 to 10. Service 256 will also become more frequent throughout the day, currently operating every 15 minutes Monday to Saturday and every 30 minutes on Sundays.

Thanks to Grays member Bill White for much of the Grays information above.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

H123WFM, a 24-seat Mercedes 814, arrived from Cranleigh on 29.4.96, in Countryliner livery and with Guildford and West Surrey legal lettering. It has been used on private hires, but was towed to Ipswich Buses for repair on 8.5.96.

AN 352 (PCN892M) was withdrawn on 8.5.96. The engine is to be fitted to 68 and the remainder cannibalised for spares or scrapped.

The ECC contract for the 804 and 1500 journeys on service 75 reverted to Carters Coaches on 22.4.96.

Railway replacement services were operated between Witham and Ingatestone on 14, 21 and 28.4.96.

National 12 was returned from repair at Ipswich on 15.4.96. It entered the paint shop on 8.5.96 for painting in fleet livery, from overall advertisement for Foulkes. Southend's 706 left Magdalen Street on 11.4.96. A Southend Olympian was painted in red and black for an overall advertisement between 10 and 27.4.96

LNC 463 had a tachograph fitted on 17.4.96, and also had the yellow number blinds transferred from AN 352. The white number blinds from 45 were exchanged for the yellow ones from AN 185 on 1.5.96. New yellow number blinds are to be fitted to the Nationals.

Southend's 568 was borrowed from 22 to 28.4.96 and used with a CBT driver for a Guildford and West Surrey private hire to Ipres in Belgium. National 25 was lent to Southend between the same dates.

Bus firms drive for route deal as bus firms share tickets

BUS services are being axed next month following a radical shake-up of routes in a deal forged between Southend Transport and Thamesway.

The plans, which have been on the cards for months, only came to light after a leak to Southend Labour Party leader Nigel Smith.

He accused the two companies of a "carve up", adding the changes will hit passengers, especially pensioners.

The changes, the biggest since the service was first privatised, include:

- Thamesway axing its Shoebury service.

- Southend Transport scrapping its Canvey service

- Mr Smith said the public had been kept in the dark and blamed the council's sell-off of Southend Transport.

He said: "There's no doubt the bus service was better when we owned it."

"This is going to mean fewer services and longer waits for passengers and there won't be any incentive to provide a better service."

"What is the point of privatisation if they are going to make deals between themselves?"

But both companies have defended the deal and say it is only cutting out doubled-up services.

They also denied the deal was a monopoly saying they had been given the green light from the Office of Fair Trading

Southend Council's Conservative leader Charles Latham said it remained to be seen what

effect the arrangement would have. But if it amounted to an "informal cartel" the OFT would step in.

He added: "If services are not used we have to assume people don't want them. I don't think the council would have run services at a substantial loss. It makes virtually no difference."

Southend Transport garage manager Dave Tomlin said: "All we have been doing is reducing the number of duplicated services."

"Most people would admit that the Canvey service is overbused. With the new plans, instead of getting two buses from different companies coming once every 10 minutes, it will now be one bus every four minutes from the one company."

And he denied fares would rocket once the routes were run by a single company, reassuring season ticket holders that they would still be valid.

And Thamesway's managing director Alan Barrett said it was not a case of change for change's sake.

A full announcement would be made at least 10 days before the changes, due on May 18, and new route maps would be delivered to homes.

He said: "People will still be able to make the journeys. I don't think there are any sections of route that will not be served in the future."

"Passengers may have to change buses on some routes, like Shoebury to Canvey."

The intention is to cut the number of mini-buses.

FEARS that Southend's two biggest bus companies are forming a cartel grew this week with the introduction of universal tickets.

Rival groups Southend Transport and Thamesway are launching the scheme which allows passengers to travel on either company's buses regardless of where they bought the ticket.

It comes just a week after the Standard revealed the two companies plan to axe rival routes to Shoebury and Canvey.

Southend Labour leader Nigel Smith said: "I'm sceptical in the short term this could mean a better service for passengers but there are longer term implications."

"Very soon passengers travelling from Shoebury to Canvey will have to change buses because of a carve-up between the two companies and now they will be able to use the same ticket."

"You really have to ask yourself what is the point of privatising services if there is not going to be any competition."

But the two companies insist the scheme that also includes Stephenson's Coaches and comes into force on Saturday May 18 is a reaction to customer demand.

Thamesway operations manager for Southend, Chris McCormick, said: "Many of the new changes are being made in response to passenger requests and comments, which we always take very seriously."

"They have also been made with a view to making public transport a much more attractive option for travelling in and around Southend."

"We hope that our new combination of convenient routes and comprehensive tickets will persuade more people to leave their cars at home and give buses a try."

He added improvements included:

- Direct links between Canvey, Benfleet and Southend Hospital

- Fast service on Monday to Saturday between Canvey and Bournes Green, Southend

- More buses to serve

Eastern Avenue's new tennis and leisure centre

- A seven-nights a week Cliffs Pavilion service from Canvey, Benfleet and Leigh.

An open top bus will be parked next to Victoria Station from Wednesday May 15 to Saturday May 18 so the public can look at new timetables, maps and get other information

- Households in Southend will soon be receiving vouchers worth £1.50 on parking and bus fares.

The vouchers give 15 per cent off £10 Transcards which can be used on buses or in car park meters.

PAUL SPARKS CLACTON COLUMN

Clacton Leyland National Fleet No.1924, Registration No. JHJ 150V is now out of the paint shop wearing not only the Company's new livery but the FirstBus logo: the very first Eastern National vehicle to do so! It is rather ironic that the Leyland Nationals are the last type of vehicle in E.N.'s fleet to get the new livery but it is a Leyland National that is first to "sport" the FirstBus logo.

Very soon we will see a VR repainted and also wearing the FirstBus logo. One of Colchester's VR's is currently in the paint shop at Clacton undergoing the treatment.

I can report that the two Brewers Mercedes, the Western National Mercedes and the Bedford training vehicle that have been sitting in the yard at Clacton for some time have now been sold by the Company.

Two Eastern National Leyland Nationals which have been in the yard at Clacton and have been used for spares over the last few months have now been stripped to the bone and the remains are to be sent to the dealers for scrap. As compensation for obtaining Leyland National spares two ex Thamesway Nationals are now at Clacton for this purpose. The vehicles in question are WJN 559S, Fleet No.1839 and BNO 684T, Fleet No.1894.

Two of the Eastern National Darts which have been at Ponders End with Thamesway have now returned to Clacton. These are L810 OPU, Fleet No.2810 and L817 OPU, Fleet No.2817. This has resulted in Thamesway Dart's N947 CPU & N948 CPU returning to that company. Clacton still has Thamesway Dart M940 TEV and is likely to have it for some time yet, so consequently Thamesway still have one Eastern National Dart at Ponders End. I must say that I have seen Fleet No.2810 since it returned and it is looking exceedingly "tatty" with odd patches of unmatching yellow paint on several panels. I understand the Eastern National Darts have been "knocked around" quite a bit during they stay at Ponders End.

On a final note I am pleased to have been informed that KSW registration No. WNO 480, Fleet No.2384 may have been found an engine. I understand Eastern Counties have acquired a Bristol K with a Gardner engine. If this is the case the engine will be available for WNO 480. If the vehicle is fitted with the replacement engine it stands a good chance of being restored and possibly joining its sister WNO 479, Fleet No.2383 which is currently being operated by the Eastern National KSW Preservation Group. Here's hoping that this does all mature.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILS TRANSCARD SCHEME

The Essex Transcard was a project started by Essex County Council in 1995 as part of the Travelwise initiative which aims to reduce the dominance of private car trips by making alternatives such as public transport more attractive to travellers. This scheme complements other measures currently being planned and developed, including schemes like bus priority, real time information systems and park and ride initiatives.

Key Details of the Scheme

The capital costs for the equipment required to set up the Essex Transcard scheme were £600,000. The revenue costs which are the operational costs are £150,000 per annum. The scheme is for an initial period of 5 years. Transcard can be used to pay for bus fares and parking in South East Essex (the area covered by the Boroughs of Castle Point, Southend on Sea and Rochford District).

Features of Transcard

There are 200 new electronic bus ticketing machines with card readers and security modules for 3 local bus operators, Southend Transport, Stephenson's Coaches and Thamesway and there have been 130 new or adapted Metric Parking machines.

The Essex Transcards can be used in Berkshire (which also has a transcard system in operation) and vice versa.

The Transcard is available in three denominations, £5, £10 and £25 and in the first year there are 50 authorised retailers throughout South East Essex and Transcards can also be bought from bus drivers.

How Transcard Works

The Essex Transcard is a stored value payment card which applies newly developed technology to create a modern and efficient fare charging and collection system. This technology has already been proven in other fields such as telecommunications. It is a complex system but it is designed to be simple for the public to use.

The Transcard has many advantages, including speeding up the time taken at bus stops because it eliminates the need for cash to be handed over to the driver and change to be given.

On The Buses

Transcard is accepted on bus services operated by Southend Transport, Stephensons Coaches and Thamerway. The Transcard project has required the installation of new ticketing machines on over 200 buses. These new ticket machines represent the latest Wayfarer 3 technology and incorporate many new features including electronic fare tables, card readers, security modules and driver modules.

Bus depots have been equipped with computer hardware and software for analysing fare totals and communicating with Transmo banking and clearing systems.

All passengers need to do is insert their card into the card reader and state the destination required. A ticket is then produced in the normal way.

For Parking

Transcard is accepted in Southend Borough Council and Rochford District Council 'Pay & Display' car parks. These car parks have over 100 ticketing machines which have been adapted to take the card readers and security modules. Car park offices, like the bus depots, have been equipped to allow computerised accumulation of card payments and communication with Transmo banking and clearing services.

For both buses and car parks, the card reader and security module verify the card, the value of the fare or charge is deducted from the card, a ticket issued and the card is returned to the user. The reverse of the card is stamped showing an approximate residual balance.

The Future

Transcard is not yet available for use on train journeys in the South East Essex area but the County Council is thought to be considering this at the present time.

Hertfordshire County Council is thought to be thinking about introducing a Transcard scheme similar to the ones already in place in Essex and Berkshire.

If this scheme is successful then it may be extended to continue after the initial period of 5 years and would hopefully make passenger transport a more attractive alternative being able to get straight onto a bus or pay at a car park without having to find change and speeding up the fare-collection process on the buses.

GOLDEN BOY FLEETLIST FEBRUARY 1996

401	YOI 2642	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton	C53F	(RYG 537R)	Miss Cara
402	YOI 7757	Volvo B10M	Van Hool	C53F	(C333 DND)	Miss Geraldine
403	YXI 8897	Volvo B10M	Van Hool	C53F	(F747 ENE)	Miss Maria
404	YOI 1214	Mercedes 811	Reeve B	C33F	(A10 NPT)	Miss Patricia
405	YOI 7725	Leyland Tiger	Plaxton	C53F	(NDW 138X)	Miss Elaine
406	YOI 8271	Mercedes 811	Reeve B	C33F	(F722 SML)	Miss Jane
408	BAZ 8576	Bedford YLQ	Duple	B35F	(FKX 286T)	Miss Laura
409	YOI 7353	Volvo B10M	Van Hool	C53F	(B473 UNB)	Miss Jacqueline
410	YOI 5475	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton	C46F	(WJM 810T)	Miss Gemma
412	WJM 812T	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton	C47F		Miss Kelly
413	YOI 2805	Leyland Tiger	Plaxton	C57F	(DBJ 369Y)	Miss Bernadette
414	M635 UCT	Mercedes 814	Autobus	C33F		Miss Grainne
415	K966 GWR	Mercedes 410	Mellor	C15F		Miss Carol
416	YOI 7079	Mercedes 307	Reeve B	-12-	(KAR 986Y)	
417	YOI 7373	Leyland Tiger	Plaxton	C53F	(DNK 581Y)	Miss Sally
418	YOI 949	VH T815	Van Hool	C53F	(F580 RML)	Miss Angela
419	YOI 5997	Volvo B10M	Van Hool	C49F	(BAZ 8576)	Miss Rosie
420	YOI 7744	Mercedes 811	Reeve B	C25F	(G587 LUX)	Miss Liliy
421	YOI 7374	Leyland Leopard	Duple	C53F	(MNK 428V)	
424	YOI 7575	Leyland Tiger	Plaxton	C48F	(A80 NHK)	Miss Annie
435	YXI 9293	Volvo B10M	Van Hool	C53F	(F749 ENE)	Miss Mary
436	YOI 2517	AEC Reliance	Duple	C53F	(XPK 51T)	Miss Karen
458	YOI 7145	Iveco 79-14	Caetano	C19F	(C358 LVV)	Miss Teresa

Seating capacities are the maximum seats carried. Some are down-seated with toilets and tables as required.

416 is not named.

421 is an overall advert for Marks & Spencer for use on a contract to the store.