# ESSEX BUS NEWS

*The Monthly Magazine Of The* ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP DECEMBER 1989

(Formerly the EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP) ISSUE No. 308




Southend Transports fleet now includes ten Leyland Nationals. Nine started life with London Country, including 709. It is seen here at Shoeburyness, East Beach on the one 7A journey that is extended to Hockley. This service is normally Fleetline operated but on 22.10.89. a rail replacement service was in operation.

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EDITORIAL

Timetable Subscription Service

From 1st December 1989, operation of the Group's Timetable Subscription Service has been taken over by Derek Stebbing (18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0TP). Essex County Council will be completely revising their timetable booklets early in 1990, and the recently published Loughton/Epping/Ongar book (Area 6) is the last example of the area booklets to be published. These area booklets will be replaced by just two timetables for North Essex and South Essex, and these will be updated every 2-3 months. Derek Stebbing intends to offer a much improved subscription service, with timetables and any amendment leaflets being despatched very shortly after publication by Essex County Counciland hopefully on the day of publication. If you wish to receive details and an application form for the new subscription service, just send a SAE to Derek Stebbing at the above address. Existing subscribers will be notified separately.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITED

Vehicle Allocations

11/89 1921 MN-BE; 1924 BE-MN; 1928 CR-D/L(D).
In addition the transfers listed on page 306/7 of 1830 to SD, 1836 to BN, 1873 to CR, and 1875 to MN not BN were permanent and not temporary.
1804 has recently suffered serious accident damage after leaving the road at Bannister Green.

Repaints

w.e. 14.10.89 1781 at HH
w.e. 2.12.89 4017 at CN
In addition 1789 will become an overall advert for the Liberty Shopping Hall and 1779 plus 3205 overall adverts for Autotrader in late November/early December. 3084 will be repainted from Essex Radio overall advert to fleet livery at the same time.

Disposals - Subsequent.

427 (604 JPU) Vagg, Knockin Heath to Spence (dlr) Thorpe Bay then to Express Motors, Caernarfon, 3/89.
2898 (WVX 525F) Passed from Sykes (dealer) to Brakell (dealer) and exported to Holland -/89.

Ex-Eastern National Bristol RELL'S in Belfast

Following the recent withdrawal of three more ex-Eastern National Bristol RELL'S in Belfast, all due to civil disturbances, there now only remain four survivors of the 20 such buses sold to Ulsterbus Ltd., and Citybus Ltd., during 1985/86. The remaining four vehicles are 1532 (MHK 914J) 1536 (OHK 226K) 1540 (PEV 502K) and 1553 (WNO 542L) which are numbered 789,704,709 and 717 respectively in the Citybus fleet.
For the record the 20 vehicles sold to Ulsterbus/Citybus were 1524/28/30/32/33 1534/36/39-42/44/45/47/49-54.

The Following is a copy of a letter received from N.C. Turner (Treasurer, Eastern National (1407) Preservation Group, Sible Hedingham, Essex) re ENOC 1340 (2730 VX)

I would like to correct the 'Disposals - subsequent' information on Page 307/3 of the November issus of 'Essex Bus News' relating to the above vehicle.
The correct sequence of events following sale by ENOC is as follows:
September 1980 Sold by ENOC to the Eastern National (1407) Preservation Group of Sible Hedingham, Essex

September 10th 1980 Sold by the Eastern National (1407) Preservation Group to Roy Lingham of Edinburgh Gardens, Braintree, Essex, the vehicle being kept at the Motor Omnibus Garage, Wethersfield Road, Sible Hedingham, Essex.

R. Lingham moved to 45 Barryfields, Salford, Braintree, Essex in 1984, but the vehicle location remained unchanged until after November 1984 when it was moved to Bakers Farm, Blackmore End, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex so that repainting could be carried out. The vehicle was licensed from Spring 1985 and attended its first rally on June 2nd 1985 at Southend. During 1985 & 1986 the vehicle was operated bu the Eastern National (1407) Preservation Group on behalf of its owner. In subsequent years operations were by R. Lingham. R. Lingham moved to Rise Cottage, Boynton Lane, Grindale, Bridlington, East Yorkshire in January 1989 but the vehicle remained at Blackmore End until April 23rd 1989 when it was sold to Robin Woodcock, 60 Ashorne Close, Matchborough West, Redditch, Worcestershire and the vehicle was moved on that day to the Birmingham & Midland Museum of Transport at Wythall, Birmingham where it is now kept.

PLEASE NOTE All references connecting this vehicle with 'Trump Knaphill' are TOTALLY ERRONEOUS and should be deleted. Neither Roy Lingham or myself have any idea who this person is. This error appears to have originated in PSV Circle information.

PUBLICITY

EN leaflets for services 74,78,78A;74 and 712 dated 12.11.89 and for service 4 dated 13.11.89. A leaflet for all services between Shoeburyness and Southend dated12.11.89. The leaflet for 712 is interesting being dated from a Sunday when the service only operates Monday to Friday.
EN timetable leaflet for services between Witham and Chelmsford dated 29.10.89 services 20/22 dated 12.11.89.
EN passenger news dated 29.10.89 for Maldon,Brentwood & Romford, Chelmsford, Bishops Stortford areas and for Southend dated 12.11.89.
ECC leaflets for service 504 dated 24.9.89 and 23/A (weekday evenings) dated 30.10.89.
National Express leaflets for service 081, Coaches between West Midlands, Cambridge, Stansted and South East Anglia and Airport Coach services from Norfolk, Cambridge, Suffolk and Essex all dated 29.10.89 to 28.4.90.
The last of these leaflets shows Chelmsford to Stansted via Victoria with a fastest journey of 4 hours 35 minutes, it would be quicker to walk! EN service 33 between these points takes one hour and is cheaper than the £8.80 single charged by N.Express.
Wests leaflet for 531,532 dated 1.12.89.

SERVICE REVISIONS IN ESSEX

Braintree

As a result of the closure of the access road from Rayne onto the Braintree bypass services X70 & 370 plus certain commuter services westbound have been directed away from the village from 30.10.89. Short journeys between Braintree and Rayne were introduced on service 370 from the same date.

Loughton, Epping

531,532 NEW SERVICES. Operated by Wests between Debden and Chingford from 1.12.89. Service 531 leaves Debden hourly between 0730 and 1730 Monday to Saturday and operates via Woodford Castle returning hourly between 0800 and 1800. Service 532 leaves Debden hourly between 0755 and 1455 then 1550,1638 and 1755 and serves Whitehall Road returning hourly between 0830 and 1530 then 1612,1725 and 1820

Correction

Services 203,207,214,215 & 254 shown on page 307/8 should appear under the Loughton area.

Southend

Following last month's notes on the Southend area revisions, a few additional points have come to light. Service 4 does indeed still run via the Rose Inn, not North Shoebury Corner. The 4C differs from the 6A which it replaced in that it runs via the normal 4 route as far as Prittlewell Chase (the 6A had gone via First Avenue, Chalkwell Avenue and the London Road) and the journey runs as a 4C on Saturdays despite the deviation via Westcliff High School being designed for schools traffic. The 9 was additionally diverted between Priory Park and the Bell via Prittlewell Chase and Hobleythick Lane, seemingly purely so that crew changes can be made right outside the depot (crews obviously cannot walk the few yards into Victoria Avenue!). As well as the 25A's to Leigh Station, one 25 also runs to Leigh Station. The extension beyond the Church is purely for positioning purposes as the buses run on to the ECC contract 23/23A evening service. 28A now no longer runs east of Hadleigh. Talking of Hadleigh, journeys ex garage running westwards now start at the Waggon & Horses rather than Hadleigh Church - this avoids the detour round some side streets which is neccessary to reach the layby at Hadleigh Church.

The benefits of the changes were somewhat negated shortly after the revisions started, as one of the 2 buses saved at SD had to be returned since the schedules proved too tight. New destination blinds appear to have been introduced at SD although they were not in evidence on the first day of the revised services (which introduced a number of new terminal points and altered the passing points adjacent to others).

Park and Ride

With Christmas almost upon us the usual park and ride schemes have started. Eastern National are operating in Basildon and Chelmsford with ST operating in Southend. The Chelmsford scheme is based on the Rectory Lane car park using Leyland Nationals and Wharf Road using a loaned Brentwood transit (0756 normally). Both services commenced on 18.11.89 operating Saturdays only. Could members please provide details on the Basildon service and details on the Colchester service if one operated this year.

TESCO PITSEA

From 31.10.89 the free services operated by Eastern National on behalf of the store were revised as follows:-
Tuesday only - Pitsea,Basildon Bus Stn, Laindon Shopping Centre and Tescos.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - Pitsea,Canvey Central Wall Road, Admiral Jellicoe, Furtherwick Park School, Long Road to Tescos.
Wednesday only - Pitsea,Basildon Bus Stn, Wickford to Tesco
Tuesday and Friday - Pitsea, Tarpots Corner,Thundersley Kents Hill & Kenneth Road, Hadleigh Church, Thames Drive, North Leigh, Leigh Elmsleigh Drive, Thames Drive, Hadleigh, Thundesley, Tarpots Corner to Tescos.

FOCUS ON CARTERS COACH SERVICES

Current Fleet

AUD 460R Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB ECW H43/31F (ex South Midlands 627)
SAH 851M Bristol RELH6G ECW C49F (ex Viscount Travel 150)
Also owned is 920 GUO a Bristol SULHA/ECW C33F new to Western National and acquired from Elmtree Coaches, Harrow for preservation, the target date being June 1990 for completion of this project.
Services operated are 93,124,247 & 755 details of which appear in Colchester & Harwich area timetables.
The depot is located in Heath Road, East Bergholt.

Many thanks to Mr. L.V. Carter for providing fleet details.

## SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to November 27.

### Vehicles

**ACQUIRED:** LN 710 (JBO 352N) duly entered service on 15/11 and 708 (XPD 231N) was scheduled to do likewise on 1/12.

**MODIFIED:** further repaints into the new livery are 223/6/32.

**DEMONSTRATORS:** very interesting advance news is that a Dennis Dart midibus is to be evaluated from December 20 until January 8. It is expected to be used mainly on Leyland National duties (and, no doubt, on some of the new routes 17/17A, 61, 62/62A annd 69 - see below).

**WITHDRAWN:** open toppers 902/3 (WJN 372/3J) were officially withdrawn by the end of November. Latterly only 903 had been licenced. It would seem this time that this really is the end of their lives with ST.

Perhaps just as significant, it was expected that 4 of the Astromegas, 601-4 (NDS 841Y, JEV 243-5Y) and 2 Leopards (510, KWG 130W and 523, EBM 439T) would be placed in store after November 30th.

**SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:** a quite amazing report has reached the sub editor that one of the Daimler CWA6 open toppers may still be in existance in northern France being used as a cafe!! With the exception of the one preserved by the ENPG, the buses which actually ran with ST until displaced by the PD3's were reported sold in 2/71 to H Smith Motors, a scrap dealer in Basildon. Can anyone explain what has happened in the intervening 18 years?

### Services

18 We have not previously reported that the Southend - Foulness ECC contract was revised from 9/10. ST now operate certain journeys commercially - the 0736 ex Foulness M-S (the jny to Foulness was already commercial); the 1735 ex Southend on Mon-Fri (which is advanced to 1730 and only runs over the Landwick to Foulness section on request [outward] or by prior booking [return - when it is a contracted operation!] - note that on Saturdays it is still a contract journey through to Foulness). The Saturdays only 2310 ex Southend is withdrawn. Certain journeys also have minor retimings, mainly being reduced running time on Foulness following the opening of the new Havengore Bridge.

From January 2nd, ECC contract 61 and Southend BC contracts B17 and B62 will be replaced by new commercial services 61/69, 17/17A and 62/62A respectively. Further details next month - in the meanwhile, photograph the old routes while you can!

### General

ST have been awarded a Southend Borough Council contract for a free park and ride service, running on Saturdays from November 25 to December 23. Five coaches are used, running from car parks at Eastwood School, Warners Bridge and Southchurch Park.

Rail replacement work has continued unabated - in fact, it would be fair to say that ST have operated the entire service between Southend Victoria and Wickford for the past 4 weeks, except on Monday to Saturday daytimes!

We can confirm operations over the forthcoming holiday:
Normal service on all days except:
Fri Dec 22 - certain evening peak X jnys operate 3 hours earlier;
Sun Dec 24 - no late evening service on ECC contracts 23, 23A & 24;
Mon Dec 25 (CHRISTMAS DAY) - one X1 only, Southend (dep 0830) to Victoria Coach Stn, returning at 1045.
Tue Dec 26 (Boxing Day) - special daytime services - hourly on 1, 5, 7 (Shoebury to Hockley only), 29 and 63; 2 hourly on 4A and X1 (Southend to Victoria C/S); extra 7's and 29's to Roots Hall for SUFC's home game.
Sun Dec 31 - no late service on ECC 23, 23A & 24; no X1's west of Embankment after 1900 (Trafalgar Square is a little congested then!).
Mon Jan 1, 1990 - as for Boxing Day.

**Publicity News:** single A5 sheet with service 18 timetable; white & purple A6 size leaflet with Xmas/New Year service details.

A series of new glossy, 2 colour leaflets was to be introduced at the end of the year, covering 9A, 17/17A, 61/69 and 62/62A. A new Goldcard leaflet/application was also due as we went to press.

On a more general note, a major publicity campaign has been introduced to revive interest in - and sales of! - the Southend & District Travelcard. In this age of competition, it's good to see EN, ST and BR all co-operating to market a network facility like Travelcard. Interior and exterior posters are being carried on the buses of EN, ST and Stephensons, while BR have produced a new leaflet in their usual corporate style.

## OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

**Clintona, Brentwood:** the 21A contract was slightly revised from 13/11, with the 0918 Hadleigh - Canvey projected back to start at Prittlewell, Bell and the 1541 Canvey - Leigh Elms extended to Southchurch; presumably the 1606 Elms - Canvey is back projected to start at Southchurch.

**District Bus (Tomlin), Wickford:** yet another new service is 103, Basildon Bus Stn to Laindon, Gt Berry, running hourly until mid afternoon.

**AND FINALLY** . . can anyone identify the owner of an all white Bristol VRT/ECW, JWW 225N (ex West Yorks RCC - Harrogate fleet), seen most mornings on the Battlesbridge bypass and also noted in Chelmsford carrying the Mayflower Majorettes (do they own it?).

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

| | |
|---|---|
| FORDS | Correction to information on 307/10 RYL 730R came from Pennent Holidays. |
| HARRIS BUS | Acquired ex Eastbourne No 30 Leyland Atlantean GHC 521N |
| WESTS | The DAF/Optare Delta is G259 EHD and carries route details for 201 on the side. |

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Services

Further details to 307/9 regarding service revisions are now available. From 20.11.89 service 5A and two MF journeys on service 2A were diverted via Severalls Park Industrial Estate (Newcommen Way and Wyncolls Road), and service 14 and two MF journeys on service 9 were diverted via Newcommen Way instead of Brunel Way. From the same date an extra MF journey was introduced on service 2B at 914 from Highwoods to Osborne Street, the 831 MF journey from Five Ways on service 5A was extended from General Hospital to Highwoods and the 1653 journey from Highwoods on service 9 and the 1738 journey from Home Farm on service 9A were both retarded five minutes on MF.

The coach unit is to trade as "CBT Coachways".

Vehicles

The three new Lynxes, 38 to 40 (G38 YHJ et seq) arrived on 17.11.89 and entered service on 21,22 and 23.11.89 respectively. Chassis numbers are LX1622-4 respectively. They have "bus stopping" signs and green stanchions.
A DAF-Optare Urban demonstrator (G785 PWL) arrived on 23.11.89 and was used on services 9A and 11 the same day as D27. A second demonstrator arrived on 24.11.89 (F792 DWT) numbered D28. Both were in use on the 9 group on 25.11.89 with D28 being used on rail replacement work on 26.11.89 both were due to leave on 28.11.89.
The remains of 54 (XJA 517L) were removed for scrap by 4.11.89.
ON 42 was returned from ENE by 17.11.89 and repainted AN 77 was back in service by 4.11.89

ENOC 2954

Preservation

Castle Point Museum have informed me that another pre 1954 vehicle is in their care 3991 MPU 52 Leyland PD1 ECW L53R.

When you try to compare the present Eastern National fleet with that of 50 years ago, it is interesting to see how many types existed, in 1930 there were 136 saloons of 15 different types - today a few minibuses - and of course the Leyland National & Lynx. - Double Deckers 110 of 7 different types - today VRT and 2 types of Olympians plus 2 Bristol KSW and coaches 33 - 9 different types - today a handful of Leopards and Tigers. How interesting it must have been 50 years ago when every bus arriving at your stop was probably different.

GOLDEN BOY FLEETLIST

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 801 | MPG 151P | Leyland Leopard | Duple | Ex Safeguard |
| 802 | YOI 7374 | Leyland Leopard | Duple | Was MNK 428V, ex Alder Valley |
| 803 | C358 LVV | Iveco | Caetano | Ex Link Line |
| 804 | THM 655M | Daimler Fleetline | Metro-Cammell | Ex Shannon, new to LT |
| 805 | FCY 280W | Bedford YMQ | Duple | Ex South Wales Transport. |
| 806 | DHE 698V | Bedford YMT | Plaxton | Ex Swansdown |
| 808 | EGS 173T | Bedford YMT | Plaxton | Ex Trans Auto |
| 810 | WJM 810T | Leyland Leopard | Plaxton | Ex Alder Valley |
| 812 | WJM 812T | Leyland Leopard | Plaxton | Ex Alder Valley |
| 814 | WJM 814T | Leyland Leopard | Plaxton | Ex Alder Valley |
| 815 | FCY 283W | Bedford YMQ | Duple | Ex South Wales Transport |
| 816 | WJM 816T | Leyland Leopard | Plaxton | Ex Alder Valley |
| 817 | YOI 7373 | Leyland Tiger | Plaxton | Was DNK 581Y |
| 818 | UJH 969Y | Bedford YNT | Plaxton | Was DNK 582Y then YOI 7374 soon to be sold |
| 820 | KHY 430P | Bristol LH | ECW | Ex Bristol Omnibus |
| 823 | FCY 297W | Bedford YMQ | Duple | Ex South Wales Transport |
| 824 | YOI 7375 | Leyland Tiger | Plaxton | Was A80 NHK, Ex Greenways. |
| 834 | F172 SMT | Leyland Swift | Wadham Stringer | |
| 836 | F173 SMT | Leyland Swift | Wadham Stringer | |

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An article on this fine looking machine appeared in last months magazine on page 10.
Bristol K5G (NNO 105) is seen as 1317 at Maldon on service 19.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE I WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL MEMBERS BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

ROCHFORD MEETING
The first meeting of the new year takes place on 9.1.90. at the Freight House adjacent to Rochford Station. This will take the form of a slide evening and you are invited to bring your slides of 1989.