EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

NEWS SHEET NUMBER 138 — September 1975

EDITORIAL

Fenland Coach Tour, Sunday September 28

There are still seats available on this tour, for late bookings please telephone Martin Weyell.

Ilford Meeting, Tuesday October 14

At 7 Farley Drive, Seven Kings commencing at 1930. The Secretary will present a colour slide show featuring one of his 1975 holidays (Iceland or Alexander(Northern) and Highland as requested).

Eastern National Souvenirs

By kind courtesy of the Chief Engineer we have acquired a stock of surplus Eastern National items for sale as souvenirs. These include uniform buttons, lapel badges, cap badges and bus stop signs (request and compulsory). These will be on view on the coach tour on September 28 and will first be offerred for sale at the Ilford meeting on October 14. They will subsequently be available at the Transport Spectacular 75 and at the Ilford & West Essex M.R.C. exhibition, and will also be offered in the October news sheet. However, since postage on the bus stop signs is likely to be excessive personal collection at one of the above events would be an advantage. Please do not order now, stocks are sufficient to meet everyones demands.

Transport Spectacular 75, Saturday November 1

At Central Hall, Westminster, London S.W.1 (opposite the Abbey), organised by The London Omnibus Traction Society, open from 1130 until 1630. The Group will have a stand at this event.

Ilford & West Essex Model Railway Club exhibition, Thursday 4 to Saturday 6 November

At Ilford Town Hall, the Group will have a stand at this event this year. Further details will be given next month.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

NIL

Withdrawn Vehicles

The Bristol MW saloons which were withdrawn recently were sent to Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln the Central Workshops of the Lincolnshire Road Car Co. Ltd. A centralised cannibalising unit has been established at this location to provide spart parts for the constituent Companies of the Eastern Region of the National Bus Company, of which Eastern National is a member. (Correction to NS137)

Allocations & Transfers

9.75 1306-BN, 1328-BD, 1331-CW(SD), 1341-D/L(D), 1405-CW(CF), 1530-D/L, 1709-CW(BN), 1721-D/L, 2502-D/L, 2503-CW(SD), 2507-CW(-), 2508-D/L(D), 2514-CW(-), 2519-CW(-), 2524-D/L, 2751-CF, 2884-D/L, 2935-MN.

General

Bristol FLF 2791 (AVX959B) the overall advertising vehicle for the National Coal Board has been repainted into green livery and has re-entered service at Southend.

The Central Works pool (CW) of spare vehicles has been re-established again, painted CW allocations are carried as previously. In the allocation given above CW(-) implies a pool vehicle but not yet allocated to a specific garage.

1743 (HAR489N) has been fitted with fully automatic transmission employing the Sevcon unit. This is an experiment to attempt to improve fuel consumption.

Application for revised fares has recently been made, a cognate application has been made by Soythend Transport.

1608/10 (GVW978/80H) have recently been on hire to National Travel (South East) Ltd. and have been operating on several express services during early and mid September. National Travel (South East) in turn have vehicles on hire to Eastern Counties at Norwich (operating on stage carriage services) to cover a vehicle shortage.

A Historical Section and notes on Eastern National paint dates follow at the end of this news sheet.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

General

The incorporation of small windows (quarter lights) into the corner pillars of the E.C.W. bodied Leyland Atlanteans 55-60 (JHK495-500N) will be applied to the complete batch, 56/8 (JHK496/8N) had been treated by the end of July. The next batch of E.C.W. bodied Leyland Atlanteans will incorporate curved windscreens in place of the sloping flat examples fitted to the above batch, since it has been stated that the latter design may not in future prove acceptable to the vehicle examiner. (additional notes to NS137)

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Withdrawn Vehicle

5.75 331 (7095 HJ)

Vehicles on Hire

To assist in the extreme vehicle shortage presently being experienced by the London Transport Executive ten Leyland PD3's are to be hired to London Transport. Four vehicles (including 333/6 (CJN433/6C)) were sent in late August for driver training purposes and the remaining six followed later, all having been dispatched by September 20th. The vehicles will all be allocated to Croydon (TC) garage and will operate on route 190 (Thornton Heath - Croydon - Purley - Old Coulsdon, Weekdays only). The vehicles have had TC garage codes painted on, and some were observed operating with this code in Southend before dispatch. The vehicles to be hired are :

333/6/8-44/7 (CJN433/6/8-44C, MHJ347F), i.e. 9 Massey and 1 East Lancs bodied examples.

It is thought that operation commenced on Monday September 22th.

With the loan of these vehicles to London Transport, the Albion Lowlanders, the ex. Ribble Leyland PD3's and 315/6 (PHJ 954/5) are now used on all-day service on weekdays and it is thought that these vehicles will continue to remain in service even after delivery of the forthcoming Daimler Fleetlines.

General

Application for revised fares has recently been made, a cognate application has been made by Eastern National.

GENERAL NOTES

A free bus service has started in the Southend area, operated by the Southend Stadium to and from the market which is held on the site on Wednesdays and Saturdays, operation commenced on 2.8.75 on a circular route similar to service 62. Details of the vehicle employed are as follows :

BWC319B Austin FFK100 202355 Marshall B31F new 1964

The vehicle was new to Dagenham Borough Council Education Committee (as B42F) and passed in 1965 to the London Borough of Barking Education Committee, no. 3929. It was acquired by the Stadium in July (as non-P.S.V.) and was then re-seated to B31F, perimeter-type seating layout is employed.

An early vehicle with a "P" registration suffix is KHJ786P, a Bedford YRQ with Willowbrook B47F bodywork, which is Hedingham & District L86.

HISTORICAL SECTION

The Gnu That Wasn't (by A. G. Osborne)

This note is to record the withdrawal from service of a very unusual vehicle. The vehicle concerned entered service with the City Coach Company of Brentwood in 1949, registered NVX 170, a Leyland PS2/11 (a very rare breed) with Heaver B39C bodywork. Since the vehicle was 30 feet long the existing legislation required it to be fitted with two front axles. The vehicle was numbered G7, the class previously used for the Leyland Gnu's (G1-6) which also had twin steering, hence the Gnu that wasn't. Later when the legislation was changed the second axle was removed. The vehicle duly passed into the Eastern National fleet and was numbered 132. It was withdrawn in 1958 and passed to Barton Transport Ltd. of Chilwell. This operator rebodied the chassis with a new Northern Counties FH39/30FD double deck body and the vehicle was re-registered 794 ARR and numbered 794. During its later days it was allocated to Stamford where it operated on the former Cream Bus Services and was a regular performer on the service to Peterborough. The vehicle was eventually withdrawn by Barton in May 1975, and was one of the last double deckers in the Barton fleet.

(A view of NVX 170 in original condition is included in our photograph list - reference C3, The Secretary has a colour slide of 794 ARR suitable for copying or printing under our special colour work scheme.)

EASTERN NATIONAL PAINT DATES

A member has submitted details of Eastern National paint dates, these have been gathered by personal observation and hence may be subject to error and also may not be complete. However, they do provide an initial basis of record and may stimulate interest amongst members. The Secretary would be pleased to hear members comments on this information and also to receive any additional information which members may have collected.

Introduction

Since the autumn of 1972, the familiar Eastern National dark green livery has been disappearing from the fleet to give way to the corporate image of the National Bus Company. At the present time, only a few vehicles remain in the old livery, albeit modified with the N.B.C. logo and with a white band.

This changeover can be placed on record since Eastern National in common with many other N.B.C. companies places 'paint dates' on its vehicles after passage through the shops. In the case of Eastern National the paint date is located in the cab, either in white, orange or black lettering according to the background. With double deckers, it may be found on the bulkhead behind the drivers head, with saloons it is located on the panelling either above the offside window or forward of the driver above the windscreen, sometimes behind the sun blind.

Paint dates can also be used to clarify re-build dates (e.g. of the 2900 class to O.M.O. operation, of the 1400 class to stage carriage vehicles etc.), however, since the date of entry into service can often be somewhat later than the repaint date, discrepancies between dates can sometimes occur.

Vehicles are at present painted at three localities in the Eastern National area, and the dates are applied in different ways :

(i) Central Works, Chelmsford

The date consists basically of the month and year, e.g. 6.75. There are often prefixes and suffixes - the former generally being the letters 'OP IP' (which infer interior and exterior painting) and the suffix is usually one of the following words : RIPOTHANE, RIPCEROL, TEKALOID, PARSONS or WILLIAMSON (with sometimes the letters C.W.), these words indicate the type of paint used. An example to illustrate the system would be : 2522 - OP IP 4.72 PARSONS C.W.

(ii) Prittlewell Works

A different method is used. The date carried is based on the week that the work is completed, the date recorded is the Saturday although vehicles are often completed and returned to service by the Thursday or Friday of the week. The date is prefixed by an abbreviation of the works name, viz one of P/L W, P/L or P.W. these hsve replaced P/WELL W. which used to be standard. A suffix as per Central Works is sometimes carried. An example is : 2845 - P/L W 30. 6. 73

(iii) Clacton garage

The simplest code, consisting of month and year with the letters CN as prefix or suffix ic carried, sometimes OP IP is added as a prefix. Example : 2834 - 2.73 CN

Eastern Coach Works also apply paint dates to vehicles and some double deckers delivered as long ago as 1962 still carry them. They are located forward of the driver over the offside windscreen. Since 1974 the dates on Bristol VR's have been placed above the drivers side window. The code consists of a letter (usually K, P, H or W and thought to be an abbreviation of the type of paint used) followed by the month and year. Example : 2767 - H 3.63

National Bus Company livery given to the following vehicles on the undermentioned dates, according to the paint date carried. Some vehicles have been repainted into N.B.C. livery after being in N.B.C. livery previously.

At Central Works, Chelmsford

8.72 2742.
10.72 1507/11/5, 2765, 2898, 3001.
11.72 1437, 1510/2, 2704/16/61, 2831.
12.72 1311, 1421, 1518/20, 2751/60/70, 2828/32.
1.73 1400/6/11/22/3/5/32, 1524, 1608, 2841/9.
2.73 1606/13.
3.73 1611, 2771, 2835, 2936.
4.73 1402, 2941.
5.73 2773, 2848/91, 2932.
6.73 1344/58/9, 2483/92, 2523/6, 2838, 2931/9, 1342.
7.73 1308/9, 1516/21/5, 2491, 2533, 2779, 2826/93, 2901.
8.73 1312/4, 2719, 2916.
9.73 1354, 1418, 2722/5, 2850, 2900/5.
10.73 1343, 1403, 1527/30/1, 2734/83/7, 2851/5, 2780.
11.73 1528/32, 2857, 2906, 3045.
12.73 2942, 3042/4.
1.74 1346/56, 2535, 2733, 2854/61.
2.74 2792, 2858/60, 2919/30/43, 3043.
3.74 1430, 1526/38, 2789/98, 2921/7, 3020.
4.74 1411/31, 1523, 2511/8, 1410.
5.74 1324, 2728/55/90, 2803, 2922, 3023.
6.74 1407, 2737/56, 2920, 3022.
7.74 1348, 1535/40, 2749, 2874.
8.74 1335, 1404, 2809.
9.74 1352, 1419/28/32, 1503/17/45, 2876.
10.74 1436/44/6/7/50, 1519/42, 2753, 3000.
11.74 1437/42/3/5/8, 1441, 2766.
12.74 1435, 1508, 2814.
1.75 1336, 1451, 2762/7, 2815/9, 3010.
2.75 1414, 1507/48, 2768/72.
3.75 1322, 2752, 2825, 2946.
4.75 1326, 1509/15, 1712, 2750, 2928.
5.75 1701/14, 2751/70, 2945.
6.75 1715, 2703/82, 2829.
7.75 3002, 2777, 3042.
8.75 2758/91.

At Clacton

10.72 2701/72.
11.72 1602, 2758.
12.72 2529, 2843.
1.73 2824/40.
2.73 1607, 2834/9.
3.73 2747, 2847/87.
4.73 2748, 2830.
5.73 2885/92.
6.73 2015, 2484, 2777.
7.73 1318, 2017, 2510, 2895.
8.73 2736/81.
9.73 2852/3, 2924.
10.73 2537, 2788.
11.73 2019, 2785.
12.73 2507, 2801.
1.74 2536, 2729/74.
2.74 1319, 1429, 2796, 2862.
3.74 2720/7, 2800/12.
4.74 1434.
5.74 1304/31.
6.74 1340/50/60.
7.74 1320/33, 1536.
8.74 1543.
9.74 1544, 3003.
1975 1511. (paint date merely reads 75 CN)
9.75 2730.

To be continued.

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9/75
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