

EDITORIAL

Change of Address (News Sheet Editor)

Will all members please note that as from Saturday, September 1st the address of the News Sheet Editor will be 33, Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 0EL. (Tel. Chelmsford 351451). All information and reports for the news sheet should be sent to this address from the above date.

New Publication

The following new publication will be available in early September :

E.P.7 List of Eastern National Service Vehicles price.... 17p (members)
18p (non-members)
(postage included)

This publication is correct to 8.79 and contains full details of all Eastern National service vehicles including the driver training fleet. Copies are available from the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq.,) at 37, Warren Chase, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex. SS7 3DZ.

Leicester Coach Tour, Sunday September 30

A booking form for this tour is included with this news sheet. Please book seats as early as possible to avoid disappointment - our tours are very popular !

Chelmsford Meeting, Wednesday September 12

At the Civic Centre (Committee Rooms), Duke Street, Chelmsford at 1930. The meeting will include a slide show depicting open top vehicles. The Civic Centre is adjacent to Chelmsford Bus Station and two minutes walk from Chelmsford Rail Station.

Canvey Railway & Model Engineering Club Exhibition, Saturday September 8

Both the Group and the Southend Busman Photo Service will have stands at this exhibition to be held in the Methodist Church Hall, Waarden Road, Canvey (near the town centre and off Furtherwick Road). The exhibition will be open from 1000-1800 hrs. and the full range of Group publications and photographs will be available.

Photographic Competition 1979

Members are reminded that the 1979 Photographic Competition will be held at the October meeting in Southend. Postal entries will be accepted as in 1978 and the competition rules will be published with next month's news sheet.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

NIL

Leyland Nationals 1916/7 (JHJ142/3V) are expected to arrive during late August but have been delayed by the shut-down of the Leyland National factory for holidays.

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Vehicles on Loan

Bristol MW6Gs 1446 (BN0116B) and 1447 (BPU22B) and Bristol FLFs 2753 (JWC713), 2771 (VWC51) and 2928 (AVW397F) remain on loan to the Thames Valley & Aldershot Omnibus Co. Ltd. Bristol FLF6G 2801 (BVX677B) has now been returned by United Counties and is currently stored at Central Works.

Allocations & Transfers

8.79 1881 BD-D/L, 1913-D/L, 1914-D/L, 1915-D/L, 2773 D/L (D)-SD (for driver training), 2813 BE-D/L (D).

A complete fleet allocation incorporating these changes appears at the end of this news sheet.

There have been relatively few transfers this month. The reinstatement of Bristol FLF6G, 2773 (VWC53), for driver training duties at Southend is perhaps the most interesting development, whilst similar vehicle 2813 (GN0789B) has again been taken out of service after only a few weeks at Braintree.

Amongst the transfers scheduled for September will be the reallocation of a number of the dual-purpose Bedford YMTs.

Certain vehicles continue to operate in service without depot allocation or fleet number plates. Bristol FLF6G, 2783 (934LWC), has no rear fleet number plate, a situation which dates from its temporary withdrawal from service earlier this year. Leyland Nationals 1902/3 and Bristol FLF6G 2807 (BVX683B) at Maldon have no depot allocation plates and there are a number of Bristol RELH6G/Ls and Bedford YMTs also without such plates. In many cases this reflects the temporary allocation of a vehicle to a depot.

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks and these are listed below :-

July

w/e 28.7.79 (continued from NS184)- 1788 at PL, 1792 at CW, 3035 at CW.

August

w/e 3.8.79-2904 at PL.

w/e 10.8.79-2944 at PL.

Service Vehicles

Bristol FLF6G, 2773 (VWC53), is currently in use as a driver training vehicle at Southend depot.

Unusual Workings

Following from the information published in NS184 recent observations of Chelmsford (CF) vehicles operating on temporary loan from other depots have been as follows :-

August 5th : 1515 temporary allocation to BS, 1516 at BS, 1707 at CN, 1734 at BS, 1811 at BD, 3018 at WG and 3033 at CN. 3029 was at Great Dunmow (outstation), 1778 was at Central Works and 1509, 1775 and 2854 were at Prittlewell Works on this date.

August 12th : 1515 at BS (see above), 1610 at WG, 1702 at BD, 1707 at CN, 1718 at BS, 1734 at BN, 1771 at MN, 3018 at WG and 3033 at CN. 3035 was at Great Dunmow (outstation), 1509, 1775 and 2854 were at Prittlewell Works and 1778 and 3017 were at Central Works on this date.

Clacton (CN) vehicles which worked on temporary loan at Harwich (DT) during July were as follows :- 1.7-1512 CR, 1526, 1701 CF, 2806; 4.7-3031; 5.7-2822; 6.7-1826; 8.7-1505; 9.7-1523; 10.7-1520; 13.7-1791; 19.7-1756; 24.7-1505; 25.7-1707 CF; 26.7-1756.

Other details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :- 5.7.79-2822 CN on 1315 hrs. service 80 (Harwich to Colchester) which is normally worked by a 12XX or 15XX; 9.7.79- 2854 CF on service 25; 1896 BN on service 400; 16.7.79-1705 CF on service 11 (replacing 3009 SD); 17.7.79-1705 CF on service 11 (whilst on loan to SD), 3053 SD (Phillips broadside advertisement bus) on service 11 (and also on 19.7.79); 21.7.79-1745 SE on services 88/310-3 (whilst on loan to HD); 24.7.79-2776 SD, 2844 SD and 3051 BN on service 251; 31.7.79-Royal Blue Leyland Leopard/Plaxton 2449 (SFJ149R) on express service 082; 3.8.79-1443 MN on service 61A; 4.8.79-3018 CF on service 251 (whilst on loan to WG).

Service Revisions

The following new services have recently been applied for :

South Woodham (Town Centre) - Maldon (Embassy Bingo Club)

Great Baddow (Blue Lion) - Maldon (Embassy Bingo Club)

Great Totham (Compasses) - Maldon (Embassy Bingo Club)

The above services will be operated as and when required for members of the Embassy Bingo Club.

Corringham (Social Club) - Pitsea (Rail Station) - Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Revisions to services recently applied for are as follows : 106-one minor timetable change on schooldays; 146/7-one 146 journey to be withdrawn, one minor change to service 147; 233-two journeys to commence from South Woodham (Town Centre) (M-F); 305-one minor timetable change on Mondays to Fridays; 306-one minor timetable change on Mondays to Fridays.

General

Following from the notes in last month's news sheet regarding the last Bristol FLF6B in service, 2778 (991K00), at Braintree (BE) there has been some interesting news of the vehicle's workings during July 12th-16th. On Thursday, July 12th, the Halstead (HD) Bedford YMT, 1201 (BN0687T), was required for an excursion and 2778 was loaned to HD from BE for the day. It then operated various OMO duties from HD with a crew including the 0655 service 313 from Halstead to Chelmsford and the 0815 return journey; the 1051 service 88 from Halstead, Old Station Yard to Conies Road and the 1100 service 88 from Conies Road to Colchester, a journey which is normally worked by a VRT and the first occasion that a FLF from HD depot has worked service 88 for some years; the 1200 service 88 from Colchester to Halstead; the 1715 service 88 journey from Halstead, Old Station Yard to Conies Road and 1725 return journey; the 1735 service 89 from Halstead to Great Yeldham, which was another very unusual working for a FLF; and the 1807 return journey from Great Yeldham. On Friday, July 13th 2778 was the spare vehicle at HD, and on Saturday, July 14th it operated a private hire journey to Clacton (see NS184). The vehicle was returned to Braintree on July 16th and has since been confined to local routes and schools journeys.

At Southend there has recently been a local dispute between residents in the Southchurch area and members of the T.G.W.U. This has affected operation of services 6 and 6A and the use of vehicles fitted with reversing horns. Consequently Leyland Nationals 1744/7/66 1814/36/68/73/5 from Southend depot were not used for a short period and were parked at the front of the London Road depot. It was hoped that normal service would be resumed on services 6 and 6A, which were temporarily withdrawn between Southchurch (White Horse) and Southchurch (Newington Ave./Rodean Gdns.), on August 12th. During the previous few weeks Bristol FLF6Gs had been noted on a variety of unusual workings including services 4B and 19.

Leyland National 1881 (BN0671T), allocated to Brentwood (BD), was badly damaged in an accident at Brentwood during late July, and the vehicle is now delicensed at Prittlewell works awaiting repairs. Bristol VRTSL6G 3017 (SMS43H), allocated to Chelmsford (CF), suffered roof damage at the Duke Street railway bridge in Chelmsford during early August, and the vehicle is now at Central Works awaiting repairs.

Open-top service 67 at Southend is currently being operated by open-top Bristol FLF6Gs 2300-3 from Southend (SD) depot with Southend Transport crews. This is due to a staff shortage at Southend and the last day of full Eastern National operation was July 15th.

Bristol RELL6Gs 1510-2/4-9 will shortly be fitted with heated windscreens in a similar fashion to the 1969-70 Bristol VRTSL6Gs which were equipped with these units during 1978.

Leyland Nationals 1761/9 are two further examples with the modified exhaust pipes described in last month's news sheet.

Express service 181 between Harwich/Dovercourt and North London is now being operated by Harwich & Dovercourt Coaches on behalf of Eastern National (see NS184), and the usual vehicle operated is an ex-George Ewer Group Bedford VAS5 PGP201L.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

Colchester Transport's first open-top vehicle is nearing completion in the workshops at Magdalen Road. It is Leyland Atlantean 48 (YWC648F) with a Massey body converted from H43/31F to 043/31F. At present the vehicle does not carry a fleet number.

The repainting of Leyland AN68A/1 75 (TPU75R) into the special commemorative livery described in last month's news sheet was carried out by Southend Transport at their Tickfield Road works on behalf of Colchester Transport.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORTNew Vehicle

Leyland Fleetline 221 (XTE221V) has chassis number 7801418 (see NS184). The vehicle entered service on August 2nd and is now fitted with a fare box and standard Almex machine mounting but no Videmat machine, which will not be fitted to this bus. Delivery of further buses from this batch (221-30) is expected very shortly.

Vehicles on Hire

Leyland Atlanteans 321-4, on hire from Ensign Bus Co. Ltd., are expected to be returned as soon as a further four Fleetlines are delivered. The remaining Fleetlines are expected to replace a lesser number of Leyland PD3s.

General

It now seems that Leyland Leopards 215-8 will be retained for a number of years and they may be fitted with semi-automatic gearboxes. 216 remains delicensed with engine defects but 217 (MJN217F) returned to service in July after a long absence for engine repairs.

DJG630C, the ex-East Kent AEC Reliance owned by Kemp of Rochford, Essex and on permanent loan to Southend Transport has now been repainted. It is now in a white livery with a dark blue and light blue waistband. It also carries Kemp fleetnames on the side panels and boot. It was previously in a white livery with a single blue band and carried no fleetnames.

Further to the report in NS182 the following vehicles have so far been equipped with driver operated alarms : 215/21, 348-56/8-63/6/8/74-97.

Following the removal of the circular rear scopes on the lower deck rear window, Daimler Fleetline 386 now has an experimental rectangular scope.

The rear destination boxes on Leyland PD3s 346/7 have recently been removed and those on 338/41/3 are disused with that on 336 painted over.

Due to problems being experienced with Videmat fare machines an experimental use of Autofare machines has recently commenced. Daimler Fleetlines 386-91 are fitted with Autofare machines linked to the farebox, which is now repositioned outside the driver's cab. Autofare operation commenced on July 16th with the vehicles only scheduled for operation on routes 6 and 29, although they have appeared on other routes.

Open-top Leyland PD3 311 was used by Southend Borough Council Entertainments Department in the Southend Carnival on August 11th to advertise the summer shows at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS (By kind courtesy of the P.S.V. Circle, continued from NS184).

- 332 (7018 HK) - Withdrawn by Hender, Biddisham, 3/79.
- 404 (AVX965B) - Wright, Deeside, 7/78, ex. Walker, Anderton.
- 1302 (1864 F) - Breaker, Carlton, 3/79.
- 1358 (OWC 607) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 1362 (OWC 611) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 1405 (1253 EV) - Breaker, Carlton, 5/79.
- 1429 (MOO 974) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 1431 (MOO 976) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 1438 (OO 9546) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 1449 (BPU 23B) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2353 (UEV 841) - This vehicle has been converted to open-top - additional to NS182.
- 2712 (92 TVX) - Parish, Hawarden, 1/79, ex. dealer, Middlewich.
- 2749 (EOO 591) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2754 (JWC 714) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2761 (RWC 602) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2770 (VWC 50) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2785 (936 LWC) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2792 (AVX960B) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2803 (BVX679B) - Walker, Anderton, 11/78.
- 2811 (FWC429B) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2838 (LWC664C) - Dealer, Grays, 6/79.
- 2865 (RVW391D) - Alexander (Northern), Aberdeen, NRD 1, ca. 5/79, ex. Alexander (Midland), Falkirk, MRD 195.
- 2867 (RVW393D) - Alexander (Northern), Aberdeen, NRD 2, ca. 5/79, ex. Alexander (Midland), Falkirk, MRD 197.
- 2868 (RVW394D) - Alexander (Northern), Aberdeen, NRD 3, ca. 5/79, ex. Alexander (Midland), Falkirk, MRD 198.

REMAINDER HELD OVER UNTIL NEXT MONTH

EASTERN NATIONAL fleet allocation

This allocation is correct as at 1st August 1979 and includes the transfers listed in this news-sheet.

<u>BASILDON</u> (BN)	: 1513/4/30/8/45/8/50/1/4 1704/9/11-7/23/32/6/8/40-2/6/63/7/72 1776/86/94/5 1808/18/20/2/30/43/4/7-9/52-4/74/7-80/3/4/6/7/9 1891/6/8 1904/6-9 2931/45 3007/8/10/6/34/6/44/51/4/6/66 (77)
<u>BISHOPS</u>	
<u>STORTFORD</u> (BS)	: 1000-4 1213 1515/43 2798 2834 3005/41/7 (13)
<u>BRAINTREE</u> (BE)	: 1203/7 1414 1542 1731/48/77/9 1813/57/63/82 1910 2778/99 2824/53/9 2936 3001/4/43/6/63 (24)
<u>BRENTWOOD</u> (BD)	: 1209-11 1500/6/10/1/7/24/31/40 1608 1751/4/60/85/96/7 1800 1809/10/23/37-40/5/6/59/76 1912 2906/16 (33)
<u>CHELMSFORD</u> (CF)	: 1509/16 1610 1710/8/28/30/4/52/62/71/4/5/8 1801/2/4/5/11/5/9 1827/9/32/41/2/50/1/5/6/60/6/7/9/70/85/97/9 1905 2804/9/12/4/6 2826/31/2/5/7/45/51/4/6/7/75/7/85-7/9 2905/19/26/39 3018/9/29 3033/5 (69)
<u>CLACTON</u> (CN)	: 1215/7 1404/5/15/6/9/40/51 1505/8/19/20/3/6/7/9*/32 1756/68 1780/91/2 1825/6/34/58 1911 2382-4 2774/84/96 2802/5/6/8 2819/22/60/4/98 3003/31 (45)
<u>COLCHESTER</u> (CR)	: 1100-3 1205/6 1417 1503/7/12/28 1609 1724/33/69/89/90/3 1803/16/28/65/72/88/92 2815/27/8/43/74 2913 3022/32/50 (34)
<u>HADLEIGH</u> (HH)	: 1501/18/37/41/6/9 1719/25/6/37/43/53/65/84 1817/21/35/71/90 1900 2817/49/90/1/4/6/7/9 2900/2/7/9/22/4/5/7/43/4 3014/20 3045/60/1 (43)
<u>HALSTEAD</u> (HD)	: 1201 1544 1757/9/82 2783 2852 3058/9 (9)
<u>HARWICH</u> (DT)	: 1208/16 1521/2 1755/61/81/3 1901 2842 3027 (11)
<u>MALDON</u> (MN)	: 1200 1412/43 1525/35/9 1722/50/8/64 1806/31/3/64 1902/3 2807/21 3000/15/30/40/9 (23)
<u>PRITTLEWELL</u> (PL)	: 1212/4 1400-3/6-11/3/8 (14)
<u>SILVER END</u> (SE)	: 1204 1534/6 1727/39/45/9 1812/61/2 3037/9/55 (13)
<u>SOUTHEND</u> (SD)	: 1504/33/47/52 1729/35/44/7/66/70/3/87/8/98/9 1807/14/36/68/73 1875/93-5 2300-3 2752/90/1/5 2818/23/5/33/41/4/84/8/92/3/5 2901/3/4/8/18/20/1/3/9/30/40/6 3011-3/23-6/8/38/42/52/3/62/4/5 (70)
<u>WOOD GREEN</u> (WG)	: 2910-2/4/5/7 3021/48/57 (9)
<u>CENTRAL WORKS DOCKING SPARES</u> (CF-CWDS)	: 1202 1700-2/5/7*/8 1824 2772/97 3002/17 (12)
<u>PRITTLEWELL WORKS DOCKING SPARES</u> (SD-PLDS)	: 1502 1720/1 2775/6 3006/9 (7)
<u>DELICENSED FOR MAINTENANCE</u> (D/L)	: 1553 1881 1913-5 (5)
<u>DELICENSED FOR DISPOSAL</u> (D/L (D))	: 1340/7/61 1423/34/45/8 2379 2781 2813 (10)
<u>LICENSED FOR DRIVER TRAINING WORK</u>	: 2773 (at SD) (1)
<u>ON LOAN TO UNITED COUNTIES OMNIBUS CO. LTD.</u>	: 2801 (since returned to EN). (1)
<u>ON LOAN TO THAMES VALLEY & ALDERSHOT OMNIBUS CO. LTD.</u>	: 1446/7 2753/71 2928 (5)

NOTES

Chelmsford (CF) allocation includes Dunmow outstation (DW) - 1 dd omo.

Clacton (CN) allocation includes Walton-on-Naze (WN) - 3 sd and 2 dd.

VEHICLE NOTES (* see above)

1529 carries DT depot plates but is officially allocated to CN.

1707 is an accident pool vehicle.

The next full fleet allocation will be published in the December news sheet.

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from R. Delahoy (M180), A. Meadows (M209), B. Pope (M248), J. Wilby (M298) and S. Barham (M313). Notes and information for the September news sheet should be sent to the News Sheet Editor at 33. Goldlay Road, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 0EL by Wednesday September 19th.