

EDITORIAL

Rochford Meeting - Tuesday, April 2nd.

The third monthly meeting at our new venue, Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd commencing at 1930 hrs. (for 2000 hrs.). See the January news sheet (NS250) for full details about transport and parking facilities. The meeting on April 2nd will feature a slide show on 'The Current Scene in Sheffield and Bristol' - including the last day of Bristol FLF's in operation at Bristol - and will be presented by Gareth Morgan.

Future dates of Rochford meetings for your diary are April 30th, June 4th and July 9th.

Ilford Meeting - Tuesday, April 16th.

An evening meeting will be held at 7. Farley Drive, Seven Kings, Ilford on Tuesday, April 16th commencing at 1930 hrs. The meeting will provide an opportunity for general discussion about current events. Farley Drive is close to Seven Kings Rail Station where there are regular services to Liverpool Street, Romford and Brentwood with connections to Chelmsford, Clacton, Colchester and Southend.

Eastern National Route Workings

A new enlarged edition of the Eastern National route working publication is now available. The publication contains a complete list of Eastern National bus services, a summary of scheduled vehicles operated by each garage, together with route working tables for all garages and outstations. Coach workings are also given in a special supplement. The publication contains 24 pages (photo-reduced on to 12 sheets) with printed covers.

E.P.33 Eastern National Route Workings Price...£0.75 (post free)

Please order this publication from the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 563. London Road, Hadleigh, Essex. SS7 3EA).

News Sheet Contributions

The new standard form for the benefit of members wishing to contribute news and information for the Group's news sheet is now in use, and the system is working satisfactorily. The News Sheet Editor would like to thank those members who are supplying information by this method, and other members can be supplied with a copy of this form upon request. Members are again reminded that all contributions for the news sheet should be sent by post, and that telephone calls should be avoided.

Photographs Wanted

The Group's Photographs Officer, Peter Snell, would be pleased to hear from any member who has photographs or slides available of the former London Transport DMS 2005 (KJD 5P), which is now owned by the Post Office Corporation, Eastern Region H.Q., Colchester and used as a mobile display vehicle for Postcode publicity. Please write direct to Peter Snell at 6. Mandeville Way, Benfleet, Essex. SS7 4LH if you can help.

Photographs of Irish Buses

Members who may be interested in acquiring photographs of buses and coaches in Eire and Northern Ireland can obtain a list of over 160 colour prints by sending a first class stamp to Shane Conway, 181. Pearse Park, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Eire. The list features a number of former NBC vehicles now in service with Irish operators, and a total of 49 Irish operators are represented.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

Delivery of the ten Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. double-deck coaches has now commenced, and full details are as follows :-

4500	B688BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1766	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26211
4501	B689BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1767	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26212
4502	B690BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1778	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26213
4503	B691BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1779	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26214
4504	B692BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1780	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26215
4505	B693BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1786	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26216
4506	B694BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1787	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26217
4507	B695BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1790	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26218
4508	B696BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1791	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26219
4509	B697BPU	Leyland Olympian ONTL11/2R	1798	E.C.W.	CH45/28F	26220

Delivery dates : 4500-2 - February 28th; 4503 - March 7th; 4504 - March 9th;
 4505 - March 13th; 4506 - March 16th; 4507 - March 20th;
 4508/9 - remain to be delivered at the time of writing.

These vehicles incorporate coach seating, carpets and full interior trim, and carry a new livery style which is cream and light green with broad dark green stripes. 4500-6 carry external signwriting, with the wording 'City Commuter', on the panels between the upper and lower decks, and the first vehicles have already entered service on various commuter services. 4507 did not carry external signwriting when noted at Central Works on March 21st.

It should be noted that the vehicles are classified as double-deck coaches; they carry 13' 8" height bodywork, and are all fitted with Transign destination equipment. 4500/1 were noted on March 7th travelling between Chelmsford and Billericay on driver familiarisation duties, and 4501 first entered service from Basildon (BN) on March 8th on service 722. 4506 was noted at Saxmundham on March 16th in course of delivery to Central Works, whilst 4507/8 were both noted at Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft on the same date.

Acquired Vehicles

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, it should be noted that the seating capacity of former Thames Valley & Aldershot Omnibus Co. Ltd. (Alder Valley) Leyland National 2201 (KCG618L) is now C20D (plus 3 wheelchairs), but this can be altered to C24D (plus 6 wheelchairs) when required. Similar vehicle 2200 (UCO 46L) can also be converted to C24D (plus 6 wheelchairs) as required, and the seating capacity details for both vehicles should be revised accordingly.

Vehicles On Order

There is no further news to report this month regarding the four Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. vehicles (4003-6) for stage services that are currently on order.

Withdrawn Vehicles

Bristol REEL6G's 1524/8/30/2-4/44/50/1 have now all been shipped to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, as reported in last month's news sheet. The vehicles had been prepared and checked at various depots prior to their collection; for example, 1532 was noted at Colchester (CR) on February 2nd, whilst 1533 was at Chelmsford (CF) during February. The vehicles were shipped via Liverpool Docks, and a convoy of three vehicles, including 1550 (WNO539L), was noted passing through the centre of Liverpool during early-March.

Vehicles On Hire

Five Southend Transport coaches have been hired to Eastern National during recent weeks to meet an increased requirement for coaches. The vehicles concerned have been as follows :-

- 210 (BHK210X) Leyland Tiger TRCTL11/2R/Duple C51F - hired on March 8th for that day only, and operated on service 795 from Southend (SD).
- 334 (WRO433S) Leyland Leopard PSU3E/4R/Duple C53F - hired from March 17th (for a period of 3-4 weeks), and operating from Southend (SD) depot.
- 335 (WRO435S) Leyland Leopard PSU3E/4R/Duple C53F - hired from March 17th (for a period of 3-4 weeks), and operating from Braintree (BE) depot, mainly on commuter services.

- 342 (YWW359S) Leyland 'Leopard' PSU3E/4R/Duple C53F - hired on March 19th for that day only, and operated from Southend (SD).
- 357 (YDW317T) Leyland Leopard PSU3E/4R/Plaxton C53F - hired on March 15th/16th, and operated on National Holidays feeder services from Southend (SD).

Re-built Vehicles

There is no further news to report this month regarding the proposed conversion of Bristol BLH6G coach 1409 (X00878L) into a disabled persons' bus, and the vehicle remained stored in the yard at Central Works at the time of writing.

Allocations & Transfers

3.85 1111 CR-SD, 1120 SE-CN, 1129 LWA, 1303 SD-DE, 1305 CH-CF, 1306 CF-DE, 1307 CF-CN, 1601 CF-SD, 1602 CF-CN, 1356 CF-D/L, 1869 CF-HH, 1890 HH-CF, 2201 D/L, 4500 D/L-SE, 4501 D/L-BN, 4502 D/L-BS, 4503 D/L-SE, 4504 D/L-SD, 4505 D/L-SD, 4506 D/L-SD, 4507 D/L.

The expected allocations of 4507 and 4508/9 (when delivered) will be Basildon (BN) for all three vehicles.

1111 is now attached to the Coaching Department, whilst 1121 CF is no longer attached to the Coaching Department. The full list of vehicles currently attached to the Coaching Department is 1110-5 (all SD), 1120/3/6 (all CN).

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks, and this continues from the information published in NS251 :-

March w/e 2.3.85 - 1710 at CW.
 9.3.85 - 1729 at CW, 1930 at CW.
 16.3.85 - 1748 at CW, 1859 at CW (overall advertisement livery for Lancaster Garages Ltd., Brentwood).
 23.3.85 - 1303 at CW (National coach livery), 1733 at CW, 1869 at CW (overall advertisement livery for Fairfield (BMW Dealers), Leigh-on-Sea).

Leyland National 1859 (YEV317S) has now entered service in its overall advertisement livery, which is basically black with yellow, red and white advertising and signwriting. As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, Leyland National 1869 (YEV327S) has been painted in an overall advertisement livery for Fairfield (BMW Dealers), Leigh-on-Sea; this livery is basically white with black and blue stripes and signwriting, and the vehicle is expected to enter service at Hadleigh (HH) in the near future. Similar vehicle 1864 (YEV322S) will now carry an advertising livery for the SMAC Group, Westcliff-on-Sea, whilst 1890 (BNO680T) is expected to carry an advertising livery for Lex Mead (Austin Rover Dealers), Chelmsford.

Leyland Leopard coaches 1308/9 (ANA 92/3Y) now carry National coach livery red and blue stripes, and this livery modification was carried out at Central Works on March 13th (1309) and March 14th (1308).

With the large number of vehicles now carrying various advertising liveries, members may be interested in the following summary of advertising liveries :-

1786 (PEV698R) - Essex County Council (South Woodham Ferrers).
 1792 (PEV704R) - Howard (estate agents), Clacton - 'UniBus' advertisement.
 1827 (VNO729S) - IML Garages Ltd., Brentwood.
 1830 (VNO732S) - SMAC Continental Ltd., Southend-on-Sea.
 1833 (VAR899S) - Bates Motors (Belcher) Ltd., Maldon.
 1846 (WJN566S) - Laidlaw (Ford Dealers), Brentwood - 'UniBus' advertisement.
 1859 (YEV317S) - Lancaster Garages Ltd., Brentwood.
 1860 (YEV318S) - D.A. Cornell (Cars) Ltd., Chelmsford - 'UniBus' advertisement.
 1869 (YEV327S) - Fairfield (BMW Dealers), Leigh-on-Sea.
 1881 (BNO671T) - IML Garages Ltd., Brentwood.

- 1913 (JHJ139V) - Lancaster Garages Ltd., Brentwood.
- 1914 (JHJ140V) - Chantry Garage, Bishop's Stortford - 'UniBus' advertisement.
- 1916 (JHJ142V) - Britains (estate agents), Bishop's Stortford.
- 3034 (NPU981M) - Home County Insulation, Southend-on-Sea - 'UniBus' advertisement.
- 3050 (JN0191W) - Lancaster Garages Ltd., Colchester.
- 3064 (UVX 1S) - National Holidays.
- 3078 (STW 22W) - Field & Trek (Equipment) Ltd., Brentwood.
- 3095 (UAR535W) - Neeps of Colchester/Anglian Autos.
- 3102 (UAR592W) - Photo-Copying Group PLC.
- 3111 (XHK216X) - National Holidays.
- 3112 (XHK217X) - D.W. Jones (v/a Jones of Chelmsford), Chelmsford.
- 3116 (XHK221X) - International Stores Ltd.
- 5129 (XHK234X) - Laidlaw (Essex) Ltd., Brentwood - 'UniBus' advertisement.

Temporary Loans

A number of temporary vehicle loans have been noted during recent weeks. Prior to re-allocation to Southend (SD), Leyland Tiger 1111 (HHL372Y) operated on loan to Braintree from March 5th to March 14th, where it operated mainly on commuter services. This vehicle then moved for a short period to Chelmsford (CF), where it was noted operating commuter service 192 on March 18th/19th. Former Alder Valley Leyland National 1652 (KCG609L) was noted on loan from Braintree (BE) to Silver End (SE) on February 23rd, when it was noted on service 353. At Hadleigh (HH), three Leyland National's have been on loan during recent weeks, 1656 (KCG613L) from Chelmsford (CF) - noted on service 5 on February 26th and on service 24B on March 9th, 1712 (WN0561L) from Basildon (BN) - noted on service 5 on March 19th, and very unusually 1858 (YEV316S) from Clacton (CW) - noted on service 24A on March 5th and on service 27 on March 16th. Bristol VRTSL6G 3024 (WN0544L) (PL (P)) was noted on service 119 on March 5th, and on March 16th it was noted at Harwich (DT) depot.

On Sundays since about mid-November, Brentwood (ED) has operated three Leyland National's to Southend on early morning service 251 journeys. The Brentwood drivers then use Southend (SD) depot Bristol VRTSL6G's for subsequent duties on service 251, and the Leyland National's remain at Southend. For example, on January 27th 1823 and 1846 were noted at Southend depot; on March 17th, 1760, 1810 and 1913 were all noted at Southend depot. This pattern of operation releases Brentwood (ED) Bristol VRTSL6G's for operation on rail replacement services between Chelmsford and Shenfield - see under Unusual Workings.

General

From January 1st, the Company reorganised its engineering functions, with responsibility for Central Works and for maintenance at the depots being separated. The workshops at Central Works have become a separately accountable unit, known as Eastern National Engineering, under the management of the Works Engineer, Mr. A. Scard. The range of vehicle maintenance, repair and conversion services will be expanded, and will be offered commercially to outside organisations, as well as to the Company's own fleet and to other NBC subsidiaries. Eastern National Engineering remains part of the Eastern National O.C. Ltd. under this reorganisation. Fleet planning and maintenance for the Company's thirteen depots are now the responsibility of the Fleet Engineer, Mr. R.J. Iles.

Members who use Explorer tickets (see also NS251) should note that current tickets will expire on March 31st. From April 1st, the price of an adult ticket will be increased to £2.75, and during the month of April unused tickets will be exchanged at the Company's travel offices for new tickets upon payment of the price difference. After April 30th, all applications for ticket exchanges and refunds should be directed to the Company's Head Office.

The High Street in Colchester was closed between 1000 hrs. and 1430 hrs. on March 6th because of a fire. Various diversions were in operation; and services 2A and 74A terminated at Colchester (Bus Station) during this period.

Members may be interested in the current allocations of the former Eastern National coaches now owned by Ambassador Travel (Eastern Counties) Ltd. Details are as follows :-
 RE844/5/7 (LWC979/80/21) - Norwich (Vulcan Road); RE848 (RPU868M) - Cambridge;
 RE849 (RPU869M) - Peterborough.
 RE844/5/7/8 are now classified as spare vehicles, and it has been reported that RE844/5/7 may be sold in the near future.

Service Developments

The main news this month is the surprise withdrawal of Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. from the East Anglian Express (EAX) pool of operators from February 25th. This ended 57 years of operation by Grey-Green on East Anglian services, and the decision to withdraw from the EAX pool was due largely to poor financial results during 1984. The last regular Grey-Green service workings were on February 24th, and operations on that date included a return journey between London and Great Yarmouth (service 082) by Neoplan/Plaxton Paramount double-deck coach B102XYH. Also in use on that date was Leyland Leopard coach VYU763S, which operated a service 082 journey from Great Yarmouth to London and return, and this vehicle operated the last Grey-Green working on February 25th when it worked a relief service 082 journey from Great Yarmouth. The period following the withdrawal of Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. has seen operations by Black & White Motorways Ltd., Southdown Motor Services Ltd. and Southern Vectis O.C. Ltd., each with vehicles on hire to London Country Bus Services Ltd. who are also operating two former National Travel (London) Ltd. vehicles on the services from Harlow (HA) depot.

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, it can now be reported that Norfolk Motor Services Ltd. did operate some East Anglian Express journeys during early-January; the final date of operations by that company is not known.

The Company has applied for a number of service revisions, and brief details of these proposed changes are as follows :-

- 34 - Service to be transferred to London Country Bus Services Ltd. from April 15th (and to be worked with existing LCBS services 47/A/B).
- 34A - Service to be transferred to London Country Bus Services Ltd. from April 15th (and to be worked with existing LCBS services 47/A/B).
- 78 - Weekdays : five journeys extended to/from Colchester (General Hospital) (see also NS251).
- 78A - Weekdays : one journey extended to Colchester (General Hospital) (see also NS251).
- 126 - Saturdays : one additional journey introduced from Harwich (Bus Station) to Wix Cross (see also NS251).
- 227 - Service to be withdrawn from April 1st.
- 228 - Service to be withdrawn from April 1st.
- 229 - Mondays to Fridays : one journey to be withdrawn, and to be replaced by a service 256 journey (see below), and introduced from March 11th.
- 255 - Revised terminals to be Basildon (Bus Station) and Billericay (Queen's Park, Rosebay Avenue), and revised timetable. These revisions were introduced from March 11th, and see also NS249.
- 256 - NEW SERVICE to operate on Mondays to Fridays from Basildon (Bus Station) to Billericay (Queen's Park, Rosebay Avenue), via Great Burstead and Outwood Common. This service was introduced from March 11th.
- 306 - Service to be withdrawn from April 1st, and this service will pass to Lea Valley Coaches Ltd., Bishop's Stortford.
- 314 - Service to be withdrawn from April 3rd.
- 315 - Section of route between Braintree and Stebbing (Green) to be withdrawn from April 4th, and section of route between Great Dunmow and Leaden Roding will be re-numbered 346. Revised timetables will be introduced for service 315 (Stebbing (Green)-Great Dunmow) and service 346 (Great Dunmow-Leaden Roding).
- 316 - Section of route between Panfield and Stebbing (Bran End) to be withdrawn from April 2nd, and revised timetable for the section of route between Stebbing (Bran End) and Chelmsford (Market).
- 317 - Mondays to Fridays : one additional journey to be introduced from Bishop's Stortford (Station Road) to The Hall Caravan Park (21st Street).
- 321 - Schooldays : one journey to be withdrawn from April 1st.
- 323 - Service to be withdrawn from April 4th.
- 325 - Wednesdays only : two journeys to be withdrawn from April 3rd.

*Hales Bros
not Lea V.*

} Woods, Coaches

- 337 - Mondays to Fridays : one additional journey to be introduced from Witham (Collingwood Road) to Silver End (E.N. Depot) from March 25th.
- 344 - Section of route between Tolleshunt Knights and Powers Hall End will be withdrawn from April 3rd, and section of route between Powers Hall End and Braintree will be served on Wednesdays only by revised service 345 (see below), also from April 3rd.
- 345 - Service will be revised to operate from Braintree (Bus Park) to Fuller Street (White Cottages) via Faulkbourne, Powers Hall End and Terling, and will operate on Wednesdays only from April 3rd.
- 346 - NEW SERVICE (formerly numbered 315) between Great Dunmow and Leaden Roding to operate on Thursdays only from April 4th (see above, under service 315).

The Company has also applied for route variations in Clacton town centre for services 74, 101, 102, 106, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, 123, 126 and 127, including revised timetables for service 108 and 109 journeys from Walton-on-Naze to Jaywick (see also NS251).

Residents from the Tile Kiln Estate in Chelmsford are currently opposing plans by the Company to operate a new service through the area. Recent press reports have stated that the Company is considering the revision of services in the area as part of a general review of services, taking into account changes in local demand, and full details of these proposals will be published as soon as they become available.

According to recent reports considered by Great Tey Parish Council, the Company is considering the reduction of services (83, 83A and 88A) in that area. Local reports have suggested that all off-peak services would be withdrawn, and that peak hour services would operate on Schooldays only, with a seven seat vehicle (presumably to be part of the 'CountryCar' network) operating on other days. Again, full details will be published as soon as they become available.

The Company has applied for a number of revisions to Highwayman services for the forthcoming Summer timetable. Details are as follows :-

- 801 - Revised terminals to be Southend (Victoria Bus Station) and Peterborough (Queensgate Bus Concourse) or Kings Lynn (Vancouver Centre Bus Station), and revised Summer timetable.
- 802 - Service to be suspended until further notice.
- 803 - Service to be suspended until further notice.
- 804 - Revised terminals to be Southend (Victoria Bus Station) and Norwich (Surrey Street Bus Station), and revised Summer timetable.
- 806 - Service to be suspended until further notice.
- 808 - Revised terminals to be Canvey (Leigh Beck) and Clacton (Bus Station), with revised route and timetable. Service to operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays from May to September, with route via Basildon and Wickford.
- 809 - Revised terminals to be Southend (Victoria Bus Station) and Dovercourt (Caravan Camp), with revised route via South Woodham Ferrers, Maldon, Great Totham, Tiptree, Colchester, St. Osyth, Clacton, Walton-on-Naze and Thorpe-le-Soken. Revised period of operation to be Daily, with revised timetable.
- 810 - Terminals to be Southend (Victoria Bus Station) and Skegness (Dutlin's Gaiety Theatre), with route via Basildon, Billericay, Brentwood, M25, M11, Harlow, Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford. Service to operate on Saturdays only from May to September.
- 811 - Service to be suspended until further notice.
- 812 - Service to be suspended until further notice.
- 813 - Terminals to be Harwich (Bus Station) and Hunstanton (Bus Station), with revised route via Parkeston Quay, Little Oakley, Great Oakley, Thorpe-le-Soken, Clacton, Great Bentley, Colchester, Witham, Braintree, Great Dunmow, M11, Cambridge, Ely, Littleport, Downham Market, Kings Lynn, Dersingham, Shettisham and Heacham. Revised timetable, and revised period of operation to be Saturdays only from May to September.
- 814 - Service to be re-numbered 816, and revised terminals to be Harwich (Bus Station) and Wroxham (Roy's Shopping Centre), with

revised route via Parkeston Quay, Clacton, Great Bentley, Colchester, Eight Ash Green, Aldham, Chappel, Earls Colne, Halstead, Sudbury, Long Melford, Bury St. Edmunds, Thetford, Attleborough, Wymondham and Norwich. Revised period of operation to be Sundays and Wednesdays from May to September, with revised timetable.

820 - Revised terminals to be Halstead (Co-op Off Licence) and Basildon (E.N. Depot), with revised period of operation to be Saturdays only from May 18th to September 14th. Revised route via Braintree and Chelmsford, and revised timetable.

823 - Revised terminals to be Ipswich (Old Cattle Market Bus Station) and Hastings (Queens Road Coach Station), with period of operation to be Saturdays only from May 18th to September 14th. Revised timetable, and revised route via Colchester, Kelvedon, Witham, Chelmsford and Rettendon.

824 - Service from Southend (Victoria Bus Station) to Eastbourne (Cavendish Place, Coach Station) to operate on Saturdays only from May 18th to September 14th.

Finally, following the decision by Essex County Council to seek competitive tenders for a number of services in Essex, and which affects a number of Eastern National services listed above, London Country service 369 (Grays-Brentwood) will pass to J. Morgan (t/a Ingatestone Coaches), Ingatestone from April 14th, and this service will be re-numbered 269.

Publicity News

New publicity material published during recent weeks has been as follows :-

Timetable leaflets - a timetable leaflet for service 251 (dated March 1985).
 - a timetable leaflet for services 255 and 256 (dated March 11th).
 - a timetable leaflet for service 400 (dated March 1985).

Highwayman Services - a leaflet with details of the Summer 1985 services 810 and 825 to the Butlin's Holiday Centres at Skegness and Dognor Regis respectively, with details of connecting services from throughout Essex. This leaflet will apply from May 18th to September 14th.

Leisure Break Holidays - a 48 page brochure with full details of the Company's Leisure Break Holidays for the Summer period (LD501-24/51-6, HH904/10/22/3/6/8).

National Express Services : a pocket timetable card with details of services 001/4 from London to Chelmsford/Colchester/Clacton/Walton-on-Naze (dated October 28th).

Unusual Workings

Details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

- 21.1-1894 SD noted on a service 22 short working at Eastwood (Kent Elm).
- 23.1-3026 DD observed on service 251 (and also on 24.1).
- 25.1-3121 SD noted on service 60.
- 1.2-Southend Transport 202 noted on service 63.
- 2.2-3122 SD noted on service 400.
- 3.2-1837 DD noted at Southend on service 251.
- 5.2-Grey-Green Leyland Leopard coach FYX823W operated a service 116 journey, and also a schools journey, whilst on layover at Clacton between service 084 duties.
- 7.2-Southend Transport 303 noted on service 21.
- 13.2-1055 DD noted at Romford on service 226; 1542 DE observed on service 70; 1808 CR noted at Grays on service 152.
- 15.2-1306 CF noted on a National Express service 084 relief journey; 3085 HH noted at Rayleigh on service 24.
- 16.2-Southend Transport 221/4/37 operated a rail replacement service between Wickford and Southminster - a fourth vehicle was hired, but it suffered a damaged fuel tank.
- 17.2-3087 SD noted on a private hire journey at Thorpe Bay Yacht Club.
- 18.2-1545 SE noted at Witham Rail Station.
- 20.2-1553 BS noted on service 304 at Start Hill - unusually, this vehicle retains a white waistband.

- 22.2-Southend Transport 251 was involved in an accident at the Cricketers P.H., Westcliff-on-Sea whilst operating on service X1 - a lamp post was demolished; 1895 SD observed on service 11A.
- 23.2-3098 SD noted on service 400.
- 24.2-1307 CF noted at Southend (SD) depot; 3084 SD and Southend Transport 394 noted at Hadleigh on a rail replacement service; 3112 CF operated a private hire journey to London, with supporters of striking coal miners.
- 26.2-Southend Transport 386 noted at Rayleigh on driver training duties.
- 1.3-1652 BE observed at Colchester on service 73A.
- 2.3-Colchester Borough Transport 81 and 88 noted at Colchester on a rail replacement service.
- 3.3-1300 SD observed on service 795 (and also on 6.3, 7.3 and 11.3); 3066 CR noted on service 119; 3092/4, 3100 (all BD) noted on a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield, whilst Southend Transport 225/6/31 were noted on a similar service at Benfleet.
- 4.3-1547 noted on service 83 - the last recorded workings of Bristol RELL6G's on this service prior to this date had been on 12.2 (1547), 13.2 (1536) and 14.2 (1547); 1737 HH noted on service 20; 1746 BN observed on service 400; 3103 HH noted on a service 5A schools journey at Rayleigh.
- 5.3-1127 BS noted at Stratford on commuter service 192; 1934 BN observed at Grays on service 402; 3024 PL (P) noted on service 119; 3117 BN noted at Southend on service 400. 1544/51 were noted on this date at Brentwood on delivery to Citybus Ltd.
- 7.3-1894 SD observed on National Express service 109.
- 8.3-Southend Transport 306 noted on schools contract work.
- 10.3-1785, 1810, 3093/4, 3100 (all BD) and 3082, 3106/8/13 (all CF) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield, whilst 1901 DT operated a similar service between Harwich and Manningtree.
- 11.3-1547 CR noted on the 1830 hrs. service 88 journey from Colchester to Halstead; Southend Transport 307 noted at Rayleigh.
- 12.3-1547 CR operated the 1735 hrs. service 119 journey from Colchester to Tiptree; Southend Transport 221 noted operating the 1930 hrs. rail journey from Wickford to Southminster in place of a failed D.M.U. 1652 BE and 1658 CR still had temporary fleet number plates - with white numbers on the red plate - when noted on this date. 1650 CR had received standard fleet number plates by 22.2.
- 13.3-Colchester Borough Transport 49 noted on services 1/1A.
- 15.3-1125 BS and 1307 CN both noted at Braintree (Bus Park); 1852 BN observed at Leigh on service 400; 4504 SD operated its first journey on the 1900 hrs. service 400 journey from Southend.
- 16.3-1129 CF noted at Wembley Stadium; 3059 BE observed on service 55; 3064 SD noted on service 62; 4504 SD noted at Thorpe Bay on driver familiarisation duties.
- 17.3-1129 CF noted at Chelmsford Bus Station; 3078/82, 3108/26 (all CF) and 3092 ED operated a rail replacement service from Chelmsford to Shenfield.
- 18.3-1120 GN noted at Aldgate on National Express service 084; Southend Transport 334 (on hire to Eastern National) and 1601 SD both noted at Southend (SD) depot, whilst Southend Transport 335 (on hire to Eastern National) was noted on commuter service 196.
- 21.3-A number of Southend Transport double-deck vehicles operated on the X1-X31 group of services on this date - vehicles noted were 225 (X1), 231 (X31), 234 (X1) and 307 (X1).

Members who contribute notes and information on Unusual Workings should now refer to new publication E.P.33 (Eastern National Route Workings) - see above for full details, for clarification on regular bus and coach workings. This publication will be used by the News Sheet Editor for editing this section of the news sheet

Late News

Some items of late news became available as this month's news sheet was being produced; details are as follows :-

Allocations & Transfers - 3.85 : 1128 D/L-BD, 1129 D/L-CF (delete reference to LWA as listed on page 3), 1539 D/L (P)-SE (P), 1541 D/L (P)-SE (P), 1549 D/L (P)-SE (P).

The Company has been operating a contract service for Ford Motor Co., Boreham during mid-March in connection with the launch of the new Ford Granada. Vehicles used on

this service have been 1128/9, 1301/8-10 and 1600-3. Lincolnshire Road Car Co. Ltd. Leyland Leopard/E.C.W. coach 1455 (AVL744X) was also noted on this service on March 23rd, and was later noted at Chelmsford Bus Station.

- - - - -

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

General

Leyland Atlantean 52 (MVK546R) is still out of service at the Magdalen Street depot; it has been used for only six weeks since June 1984. Other vehicles currently out of service are Leyland Atlantean's 66 (NNO 66P), 67 (TPU 67R) and 86 (MEV 86V), together with Bristol RELL6L's 18 (YWC 18L), 19 (OWC719M), 24 (SWC 24K), 25 (SWC 25K) and 26 (SWC 26K). Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, Leyland Atlantean 67 was noted back in service on March 4th, but it has again been taken out of service for mechanical attention.

Leyland Atlantean's 71 (TPU 71R), 81 (YNO 81S) and 83 (MEV 83V) had returned to service by March 5th, February 25th and March 4th respectively (see also NS251).

Three of the Bristol RELL6L's which have been out of service during recent weeks (see NS251) have now returned to service; the vehicles concerned are 16 (YWC 16L), 22 (OWC722M) and 28 (SWC 28K), which had returned to service by February 26th, March 1st and March 15th respectively. Bristol RELL6L 25 (SWC 25K) also returned to service during early-March, being noted on service 19A on March 11th, but it had returned to the Magdalen Street depot for mechanical attention by March 16th (see above).

Other news of the Bristol RELL6L's is that 20 (OWC720M) and 22 (OWC722M) are currently only being used on an occasional basis; 22 was noted running empty on Old Heath Road on March 2nd, and had also been noted in service on the previous day.

- - - - -

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles On Order

The two DAF MB200/Duple Laser 2 C57F coaches that are currently on order (252/3) are expected to be delivered in mid-April; one or both of the coaches is likely to be at the Brighton Coach Rally.

There has been some confusion over the precise identity of the two Leyland Leopard chassis which will be rebuilt and bodied with new Berkhof Esprite B340 C53F coach bodies. Both chassis are now at the Tickfield Avenue works, and it can now be confirmed that one is CHA425K (chassis number 7004058) (as reported in NS251), whilst the other chassis is RDV731H (chassis number 901957), a Leyland Leopard PSU3A/4R, new in 1969 to F.G. Trathen & Son, Rotherborough with a Caetano body. Further details regarding these two vehicles (which will be numbered 254/5) will be published as soon as they become available.

Withdrawn Vehicles

Leyland Leopard 216 (MJN216F) has been sold to Lonsdale Coaches, Morecambe during March; at the time of writing it had not been collected.

Withdrawn Daimler Fleetline's 349/58/60/4/9 (WJN349J etc.) were all sold to Ripley (breaker), Carlton during March, and all these vehicles have now been collected from the Tickfield Avenue works.

Vehicles On Hire

Leyland Leopard coach EWW203T, which carried temporary fleet number 363, was returned to Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet on February 20th; it is thought that this vehicle, together with similar coaches EWW202/4T, will now pass to City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd.

Various coaches have been hired to Eastern National during recent weeks, as listed in detail under Eastern National news above.

Bristol RELL6G 301 (NLJ828G) was hired to Highways Coaches, Leigh-on-Sea on March 6th for schools contract work.

Re-built Vehicles

At the time of writing, Leyland Leopard 219 (SPN669X) was still at Purfleet having been fitted with a new Volvo TD100H engine by Ensign Bus Co. (see also NS248/50/1).

During early-March, Leyland Leopard 204 (UTD204T) was sent to Yorkshire Traction Co. Ltd. to be fitted with a new Leyland TL11 (245 bhp) engine.

The remaining two re-bodied Daimler Fleetline's (309/10) have now returned to Southend from Northern Counties. Full details are as follows, and this new information corrects that published in NS250 :-

309	————	Daimler Fleetline CRL6-33	66679	Northern Counties H49/31D	2638
310	————	Daimler Fleetline CRL6-33	66675	Northern Counties H49/31D	2639

These vehicles were formerly 379 (GHJ379L) and 375 (GHJ375L) respectively; they were both new in 10/72. Both vehicles were delivered to Southend during March; the precise dates are unknown at the present time. The new registration numbers to be allocated to re-built Fleetline's 308-10 were still unknown at the time of writing.

Daimler Fleetline's 306 (Q475MEV) and 307 (Q476MEV) finally entered service on March 1st and March 7th respectively.

General

New service X41 (Prittlewell-Green Park), together with the increased number of journeys on service X31 and an additional 0430 hrs. service X1 journey on Saturdays and Sundays (see also NS250/1), did not commence on February 24th as reported in last month's news sheet. These revisions will now be introduced from Sunday, March 31st.

Southend Transport has recently made licence applications for new service X41. Additionally, an application has been made for the Daily extension of the 2345 hrs., 0045 hrs., 0145 hrs. and 0245 hrs. service X1 arrivals at Southend (Central Bus Station) to various X21 and X41 stops upon request.

The Yellow Advertiser newspaper reported on February 15th that Southend Borough Council proposes to build temporary toilets at the Central Bus Station in York Road. These toilets will be kept in use until permanent facilities are provided by developers French Kier as part of the new Royals shopping complex. The Council will also carry out some repairs to the Bus Station, including improved paving, renovation, reglazing, decorating and repainting shelters and crew accommodation, and the provision of more seats.

Former Wallace Arnold Tours Ltd. Leyland Leopard coach EWW207T was noted at the Tickfield Avenue works on February 19th; it was believed to be there for a repaint for a local Southend operator.

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, the rail replacement services on the Wickford to Southminster line and the Southend (Victoria) to Billericay line both ended on February 15th. In addition to the various rail replacement services listed under Unusual Workings, other recent rail replacement services have involved the use of Leyland Fleetline's 231/2/7/9 on the Wickford to Southminster branch on March 3th, and Leyland Fleetline 227 and Daimler Fleetline 306 on the same line on March 13th. On Saturday, March 2nd, a dispute at the Shenfield signalbox, which also later spread to Goodmayes, resulted in a major rail replacement service, involving buses being provided for services from Southend (Victoria) to Ilford, from Shenfield to Chelmsford, from Wickford to Southminster and between various other stations and Laindon. Southend Transport vehicles used on these services were 221/2/5/9/31/2/6/8/9/41/3-5, 300/2/5/6/8/90/3/6; note the use of all three Van Hool Astronoga's.

Leyland Fleetline 225 (XTE225V) has recently been fitted with a steel front bumper, and this vehicle had returned to service following accident damage (see NS246) by March 1st.

Two interesting workings which have occurred during recent weeks have involved Leyland Tiger 250 (A250SVW) operating a private hire journey to the Nottingham area for one week from March 18th, and the use of Van Hool Astronoga 243 (JEV243Y) on a trip from Dover to Northampton on February 17th, replacing a vehicle of

Youngs Coaches, Rampton which had failed in France.

Leyland Leopard coaches 329 (FDF265T), 346 (XWX106S) and 348 (CDU790T) are the latest vehicles to be repainted in yellow and blue coach livery; 346 during the week ending March 2nd, 348 on March 8th and 329 on March 15th.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS

Subsequent Disposals

'National' numbering scheme

- 4064 (ONO 35) - Sold by Olsen, Strood, c-/82. Latterly reported to be at a service station in the Mitcham area. Was acquired by O'Neill, Lidsing (for preservation), by 5/75. (additional information to NS160 Supplement).
- 337 (204 NHK) - Still owned by Sue Ryder Foundation, London, W.8 (N-PSV) but has passed to Cott, Banham (for preservation), by 11/84. To be restored for fund raising for the Sue Ryder Homes.
- 357 (12 DLY) - Re-registered CFD777B in 1/83 by Nationwide, Lanark. (additional information to NS234/6). Thence to Scottish Railway Preservation Society, Condorat (for preservation), 6/83.
- 508 (BPU 21D) - Sold by Padley, Anwick (N-PSV), by 1/85. Actual date of sale is believed to be by 8/82. (see also NS222).
- 1202 (1N0688T) - Went to Flint, Nettleton, by 10/83. (correction to NS241).
- 1208 (WVX 443) - Still on premises of dealer, Coltishall, 11/84, ex. Eastern Counties LM 923. (see also NS218/29).
- 1210 (WVX 447) - Still on premises of dealer, Coltishall, 11/84, ex. Eastern Counties LM 925. (see also NS218/29).
- 1403 (VHK176L) - Still with Clacton Swimming Club, Clacton, 2/85.
- 1410 (X00879L) - Glennon (t/a. Glentran Coaches), Thornton, by 12/84, ex. dealer, Middlewich.
- 1416 (GJD199N) - Is N-PSV with Hulme Hall Educational Trust, Cheadle Hulme. (additional information to NS249).
- 1504 (CVW858G) - Still with Felixstowe Omnibuses Ltd., Ipswich, 3/85.
- 1510 (FVX612H) - Still with dealer, Purfleet, 3/85. (additional information to NS243).
- 1512 (FVX614H) - Telling, Byfleet, 3/85, ex. dealer, Purfleet.
- 1516 (FWC439H) - Motor Coach Holiday Home Project, Margate (N-PSV), 12/83, ex. dealer, Purfleet.
- 1611 (AVX961B) - Gone from dealer, Coltishall, by 11/84, ex. Eastern Counties (for spares only). (see also NS229).
- 2358 (VNO 855) - Went from Marshall, Ulceby Skitter to Ledger, Northampton (preservationist, for spares); remains then passed to dealer, Carlton, 2/84. (additional information to NS236/48).
- 2379 (WNO 475) - Owner is Trump, Weybridge (for preservation), who is a member of the Eastern National Preservation Group. (additional information to NS202/11).
- 2401 (XVX 26) - Still in use as Chelmsford Playbus, Chelmsford, 2/85.
- 2700 (AHJ142A) - Still with dealer, London, W.10, 3/85. (see also NS251).
- 2717 (97 TVX) - Cambus Ltd., Cambridge, 20, as driver training vehicle, 9/84, ex. Eastern Counties, Norwich, X67.
- 2737 (EOO 579) - G. Giorgio, Rome, Italy, 10/84, ex. Anthill, Laindon (for preservation).
- 2755 (JWC 715) - Hughes, Hartley (a member of the Eastern National Preservation Group), for spares, 11/84. Previously Eastern National training chassis.
- 2788 (AVX956B) - Exported to Lyons, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A., 12/78. Operates a courtesy bus service to Art Stock's Playpen Disco at Fort Lauderdale, and was still in service 4/81. (additional information and correction to NS208).
- 2802 (BVX670B) - National Playbus Association (N-PSV), 8/80, subsequently to Kensington & Chelsea Community Bus Association, London, W.10 on loan. Returned to National Playbus Association, 5/82, still there, 11/83. Delete reference to East Herts Playbus Association. (clarification of NS239 and earlier notes).

- 2012 (GN0788B) - Still with Michelmersh Brick Company Ltd., Romsey (N-PSV), 7/84. (see also NS244/8).
- 2016 (HEV994B) - Whitbread purchased this vehicle for promotional work abroad, including Belgium, not thought to have been used in U.K. (additional information to NS233/48).
- 2020 (JHK452C) - Still with Webb (Spirit of 76 Tours), New Carrollton, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 10/84.
- 2029 (KN0952C) - Being stripped for spares by Webb (Spirit of 76 Tours), New Carrollton, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 10/84.
- 2030 (KN0953C) - Gone from dealer, Coltishall, by 11/84, ex. Eastern Counties FLF 425. (see also NS213).
- 2034 (LWC660C) - Still with Stagecoach, Perth, 2/85, and now in service. (see also NS244).
- 2040 (LWC666C) - Gone from dealer, Coltishall, by 11/84, ex. Eastern Counties FLF 428. (see also NS229).
- 2049 (NTW942C) - Current owner is Hughes, Hartley (for preservation), who is a member of the Eastern National Preservation Group. (additional information to NS204/10).
- 2053 (OVX297D) - Named "Viking" by Top Deck Travel (N-PSV), London, S.W.5, and seating capacity is now H28F. (additional information to NS240).
- 2055 (OPU824D) - Still with Webb (Spirit of 76 Tours), New Carrollton, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 10/84.
- 2056 (OPU825D) - Used as a mobile office for Transam vehicle hire and self drive car hire in Paris. (additional information to NS230).
- 2071 (RWC943D) - Still with Alexander (Northern), N235DT, and in use as a driver training vehicle at Aberdeen, 5/84.
- 2075 (STW763D) - Now H28F with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5 (N-PSV). (additional information to NS240).
- 2077 (STW765D) - Numbered 11 by Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5. (additional information to NS240).
- 2083 (UEV221E) - Breaker, Carlton, 11/84, ex. dealer, Barnsley. (see also NS248).
- 2085 (WN0973F) - Withdrawn by Stagecoach, Perth, by 9/84.
- 2096 (WN0984F) - Was withdrawn by Stagecoach, Perth in 3/84 before passing to breaker, Carlton in 11/84. (additional information to NS250).
- 2901 (WVX528F) - Still with Stagecoach, Perth, 2/85. (see also NS240).
- 2905 (WVX532F) - Still with Stagecoach, Perth, 5/84, but not in service. (see also NS240).
- 2919 (AEV813F) - Believed to have been dismantled in a boat yard at Southend, 12/81-1/82, engine thought to have been installed in a boat.
- 2920 (AEV814F) - Was acquired by Hancock, Greetland, 3/83. (additional information to NS236).
- 2926 (AEV820F) - Still with Stagecoach, Perth, 2/85. (see also NS229/44).
- 2927 (AVW396F) - Hancock, Greetland, 7/83, ex. dealer, Sherburn-in-Elmet, for proposed conversion into a hospitality and display bus. Project not proceeded with, and vehicle was sold to dealer, Sherburn-in-Elmet, 9/84.
- 2930 (AVW399F) - Still with Horsell Graphics (N-PSV), Morley, 9/84.
- 2931 (AVX973G) - Still with dealer, London, W.10, 3/85. (see also NS249).
- 2941 (KN0950C) - Still with Webb (Spirit of 76 Tours), New Carrollton, Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 10/84.
- 2946 (AVX975G) - Dealer, Purfleet, 3/85, ex. Watson, Rayleigh (for preservation), who is a member of the Eastern National Preservation Group. (see also NS214).
- 9020 (LFS299F) - Now reported that dealer, Weymouth was not involved. (see NS246).

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), P.J. Snell (M32), V.J. Cooper (M123), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), J.S. Wilby (M298), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), J.G. Lidstone (M449), G.G. Toon (M452), J.H. Preston (M512), C.M.J. Paynter (M515), C.D. Sigston (M523), R.A. Dennis (M535), R.M. Palmer (M540), F.G. Spence (M545), J.A. Murphy (M546), P. Dipper (M573), S.J. Barnes (M576), G. Huggins (AM1) and the P.S.V. Circle. The deadline for the April news sheet is Wednesday, April 17th.