

EDITORIAL

North Essex Coach Tour - Sunday, April 27th.

A booking form for this coach tour is included with this news sheet. Please support the Group and participate on this tour, and to assist the administration please book your seats as early as possible. If you have not already been on a Group coach tour and would like to know what happens on them, then why not read one of the tour reports in last year's news sheets. We are sure that you will enjoy the occasion.

February News Sheet

The News Sheet Editor apologises for the poor printing quality of pages 5 and 6 of the February news sheet. This was due to difficulties with the stencil for page 5, and the first two paragraphs of General news from page 5 of the February news sheet are reproduced in this news sheet (see under General news).

April News Sheet

It is expected that details of the various services that have been registered by Colchester Borough Transport, Eastern National and Southend Transport under the Transport Act, 1985 (to be operated on and after October 26th, 1986) will become available on April 1st. This information is likely to be lengthy and it is proposed to publish a full list of services in the April news sheet. In order to provide sufficient space for this information, the Committee has decided to restrict our normal coverage of news in April. This means that only editorial and brief vehicle news items will be published. Other items such as unusual workings will not be published, and members are asked not to send any news sheet contributions until May.

Rochford Meeting - Tuesday, April 1st.

The next meeting at the Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford will be held on Tuesday, April 1st commencing at 1930 hrs. (for 2000 hrs.). This meeting will feature a slide show on the subject of 'Devon in General' to be presented by Andy Meadows. Please note that the previously advertised talk and slide show on 'Better Bus Photography' has been postponed to a later date. All members and friends are welcome to attend.

Colchester Meeting - Thursday, April 17th.

The next Colchester meeting will be held at 40, Marlowe Way, Lexden, Colchester on Thursday, April 17th commencing at 1945 hrs., by kind invitation of Mike Allen. Members are invited to bring along a selection of slides (20-30 is suggested) on the theme of 'Holiday Wanderings in 1985'. Colchester area members are encouraged to support this meeting. For members travelling by public transport, bus services depart from Colchester (Bus Station) at 1935 hrs. (service 53) and Colchester (North Station) at 1918 hrs. (service 5) and 1948 hrs. (service 5A). Bus passengers should alight at Lexden Church, walk to the west for about 30-40 yards up a short hill, and then along an alleyway on the left which leads to Marlowe Way. If you need any further directions, please telephone Mike Allen on Colchester (0206) 562781.

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EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

Delivery of the four Leyland Tiger coaches with Plaxton Paramount 3200 bodywork has now occurred, and full details are as follows :-

1130	C130HJN	Leyland Tiger TRCTL11/3RH 8500471	Plaxton Paramount 3200 C53F	8612LTP2X501
1131	C131HJN	Leyland Tiger TRCTL11/3RH 8500472	Plaxton Paramount 3200 C53F	8612LTP2X502
1132	C132HJN	Leyland Tiger TRCTL11/3RH 8500473	Plaxton Paramount 3200 C53F	8612LTP2X503
1133	C133HJN	Leyland Tiger TRCTL11/3RH 8500474	Plaxton Paramount 3200 C53F	8612LTP2X504

These coaches were all delivered on March 1st, and are painted in a new style coach livery for Highwayman services, which is yellow with green fleetnames and includes two forward sloping green stripes and a large Highwayman logo on the sides of the vehicles.

The coaches are fitted with the Leyland 245 b.h.p. engine and hydracyclic gearbox. It is understood that 1132 (C132HJN) will be entered in the British Coach Rally at Brighton on April 19th/20th. The other three coaches (1130/1/3) have already entered service on Highwayman services.

Delivery of the remaining six Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. dual-purpose double-deck vehicles (4011/6/7/9-21) is expected to occur during early-April. At present, the planned allocations for these vehicles are Braintree (BE) (4016/7), Brentwood (BD) (4019) and Southend (SD) (4011/20/1).

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Vehicles On Order

Delivery of the three Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. double-deck coaches (4510-2) that are currently on order is expected to occur during May. These vehicles will differ from the 1985 batch (4500-9) by being fitted with the revised front and rear stylings which were first applied to a Leyland Olympian coach of Ebdon's of Sidecup. The Ebdon's vehicle, which was first displayed at the 1984 Motor Show, has a deep single curvature windscreen and double curvature front upper deck windows. It is expected that 4510-2 will be allocated to Bishop's Stortford (BS), Chelmsford (CF) and Silver End (SE) for use on commuter services, displacing 4500/2/3 to Basildon (BN) and Southend (SD) to complete the conversion of service 400.

The Company has confirmed that the reported order for a further 50 Mercedes-Benz mini-bus vehicles for delivery during 1986 (see also NS261/3) is inaccurate. The current position is that the 1987 vehicle orders may include up to 50 Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

Acquired Vehicles

The Company has recently acquired five Leyland National vehicles from The South Wales Transport Co. Ltd. The vehicles were collected during late-February and they are all currently in store at Maldon (MN) depot. It is understood that the vehicles were initially acquired only for spares, but recent reports have suggested that two or three of them may be in sufficiently good condition to enter service with the Company. Full details are as follows :-

South Wales fleet no. 701	LWN701L	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00697	B52F	New	-/73
South Wales fleet no. 702	LWN702L	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00698	B52F	New	-/73
South Wales fleet no. 706	LWN706L	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00709	B52F	New	-/73
South Wales fleet no. 716	NWN716M	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00802	B52F	New	-/73
South Wales fleet no. 727	NWN727M	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00901	B52F	New	-/73

The date of acquisition by the Company was February 1986, and 716 (NWN716M) was noted parked at Chelmsford Bus Station on the morning of February 26th prior to be moved to Maldon (MN).

Vehicles On Hire

The General Manager has advised the Group that the Company is shortly to receive an Iveco mini-bus on hire, as part of an evaluation of this type of vehicle by the National Bus Company. Further details regarding this vehicle are awaited, but it is understood that it will operate on three new services, awarded under contract from Essex County Council, in the Waltham Abbey area.

The four Mercedes-Benz L608D/Reeve Burgess mini-bus vehicles (0204/10/7/24) remain on hire to Southdown Motor Services Ltd. (East & Mid Sussex Division) (see also NS263). The vehicles are operating service 41 in Eastbourne, still in yellow and white livery with Eastern National legal lettering and without destination blinds.

Re-built Vehicles

The Company plans to convert two Bristol VRTSL6G double-deck vehicles to open-top configuration for operation during the Summer season at Clacton-on-Sea. The first vehicle to be converted will be 3027 (NPU974M), which is expected to enter Eastern National Engineering Ltd's Central Works for conversion work in the near future. It has been reported that the second vehicle will be 3025 (WNO545L), but this information is subject to confirmation. It is understood that the seating capacity will be unchanged after conversion (C39/31F).

Allocations & Transfers

3.86 0200 D/L-LWA, 0211 D/L-LWA, 1114 CF-MN, 1115 SD-CR, 1130 D/L-DE, 1131 D/L-CF, 1132 D/L, 1133 D/L-SD, 1542 DE-D/L (D), 1554 CN-CN (P), 1653 CR-DT, 1702 BS-SD, 1728 MN-BS, 1745 SE-DE, 1833 CF-MN, 1841 MN-CF, 3004 D/L (P)-CF (P), 3024 PL (P)-DE (P), 3027 DT-CN, 3058 DT-SD, 3060 SE-SD, 3064 SD-DT, 3100 BD-SD (P), 3101 SD-SD (P), 3105 CF-CF (P), 3123 SE-SE (P).

1554 (WN0543L) is now the only Bristol REEL6G remaining in service with the Company; on March 15th, it was noted still in use by Clacton (CN) depot on services to Walton-on-Naze. This vehicle is now classified as a Pool vehicle at CN, and other Pool vehicles currently licensed are 3004 and 3105 at CF, 3024 at DE, 3100/1 at SD and 3123 at SE. Of these vehicles, 3100/1/5/23 form part of a batch of ten Bristol VRT vehicles now being prepared for operation on London Regional Transport service 275, and they are progressively being repainted into a special London version of the new standard fleet livery (see under Vehicle Repaints).

The ten Bristol VRT vehicles to be allocated for LRT service 275 are 3096, 3100-2/4/5, 3115/9/23/5. Further batches of Bristol VRT and Leyland National vehicles are also to be allocated for London Regional Transport services; the Bristol VRT's are expected to include 3109/13/26 and the Leyland National's are expected to include 1779/80/9/91, 1800-3/25/6/58/92 and 1915, of which 1826 and 1915 are already passing through the paintshops (see below).

Bristol VRTSL6G 3004 (CPU983G) is currently allocated as a Pool vehicle at Chelmsford (CF), although it has also been used on driver training work together with similar vehicles 3002 and 3003. It is understood that 3000 (CPU979G) will also be re-licensed for use on driver training work in the near future.

Current allocations of delicensed vehicles are as follows :- Harwich (DT)-1552; Maldon (MN)-9016/C, ex. South Wales 701/2/6/16/27; Prittlewell (PL)-1539/48/9, 3000, and Mercedes-Benz mini-buses 0201-3/5-9/13-6/C-21/3; Silver End (SE)-1542.

Service Vehicles

As noted above, Bristol VRTSL6G's 3002 (CPU981G) and 3003 (CPU982G) are allocated to Chelmsford (CF) for use as driver training vehicles. Similar vehicle 3004 (CPU983G) is also being used on driver training work, and it is expected that 3000 (CPU979G) will also be re-licensed for such work in the near future. Bristol VRTSL6G 9021 (LFS300F) remains licensed and allocated to Chelmsford (CF) for use as a driver training vehicle; however, it has only been noted in occasional use during recent weeks.

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 NS263 :-
February w/e 22.2.86 - 1863 at CN (overall advertisement livery for Glasswells Ltd., Braintree).

March w/e 1.3.86 - 1905 at CW (New livery), 1938 at CW (New livery), 3070 at MN (N/1.).
w/e 8.3.86 - 1735 at CW (New livery).
w/e 15.3.86 - 1860 at CW (overall advertisement livery for Trinoco Cars (Chelmsford) Ltd.), 3041 at CW (New livery - London version), 3100 at MN (New livery - London version), 3105 at CW (N/1 - London).

Leyland National's 1860 (YEV318S) and 1863 (YEV321S) have now entered service in their overall advertising liveries; 1860 had its base livery of white with red and blue stripes painted during late-February, and it returned to service at Chelmsford (CF) in this form for a short time prior to signwriting.

Mercedes-Benz mini-buses 0200, 0211 and 0222 had their 'CoastLine' vinyls applied during early-March.

As mentioned above, the Company will be painting vehicles to be used on London Regional Transport services in a special London version of the new standard fleet livery. The first vehicle to be repainted in this form was Bristol VRTSL6G 3041, although it is understood that this was a prototype for the new livery and it is uncertain whether the vehicle will actually operate in London. The main difference between the London version and other Bristol VRT vehicles in the new standard fleet livery is that the yellow area is extended upwards to the top of the upper deck windows. The vehicles

will carry the fleetname 'Eastern National CityBus', and initially the panels between the upper and lower decks on Bristol VRT vehicles will carry the slogan 'Eastern National CityBus - Running in London for London Regional Transport' together with a vinyl depicting the outline of famous London buildings. Leyland National vehicles are being repainted in the standard fleet livery, with the addition of the 'Eastern National CityBus' fleetname below the windows and the above-mentioned slogan on the roof/dome area above the side windows, in order to differentiate them from other Leyland National vehicles. It is understood that there is a programme for repainting 32 vehicles in the London version of the new fleet livery during the next eight weeks. In addition to 3100 and 3105 which have already been repainted (with the exception that fleetnames and the London vinyls have not yet been applied), 1826 is currently being repainted at Clacton (CN), 3104 is currently being repainted at Basildon (BN), 3123 is currently being repainted at Maldon (MN) and 1915 and 3119 are both currently in the paintshops at Central Works (CW).

Bristol VRTSL6G 3077 (STW 21W) now carries a large off-side advertisement for the Eagle Star insurance group. Part of the advertisement, depicting an eagle's wing, extends over the upper-deck windows.

A number of Leyland National vehicles are now carrying internal and external advertising solely for D.W. Jones (t/a Jones of Chelmsford), Chelmsford; they include 1890 DW and 1905 CF. During recent weeks, further Leyland National vehicles have also received extensive off-side advertisements for Cold Seal Windows, Maldon (see also NS257/9).

Temporary Loans

There are very few temporary loans to report this month. At Harwich (DT), 4004 CR was noted on loan on February 1st, whilst at Bishop's Stortford (BS), 3029 BE was noted on loan from February 11th to February 13th.

Although now officially allocated to Southend (SD) depot, 3060 is still carrying Silver End (SE) depot allocation plates. This has produced a large number of reports regarding this vehicle, which has been regularly used on services 9, 20 and 22 and was also noted on service 3 on March 11th.

Finally, 1752 CF was on loan to Maldon (MN) depot during late-February and early-March, being noted on service 38 on February 19th and March 1st.

Unusual Workings

There have been a large number of unusual workings reported by members during recent weeks. A shortage of space does not allow full coverage of these reports, and selected workings are as follows :-

- 14.1-3116 BN (International Stores overall advertisement livery) noted on service 403.
- 16.1-1880 BN observed on service 400.
- 18.1-1554 CN was unusually noted on service 119.
- 22.1-Mercedes-Benz mini-bus 0222 (C222HJN) was loaned to London Country Bus Services Ltd. for a test run over LRT service 268.
- 24.1-4010 SD was first used on an evening service 251 journey, being again noted on this service on 25.1.
- 27.1-1602 CN was observed on National Express service 084 (and again on 28.1).
- 28.1-1123 CR was noted on service 79, and this vehicle operated the first working of new service 474 on 15.2, whilst on 19.2 it was noted operating a morning duty on service 88.
- 30.1-1718 CR noted on service 103.
- 31.1-3067 BE noted on service 53.
- 8.2-Southend Transport 231 (on hire to Venturer Travel) was noted on a private hire working at Shoeburyness.
- 11.2-1119 BE and 1120 BE were unusually both noted on service 70, whilst at Braintree 1540 (ex-BS) was noted on service 331 with 1542 BE being noted on service 321.
- 17.2-3002 CF was noted at Hadleigh on driver training duties.
- 20.2-4005 CF was first noted in service at Chelmsford on the 1818 hrs. service 41A journey - this vehicle is generally in use on services 44A/B, but has also been noted on services 36 (19.3), 56B (2.3, when it operated the 2110 and 2250 hrs. journeys to Chelmer Village) and 351 (also on 2.3, when it operated the 2210 hrs. short working to Ingatestone). 1742 BN was noted parked on the forecourt of its sponsors (Allen of Romford) at Romford, for promotional purposes.
- 21.2-Southend Transport 338 operated the 1156 hrs. rail journey from Wickford to Southminster, and the 1458 hrs. return journey.

- 22.2-1700 BD was noted on service 251; Southend Transport 257 was noted on a private hire working at Grays.
- 23.2-1881 BD (IML Garages overall advertisement livery) and 1913 BD (Lancaster Garages overall advertisement livery) were both noted on service 251. At the present time, Brentwood (BD) depot is regularly using Leyland National vehicles on service 251 on Sundays, for example, 1719 BD and 1809 BD were both noted on 16.3, and these should not be regarded as unusual workings. 3077/8, 3106/12/3/25/6 (all CF), 4005 CF, 3094 and 4006 (both BD) and 3129 SD were all noted on a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield. 3068 DN (Eastgate Shopping Centre overall advertisement livery) was noted on service 400.
- 24.2-1121 CF was unusually noted on service 41A; 1542 DE and 1554 CN, which were the two remaining Bristol RELUG's at that time, were both noted in service.
- 26.2-3077 CF was noted on a Brentwood (BD) depot service 251 working; Southend Transport 208 was noted on service 7A, whilst 370 was noted on service 23 at Leigh (Station).
- 27.2-1701CF was noted on service 38 at Hatfield Peverel.
- 28.2-1305 SD was noted on National Express service 001.
- 1.3-National Travel (East) 263 was noted at Chelmsford (Bus Station).
- 2.3-1120 DE was observed on service 311; 3089 SD, 3103 HH, 3109 HH and 3129 SD operated a rail replacement service between Hockley and Billericay; 3069/77, 3106/10, 4005 (all CF), 3105 CF (but still carrying SD depot allocation plates), 3080/93, 4006/18 (all BD) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield.
- 3.3-Southend Transport 205 operated the 1056 hrs. rail journey from Wickford to Southminster, and the 1150 hrs. return journey, in place of a failed D.M.U.; 3068 DN was noted on service 400; 4005 CF was noted on route from Shenfield to Chelmsford.
- 4.3-Southend Transport 226/9/31/8, together with 203, operated a rail replacement service to/from Wickford on the Southminster branch line.
- 8.3-1882 DE was noted on service 353; 3061 CR was observed on service 103; 3073 SD was noted on service 406; 3091 CF was noted on service 11.
- 9.3-3082 CF, 3126 CF, 3092/4, 4012/8 (all BD) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield.
- 10.3-3080 BD failed in Romford whilst operating service 193, and it was later removed by recovery vehicle 0103; 1701 CF was noted on service 53 at Witham.
- 12.3-1756 CN was noted on a private hire working at Colchester.
- 13.3-Mercedes-Benz mini-bus 0212 (G212HJM) was noted at Colchester (Colno Bank Avenue).
- 14.3-Open-top Bristol KSW5G 2383 L was noted at Colchester (CR) depot (and again on 15.3), and it was later noted at Chelmsford (CF) depot on 19.3; 3058 SD (but without depot allocation plates) was noted on service 11A.
- 15.3-0212-TWA was noted at Clacton (CN) depot; 1130 DE was noted at Silver End (SE) depot, whilst similar vehicle 1133 SD was noted on Highwayman service 804, with 1300 CF being noted on Highwayman service 801; 1702 SD (but without depot allocation plates) was noted at Southend (SD) depot, having been transferred from Bishop's Stortford (BS); 1777 HH failed whilst operating service 5, and it was later towed to Hadleigh (HH) depot by recovery vehicle 0104; 3111 SD was observed on service 406.
- 16.3-3077/8/82, 3106/8/10/2/25, 4005 (all CF) and 3093, 4006/12/8 (all BD) operated a rail replacement service from Chelmsford to Shenfield; 4000 SD was unusually noted on service 251.
- 17.3-Southend Transport 240/2 and 307 operated a rail replacement service between Shenfield and Southend (Victoria).

Although not involving any unusual workings, members may be interested in the following itinerary for an Explorer ticket undertaken by a Group member on February 15th, and commencing at Wickford :-

0605 hrs. service 251 (Wickford-Billericay) (4009 SD)
 0650 hrs. service 152 (Billericay-Chelmsford) (1848 DN)
 0720 hrs. service 31 (Chelmsford-Maldon) (3079 MN)
 0755 hrs. service 119 (Maldon-Clacton) (1828 CN)
 1005 hrs. service 111 (Clacton town service) (1834 WN)
 1035 hrs. service 110 (Clacton town service) (1803 CN)
 1130 hrs. service 106 (Clacton-Harwich) (1826 CN)
 1245 hrs. service 103 (Harwich-Colchester) (4008 DT)
 1505 hrs. service 70 (Colchester-Bishop's Stortford) (1930 DE)
 1650 hrs. London Country service 500 (Bishop's Stortford-Romford) (SNB177)
 1825 hrs. service 400 (Romford-Basildon) (4509 DN)
 1915 hrs. service 234 (Basildon-Wickford) (1891 DN)

The total fares for these journeys would have been £17.65.

General

(NS263) Mr. Bryan Jones was appointed as Manager of Eastern National Engineering Ltd. with effect from February 1st. Mr. Jones joins the Company from Herald Engineering Ltd., Plymouth, and our congratulations go to him on his appointment. Also with effect from February 1st, Mr. Alan Seard became Assistant Manager of Eastern National Engineering Ltd.; he was previously the Company's Works Engineer.

(NS263) A large number of vehicles have received attention at Eastern National Engineering Ltd.'s Central Works during recent weeks. These have included Canbus 102 (RAH681F), 422 (RNG822W) and 428 (HVC803V), Colchester Borough Transport 60 (JHK500N) and 61 (NNO 61P), Southend Transport 209 (BHK209X) and 353 (CPT822S), Ensign Bus Co. Leyland Leopard coach LUA287V (formerly Wallace Arnold, and at Central Works for the installation of a disabled persons' lift), Heddingham & District L117 (DMB309H), JRD Travel Ltd. (The Londoners) Bova EGJ911X, preserved former Eastern National Leyland PD1 2102 (LEV 917) now owned by the Springhill Vehicle Preservation Group, County Coaches (Brentwood) Ltd. DAF/Plaxton coach 5189 RU and London Country Leyland Leopard coaches DL5/6/11-15 (MPL125W etc.) and PL26 (NPA226W) (and not PL28 as recorded in last month's news sheet).

The Group was pleased to welcome the Company's General Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Clarkson to our meeting at Rochford on March 11th. Mr. Clarkson presented a highly informative talk on the subject of 'Eastern National Under Deregulation'. He spoke about many of the Company's services and operations, and a shortage of space does not allow more than a few highlights to be included here. With regard to the operation of London Regional Transport services, there has been a 37% increase in traffic on service W9 during the first six months of Eastern National operation, and an additional bus will be allocated to Enfield (ED) in the near future. Operation of LRT service 275 (Walthamstow-Barkingside) will be with Bristol VRT's, and an outstation may be opened in the Walthamstow area for ten vehicles; initially, two Bristol VRT's may be allocated to Enfield (ED) for route learning. By the end of 1986 it is expected that Eastern National will have 60 buses operating LRT services, all on three year contracts. It is expected that the Company's commuter services will be gradually developed and expanded. Electronic ticket machines will be in full use at all Company depots by October; improved machines have just been introduced at Bishop's Stortford (BS), and the next depot to be converted is Brentwood (BD) (March 16th). Full depth vehicle destination blinds will also be introduced on all vehicles by October. The planned commencement date for mini-bus operations at Clacton is Monday, April 21st, and, for the first time, bus services will be operated in Frinton-on-Sea by mini-buses. Other towns where mini-buses may be introduced are Brentwood (town services), Witham (town services), Chelmsford (with a small number of vehicles) and Manningtree (with one vehicle). A further 20 second-hand vehicles (in addition to the five ex-South Wales Leyland National's) are to be acquired this year to help release other vehicles for LRT services. Finally, rebuilding work will commence at Prittlewell (PL) depot during May, and a major part of the existing Southend (SD) depot will be vacated by October, this part having been sold to J. Sainsbury Plc. The Committee extends its thanks to Mr. Clarkson for providing an interesting talk, and for answering members' questions.

Leyland National 1363 (YEV321S), which has recently been repainted in an overall advertisement livery for Glasswells Ltd., Braintree, was stolen from Colchester (CR) depot on March 18th and suffered accident damage when it collided with two police cars. The vehicle is currently at Silver End (SE) depot for repairs.

Leyland National 1657 (KCG614L) sustained slight accident damage at Springfield Road, Chelmsford on March 1st, whilst Bristol VRTSL6G 3093 (STW 37W) has also recently sustained roof damage, and is now under repair at Central Works.

Heddingham & District Omnibuses Ltd. is now using part of the former Eastern National depot at Kelvedon, and has established maintenance facilities there. The allocation at Little Tey has been reduced from about 10 to now 6 vehicles, and a similar number is based at Kelvedon. A recent development is that Heddingham & District vehicles now carry depot allocation codes, in a similar fashion to Eastern National. The codes are of different colours, and are Heddingham (HD-red), Little Tey (CR-blue). The code for Kelvedon is unknown at present, whilst the vehicles currently at Little Tey (CR) are L79, L87, L94, L101, L115, L121 and L122.

Finally, some late news is that new Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. dual-purpose vehicle 4021 (G421HJN) was delivered to Central Works on March 21st (see above).

Service Developments

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

- 114 - Schooldays : an additional journey to be introduced from Clacton (County High School) to Clacton (Bus Station) via Valley Road and Burrsville Post Office at 1545 hrs.
- 474 - Service operates between Romford and Basildon via A118, A127, A176 Roundacre and Southernhay (additional information to NS263).
- 503 - Schooldays : 1525 hrs. journey from St. Teresa's School to Basildon (Bus Station) to operate 5 minutes later at 1530 hrs.

Various applications have been made during recent weeks for minor timetable and route revisions affecting the commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. These applications have concerned services 190 (minor timetable revisions), 191 (minor route revisions in the London area), 192 (minor timetable revisions), 193 (minor route revisions in the London area), 194-9 (minor timetable revisions) and 204 (minor timetable revisions). As far as is known, these applications affect service revisions which have already been introduced.

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. introduced a double-deck Neoplan/Plaxton Paramount coach on the 0555 hrs. service 204 departure from Tiptree, and the 1625 hrs. return journey from London, from Monday, January 27th. The vehicle concerned is usually 101 (B101XYH), and during the week commencing January 20th a relief coach was operated from Great Baddow to London prior to the double-deck vehicle being introduced on a regular basis. At the present time, there is an operational requirement for 16 vehicles on the commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd.

The Company has surrendered its licences for various sections of National Express services 081-3/8/99.

London Country Bus Services Ltd. and Tellyn Motor Services Ltd., Witham have jointly applied to operate a service, to be numbered 085, between Holloway (Parkhurst Road) and Walton-on-Naze (Rail Station Coach Park) via Wood Green, Edmonton, Waltham Abbey, Epping, Ongar, Chelmsford, Colchester, St. Osyth and Clacton on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays during the Summer period. Subject to this application being granted, two existing Eastern National licences for services to/from Walton-on-Naze will be surrendered.

The Company has been successful in being awarded contracts to operate the following London Regional Transport services :-

- 20 - Walthamstow-Debden : Eastern National operation to commence on May 24th, with special Schools journeys on this service to be operated by West's Coaches, Woodford Green. (Similar journeys on services 167 and 206 (see below) will also be operated by West's Coaches).
- 107 - Barnet (Arkley Hotel)-Brinsdown Station : date for Eastern National operation to commence is not yet known.
- 145A - Goodmayes (Lord Napier P.H.)-Chingford Station : Eastern National operation to commence on Schooldays only from April 7th.
- 167 - Ilford-Loughton : Eastern National operation to commence on May 24th.
- 206 - Walthamstow-Loughton : Eastern National operation to commence on May 24th.
- 242 - Waltham Abbey-Yardley Lane : Eastern National operation to commence on Schooldays after May 24th.
- 259A - Hammond Street-Manor House : date for Eastern National operation to commence is not yet known.
- 275 - Walthamstow-Barkingside : Eastern National operation to commence on May 24th.

In connection with these new services, and together with existing LRT services W9 and 193, the General Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Clarkson, has stated that the Company will have 60 buses operating LRT services by the end of 1986 (see under General news). It is also understood that the Company is now considering possible locations for an outstation in the Walthamstow area, which it is reported will have the depot code WW. Vehicles operating LRT services will be painted in a special London version of the

Company's new fleet livery, and the first of these vehicles are now passing through the paintshops (see under Vehicle Repaints). Further news regarding these significant developments will be published as soon as it becomes available.

There have been extensive press reports during recent weeks in the Clacton and Harwich local newspapers regarding the Company's plans for bus services in those areas. Firstly, it can now be confirmed that the planned date for the commencement of mini-bus operations in the Clacton area is Monday, April 21st, and mini-bus 0212 (C212HJN) featured in a press photograph at Clacton Bus Station. Reports have indicated that the mini-buses will operate in the Clacton, Bockings Elm, Burrsville, St. Osyth, Point Clear, Jaywick, Holland-on-Sea, Kirby Cross, Frinton and Walton-on-Naze areas, with services operating at a frequency of every 10 minutes (for services at present on a half-hourly frequency) and every 15-20 minutes (for services at present on a hourly frequency). The scheme will create at least 30 new jobs, and recruitment of drivers has now commenced. The planned introduction of mini-buses in Frinton-on-Sea is a notable event, representing the first bus service to operate beyond the Frinton railway level crossing, and bus stops are planned in Connaught Avenue and Old Road.

Other press reports in the Clacton area have contained preliminary information about the services registered by the Company in that area under the Transport Act, 1985. It is reported that services (106/26) between Clacton and Harwich will be reduced to one return journey on Tuesdays only between Harwich and Clacton. Evening and Sunday services on the routes between Harwich and Colchester (103/4) have not been registered, and similar reductions are planned for Harwich town services 120 and 121. It has also been reported that the frequency of services between Harwich and Great Oakley (106/26) and between Colchester and Manningtree (103/4) will be improved. Reorganisation of Harwich town services would provide a bus service between Harwich, Dovercourt and the Parkeston roundabout every 15 minutes on Weekdays, it is reported. It should be stressed that these press reports are all subject to confirmation.

Further details are now available regarding the planned introduction of a mini-bus service in the Manningtree area. It is understood that this service is also scheduled for introduction on April 21st, and will provide a service between Manningtree and the surrounding villages, including Brantham, East Bergholt and Lawford. It has been reported that the Company will hire a Ford Transit mini-bus from either Alder Valley North Ltd. or Alder Valley South Ltd. to operate this service, and further details will be published as soon as they become available.

Other press reports during mid-March have also indicated that the Company is planning to introduce mini-buses on Witham town services, with six vehicles based at Silver End (SE) depot. It is reported that the services will commence in October, with a half hourly frequency on services, and it was also indicated that the Company is planning to introduce a similar service in Braintree during 1987. Once again, these press reports are subject to confirmation.

Following the opening of a further section of the M25 motorway, the route for service 795 (Southend-Brighton) was revised with effect from February 21st. After the stop at Badgers Mount (Roundabout) the route is now via the A224 to the Knockholt Roundabout and then via the M25 Spur Road to the M25/A21/A224 intersection. The route to Badgers Mount is via the Halstead exit at the Knockholt Roundabout. From February 1st, the service has been crewed by Ensign Bus Co. on Saturdays and Sundays using Southend Transport vehicles, and since this date the following Southend Transport vehicles have been used :- 203 (8.3), 204 (1.2/15.3), 207 (9.3), 210 (2.2), 214 (15.2/16.2/22.2/2.3), 215 (8.2), 342 (9.2), 354 (23.2) and 357 (1.3/16.3).

Chelmsford Borough Council is again promoting free bus travel for senior citizens during off-peak periods on selected dates this year. The dates are March 17th, April 14th, May 19th, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th and September 22nd.

Publicity News

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

Chelmsford Borough Council free bus travel scheme - general leaflet containing details of the scheme (dated March 17th).

Leisure Break Holidays - a brochure containing details of the Company's Summer 1986 Leisure Break coach holidays (LB601-25/31/2 and HH822/4-6).

COLCHESTER TRANSPORTGeneral

All Colchester Borough Transport services were suspended on March 14th and March 17th during strike action by staff protesting over future pay negotiation arrangements.

The latest vehicles to be repainted in the new livery are Leyland Atlantean's 82 (YNO 82S), which previously carried an overall advertisement livery for British Telecom, and 84 (MEV 84V), which previously carried an overall advertisement livery for Townsend Thoresen. Both repaints were undertaken by Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft. The E.C.W. repaint number for similar vehicle 70 (TPU 70R) (see NS262) is R.1524.

With reference to last month's news sheet, it should be noted that both Leyland Leopard coaches (101/2) have received complete repaints in the new livery. These vehicles have a lower maroon band together with the diagonal stripes which are also carried by the double-deck vehicles.

Open-top Leyland Atlantean 48 (YWC648F) is currently in the paintshops at the Magdalen Street depot being repainted in the new livery. It was last noted in service on January 29th.

Leyland Olympian 41 (C41 HHJ) has returned from Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft after accident damage repairs (see also NS262). It had re-entered service by January 31st, and this vehicle together with similar vehicle 42 are used almost exclusively on the 7-group of services and 74A, and on services 1/1A on Sundays.

Leyland Atlantean 49 (YWC649F) has been out of service since late-January, and is currently receiving mechanical attention at the Magdalen Street depot. Other vehicles currently out of service are Bristol REEL6L's 18 (YWC 18L), 19 (CWC719M), 21 (OWC721M), 23 (OWC723M) and 28 (SWC 28K), together with Leyland Atlantean's 70 (TPU 70R), which is currently at Eastern National Engineering Ltd., Chelmsford, and 83 (MEV 83V), which has been at Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft since March 3rd for repainting into the new livery.

Vehicles returned to service during recent weeks have been Bristol REEL6L's 16 (YWC 16L) (by January 30th), 23 (OWC723M) (by January 21st) and 28 (SWC 28K) (by January 27th), although 23 and 28 have since been taken out of service again (see above), Leyland Olympian 41 (C41 HHJ) (by January 31st), Leyland Atlantean's 52 (MYK546R) (by February 22nd), 55 (JHK495N) (by January 16th), 60 (JHK500N) (by February 21st), 61 (NNO 61P) (by March 1st), 65 (NNO 65P) (by January 25th), 85 (MEV 85V) (by March 3rd) and 90 (RVW 90W) (by January 15th) and Leyland Leopard coaches 101/2 (DHK101/2T).

Three or four Leyland Atlantean's were used on a rail replacement service between Colchester and Clacton on the morning of February 25th. These included 87 (MEV 87V) which was noted on a working to Thorpe-le-Soken together with Leyland Leopard coach 101 (DHK101T).

Amongst a number of unusual workings reported by members recently, Bristol REEL6L's 25 (SWC 25K) and 28 (SWC 28K) were noted on service 5A on March 11th and March 5th respectively, whilst similar vehicle 26 (SWC 26K) was noted on a private hire working at Ipswich Road on March 15th. Leyland Leopard coaches 101 (DHK101T) and 102 (DHK102T) were noted on services 9A and 19A respectively on February 28th (101) and March 11th (102). Finally, it should be noted that Bristol REEL6L 25 (SWC 25K) was used regularly after January 16th, and not just on February 4th (correction to NS263).

SOUTHEND TRANSPORTNow Vehicles

As reported in last month's news sheet re-built and re-bodied Leyland Leopard/Derkhof coach 254 was delivered to Southend Transport from Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet on February 20th. It has not yet entered service, and it is still uncertain what type of registration number will be carried. Similar vehicle 255 remains at the premises of Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet for future certification.

Withdrawn Vehicles

As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, Dainler

^{264/10}
Fleetline 301 (GHJ301L) is the vehicle with John Rannoeh Poultry Packers, Haughley Park. Similar vehicle 303 (GHJ303L) is currently being broken up for spares at the Tickfield Avenue works.

Other news of former Southend Transport Dainler Fleetline's is that 355/61/5 (WJN355J etc.) all remain in service with Han, Hawkhurst. 355 and 365 are fitted with tachographs and are used on day trips to France and Belgium. Similar vehicle 356 (WJN356J) will be prepared for service by Ford, Althorne (additional information to NS260).

Vehicles On Hire

Bristol RELL6L 303 (JEH179K) returned to Southend Transport from Ipswich on February 20th, on which date Ipswich Borough Transport 40 (RGV 40W) was returned to Ipswich.

The former Parks of Hamilton Leyland Leopard coach 359 (MDS242V) remained on hire from Caledonia Coach Sales and Services Ltd. during March. This vehicle was operated by Brown, Southampton on loan from Caledonia for a period until October 1985.

Re-built Vehicles

Leyland Leopard coach 331 (XWX166S) is currently being fitted with a DAF DKDL engine.

Leyland Tiger coach 215 (A215PEV) is currently being fitted with a Scottish Bus Group style low windscreen and destination box, similar to that fitted to 218 (XGS769X), and it has been reported that Leyland Leopard coaches 219 (SPN669X) and 220 (KWG130W) may be similarly equipped.

General

A new timetable leaflet for service X1 (including services X10 and X11) was published on February 16th.

Certain Southend Transport crews took part in the nationally organised strikes on March 14th and March 17th (see also under Colchester Transport). The majority of services were operated, with Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet covering certain duties on the X group of services, and reports have suggested that Ensign Bus Co. used at least one DMS vehicle on March 14th and two such vehicles on March 17th, including DMS 2407 (QJD407R).

Amongst a number of unusual workings reported by members during recent weeks, Van Hool Astromega 257 (C257FHLJ) operated early morning journeys on service 12 on February 18th and on service 9A on February 26th. Leyland Tiger coach 250 (A250SVW) operated on service 7A on February 19th, whilst Leyland Leopard coach 339 (ELM439T) was noted on services 7 and 61A on the same date. On February 21st, Leyland Leopard coaches 203 (UTD203T) and 335 (WRO435S) were both noted on service 63, whilst Bristol RELL6L 303 (JEH179K) operated this service all day on March 7th.

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EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS

Initial Disposals

- 1652 (KCG609L) - Still being cannibalised and broken up for spares/scrap at Clacton depot, 3/86.
3014 (SMS 40H) - Still at Central Works, Chelmsford, 3/86, and has not yet been cannibalised and broken up for scrap (see also NS259/60/1/2/3).

Subsequent Disposals

- 408 (YHK725F) - Believed to have been withdrawn by Thomas, Upper Llandwrog, by 9/84, and not used since then. (additional information to NS260).
1405 (VHK170L) - Seating capacity should read C42FL. (correction to NS260).
2300 (BVX676B) - Dealer, Carlton, by 10/85, ex. Fuel Electrics, Great Bromley (N-PSV).
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News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), V.J. Cooper (M128), W.J. Morrison (M131), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), R.L. Clark (M268), J.S. Wilby (M298), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), A.F. Rook (M457), C.M.J. Paynter (M515), C.D. Sigston (M523), J.E. Duly (M529), R.A. Dennis (M535), F.G. Spence (M545), D.A. Coulson (M568), S.J. Barnes (M576), P.D. Ashton (M599), S. Coates (M603), M.J. Brown (M612), G. Huggins (AM1) and the P.S.V. Circle.

Forthcoming news sheet deadlines are Wednesday, April 16th (but please see Editorial) and Wednesday, May 21st.