

EDITORIALExcursion to Felixstowe, Sunday, August 12

A booking form for this excursion is enclosed with this news sheet. This venture will afford members the opportunity of travelling in an immaculately preserved vehicle over a long distance for a modest cost. It is hoped that the central Essex starting points will be within the reach of most members. In view of the short time before the excursion, and the problems with postal delays, members are advised to use first class postage for bookings and to confirm by telephone if necessary.

Basildon Open Air Meeting, Saturday, August 11

There will be an open air meeting in Basildon Bus Station, starting at 0900 hrs. on Saturday August 11th. The meeting will be a good opportunity to view the large number of express coach services operating via Basildon, which include vehicles from Eastern National, East Kent, Maidstone & District, London Country and a number of independents, including Harris, Grey-Green, Audawn, S & M and Heddingham & District. Various Committee members will be in attendance.

Essex County Council Publications

A new timetable booklet for the Chelmsford-Maldon area dated July 1979 has recently been published. Copies of this timetable together with back copies of the Braintree-Dunmow-Witham-Halstead, Brentwood-Basildon-Thurrock, Epping-Harlow-Waltham Abbey-Loughton and Southend-Castle Point-Rochford area timetables are available from the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 37. Warren Chase, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex. SS7 3DZ) at 15p each plus 10p postage and packing for each timetable.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.New Vehicles

1913	JHJ139V	Leyland National 11351A/1R	06358	Leyland National B49F
1914	JHJ140V	Leyland National 11351A/1R	06359	Leyland National B49F
1915	JHJ141V	Leyland National 11351A/1R	06362	Leyland National B49F

Delivery date : 1913-5 - 7/79

Registrations for the remaining Leyland Nationals of the 1979 order (1916-24) will be JHJ142-50V. Of these vehicles 1916/7 are expected shortly with chassis numbers 06416/7 respectively. It is also reported that 1913-7 had registrations GPU480-4T booked should they have been delivered and introduced into service by August 1st, 1979.

The first five vehicles of the 1979 order for Bristol VRTSL6Gs are now being bodied by Eastern Coach Works at Lowestoft. They are reported to have chassis numbers VRT/SL/3/2044-8. It has also been reported that the vehicles will seat 70 passengers and that they will be finished in dual-purpose livery.

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. The vehicles are all operating from Newbury depot, and, although retaining Eastern National legal ownership lettering and green livery, they all carry 'Alder Valley' fleetnames. Bristol FLF6G 2801 (BVX677B) remains on loan to United Counties at Bedford.

Allocations & Transfers

7.79 1340 D/L (D)-CN-D/L (D), 1347 CN-D/L (D), 1361 BS-D/L (D), 1400 BD-PL, 1414 HD-BE, 1448 CN-D/L (D), 1508 BD-CN, 1539 D/L-MN, 1911 D/L-CN, 1912 D/L-BD, 2384 D/L-CN, 2781 BE-D/L (D), 2813 D/L (D)-BE, 2936-D/L (D)-BE.

The most significant transfer this month was the temporary reinstatement of Bristol MW5G 1340 (2730VX) at Clacton (CN) during early July. This vehicle, which replaced 1448 (BN0117B), had been stored at Silver End for many months but remained in excellent condition throughout. However, upon the allocation of 1911 to Clacton during mid-July, 1340 was again delicensed for disposal together with 1347 and there now only remain two Bristol MWs in service with the Company, 1440 and 1451, both of which are also at Clacton. The other surviving MW5G was 1361 (OWC610) at Bishops Stortford, which had the distinction of being the last MW type to be repainted (during May 1977 at Prittlewell), and which has now also been delicensed for disposal.

Two other unexpected reallocations during July were the licensing of the third Bristol KSW5G open-top vehicle, 2384 (WNO480), at Clacton probably to act as a spare vehicle for the other two KSW5Gs, and the reinstatement of Bristol FLF6G 2936 (RWC607) at Braintree (BE). This vehicle replaced the penultimate FLF6B at Braintree, 2781 (994K00), and it is interesting to reflect that a 1963 vehicle has been replaced by one dating from 1962. The surviving FLF6B is of course 2778 (991K00) and all reports regarding this vehicle's last days in service would be welcome.

Vehicle Repaints

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

June

w/e 30.6.79- 1416 at CW, 1794 at PL, 3041 at CW.

July

w/e 7.7.79- No vehicles repainted.

w/e 14.7.79- 1516 at CW, 2888 at CW, 2924 at PL.

w/e 21.7.79- 2895 at PL.

w/e 28.7.79- 1001 at CW, 1777 at CW.

General

Members will be interested to know that there have been some changes to the information published in NS181 regarding the ex-Eastern National Bristol FLF6Gs with W. Alexander & Sons (Midland) Ltd. MRD195/7/8 201/9 (RVW391/3/4D, RWC943D and UEV221E respectively) were transferred to W. Alexander & Sons (Northern) Ltd. during May 1979 who have numbered them NRD1-5 respectively. NRD4 has been the first vehicle to enter Northern service at Montrose. Perhaps most interesting is the fact that these are the first Bristol FLFs for the Northern fleet.

Bristol KSW5G open-top vehicle 2384 (WNO480) attended the John Player League cricket match between Essex and Kent at Chelmsford on Sunday, July 1st, where it was in use as a mobile vantage point and publicity vehicle. This match was hosted by Eastern National and at the end of play the prize money was presented to the winning Essex captain by the Company's General Manager, Mr. O.C. Mercer.

Bedford YMT 1215 (BN0701T) was temporarily allocated to Harwich (DT) from June 11th-19th to operate express service 181. This service is now being operated by Colchester and Clacton depots. 1215 was also noted at the premises of Scotts of Colchester, a Bedford main dealer, during late June. Bedford YMT 1216 (BN0702T), allocated to Harwich (DT), was another vehicle which attended the Epsom Derby on June 6th (see NS183).

Leyland Nationals 1901/3/9 are further examples with the slightly modified cab side window. These and other recent Leyland Nationals are also fitted with orange seats, rather than the earlier green style, and this leads to a pleasing appearance. Amongst further modifications to 1901 at least are the introduction of a new style of oil and air filters and side mirrors. Other changes to the Leyland National fleet are the fitting of modified exhaust pipes to 1744 and 1762, both of which also have the now standard rear-end modifications, which have been fitted additionally to 1799 (without the reversing light) and 1814. These modifications were carried out at Prittlewell Works and unusually neither vehicle has been repainted.

On Sunday, July 14th, London Country series 2 Leyland National SNB476 replaced Bedford YMT 1211 (BN0697T), allocated to Brentwood (BD), whilst working the Brentwood to Dymchurch express service.

Unusual Workings

3.

Following from the information published in NS183 recent observations of Chelmsford (CF) vehicles operating on temporary loan from other depots have been as follows :-

July 8th : 1515 at BS (temporarily allocated to BS - see NS182 - and now carries BS depot plates), 1701 at DT (correction to NS183), 1708 at SE, 1718 at BS, 2831 at BD, 2854 at SD and 3033 at CN. At this date 1516, 3002 and 3035 were at Central Works.
July 22nd : 1515 at BS (see above), 1516 at BS, 1701 at DT, 1707 at CN, 1708 at SE, 1710 at SE, 1718 at BS, 1778 at BD, 2885 at MN and 3033 at CN. At this date 1775 and 3035 were at Central Works.

3029 was the vehicle at Great Dunmow (outstation) on both these dates.

Clacton (CN) vehicles which worked on temporary loan at Harwich (DT) during June were as follows :- 1.6-1520, 1527, 1756, 1826; 2.6-1523; 5.6-2802; 11.6-3033 CF, 1532, 1858; 12.6-1792; 13.6-1526; 14.6-1523; 15.6-1780, 1791; 16.6-1701 CF (1792 CN at Central Works); 21.6-1505; 25.6-2806; 30.6-1512 CR replacing 3027 DT at CR.

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

16.6.79-HD were operating 4 VRTs on services 310-3 (3001 BE, 3046 BE, 3058 HD, and 3059 HD) to cater for the increased traffic resulting from the Essex Show;
17.6.79-3028 SD on a private hire journey from Southend to Clacton (a trip organised by a Group member); 19.6.79-2945 BN on service 5 from HH depot; 25.6.79-1731 BE on service 70 (crew operated); 26.6.79-1208 DT on a private hire journey to London carrying passengers for Tourist Coachways, Clayshot, Hampshire whose coach had crashed on the A604; 27.6.79-Colchester Transport 101 on express service 181;
28.6.79-1443 MN on service 335 on a SE working; 4.7.79-3022 CR on service 19 (1003 hrs Maldon-Colchester - normally a CR Leyland National); 6.7.79-1509 CF on a private hire journey to London; 8.7.79-2945 BN on service 251; 11.7.79-1443 MN on service 38; 14.7.79-2778 BE (the last Bristol FLF6B in service) on a private hire journey; 18.7.79-3046 BE on services 310-3 (crew operated); 19.7.79-3059 HD on services 310-3 (crew operated); 21.7.79-1443 MN and 1511 BD both observed in SD depot; 22.7.79-9002 BE and 9009 SD (driver training Bristol FLFs) both observed at HH depot. In addition to these unusual workings several manual gearbox Bristol FLF6Gs from SD have been used on service 251 during recent weeks, particularly at evening rush hours. Examples include 2823 (23.6.79), 2841 (2.7.79), 2844 (3.7.79), 2831 CF working from BD depot (4.7.79), 2825 (4.7.79) and 2841 (6.7.79).

Service Revisions

Increased fares were introduced on all services from July 22nd (NS183).

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

2 One journey to be withdrawn between Stanford-le-Hope and Basildon.

31 Summer Sunday journeys to be withdrawn.

36/94 Terminal at South Woodham to be Town Centre - revised route from Hullbridge Road to be via Ferrers Road and Town Centre Service Road. Service 94 timetable to be revised incorporating reduced journey time.

44A/44B Application withdrawn (NS183).

45 One journey to be withdrawn.

57 One journey to be withdrawn during school holidays.

67 All journeys departing from Eastwood (Kent Elm) to be two minutes later.

69 Revised timetable.

87 (See NS183) This extension from Dedham via A12, East Bergholt, Flatford and Cattawade to Manningtree has now commenced and is worked by Bristol RELL6Gs (15XX) because of the height restrictions at Manningtree railway bridge. Equally interesting is the fact that certain roads in the Flatford area have a 9 feet width restriction.

106 Weekdays - minor timetable change.

320 Revised timetable.

330 One additional journey on Mondays to Fridays (not Schooldays) and minor timetable changes on Weekdays.

335/6 Revised timetable.

402 To increase through fares between Southend and Dartford.

Revisions to express services recently applied for are as follows :

080/084/138/139/180 To introduce surcharges on fares of £0-50p and above.

128 Revised timetable - period of operation to be Saturdays and Sundays (26.5.79-22.9.79).

- 4.
- 130 Revised route in Crawley - period of operation to be Saturdays (26.5.79-22.9.79).
 - 139 New terminals to be Sutton (Cheam Road) and Jaywick Sands (Bus Terminal) or Point Clear Bay. Period of operation to be Fridays-Sundays (26.5.79-29.9.79). Service to be operated jointly with Eastern Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd., Grey-Green Coaches Ltd., and Norfolk Motor Services Ltd.
 - 180 Revised timetable and route variation between Colchester and Harwich. Period of operation to be Saturdays and Sundays (20.5.79-23.9.79).

Additionally an application has been made to add the following new excursions to the range available:- Belvoir Castle, Bovington (Tank Museum), Courage Shire Horse Centre and Windsor, Duxford (Aircraft Museum), Greenwich (Maritime Museum), London (Olympia), Operation Overlord and H.M.S. Belfast, St. Albans (National Rose Society), Walsingham and Wells-next-the-Sea and Yeovilton (Air Museum).

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

General

Leyland AN68A/1 75 (TPU75R) has been repainted in a special livery to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Colchester Borough Transport (1904-79). The vehicle carries details of this anniversary on the panels between the upper and lower decks, and its livery is basically cream with maroon relief around the rear of the roof and the engine cowling area. It also carries two diagonal maroon stripes, one of which extends around the front of the vehicle. Amongst its recent public appearances the vehicle was entered in the London Bus Rally at Brockwell Park, Lambeth on July 22nd.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicle

221 XTE221V Leyland Fleetline FE33ALR - - - - - Northern Counties H49/31D
Body Number 8163 Delivery date 7.7.79

At present the chassis number of this vehicle is unknown. Externally the bus is almost identical to the last batch of Fleetlines (386-97) and carries Leyland Fleetline names at the rear. Internally it has a light brown floor and red moquette seats with blue interior panels. The vehicle is at present at the Tickfield Road works and is expected to be fitted with a farebox and Autofare machine before entering service shortly. The complete batch of 10 vehicles will be 221-30 (XTE221-30V) and a further four are expected within the next few weeks.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS (By kind courtesy of the P.S.V. Circle, continued from NS183)

- 100 (576 FVW) - Sold by United Pentecostal Church, London, N.16, -/78.
- 9418 (HVW242H) - Dealer, Barnsley, 4/79.
- 421 (GVW983H) - Gilmour, Crosshouse, 5/79, ex. Crawford, Neilston.
- 505 (BNO114B) - Stock car transporter for Tulpin, Nottingham, by 4/79, ex. caravan, Wyberton Fen.
- 1221 (567 CTW) - Mobile caravan, noted Keighley, 1/79, ex. Jeannie Denver Band, Bradford.
- 1224 (570 CTW) - Dealer, Middlewich, 4/77, ex. Monk (contractor), V223.
- 1311 (206 MHK) - Breaker, Barnsley, by 4/79, ex. Peake, Pontypool.
- 1333 (2723 VX) - Hanson, Goole, by 6/79 ex. dealer (by personal observation).
- 1334 (2724 VX) - Dealer, Sherburn, 11/78.
- 2385 (WNO 481) - Reported as withdrawn, 5/78, by Tricentrol, Dunstable. Observed 6/79 at The Derby, Epsom and Showbus Rally, Hillingdon still in Tricentrol livery.
- 2493 (1838 F) - Withdrawn by Powell, Wickersley, 4/79.
- 2847 (MVX884C) - Sold by Eastern Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd., (FLF424), 4/79, (possibly an accident victim).

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from R. Delahoy (M180), P. Harvey (M219), A. Kelleher (M225), I. Young (M239), R. Huggins (M296), J. Wilby (M298), S. Barham (M313), L. Thorington (M352) and D. Arnold (M379). Notes and information for the August news sheet should be sent to the News Sheet Editor by Wednesday August 15th (address below).