

EDITORIAL

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1978

For certain members who joined the Group during the later part of the year this will be the last news sheet that you will receive under your present subscription. Those who wish to renew for a further year (£1. 35 per annum, second class postage, or £1. 70 per annum, first class postage) should do so as soon as possible. If your subscription is due in July then JUL 1978 has been stamped on the flap of the envelope to serve as a reminder. Postal Orders and Cheques should be 'crossed' and made payable to the Group. Receipts will not be issued unless specifically asked for, and only if a stamped addressed envelope is provided.

Essex County Council publications

New timetable booklets recently published are :

Epping, Harlow, Waltham Abbey and Loughton area (March 1978)

Brentwood, Basildon, Thurrock area (May 1978)

Copies are available at 15p each, postage 10p per copy, from Essex County Council (address in NS165). The timetables in the Basildon area booklet also contain bus stop numbers. (see NS169) Further timetables planned for this series are a new edition of the Colchester area booklet (expected in July) and a booklet covering the Southend, Rochford and Castle Point area. This booklet will replace the present Southend Transport publication and timetables will be presented in 12-hour format. This booklet was originally expected in May, but it has been delayed (now expected in September). Also available is a new edition of the Essex Bus Route Map, dated February 1978.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

1852	YEV310S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	05179	Leyland National	B49F
1864	YEV322S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	05255	Leyland National	B49F
1870	YEV328S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	05268	Leyland National	B49F
1872	ANO271S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	05317	Leyland National	B49F
1873	ANO272S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	05320	Leyland National	B49F

Delivery dates : 1852 - 6.78 1870 - 5.78 1873 - 6.78
1864 - 5.78 1872 - 6.78

1868 (YEV326S) is still awaited. No more Leyland Nationals are now expected until August, except the outstanding 1868.

The first of the Bedford YMT's is expected to arrive during July. However, since a number of modifications have to be performed on the vehicles they are not expected to enter service until August, i.e. "T" time !

Withdrawn Vehicles

2717 (97 TVX), the Bristol FLF acquired by Eastern Counties for conversion to a driver training vehicle (see NS 166/8) has now entered service, numbered X 67 in the service fleet. The vehicle is in canary yellow livery. The stairs were removed at Eastern Coach Works and a removable step ladder is fitted to permit access to the upper deck. Extra driving mirrors have also been provided. The remains of Bristol RELH's 1607/11 (BN0107B, AVX961B), acquired by Eastern Counties for spares (see NS166) have now passed to Jordan, Coltishall.

All the Bristol FLF's which passed to United Automobile Services have now been withdrawn. 2710 (90 TVX), which was United 301 has been acquired for preservation but it is not certain in which livery it will eventually appear in. Tilling red has been suggested !

Re-numbered Vehicle

6.78 2937 (RWC 608) to 2300

2300 (RWC 608) entered service at Southend in mid June. The vehicle is in white livery with a central green band. The new open top FLF has replaced Bristol KSW5G open topper 2379 (WHO 475) which is to be withdrawn.

Re-built/Re-seated Vehicles

6.78 2937 (RWC 608) to 038/32FD (q.v.)

No more conversions of Bristol FLF6B's to FLF6G's are now anticipated.

Allocations & Transfers

6.78 1349-D/L(D), 1351-D/L(D), 1435-D/L(D), 1436-D/L(D), 1439-D/L(D), 1441-D/L(D), 1511-BD, 1707-CW(DS)*, 1853-BN, 1854-BN, 1855-CF, 1856-CF, 1857-BE, 1858-CN, 1859-D/L, 1860-CF, 1861-D/L, 1862-D/L, 1863-D/L, 1864-D/L, 1865-D/L, 1866-D/L, 1867-CF, 1869-D/L, 1870-D/L, 1871-HH, 2382-SD, 2384-SD, 2749-D/L(D), 2752-D/L(D), 2783-BS, 2787-D/L(D), 2819-CN, 2849-HH, 3026-SD, 3046-BE.

* - accident pool vehicle. (see below)

Additional later allocations of new vehicles : 1859-BD, 1861-SE, 1863-BE, 1865-CR.

1707 (WNO556L) is now allocated as the accident pool vehicle, as part of the Central Works Docking Spares allocation. The docking spares are used to replace vehicles in dock, these allocations being planned in advance. However, accidents are completely unpredictable and the vehicle involved will require a replacement for service. Previously, withdrawn vehicles were re-instated to cover this contingency, but at the present time, with large numbers of Leyland Nationals in use, a re-instated Bristol MW or FLF is not the most suitable replacement. Accordingly, a spare Leyland National is now available to fulfil this need.

The following allocations of D/L(D) vehicles have been noted by personal observation :

CW : 1442/50.	MN : 1349, 1432/3/6/9, 2712/50/93, 2803, 2932.
PL : 2741.	SE : 1435/41, 2787.

Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

- 310 Service to be withdrawn.
- ? New Service : WICKFORD (Rail Station) - BASILDON (Paycocke Road, Carreras) via Nevendon. (Mondays to Fridays only)
- 232 New Service : SHOTGATE (Post Office) - BASILDON (Bus Station) via Wickford, Nevendon, Paycocke Road, Gardiners Lane South, Cranes Farm Road, Fords Tractor Plant, Cranes Farm Road, Chester Hall Lane, Howard Chase, Crompton Close, Miles Gray Road, Cranes Farm Road, Uppermayne and Southernhay. (Mondays to Fridays only)
- 251 Local service between Wickford and Shotgate to be withdrawn, to be covered by new service 232.

The following revisions have recently been introduced on the dates shown below, details will be found in the appropriate news sheets indicated :

124 - 18.6.78, NS 169	237/8 - 27.5.78, NS 166
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Further revisions introduced in the Basildon area on 21 May (see NS 168-70) were as follows :

- 257 Certain journeys also operate via Pipp's Hill Road and Wash Road on Weekdays in place of service 259.
- 258 Service withdrawn.
- 259 Now operates on Schooldays only.

Services withdrawn in the Basildon area as a result of the introduction of new services 500 - 505 were : 143, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244.

Due to unfinished roads, the following services are temporarily curtailed :

501/2 Terminate at TY3.	503/5 Terminate at FE1.
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Services 504/5 terminate at Laindon Centre (LL6) until the road widening of King Edward Road is completed.

At the request of local residents, additional early Sunday morning journeys on service 337 have been provided from Braintree and Maldon to Witham to provide a facility to the Witham Sunday Market.

General

The Eastern National exhibit at the Southend Bus Rally on 4 June consisted of four vehicles, 2382 (WNO 483), 2849 (NTW942C), 3053 (LJN648P) and 9003 (84 TVX) - the same as last year. Also present was the chassis of 2755 (JWC 715). The theme of this years exhibit was 'training', hence the presence of 2755. Also on the stand was an exhibit showing the Leyland National Phase 2 air layout supplying brakes, gear change, suspension, throttle, doors and windscreen wipers. Other Eastern National vehicles at the rally included 1610 (GVW980H) and 3027 (NPU974M), both on excursions. Former Eastern National vehicles 2700 (80 TVX) and 2737 (E00 579) were also present, the former now with Sutton, Clacton and the latter which is now L91 in the fleet of Hedingham & District. 2382 won the "Southend Cup" for the best vehicle in the show, the "Modern Service Award" for the best pre-1970 P.S.V. vehicle still in service went to 2849, with Suttons 80 TVX as runner up. 2849 Also won the "Norman Richardson Memorial Cup" for the best Bristol vehicle.

Eastern National held its own heat for the Bus Driver of the Year Competition at Widford on Sunday 18 June. The driving tests were conducted with Bristol VRT's 3002 (CPU981G) and 3029 (NPU976M) and with Bristol FLF 2831 (KN0954C). In addition Bristol FLF's 2861 (RHK346D) and 9002 (81 TVX) were used for the Fault Finding and Highway Code tests respectively. Also in attendance was 9003 (84 TVX) used as a Recruitment Vehicle and the chassis of 2755 (JWC 715) as an exhibit. The event was won by driver Greville of Braintree (189 penalty points) with driver De'ath of Clacton (273 penalty points) as runner up.

Application has been made for increased fares in the Ongar area to co-ordinate with London Transport. Services affected are : 32/A, 46/A, 47.

Eastern National vehicles operating on services in Romford which are involved in the London Transport Multi Ride ticket scheme now carry small MULTI RIDE labels. These are in yellow/black and are placed centrally on the front of the vehicle.

It is anticipated that the allocation of vehicles at Silver End (SE) will become all O.M.O. operated types during July. Further details to follow.

The chassis of 2755 (JWC 715) as used by the Engineering School is finished in a light blue colour. It carries 2755 fleetnumber plates in matching blue colour and normal JWC 715 registration plates. The vehicle may therefore be driven on the highway, and has seat belts fitted to the drivers seat.

Alder Valley Bristol FLF 630 (547 BBL) was noted undergoing maintenance at Brentwood during June. Alder Valley vehicles are now being overhauled at locations far and wide, the Secretary noted an Alder Valley Leyland National in the Western National garage in Penzance in May.

Bristol KSW5G open toppers 2383/4 (WNO 479/80) operated excursions to The Derby at Epsom on 7 June.

Bristol VRT 3018 (SMS 44H) operated a special service between Chelmsford and Great Baddow on 11 June on behalf of employees of Cundell Corrigated Ltd. travelling to the sports day.

Eastern Counties have recently allocated some Leyland National saloons to Ipswich garage and these have become regular performers on service 207 (Ipswich - Colchester) Following a failure of one of these vehicles Eastern National 1789 (PEV701R) was noted in Ipswich having worked as a replacement.

Bristol RELL saloon 1533 (MHK915J) was on hire to Southend Transport on 29 May. (q.v.)

Further to the notes on the moquette seating introduced on Leyland National saloon 1711 (WNO560L) (see NS166), the design used does not involve outer P.V.C. trimmings in green as used on other moquette seats fitted to other vehicles.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORTNew Vehicles

80-2 (YNO 80-2S) had still not arrived by early June.

Withdrawn Vehicles

By 6.78

39 (OVX139D)

This vehicle has passed to Training Developments (Transport) Ltd., Kelvedon as a driver training unit.

General

Bristol REEL saloon 22 (OWC722M) and Leyland Atlantean 77 (YNO 77S) were entered in the Southend Bus Rally. Also present was A.E.C. Regent V 682 HEV formerly Colchester no. 2 and now preserved. 77 (YNO 77S) only has an additional Colchester Borough Transport fleetname in gold script on the central maroon band.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORTNew Vehicles

One of the chassis of the order for ten Leyland Fleetlines, type FE33ALR was exhibited at the Southend Bus Rally, chassis number 7801944. It is expected that initially five chassis only will be bodied by Northern Counties, whilst the remaining five will be stored at Tickfield Road works. This is due to lack of constructional capacity at the Northern Counties works.

Withdrawn Vehicles

Leyland PD3 339 (CJN439C) appeared in the Southend Bus Rally owned by the Havering & District Group Training Association. The vehicle was converted for driver training purposes by Southend Transport and carries a plaque in the lower deck to this effect. It is painted in a white/blue livery. (additional notes to NS168)

Vehicles on Hire

On Derby Day, 7 June many Daimler Fleetlines and open toppers were sent to Epsom and hence other vehicles were hired to cover work in Southend. The following vehicles were noted :

From Lewington, Cranham : 289 AUF (Leyland Leopard/Marshall), SGD 601 (Leyland Atlantean/Alexander), 170/xx NVO (Albion Lowlander/Alexander).
 From Kemp, Rochford : TFN 427 (A.E.C. Reliance/Park Royal).
 From Avro 77, Grays : NBN 440 (Leyland PD3/East Lancs), SWS 264 (Leyland PD3/Alexander).

On Bank Holiday Monday, 29 May only two open top Leyland PD3's were available for service. The open top service was extensively duplicated during the day and the following vehicles were noted operating on the service (68) :

201/2 (LBN201/2P), 208 (GJN508D), 215/6 (MJN215/6F), 312/3 (PHJ951/2) and also Eastern National Bristol REEL saloon 1533 (MHK915J) on hire to Southend Transport.

General

Entered in the Southend Bus Rally was Daimler Fleetline 374 (GHJ374L). Also on the stand was one of the new Leyland Fleetline chassis (see above). Former 339 (CJN439C) now owned by the Havering & District G.T.A. was also in the rally (see above). In addition Leyland Leopard coach 201 (LBN201P) was entered but was not present. The Daimler Fleetline was awarded highly commended rosettes in the "Southend Cup" and in the "Modern Service Vehicle Cup".