

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The Monthly Magazine Of The ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

JULY 1990

(Formerly the EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP)

ISSUE No. 315



ST's newly delivered Olympians resurrect fleetnumbers used in the 1950's for an AEC Regent II (262) and for three of the ex LT Daimler CW's. Here 263, whose chassis was once the basis for LT D27, stands at the depot in August 1955: note the tiny mirrors and sidelights and lack of trafficators. This bus still survives: if/when it is ever properly restored it will make a fine addition to the rally circuit.

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GROUP NOTICES

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

The following dates have been booked with the Freight House at Rochford:-

Tuesday	11-9-90	Tuesday	11-12-90
"	9-10-90	"	8-1-91
"	13-11-90	"	12-2-91

A programme is now being drawn up and any member who wishes to run a particular evening or who may have a suggestion, please contact Peter Snell.

The cost of the room hire has been increased by 50% and although no formal entry charge will be made a voluntary donation box will be placed at each meeting.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we announce the death of Albert Campbell of Campbells of Pitsea who were taken over by Eastern National in February 1956.

Mr Campbell died on the 30th June 1990 aged 87 years and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.

EVENTS DIARY

28.7.90. Upton Park. Open Day at London Buses depot.
19.8.90. Harrow Weald. Open day is now on 23.9.90.
9.9.90. Norwich. Eastern Transport Collection Day.
16.9.90. Amberley. 75th anniversary of Southdown.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I refer to the section on Public Transport in Essex in the Essex Bus News of June 1990 page 3. Whilst I am wholeheartedly for new and different innovations for a magazine I do feel we are going a little off the rails to include railways and any other items of public transport interest. This is the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group and not Essex Transport Enthusiasts Group and therefore we should stick to buses. If not it could mean in time, a large percentage of the magazine dealing with non bus items of news thereby either cutting down on the bus content or increasing the number of pages which will put up costs and presumably the amount of our subscription which many members no doubt would not consider justified. I therefore make a plea that thoughts of this new section are knocked on the head.

I would mention that I am a railway enthusiast every bit as much as a bus enthusiast, in fact trains have always been my first love so it is not a question of having a bias.

Michael Allen

Editor: Many thanks to Michael for his letter. It is only my intention to include non bus items to fill space rather than as a regular feature. If you have any thoughts please let me know.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Thamesway

The Southern part of Eastern National will operate under the above name from 29.7.90. The new company livery is yet to be announced.

Acquired Vehicles

C532/41/57 BHY Ford Transit Carlyle B16F

These are ex Badgerline and the first of a batch of twenty (0700-19) for use at Braintree and Chelmsford.

Vehicle Reallocations

7/90 0244 BD- Pool; 1873 MN- CF; 1874 CF- MN

Repaints

W.E. 9.6.90. 1905 at CN
W.E. 23.6.90. 1500 at CN, 1869 at TS
W.E. 30.6.90. 3114 at CN
W.E. 7.7.90. 1913 at TS

1869 now carries an overall advert for Vernon Collard, whilst 1913 is a former overall advert for Lancaster Garages. 3108/17 carry rear end adverts for ECTA motors of Southend and Basildon.

General

Bristol KSW 2383 has been stored at Colchester for some months, where is the other one please?
Further to last months note on the use of running numbers at Ponders End, minibuses on the 193 now carry them with the range 51 to about 55 having been seen.

Unusual Workings

3.6.90. CF 1832 on service 53A. (CF use Lynx only on Sundays)
11.6.90. CN 3109 on service 104. (DT operated service)
18.6.90. CR 4003 on service 133. (BE duty)
22.6.90. DT 1812 on service 6/6A (CR operated service)
23.6.90. BE 4020 on service 353. (LNs are normal)
24.6.90. CF 1413 failed on service 451 replaced by CF 1917.
27.6.90. BN 4500 on service 521. (Also on 28 & 29.6)
28.6.90. CR 3103 on service 6/6A (LNs are normal)
SD 3113 on service 251 (Royals advert bus)
1.7.90. CF 1827 on service 53A. (See 3.6.90.)

The report of a VR on service 177 is not unusual as this type has been noted on most Thursdays.

Southend Transport

These notes are correct to July 10.

Vehicles

NEW:

262	H262 GEV	Leyland Olympian	11553	Leyland	H47/31F
263	H263 GEV	"	11581	"	"
264	H264 GEV	"	11559	"	DPH43/29F
265	H265 GEV	"	11580	"	"

The four new Olympians are now in the course of delivery, two arriving on Friday July 6 and the other pair being due on Thursday 12th. The chassis numbers are quoted above; body numbers and the chassis designation will follow. Two have dual purpose seating, making them suitable for use on X1 and on private hires, although it is expected that all 4 will usually be found (M-S) on the 4 OPO workings on the 1.

The lowheight bodies were built at Leyland's Workington factory, although Leyland are not able to fit front destination gear to ST's specification, so this is being fitted in Southend! The front display will be as per the Q registered Fleetlines (ie with a three track number blind). Electronic side and rear numbers are fitted. Livery is the same as ON 261 (ie with more white than on the Fleetlines).

ACQUIRED:

7400? D180 DRE Freight Rover Sherpa PMT DP20F

A rather unusual purchase (and with no definite fleetnumber yet) this minibus is ex PMT and is expected to be used as a replacement for crew bus 003, and for service use. More details - we hope! - next month.

MODIFIED: overall adverts 224 (Continental Cars), 234 (Allied Bedding) and 251 (Perrys) are now all back into fleet colours - thus, there are now no overall adverts in the fleet (716's hybrid livery doesn't really count!), for probably the first time since 358 (WJN 358J) emerged in a hideous scheme for the Circus Tavern in 1973. Further coach repaints into the new scheme are 548/51.

WITHDRAWN/INITIAL DISPOSALS:

606 (C257 FHJ) was withdrawn and sold on July 6 (having been in ser- with ST that morning!) to Transcity (Kent). Already we have an unconfirmed report of it being used on their local bus services in the Dartford area!! This leaves only 1 Astromega extant.

The 4 remaining P registered closed top Fleetlines (208/11/2/6) are expected to be withdrawn on July 31. LN 713 (UPE 199M) was placed in store at the end of June.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

- 335 (CJN 435C) went on hire to Midland Red North at Stafford as a trainer for a month from June 23. Thereafter it will return to Southend & is likely to be recertified as a PSV for hire to operators, as required.
- 340 (YHB 20T) is numbered 82 in the Hyndburn fleet. Repainted and retrimmed, it looks extremely smart and belies its age. It is used by Hyndburn for schools and private hires as well as being in the external hire fleet.
- 401-6 (E/BHK) it is understood that at least 2 of the City Pacers have been withdrawn by Derby, and one is reported sold to Lancaster City - details please!

SERVICE VEHICLES: Bedford crewbus 003 (B638 WVX) has finally given up the ghost and is withdrawn [thank heavens]. A further service van added to the fleet is a Bedford Astra, 012 (A980 NPU).

Services

- 67 The seafront open top service was reintroduced from 30 June (to September 2) under contract to Essex CC. The route has reverted to its old version in Shoebury (the Elm Road section is not repeated this year) and thus runs: Shoebury East Beach - Cambridge-Shore House - Seafront (double run to CBS ex Kursaal) - Chalkwell Station - Old Leigh - Leigh Church - Marine Parade - Highlands, Thames Drive; hourly, daily, 0950 to 1850. Wayfarer ticket machines are now used on this route - previously when ST had the contract, Almexes were used despite the rest of the fleet having gone electronic.

Unusual workings: LN 707 on the 67, 2/7 (in place of an open topper).

OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

M & E Coaches, Southend: acquired is BGS 551W, Tiger/Duple ex Chartercoach but originally with Eastern Scottish.

AND FINALLY

. . . the good news and the bad! Good is the news that the long awaited County Council timetable for South Essex is nearing completion, with operators checking proofs at the end of last month. Bad is the not unexpected news that the plans for a new bus station in Southend have been 'put on ice'. Operators had been consulted about a scheme to provide a new facility off Chichester Road between York Road and Tylers Avenue (including part of the area once occupied by the old City Coach Co depot and bus station!), which would have provided more stands and a much safer environment. The new Tory administration have stopped the scheme, ostensibly because the plans drawn up by the previous SLD administration were inadequate, but the real reason is more likely to be the need to cut upwards of £5m from the Council's spending to finance the 10% poll tax cut promised by that party just before the May local government elections.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Vehicles

Lynx 35 suffered accident damage in a depot accident on or about 20.6.90.
Atlantean 72 was repainted into current fleet livery during June.
Leopard 102 was an unusual sight on services 1/1A on the evening of 9.6.90.

Services

The open top tour started on 2.7.90. at 1400 with an extra journey at 1130 commencing on 23.7.90. The service operates until 31.8.90.

SERVICE REVISIONS IN ESSEX

Bishops Stortford

- 33 Revised evening and Sunday timetable introduced by EN on 14.5.90.
- 48 Revised by Halls from 7.6.90. to depart Sheering 0945, 1045, 1145, 1345 returns at 1015, 1115, 1215, 1415.

Colchester

- 88 0605 ex Colchester and 0716 ex Gt Yeldham revised to operate 5 minutes earlier from 23.4.90. by EN.
- 93 From 30.7.90. the 0725 ex Colchester was advanced to 0720 by Eastern Counties.
- 119 The 2300 ex Colchester revised to arrive Maldon at 2340.
- 190 Revised timetable introduced by Grey Green from 2.7.90.
- 755 From 9.6.90. was revised to depart East Bergholt at 0840 and arrive in Colchester at 1020 returning at 1245. Operated by Carters under contract to Suffolk County Council.

Clacton, Harwich

- 101/2 Monday to Saturday evening services were renumbered 104 from 2.7.90. and revised route and timetables were introduced
- 126 Between 23.7.90. and 30.8.90. EN have introduced through services between Harwich and Clacton at 0935, 1445 and 1750 returning at 0825 and 1335.

Harlow

- 381 Revised route and timetable introduced by RS Express on 25.6.90.

Further to 314/11 a revised network of services were introduced in Harlow on 9.6.90. This means that Buzz and County are now operating their own services, which are no longer in competition.

Buzz were not taken over by County and continue to operate as an independent concern. Services in the town were revised as follows:-

- 801 Withdrawn by County
- 802 Increased frequency from County
- 803 As 802
- 804 Increased frequency, peak journeys extended to Town Stn. County operated.
- 805 Revised route and timetable introduced by County.
- 806 Withdrawn by County.
- 807 Revised timetable introduced by County.
- 811 Withdrawn between Pinacles and Sumners/ Katherines by County.
- B1 Town Stn- Bus Stn- Sumners/Katherines. Buzz operated.
- B6 Bus Stn- Brays Grove. Buzz operated.
- B11 Pinnacles- Sumners/Katherines. Buzz operated.
- All other Buzz services were withdrawn.

Loughton

242 Revised timetable introduced by London Buses on 28.4.90.

Maldon

95A Morning journey now commences from Althorne at 0840.

Brentwood

- 239 The 1926 ex Brentwood and 1955 ex Ongar were withdrawn from 2.7.90.
- 261 Additional journeys at 1925 ex Brentwood and 1955 ex Blackmore were introduced on 2.7.90.

Basildon

- 7 NIBS revised this service from 11.6.90.
- 21 Revised timetable including additional services operated under contract to ECC by NIBS introduced on 30.4.90.
- Walkers Revised timetable introduced on 11.6.90.

Grays

- 304 NEW SERVICE. Introduced by Harris on 10.6.90. between South Ockendon, Aveley and Lakeside.
- 380 Revised timetable introduced from 21.5.90. Remains Cunningham operated under contract to ECC.
- 722 County advanced the 1700 from London to 1650 from 18.6.90.
- 733 County advanced the 0622 from Tilbury to 0612 from 18.6.90.

OTHER OPERATORS REST OF ESSEX

CEDRIC Have acquired C408 LRP a Volvo/Jonckheere.
CHARTERCOACH Further to 313/6 G969 CNO is with Ham, Flimwell.
CHELMSFORD TRAVEL Volvo/Plaxton 999BWC (ex FUA 390Y) has been reregistered UJN 215Y. UJN 174Y has been sold to Cotswold Courier. A705 XMH a Volvo/Paramount 3500 has been acquired.

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FREEMANS Further to 313/6 SOM 596S has a Ford A0609 chassis.
FOURWAYS Have acquired KBC 39V a Volvo/Plaxton.
HARRIS PRX 190B has been sold. In the coach fleet C90 LVX is now registered 2942 FH. JFD 286V acquired from Brandons (312/11) refers has been sold.
HEDINGHAM Service 52 now appears to be in the hands of ex SWT Bedfords.
JACKSONS Have acquired 2786 RU a Bedford/Plaxton C40FT from County Coaches.
WEBBS Further to 313/6 C580 LUS is indeed a Bedford YNV with C53F bodywork.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MONTHS MAGAZINE WERE RECEIVED FROM:-
R Dennis, P Harvey, J Lidstone, B Palmer, C Sigston, P Snell, F Spence, G Toon, M Weyell, Eastern National, LOTS, PSV Circle, and Southend Transport.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEXT MONTHS MAGAZINE IS AUGUST 1st.