

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

NEWS SHEET NUMBER 159

June 1977

EDITORIAL

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1977

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. 60 per annum, first class postage) should do so as soon as possible. The increased rates of subscription are due to the new postage rates introduced on 13 June. If your subscription is due in July then JUL 1977 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.

Late publication of news sheet

We regret the late publication date of this news sheet. This is due to a recent illness of the Secretary and also to certain personal and business commitments.

Photograph Service

A Circular (E.C.7D) detailing our new collection of Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services photographs is included with this news sheet. Owing to heavy demand at the Southend Bus Rally certain of the prints in the list are already out of stock, however, orders can still be accepted and they will be fulfilled in due course when re-stocking occurs.

A change in the format of colour prints has recently occurred. Our printer now uses the new Kodak RC (Resin Coated) paper - which gives an improved glossy finish - and also prints are now prepared borderless. More details next month.

Colour Photographs of Silver Jubilee Vehicle

This is your last chance to order these prints (for details see NS158). The order will be placed with Eastern National on July 4 and the finished prints will be distributed with the July news sheet, or earlier if additional return postage was added.

Disposals

It is hoped to commence publication of details of disposals in the July news sheet. (see also NS156)

Publication E.P.33

The following information was inadvertently omitted from this publication :

*17	SD	LN	VRT	RE	LN	VRT	RE	LN	VRT
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EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

1796	TJN495R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04458	Leyland National	B49F
1797	TJN496R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04459	Leyland National	B49F
1798	TJN497R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04460	Leyland National	B49F
1799	TJN498R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04461	Leyland National	B49F
1800	TJN499R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04462	Leyland National	B49F
1801	TJN500R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04463	Leyland National	B49F
1802	TJN501R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04478	Leyland National	B49F
1803	TJN502R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04479	Leyland National	B49F
1804	TJN503R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04514	Leyland National	B49F
1805	TJN504R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04515	Leyland National	B49F
1806	TJN505R	Leyland National	113510A/*R	04516	Leyland National	B49F
1807	TJN506R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04517	Leyland National	B49F
1808	TJN507R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04518	Leyland National	B49F
1809	TJN508R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04519	Leyland National	B49F
1810	TJN509R	Leyland National	113510A/1R	04520	Leyland National	B49F

Delivery dates:	1796 - 6.77	1801 - 6.77	1806 - 6.77
	1797 - 5.77	1802 - 6.77	1807 - 6.77

1798 - 6.77	1803 - 6.77	1808 - 6.77
1799 - 6.77	1804 - 6.77	1809 - 6.77
1800 - 5.77	1805 - 6.77	1810 - 6.77

These vehicles are the first of the 1977 order, the Leyland National type thus becomes the first saloon class to extend through two consecutive hundreds of numbers.

Delivery of the next new vehicles (Leyland Nationals, Bristol LH's and VRT's) are not now expected until August, and these vehicles will carry an 'S' suffix. Accordingly, registration marks UHK155-8R are to be surrendered.

Withdrawn Vehicles

6.77	2701 (81 TVX)	2704 (84 TVX)	2705 (85 TVX)
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These vehicles have been transferred to the Driver Training Fleet. (q.v.)

Vehicle on Loan

VR144	GNG710N	Bristol VRTSL6G	2/933	E.C.W.	LD43/31FD	20480
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New in 1975 to Eastern Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd., Norwich.

On loan from 7 - 11 April 1977. This vehicle is in Silver Jubilee livery, sponsored by Queensway Warehouses and was used in conjunction with a cycle race around eastern Essex, an event also sponsored by Queensway.

Re-built/Re-engined Vehicles

5.77	(Corrected date - see NS158)	2860 (RHK345D)	to	FLF6G
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Conversion of 2801 (BVX677B) is at present in progress.

Service Vehicles

Acquired Vehicles

9002	81	TVX	Bristol	FLF6G	169.003	E.C.W.	Driver Training Vehicle
9003	84	TVX	Bristol	FLF6G	169.027	E.C.W.	Driver Training Vehicle
9004	85	TVX	Bristol	FLF6G	169.028	E.C.W.	Driver Training Vehicle

These vehicles were new in 1960, and have body numbers 11727/35/6, they were previously 2701/4/5 in the passenger fleet.

9003 (84 TVX) was outshopped from Central Works in 5.77 and appeared in the Southend Bus Rally and was also present at the Company Bus Driver of the Year Competition. It is expected to enter service in July. Conversion of 9002/4 (81/5 TVX) is at present in progress, 9004 at least is in the blue livery.

9003 (84 TVX) is in the blue driver training livery with a central white band. The lettering is similar that used for the Bristol LD driver training vehicles except that the new N.B.C. style logo is used throughout. The new logo appears thrice on the front of the vehicle, once on a small plate on the radiator and twice on either side of the new panel covering the former destination screens. The staircase has been removed and the top deck isolated. The upper deck seating has been retained and the top deck will be loaded with varying quantities of sandbags to simulate passenger loadings. The base of the staircase has been converted into a seat for the instructor and an additional air brake has been installed adjacent to the seat on the offside. The panel behind the drivers seat has been removed and an intercom installed between instructor and driver. The rear portion of the lower deck has been converted into a conductors school, containing a slide projector, overhead projector, screen, and other teaching and demonstration equipment. All of 9002-4 are to be similarly treated.

1356 (MOO 177) will be numbered 9001 upon conversion to a Driver Training Vehicle.

Allocations & Transfers

6.77	1339-D/L(D), 1350-CW, 1420-D/L(D), 2379-SD, 2382-SD, 2383-SD, 2729-D/L(D), 2742-CW, 2756-SD, 2772-D/L, 2774-CN, 2849-HH, 3033-D/L, 3036-BN.
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Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

11 Journey via New Street Works to be withdrawn.

- 33 To be withdrawn on Sundays. (to be partially replaced by revised service 52)
- 42 To be curtailed at Chignal Estate (Trent Road), section of route via Avon Way to Welland Road to be withdrawn.
- 44 Revised to operate between Chelmsford (North Avenue) and Oaklands Park (Moulsham Drive). Revised route to be from North Avenue via Corporation Road, Broomfield Road thence as authorised to Lady Lane and thence Mildmay Road, St. Johns Road, Vicarage Road and Moulsham Drive.
- 44B Revised route to be from Melbourne Avenue via North Avenue and Corporation Road to Broomfield Road and thence as authorised. (to replace withdrawn service 56)
- 45 Revised terminals to be Woodhall Estate (Rutland Road) and Oaklands Park (Moulsham Drive).
- 48 Revised terminals to be Chelmsford (Bus Station) and Chelmer Village (Cuton Mill Lane). Route to be as existing to Springfield Park Lane, then Sandford Road, Princes Road and Cuton Mill Lane. Journeys to Brook End to be re-numbered 48A.
- 52 Certain journeys to be extended to Howe Street Corner on Sundays, to replace withdrawn service 33.
- 55 Terminal movement at Westlands Estate (Forest Drive, Savernake Road, Harewood Road) to be operated in reverse direction.
- 56 Revised terminals to be Chelmsford (Bus Station) and North Springfield (Pump Lane)(Daily). To be extended from present terminal at Uplands Drive via Lawn Lane, Brackenhurst Drive and Pump Lane.
Certain journeys to be numbered 56A and operate via Victoria Road, Chelmsford.
Certain journeys to be numbered 56B and operate from Chelmsford as service 56 to Springfield Road, thence Springfield Green, Church Lane, to re-join main route at Lawn Lane. (withdrawn section covered by revised service 44B)
- 58 Journeys via R.H.P. Works, Chelmsford to be withdrawn.
- 107-9 Terminal at Jaywick Sands to be re-designated as Meadow Way.
- 111 Revised to operate between Bockings Elm (Brace of Pistols) and Jaywick Lane (Chester Caravan Park). Route to be as existing to Clacton (Bus Station) thence Jackson Road, West Avenue, Ellis Road, Freeland Road, Kings Road, Uplands Road, Arnold Road, Leas Road, Cherry Tree Avenue, West Road, Jaywick Lane, Crossways, Boleyn Way, Park Square West, Millers Barn Road and Jaywick Lane. (withdrawn section of existing route replaced by revised service 126)
- 115 Section of route between Colchester (Bus Station) and Colchester (Zoo) to be withdrawn.
- 121 To be extended from Little Clacton (Highfield Holiday Park) to Little Clacton (Meadowview Caravan Park) via London Road and St. Osyth Road. Terminal at Jaywick Sands to be re-designated as Meadow Way.
- 125 To be curtailed to operate Clacton (Bus Station) and Great Clacton (Carisbrooke Avenue) only. (withdrawn section covered by revised service 111)
- 126 To be revised to operate between Clacton (Bus Station) and Holland (Fleetwood Avenue) via Jackson Road, West Avenue, Pier Avenue, Marine Parade East, Kings Parade, Kings Avenue, Holland Road, Park Boulevard, Briarwood Avenue, and Fleetwood Avenue. Return route to be via Fleetwood Avenue, Grenfell Avenue, Park Boulevard and as outward route reversed. (existing route replaced by revised service 111)
- 151 To be extended from Romford (St. Edwards Way) to Romford (Southern Way) via London Road, Jutsums Lane, Weald Way to Southern Way. Return from Southern Way via London Road direct. (Vehicles also to stand in St. Edwards School car park)

Certain journeys to operate to Witham (Allectus Way) on Thursdays.

General

The Eastern National exhibit at the Southend Bus Rally on June 5 consisted of four vehicles, 2382 (WNO 483), 2849 (NTW942C), 3053 (LJN648P) and 9003 (84 TVX). The theme of the exhibit was the 25 years of the Queens Silver Jubilee and featured changes in the Eastern National scene between 1952 and 1977. There was a collection of vehicle parts showing changes in design that had occurred during the period, views of Basildon, Hadleigh and Southend garages taken in 1952 and 1977 and a display of 1952 and 1977 publicity material were also featured.

2849 (NTW942C) carried special blinds showing 'SOUTHEND BUS RALLY' with the numeral blinds set to '77'. 2382 (WNO 483) had been specially prepared by staff at Southend garage and featured several additional embellishments including all green 'double N' motifs on the panels on either side of the route number box, and also a plate with an all green 'double N' motif on the radiator. The wheels also had special chrome trims. 2382 duly won the award for class D - the Modern Service Vehicle Cup, 2849 was also highly commended.

Other Eastern National vehicles at the Southend Rally, but not actually entered, were 1609 (GVW979H) and 3030 (NPU977M) - both on excursions, and 1450 (BPU 24B) - used for transportation of sundry items for the exhibits.

Eastern National held its own heat for the Bus Driver of the Year Competition at Widford on Sunday 26 June. Previously, Eastern National entrants had attended the Eastern Counties event. The driving tests were conducted with two Bristol VRT's and a Bristol FLF, with Highway Code and Fault Finding tests being performed in driver training vehicle 9006 (AVW401F) and in another FLF respectively. The event was won by driver Muir of Colchester (187 penalty points) with driver Lynch of Silver End (199 penalty points) as runner up. These two drivers will represent Eastern National at the National final in September in Shrewsbury.

Bristol VRT, 3036 (NPU983M) returned from United Automobile Services Ltd. in 5.77. Whilst with United the vehicle operated mainly on service 49 (Durham - Brandon). The temporary United fleetnames were replaced by Eastern National fleetnames upon return to Essex. Another Eastern National vehicle operated by United at Durham is Bristol FLF 91 TVX. This vehicle was Eastern National 2711, and it was acquired by United in 9.76 and numbered 302. (see NS151). This vehicle has now been withdrawn following a mechanical failure.

Bristol RELL saloon 1528 (LVX116J) was stolen from Colchester Bus Station in 4.77 and crashed into a tree at Eight Ash Green. Damage is reported to be very severe.

The Sunday workings of the Bristol VRT operated O.M.O. on service 251 should have read 1002 ex. Wood Green and 1347 ex. Southend. (correction to NS158)

Bristol FLF, 2928 (AVW397F) was allocated to Maldon for operation on revised services to be introduced (possibly in July) in connection with revised transport arrangements for Bradwell Power Station. The vehicle will operate mainly on school contract services with certain short workings in normal passenger service. At present the vehicle is a spare at Maldon and is used only as required.

There have been a number of rumours circulating recently concerning a possible take over by Eastern National of the Grays area services operated by London Country Bus Services Ltd. These rumours have recently gained momentum following the allocation of Bristol VRT's and Leyland Nationals to Grays to replace A.E.C. Routemasters and Leyland Atlanteans. We have been informed that the present situation is that following cuts in bus subsidies by Essex County Council consideration is being given to better co-ordination of certain services in the Grays area.

Revised routes for certain services in central Southend were due to commence on June 19. (q.v.)

Revised fares came into operation in the Colchester Borough Transport area on 12 June to co-ordinate with revised fares introduced by the municipality from that date. (Q.v.)

Certain unusual vehicle workings of Eastern National vehicles on express services have been reported. Bristol RELL saloon 1509 (EPU190G) operated a return journey on service 082 between Chelmsford and Great Yarmouth on 4 June following the failure of 1610 (GVW980H). On the same day Bristol MW saloon 1443 (NWC 17) operated a service 083 relief working from Chelmsford to Great Yarmouth, returning dead.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

67	TPU 67R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700165	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22320
68	TPU 68R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700293	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22322
69	TPU 69R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700323	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22323
70	TPU 70R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700436	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22324
71	TPU 71R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700441	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22321
72	TPU 72R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700485	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22325
73	TPU 73R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700554	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22326
74	TPU 74R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700578	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22327
75	TPU 75R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700903	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22328
76	TPU 76R	Leyland AN68A/1R	7700916	E.C.W.	H43/31F	22329

Delivery dates:

67	-	4.77	71	-	4.77	74	-	5.77
68	-	4.77	72	-	5.77	75	-	5.77
69	-	5.77	73	-	5.77	76	-	5.77
70	-	5.77						

These vehicles are externally identical to the previous batch, 61-6 (NNO 61-6P). The unladen weights are slightly different, however :

NNO 61-6P - 9440 Kg. TPU 67-76R - 9477 Kg.

Withdrawn Vehicles

All of 29-38 (MWC 129-35, CWC 36-8B) have been sold (5.77), and all have or are to be withdrawn in the near future. By 6.77 the status of these vehicles was as follows :

- 29 (MWC 129) - Has been in use for driver training purposes, last used late June, awaiting collection.
- 30-4/7/8 - Disposed off.
- 35 (MWC 135) - Still in garage, minus engine, has not been used since late 1976. To be prepared for sale as a runner.
- 36 (CWC 36B) - Still in garage, delicensed. Top deck damaged.

After the disposal of the above vehicles, no open platform double deckers will remain in passenger service.

2 (682 HEV) remains in store in the garage, whilst 5 (681 HEV), the A.E.C. Regent V Driver Training vehicle is still in use.

General

Following the delivery of the new Atlanteans, several of the earlier batches of Leyland Atlanteans (45-54, WEV745-7F, YWC648/9F, AVX 50-4G) are now being used crew operated on services 4/A and 7/A/8 alongside Leyland PD2A's 39-44 (OVX 139-44D).

76 (TPU 76R) appeared in the Southend Bus Rally on June 5.

Revised fares came in operation on Sunday 12 June. The 5p fare is unchanged, the 8p and 10p fares are increased by 1p, and the 12p, 14p, 16p etc. fares were increased by 2p.

A scheme has been proposed for the introduction of a 'Correct Fares Only - No Change Given' scheme on service 1 and 1A.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Rebuilt Vehicle

Leyland Leopard 208 (GJN508D) has now returned to service (6.77 ?), following conversion to C51F. (see also NS154/6) An emergency window is fitted in the place of the original centre door and the vehicle has been resealed with seats purchased from Eastern National (from former 1600 class Bristol RELH's) which are still in their original red and grey striped moquette.

The destination boxes have been removed and replaced with a narrow single line destination and three track number blind. The vehicle is in the two tone blue coach livery.

General

The Southend Transport exhibit at the Southend Bus Rally on 5 June included 201 (LBN201P), 353 (WJN353J) and 391 (JTD391P). Also on display was a Videmat ticket machine for public operation, parts of a Daimler Fleetline engine and gearbox, and other items.

A total of 22 Daimler Fleetlines and the 4 open top Leyland PD3's were sent to Epsom for the Derby. To cover services in Southend three vehicles were hired from Lewingtons of Cranham. These were HHF 10 (Leyland PDR1/1, formerly Wallasey C.T. and later with Merseyside P.T.E), 198 GJF (A.E.C. Reliance, formerly Leicester C.T., and later with Colchester Transport, 8) and also VDB 915 (Leyland PSU3/1R, formerly North Western Road Car Co., and later Southend Transport, 205).

A number of alterations to bus services were due to come into operation on Sunday 19 June following the opening of the new bridge under Southend Central Station. Also on this date more of the Ring Road will open and Seaway will be closed. Changes to bus lanes also due to occur were the closure of the contra flow lane in York Road and opening of a new contra flow lane in sections of Chichester Road and Church Road. Four other with flow bus lanes were also to come into operation.

OTHER OPERATORS NOTES

LONDON COUNTRY BUS SERVICES LTD.

This operator introduced on April 2 an extension of a route outside the former L.P.T.B. area and into Eastern National territory. Details are as follows :

391 Extended from Sawbridgeworth (Bullfields) to Lower Sheering (Four Acres) via Station Road, Sheering Lower Road and Sheering Mill Lane

Application has also been made by London Country for another service into Eastern National territory, this follows withdrawal of a service over the same route which was withdrawn only a short while ago.

? Bishops Stortford (Station Approach) - Stansted Airport.

This service would operate via Bishops Stortford one way system and Dunmow Road. The fare would be 50p single and the service would be operated in accordance with the requirements of Skytrain and Laker Airways. Operation would be daily. (Green Line route 720 which previously served Stansted Airport every 67 minutes was previously extended to cater for Laker Airways passengers. However, owing to lack of support the service was withdrawn shortly before approval for Laker Airways Skytrain was finally given. Hows that for timing !)

It is also reported that Green Line service 721 (Brentwood - London, Aldgate) is to cease operation after 1 July and that Romford, London Road garage (RE) is to be closed. It will be noted under Eastern National Service Revisions that an application has been made by Eastern National for an extension of service 151 which at present uses the forecourt of Romford garage for layover purposes.

PREMIER TRAVEL SERVICES LTD.

For details of recent changes to the Premier Travel fleet, including the acquisition of new and secondhand vehicles up to fleetnumber 268, please refer to the new edition of Group Publication E.P.5. (for details see NS158)

COPEMAN (C. & R. COACHES), LITTLE TEY

The service applied for by this operator between Great Tey and Coggeshall (see NS153) is now in operation. It should be noted that it is licensed as an express service. The service may be amended to operate on Thursdays when the market starts in Coggeshall.