

# **ESSEX BUS NEWS**

**Issue 543  
July 2009**



**ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP**  
[www.essexbus.org.uk](http://www.essexbus.org.uk)

Two short MPD Darts have just been transferred to Arriva Southend for use on service 13. Here 1609, GN04UCZ, stands at the Southend Travel Centre terminus of the 13. It had yet to receive route branding when Richard Delahoy photographed it on Saturday July 4th.



Excel KX04 HRG: one of the hired Dawson Rental Darts covering Essex CC contract work on ex-Stansted Transit routes.

Russell Young



The ghost of Stagecoach past meets Stagecoach present. On 9 June, Excel used former North East Volvo/Alexander K726 DAO hired from Ensign dealer stock to cover for recently departed Stansted Transit on service 5. At Saffron Walden it is joined at the rear by 22317, bound for Cambridge on the Stagecoach (Cambus) Citi 7 Service.

Owen Woodliffe



## Essex Bus News

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### Your reports and observations

Members reports, quality photos (prints, slides or JPGs) and original articles are always welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor.

The Editors exercise the normal discretion to publish contributions in full, in part or not at all and cannot publication in any particular month.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the Group cannot accept responsibility for any errors published.

Views expressed in EBN do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Group.

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*Cover: The Colchester Tour has started up again for the summer, but reduced to three round trips only. No open-top bus was available at first, so **Talisman** began with RML2535 ! Seen outside Colchester Castle on 6 June. Russell Young*

## Dates for your diary

### ■ PRESS DATES

*For inclusion in EBN dated*

**August  
September**

*reports should reach Editors by*

**1 August  
29 August**

*planned despatch date*

**20 August  
17 September**

Please note that the planned despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The actual despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can only be obtained from the Membership Secretary (see Group Directory).

### ■ SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Venue: **Wickford Cricket Club, off Swan Lane, Wickford** - five minutes walk from Wickford Station and 5 minutes drive from the A130 and A127. In Wickford town centre, turn into Swan Lane from Runwell Road (Swans pub is on the corner); then turn right into the entrance about 100' up on the right - marked Wickford Tennis Club. This is an unmade road, so beware of potholes. Go straight ahead towards the tennis courts and then left at the end - the cricket clubhouse is in front of you. Car parking available on site.

Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145/2200; a cash bar is available. Members and guests welcome. £1 donation please towards the hire of the room. *Richard Delahoy*

#### *2009 programme*

- ▶ no meeting in August
- ▶ **Monday September 14** - "Bristol REs home and away", slide show by *Chris Stewart*
- ▶ **Monday October 12** - "The X1 story, part 2 - 1987 to 2009" by *Richard Delahoy*
- ▶ **Monday November 9** - "Essex buses from the 1960s, 70s and 80's, part 2 - F onwards", slide show by *Martin Weyell*
- ▶ **Monday December 14** - Christmas Social and "20 years ago" slide show by *Richard Delahoy*

### ■ NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Venue: downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2200. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome. *Dave Arnold*

#### *2009 programme*

- ▶ **Friday August 14** - *Trevor Brookes*: "Sightseeing USA".
- ▶ **Friday September 11** - *Russell Young*: "Around the UK and Ireland in 200 operators".
- ▶ **Friday October 9** - *Steven Hughes*: "Lancashire".
- ▶ **Friday November 13** - *Owen Woodliffe*: tba.
- ▶ **Friday December 11** - *Paul Ashman*: "Malta 2009".

### ■ EVENTS

- ▶ **Sunday July 19 July - Ipswich Engineering Day** (guided bus tours of old engineering sites), Ipswich Transport Museum, Suffolk.
- ▶ **Saturday / Sunday July 24-25 - London Transport Museum**, Guided Tours at Acton Depot.
- ▶ **Sunday August 2 - Middy Joint Admission Day**, Ipswich Transport Museum, Suffolk, joint admission with Mid-Suffolk Light Railway
- ▶ *Details of rallies etc. are published in good faith, and we rely on information supplied by the organisers or others at the time of going to press. Members are strongly advised to check details with the organisers/website nearer the date; the Group can accept no liability if events are cancelled or altered.*

## Essex Air Ambulance

A cheque for £200 has been sent to the Essex Air Ambulance, in respect of donations received on the following visits/tours:

- The M&D and East Kent Bus Club visited Talisman Coachlines as part of their Essex tour on 6th June, and enjoyed a mini-tour from Great Bromley to Clacton and back. Donations were made to a total of £60.
- The EBEG visit and tour on 23rd June raised £140 in donations from members. Tour report on page 5.

Thank you everyone for helping a good cause!

*Paul Smith, Talisman Coachlines*



## **Southend Seafront Open Top Bus Running Days** **Saturday & Sunday August 15 & 16**

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Castle Point Transport Museum, the CPTMS are organising two days recreating open top buses running on Southend sea front. No fewer than nine open toppers are hoped to attend, comprising five Eastern National KSWs (WNO 478/479/480/482/484), Leyland PD1 LEV 917, ex Southend Transport Daimler CWA6 244 (FOP 429) and Leyland PD3 314 (PHJ 953) plus a surprise guest Bristol FLF open topper.

Buses will operate a free service between Shoebury East Beach and Chalkwell Shelter, at roughly a 20 minute headway between about 1000 and 1700 each day, serving local stops en route. The event is being supported by the Southend Pier Museum, Southend Seafront Traders Association, local radio and others. On both days it is hoped the event will begin with a send off from local Carnival Queens.

All rides will be free but the Museum will be selling souvenir key rings at £1 each so please do support them by buying some key rings, whether riding, photographing or just watching. The opportunity just to sit outside

at one of the seafront cafes and watch well loaded 68s passing every few minutes is a very attractive nostalgic proposition!

In addition to the open toppers, on the Sunday (only) Arriva Southend Olympian have kindly agreed to provide one of the 5402-5 batch of Olympians to run some trips over the same route, supplementing the open toppers, as a farewell to the type. The significance is that 5402-5, H262-5GEV, were the last buses bought new by Southend Transport under municipal control and thus represent the end of a very long line that began with the delivery of the first trams in 1901 and the first motor buses in 1914.

When 5402-5 are withdrawn by the end of the summer, there will no longer be any buses in the town that have a connection with Southend Corporation Transport, so this represents one of the last opportunities to ride on a genuine Southend Transport bus in their home town.

*Richard Delahoy*

*[Former City PD1 LEV 917 at Meadow View,  
Clacton - Chris Stewart]*

## New Group Publication

### **Blackwells of Earls Colne ~ the story of an Essex independent bus operator**

We are pleased to announce the imminent publication of a new book, the biggest and most lavish the Group has yet produced. In A4 size with 72 pages on glossy paper, extensively illustrated and with colour pictures on the covers, the book by Michael Yelton tells the story of an enterprising Essex bus operator, from the early days around the time of the First World War to the sale of the business to Heddingham & District in 1965.

The book includes extracts from timetables, Notices & Proceedings, posters, tickets and a full fleet list; there is also a section on the buses and coaches that Blackwells handled in a dealer capacity, many being dismantled on site - and we have the pictures to prove it!

Orders (with cheques payable to "Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group" please), to the Sales Officer:

**Owen Woodliffe,**  
196 Sinclair Road, Chingford,  
London E4 8PT

**£9.95**  
post-free

## **Blackwells of Earls Colne**

An Essex independent bus operator



**Michael Yelton**

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

## New members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who has recently joined the Group:

Peter Halls of Westcliff - 275 (rejoined)  
Richard Wansbury of Chelmsford - 990  
M Whitehead of Colchester - 991  
Gareth Hitchcock of Clacton - 992  
Lawrence Living of Chase Cross - 993  
Professor John Hibbs O.B.E. of Birmingham - 994

*Richard Delahoy*

## Group Directory

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £20, renewable in January.

New members may join from any month during the year, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses. Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.70 per month. E.g., a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.70; i.e. £17.

Data Protection Act: Members' details are held on computer for the purpose of administration. If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to:

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shobury Road  
Southend-on-Sea SS1 3TT  
[richard@signal-training.com](mailto:richard@signal-training.com)

Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from Richard.

### TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive the Essex County Council timetable book and bus map. Send

your details and a cheque for £10 to  
Richard Delahoy, 272 Shobury Road,  
Southend on Sea SS1 3TT.

Subscriptions can start with any issue of the book (usually three a year) and will be renewable annually at the same time as your Group membership subscription is due.

### PUBLICATION SALES

Send orders for publications to:  
Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road,  
Chingford, London E4 8PT

Owen also stocks a wide range of colour photos - send SAE with your requirements.

### BLACK & WHITE PHOTO SALES

Lyn Watson  
c/o Barrons Chartered Accountants  
Monometer House, Rectory Grove,  
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2HN

Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can be supplied; email with requirements:

[lymw@barrons-bds.com](mailto:lymw@barrons-bds.com)

## Evening Talisman Tour #5 : 23 June 2009

A number of familiar faces gathered by Colchester North station to await our transport for the evening, which materialised in the form of Talisman's former Colchester Olympian H48 MJN, now in their blue and white livery. With Dave Arnold at the wheel, the theme of last year's mystery tour continued as, instead of taking the direct route to Great Bromley, we headed north through the Myland (or Mile End) area, a part of Colchester much changed in recent years, in order to access Ipswich Road and the A120 Colchester eastern by-pass.

The reason for this routing soon became clear as our first halt was at Cedrics' new premises and were able to view the fleet of Leyland/Volvo Olympians and several of the company's coaches. Cedrics moved to this

location shortly after last year's Evening Talisman tour and the extra space is no doubt, welcome.

After leaving Cedrics, we continued east along the A120, turning into Great Bromley in order to visit Talisman's premises. Here there was the usual warm welcome, with refreshments available, and a good representation of the fleet parked-up for the night. The double-deckers included Routemaster JJD 535D, former Colchester vehicles H47/8 MJN, RVW 90W, Megadekkas J534/605 CEV, and former Lothian Olympian L972 MSC. Examples of the company's Setra coach fleet and former Eastern National Mercedes K633 GVX completed the line-up.

We now transferred to Talisman's other closed-top former Colchester Olympian, H47 MJN, this now bearing the smart livery of the former Borough Transport. It was just a short run to Frating to revisit New Horizon Travel. Another warm welcome and we could see immediately significant changes to the fleet compared with last year. Gone were the two Optare Excels, their place being taken by six double-deckers: two former Stephenson's (new to Ribble) Olympians, C174/5 ECK, and four former Dublin Bus Olympians (N632/8/57/61 JNO). Three of the Dublin Bus examples retained their original colours, but N632 JNO has just received a repaint into New Horizon's blue

and white livery. Two Dennis Darts (M61/3 VJO) have also joined the fleet for Colchester General Hospital contract work, and the company retains a fleet of minibuses, mainly Mercedes.

After a very fine evening (the weather was as well!), good progress was made back to Colchester North station for an arrival at 21:35 hours. Our thanks once again, to Terry and Paul of Talisman, to Cedrics', to new Horizon Travel and to Dave Arnold for driving. Yet again, it had proved possible to have an interesting tour in just under 2½ hours.

*Richard Huggins*

*New Horizon Travel's ex-Dublin Olympian M632 JNO. Chris Stewart*



## Clacton Rally and Running Day



At about 06.00 on Sunday 7th June, I looked out of the window and wondered why on Earth I was getting up at that time, heading for the yard near Ongar where we keep our bus and then running via Chelmsford and Braintree to Clacton Shopping Village. Even more so because the rain was coming down so hard that several stretches of road were almost flooded. Well, several hours later and once the sun had come out, the answer was clear – the first ENVOC Clacton Rally and Running Day. Actually our bus was a bit of an interloper – Ulsterbus Bristol RE/Alexander 2316 (TOI2316) – but our ‘native’ VR, 3219 (VTH941T – ex South Wales and not really ‘native’ at all!) wasn’t fit, and Father Christmas still hasn’t brought me a half cab Bristol.

Having made our way through the aforementioned torrential rain to Braintree, 2316 made a strange sight showing ‘70E’ in the Bus Park but performed a useful function taking passengers from there and Marks Tey to the rally site. The venue proved ideal (albeit the toilets were a long walk for any drivers on a quick turnaround) and, weather notwithstanding, 43 vehicles came. Most had local connections, including a posse of

Eastern Counties buses (MW5G bus, MW6G coach, RESL6G and VRT/SL), the ‘B51’ prototype ECW-bodied RELH 1404 (VHK177L) from Merseyside, Westcliff AJN825, a strong turnout from Castle Point Transport Museum/Blackwater Preservation Group (L5G, LS5G, MW6G coach, KSW5G open top, LDL 2510, VRT 3000 on its first outing in about 12 years, Osborne’s RT and Moore’s Guy Arab), several First Essex buses (Dart, Olympian, KSW open top), Hedingham’s four remaining VRs and Leopard L84, more EN vehicles with Talisman’s Mercedes 709D, two Leyland Nationals (plus one from Regal), RELL 1516, KSW VNO859 and Leyland PD1 open top LEV917...in fact there was far more green and cream to be seen than is often the case at rallies and, in the minority for once, only two Routemasters. Even the Sunderland Crossley evoked the Colchester Corporation ones.

Steven Hughes had worked his socks off to get this event off the ground, and spent the day buzzing around controlling the services – one enjoyable aspect of which was the flexible rostering which enabled a number of drivers to take the wheel of unfamiliar or visiting vehicles. I was grateful for the



*3000 gleams. Chris Stewart; preceding page: Heddingham VR farewell road run. Chris Sampson*



*KSWs 2383 and 2382 (WNO 479 and 478) carrying good crowds once the sun came out. Chris Stewart*

chance of driving the ETCS' RESL RS658 to Walton-on-the-Naze and back (with sea spray coming over the front at Walton!), LS5G 1237 (859ETW) to Weeley and Thorpe-le-Soken followed by a trip to Jaywick and back in 1516 (FWC439H). And I also managed to fit in a ride to Jaywick and back on LEV917, very unusually running around with a full load – in fact the open top trips were immensely popular all afternoon once the rain stopped.

Hedingham's four remaining VRs went out on a farewell 'road run' during the afternoon whilst various pairings and line-ups were arranged later in the day.

Roll on 6th June 2010, same place (see <http://clactonrally.webs.com>) – which will be a celebration of 80 years since the formation of Eastern National and 50 years of Hedingham.

*Chris Stewart*



*Andy Barham's 1924 (JHJ 150V), the last Mark I Leyland National delivered to Eastern National. Paintwork, needless to say, is not the final version! Chris Stewart*

## Service Changes

### Arriva East Herts & Essex

19 Jul 09      2/3

M-S Harlow to Staple Tye Circular revised timetables with off Peak journeys extended to Harlow Town Station.

29 Aug 09      46

M-S Ongar to Chelmsford service withdrawn.

ZIP 1

M-F Harlow to Millwards Circular service withdrawn.

### Burtens Coaches

5 Jun 09      #      9/10

M-F Great Bardfield to Braintree new service.

**Cedric Coaches**

28 Jul 09

78X

M-S Brightlingsea to Colchester revised timetable.

**Excel**

5 Jun 09

|           |       |     |                                                                                                  |
|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #         | 1     | Sch | Takeley to Saffron Walden new schoolday service.                                                 |
| #         | 5     | M-S | Saffron Walden to Bishop Stortford new service                                                   |
| #         | 7     | M-S | Bishop Stortford to Bentfield Green new service.                                                 |
| #         | 7A    | M-F | Bishop Stortford to Stansted Mountfitchet new service.                                           |
| #         | 11    | M-S | Chrishall to Saffron Walden new service                                                          |
| #         | 14    | M-F | Harlow Staple Tye to Templefields new service.                                                   |
| #         | 17    | TFS | Great Bardfield to Saffron Walden new service until 5 July.                                      |
| #         | 18    | M-S | Haverhill to Newport new service.                                                                |
| #         | 21    | Sun | Bocking to Black Notley new Sunday service until 5 July 09.                                      |
| #         | 71C   | M-S | Chelmsford to Colchester new evening service until 5 July .                                      |
| #         | 118   | Sch | Great Yeldham to Newport new schoolday service until end of school term.                         |
| #         | 133   | D   | Braintree to Stansted Airport new service being operated commercially.                           |
| #         | 301/2 | M-S | Bishop Stortford to Saffron Walden new services. Service 302 will be withdrawn from 5th July 09. |
| #         | 306   | M-F | Wicken Bonhunt to Bishop Stortford new service until 5 July.                                     |
| #         | 317   | M-F | Bishop Stortford to Elsenham new service.                                                        |
| #         | 318   | Th  | Thaxted to Bishop Stortford new service.                                                         |
| #         | 319   | Sch | Great Dunmow to Bishop Stortford new schoolday service until end of school term.                 |
| #         | 347   | M-S | Hatfield Broad Oak to Harlow new service until 5 July 09.                                        |
| #         | 392   | M-S | Harlow to Hoddesdon Rye Park new service.                                                        |
| 10 Aug 09 | X3    | D   | Stansted Airport to Grays additional stop introduced at Herongate.                               |
| 17 Aug 09 | 333   | M-S | Epping to Stansted Airport service withdrawn.                                                    |

**First Essex**

5 Jul 09

|           |        |     |                                                               |
|-----------|--------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| #         | 17     | TFS | Great Bardfield to Saffron Walden new service                 |
| #         | 21     | Sun | Bocking to Black Notley new Sunday service.                   |
| #         | 73     | M-S | Chelmsford to Maldon new service.                             |
| #         | 302    | Sch | Bishop Stortford to Saffron Walden new schoolday service.     |
| #         | 306    | M-S | Wicken Bonhunt to Bishop Stortford new service.               |
| #         | 347    | M-S | Hatfield Broad Oak to Harlow new service.                     |
| 6 Jul 09  | # 71/C | M-S | Chelmsford to Colchester introduction of new evening service. |
| 12 Jul 09 | X22    | D   | Colchester to Stansted Airport revised timetable.             |

2 Aug 09

73/A

D Bishop Hall Estate to Warley, route extended to Gloucester Road with revised timetable.

30 Aug 09

7/8

D Clacton to Walton new Sunday service introduced.

10/11

D Clacton to Jaywick Tower Camp new Sunday service introduced.



*With the demise of Stansted Transit, the 73A (Chelmsford - Maldon) was operated for a month by **Stephensons**. Denge Connections Solo 322 (EU07 FVM) worked it on 6 June, here turning into Victoria Road South, Chelmsford. Russell Young*

|                  |       |      |                                                                                                               |
|------------------|-------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | 17/18 | D    | Clacton to Point Clear new Sunday service introduced.                                                         |
|                  | 21    | D    | Black Notley to Halstead revised timetable with new Service 21A via South Street Braintree.                   |
|                  | 25    | D    | Southend to Basildon revised route and timetable.                                                             |
|                  | 46    | M-S  | Chelmsford to Ongar new service.                                                                              |
|                  | 50/92 | Sat  | Colchester to Malting Green/Tollesbury new Saturday service.                                                  |
| <b>Hedingham</b> |       |      |                                                                                                               |
| 1 Aug 09         | 89/B  | M-S  | Braintree to Great Yeldham/Haverhill additional journey at 1515 introduced Mondays to Fridays from Braintree. |
| 24 Aug 09        | 10/11 | Sun  | Clacton to Jaywick Tower Camp service withdrawn.                                                              |
|                  | 7/8A  | Sun  | Clacton to Walton service withdrawn.                                                                          |
|                  | 17/18 | Sun  | Clacton to Point Clear service withdrawn.                                                                     |
| 1 Sep 09         | # 118 | Schs | Great Yeldham to Newport new schoolday service.                                                               |
|                  | 131   | M-F  | Clacton to Jaywick revised route.                                                                             |
|                  | 135   | M-F  | Clacton to Great Clacton revised route and timetable.                                                         |
|                  | 136   | M-F  | Jaywick to Clacton Brook Retail Park revised route and timetable.                                             |
|                  | 137   | D    | Clacton to Burrsville revised route.                                                                          |
|                  | 139   | M-F  | Clacton to Clacton Brook Retail Park new service.                                                             |

|                                          |              |     |                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>LCB Travel</b><br>1 Sep 09            | <b>ZIP 1</b> | M-F | Harlow to Millwards Circular new service.                                |
| <b>Network Colchester</b><br>30 Aug 09   | <b>50/92</b> | Sat | Colchester to Malting Green/Tollesbury services withdrawn.               |
| <b>New Horizon Travel</b><br>1 Sep 09    | <b>42</b>    | Sch | Wivenhoe to Colchester Brinkley Lane new school service.                 |
|                                          | <b>127</b>   | Sch | Great Oakley to Thorpe le Soken new school service.                      |
|                                          | <b>128</b>   | Sch | Little Bentley to Thorpe le Soken new school service.                    |
|                                          | <b>129</b>   | Sch | Walton on the Naze to Thorpe le Soken new school service.                |
|                                          | <b>130</b>   | Sch | Walton to Thorpe le Soken new school service.                            |
|                                          | <b>132</b>   | Sch | Walton on the Naze to Thorpe le Soken new school service.                |
| <b>NIBS</b><br>16 Jun 09                 | <b>104/6</b> | M-F | Langdon Hills to Basildon minor timetable changes.                       |
| <b>Stansted Transit</b><br>5 Jun 09      |              |     | Various routes in Essex, services withdrawn.<br>Replacements marked #    |
| <b>Stephensons</b><br>5 Jun 09           | # <b>73A</b> | M-S | Maldon to Chelmsford new service but will be withdrawn from 5th July 09. |
| <b>Stagecoach Cambridge</b><br>17 Jul 09 | <b>7</b>     | M-S | Saffron Walden to Cottenham revised timetable.                           |

*Paul Harvey  
(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire  
County Council, Richard Delahoy, Harlowwide and First)*

## Publicity News

Recent items of publicity include:

**Bus and Train Maps for Essex** (produced by ECC) dated Summer 2009.

**First Clacton Area Bus Guide:** timetables for all First Tendring area services, dated 15th June 2009.

**First multi-fold timetable leaflets** for 55/55/56 dated 5.4.2009; 45 dated 15.6.2009; 67/ A dated 1.3.2009; 100 dated 3.5.2009.

**First Stansted aircoach leaflets** for services X30 and X40 both dated 3.5.2009.

**First timetable leaflets** for services 33/74/ B; 75 all dated 5th April 2009.

New publicity items would be much appreciated. Please send to Ian Ransom at the address on page 2.

## ■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD

### New and acquired vehicles

- 90413 YD05AFN Ford Transit high roof van, ex Morrisons (contractors) 6.06  
 – publicity vehicle to replace 90277 (withdrawn with engine defect)

New Dart/Enviros 44516-9 have chassis numbers ending 11103-6 and body numbers 8254/1-4 in sequence.

### Allocation changes

Period 3: 24th May 2009 to 25th June 2009

*These are, and always have been, taken from the Company's allocation sheet. For operational reasons there may sometimes be discrepancies with the actual situation on the ground.*

**FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another First fleet**

**(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=reserve (spare/retained, licensed); D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal;**

**DS=Driving School; PS=Paint Spare**

46141 D/L(D)-CN; 46186 CN-D/L(D); 56006 CF-CR

### Disposals:

None during Period 3, but apologies for not previously recording 67037 as being withdrawn and sold to Erith Commercials for scrap during March 2009. Also (ref EBN540) at least 46122/42/50 definitely went to Erith.

### Repaints (period 3):

43736 43714 (ex 'Gremlins') 61054 60757 60756

### Area News - workings and sightings

**Colchester (CR), Clacton (CN) & Harwich (DT)**

New service 13 has been operated by a variety of vehicles whilst the Primos remained in use at DT (57002) or out of use at CN (57001, awaiting engine repairs). DT42937 received a new engine in early June; DT31377 remained out of use at CN while various defects were repaired, only for the gearbox to fail; it is now listed for withdrawal. Scania DT65652 has been working from Clacton, hence the appearance of CN65691/2 on Harwich work.

On 18th June, the Colchester Cycle Race prompted complete closure of the town centre. The former Corporation/Network Colchester depot in Magdalen Street became a temporary bus station for services from the east.

From 22nd June, Hythe level crossing was closed for approx seven weeks in connection with rebuilding work at Hythe rail station. The following diversions applied: 64/A towards Greenstead, 74/B towards Clacton and 103/4 towards Harwich: normal route to Hythe Station Road, then Hawkins Road, Colne Causeway and normal route (or vice versa 64/A towards Shrub End – 74/B and 103/4 towards Colchester unaffected).

On 30th June (p.m.), the following routes were noted on diversion:

Colchester bound 62, 74, 76, 103/4: normal route to East Bay, then Brook Street, Magdalen Street, St Botolph's Circus, Osborne Street, St John's Street, Head Street, High Street and Queen Street to bus station.

- 2nd Volvo coach CR60031 on 76 (a.m. CR working), CR61057 and CN65692 on DT104
- 5th CN43740 on DT104, 46132 on 76 (a.m. CR working)
- 9th CN65691 on DT104
- 15th Primo 57001 noted empty in Hythe Station Road leading CN47227 on 76
- 18th CR67004 on 83
- 19th DT65652 on CN76, CN65692 on DT103
- 22nd CR65671 on 71, CR65675 on 72

23rd DT65652 on CN74B  
 24th CR34305 on 64 (deckers now unusual on 64/A), Lance CR60102 on 70  
 25th CR34305 on 8E, CR34307 on 70  
 26th CR60031 on 63

### ***Chelmsford (CF) & Braintree (BE)***

Braintree depot was due to gain two extra vehicles from 5th July (expected to be Darts 46132 and BN46828) in order to release others to cover the early take-up of ECC contracts on routes 17, 302 and 306 formerly operated by Stansted Transit. Chelmsford will be responsible for the 73 (ex 73A), 347 and – from September – former Arriva 46.

#### **June**

3rd CF53138 on 132  
 9th CF40734 on 42, CF42936 on 30 (replacing failed 53123)  
 10th CF34818 on 525  
 22nd CF47252 on 35122 and 23rd June, CF53124 on BE509  
 23rd 46132, CF47252 on 351 (46132 on 12.05 ex CF), CF42919 on 21 and CF53124 on 70X  
 24th CF47252 on 31  
 25th CF42921 on 70X and CF53117 on 70  
 29th BE42933 on 132  
 27th CF40734 on 42, 46132 on 351, CF42930 on 33

#### **July**

1st 46132 on 55  
 2nd Volvo CF66818 on X30

### ***Basildon (BN) & Hadleigh (HH)***

#### **June**

6th BN46828 on 100  
 9th Mercedes 711D BN51803 on 81  
 13th Olympian BN34012 and Dart BN46827 on 100, Lance BN67002 on 551  
 16th BN66813 on 5  
 17th HH46174 on 21  
 22nd BN43800 on 100, HH46146 on 21, BN51803 on 81  
 24th Scania BN66800 on 25  
 25th HH46158 on 27, Scania BN65669 on 25  
 27th Olympians BN34012 and BN31375 on 25  
 28th MPD BN43845 on 140 (possibly now the normal choice of vehicle)  
 30th BN51803 on 551

#### **July**

2nd BN51803 on 25B (this vehicle now being listed for early withdrawal)

### **Other News**

Glastonbury Festival shuttles featured a total of 15 Bristol VRs, including Chepstow Classic Buses' STW32W and Abus XHK221X.

Former MD Bob Dorr has been appointed MD at *First Aberdeen*. We wish him well in his new post.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, T Clark, D Edwards, M Farmer, D Flatman, A R MacFarlane, N Mansfield, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I Ransom, J Salmon, C Sigston, 'Solo', TBL177M, R Whitley, the *Essex Bus*, *South West* and *British Buses Abroad* in North America y-groups, [www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk](http://www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk), *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle, 'Terminus', *Bristol VR South West Bus News* ([www.geocities.com/ndl642m](http://www.geocities.com/ndl642m)).

*Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by e-mail or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.*

*Chris Stewart*



#### *Elderly Darts on the 351*

- (1) Alexander bodied 47101 (nominally the Braintree shuttle bus) has just negotiated the roadworks at the top of King's Road, Brentwood on 17th June 2009 [with destination display already re-set for the return journey]
- (2) Reserve fleet 46132 (latterly at CR) passes 'The Rose' P.H. in Shenfield on 22nd June.

*both Chris Stewart*





*Arriva Southend's double-deck worked service 408 is rarely photographed, so maybe that adds interest to tired old 5086 - renumbered from 5396 so as to avoid confusion with Volvo Olympian 5936. Here seen, basking in the sun at East Beach, just days before it is due to be withdrawn - without double-deck replacement unfortunately.*

*Freshly painted Dart 3277 (T277 JKM) East Beach, Shoebury and perfectly placed for the afternoon sun.*

*John G Lidstone*



## ■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD

### Vehicles In

3277 (T277 JKM) Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer B37F

3919 (T919 KKM) DAF SB220/Plaxton B39F

1608/9 (GN04 UCY/Z) Transbus Dart MPD. These are for route 13 and are due to receive appropriate branding. 1608/9 are the first vehicles to be allocated to Southend with post 2001 registrations (other than the Mercedes Sprinter minibuses formerly at Southend for Dengie services).

3277 was first seen in service on 2nd June working route 9. 3919 was first seen in service on 6th June working route 7. 1609 entered service in late June and was seen working Wednesdays only route 10 on 1st July without route 13 branding applied. Sister vehicle 1608 was awaiting an MOT and had not entered service at the start of July.

### Vehicles Out

Withdrawn for disposal 3122/3 (N542/3 TPK) Dennis Dart/East Lancs and Dart/Northern Counties 3154 (L154 YVK)

### Other News

Olympian 5403 (H263 GEV) is currently off the road awaiting engine repairs. It is expected all remaining Leyland Olympians in the fleet (5096, 5402-5) are to be withdrawn by the end of July.

The *Evening Echo* reported the retirement of Southend's first female bus driver on 25th June. Barbara Pennett started with Southend Corporation Transport in February 1980 and has worked for 29 years with its successors Southend Transport and Arriva Southend.

*Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold, Richard Delahoy,  
David Flatman and Essex Bus y-group.*

## Network Colchester

### Vehicle News

Dart SLF/Caetano HX51 LRO has been repainted, renumbered to 515 (was 109) and has received dark green branding for routes 105/107/109 (Colchester – Walton). The bus is now fitted with an LED destination display.

Solo 307 (YJ51 JWW) has received an LED destination display.

### Vehicle Workings

#### Unusual Sightings

May 1st DAF 133 on 1.

7th Omnidekka 101 on 1,

DAF/Plaxton President 131/3 worked former Stansted Transit routes 9/10 Great Bardfield – Braintree - Great Notley for one day only Friday 5th June after Stansted Transit ceased operations the day before. Burtons took over from the 8th June.

## Rail Replacement

Omnidekka 101 and Dart/Caetano 515 were used on emergency rail replacement between Harwich and Manningtree between 12.30 and 15.00 on Monday 18th May.

Tuesday 26th May saw Omnidekka 101 and Volvo B10BLE/ Alexander 905 used on emergency rail replacement between Colchester and Ipswich from 05.00 to approximately 09.00. A signal failure between Thorpe-Le-Soken and Clacton later in the day saw Scania/Northern Counties 234 , Volvo Citybus/Northern Counties 243 and Volvo Citybus/East Lancs 333 used on emergency rail replacement between 15.00 and 2000 approx.

Dart SLF 360 was used to replace the 1935 Marks Tey – Sudbury train on 2nd June.

Rail Replacement Manningtree to Harwich:

Sun 7th June – Omnidekkas 101/2 and Volvo City Bus 243

Sun 14th June - Omnidekkas 101/2 and Trident 156.

Sun 21st June - Omnidekka 101, DAF 131, Trident 155 and Volvo Citybus 243

*Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski and Keith Sadler.*

## Excel Passenger Logistics

Acquired in August 2007, but not previously reported were Scania N113DRB/East Lancs G806 JRH and G807 LAG, from Humphries, Deadmans Cross. G807 JRH was only used for spares and was sold to Ripley, Carlton (dealer) by the end of 2008. G806 LAG did not enter service until October 2008.

The report of Dennis Dart/Plaxton M722 CGO joining this fleet was incorrect.

Vehicles sold are Neoplan Skyliner M227 JGB (new as M504 XWC with Harris Coaches, Purfleet) to Flagfinders, Braintree. It is now registered GIG 3239. Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton EU56 GVG is confirmed as departed to related firm, OFJ Connections. Bova Futura A4 XFY (R636 VYB), Scania K113/Irizar R852 SDT and Scania K124/Irizar T12 DTS to Arriva, Gomersal (dealer), Leyland Olympian/ECW C122 CHM and D126 FYM and Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton N70 TGM, Ford Transit YS04 GUK and Ayats Bravo WX06 OSW to unknown owners.

*Ian Ransom with thanks to the PSV Circle*

Courtesy of Dave Stewart of LOTS and Ross Newman of Ensignbus, we can update the list of loans to cover the ex-Stansted Transit work. Note: not all will have been on loan at the same time, with some being swapped in and out as necessary.

### From Ensign:

former Arriva

G904 SKP Leyland Olympian/Northern Counties H45/30F - 1990.

H656/9 GPF Volvo B10M-50/East Lancs H45/34F - 1991.

M169 GRY Scania N113DRB/East Lancs H47/33F - 1995.

former Stagecoach

K716/23/6/9 DAO, N202 LTN Volvo B10M-55/Alexander PS B49F - 1993(K), 1995(N).

M767 RAX Volvo B10M-55/Alexander PS DP48F - 1995.

N412-4/24 WBW Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer 9.8m B40F - 1997. (N415 WBW is also quoted as on loan).

former Metroline

R143/6/7/53 RLY Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer 10.1m B29D - 1997.

**From Dawson Rentals**, most, probably all in dealer white.

KM51 BFX Dart SLF/Caetano 10.5m B31D - 2002.

KP51 UFL Dart SLF/Transbus Pointer 10.7m B37F - 2002.

KU52 RXG Dart SLF/Transbus Pointer 8.8m B29F - 2003

KU52 RYO Dart SLF/Transbus Pointer 10.7m B37F - 2002.

KX04 HRE, HRF, HRG/Dart SLF - Caetano 10.5m B32D - 2004.

KP54 BYY, BYZ Dart SLF/AD Pointer 10.7m B37F - 2005.

AE55 VGK MAN 14.220 /MCV Evolution B40F - 2006.

In addition, Arriva the Shires have loaned Varios 2194/5 (R194/5 DNM). Also here is J861 HWS, a former Badgerline Mercedes 709D/Plaxton B23F from A Barham & Sons Ltd., Harwich.

*David Harman*

## **Stephensons of Essex**

The recently acquired LDV Convoy crew bus/van has been re-registered from DL03HDK to A17SOE (which was previously on Volvo coach N45ARC, sold earlier this year).

Volvo B10M/Plaxton Paragon coach X400MTT is numbered 200 and has been repainted in fleet livery, albeit without lettering so far; it is C53F.

The only other coach remaining in service is B10M/Plaxton Premiere 114, N70SLK, now upseated to C55F ex C49Ft. (Former Crawley Luxury B10M G479FWC is in dealer stock and former fleet member 133, A14SOE, B10M/Van Hool is also advertised for sale).

Of the nine former Lothian Leyland Olympian/Alexander deckers recently acquired (EBN 540, April), K885/90CSF were in the process of being converted to single door and prepared for service in fleet colours; we will provide an update next month.

Dennis Condors 1017/29 (G717FVX, F329UJN) are being sold to Mass Transit, Anston, South Yorks and will probably have left the fleet by the time this issue of EBN appears, leaving just two tri-axle deckers in service (Olympians 992/8, L762/808SNO, both still in blue livery).

Ex London Olympian 876, C62CHM, is being sold to New Horizon Travel, Frating, and 877, C77CHM, has gone to Principle Link of Corby, leaving just three of this once numerous type, 881/2/92, all up for disposal.

Volvo B10M/Alexander saloons 233/5 (M233TBV, M453VCW) have been upseated to B61F with new Cogent 3 3+2 seats, all (except the inward facing triple over the front wheel arch) with 3 point belts.

As illustrated in recent editions of EBN and elsewhere, Stephensons have been active on rail replacement work for National Express East Anglia since Easter, often utilising the two new Scania deckers which are LEZ compliant for work inside Greater London.

Changes to school bus operations in September will see the loss of the Honywood School, Coggeshall contract but gains elsewhere; commercial bus operations have expanded further with the take over of Basildon-Pitsea local 1/1A on Mondays to Fridays (ex First) and the Monday to Friday off peak service on 60, Southend-Canewdon (ex Arriva), all as reported in the service changes section of EBN.

*Ian Ransom with thanks to Lyn Watson*

# National Express

## ■ NATIONAL EXPRESS OPERATIONS

### Liveries

SC28 (FJ 57 KHU) to "contravision" branding for Stansted-London A6, A9 services, on nearside only. By 6/09, NXSC2 (FJ 56 PFF), SC4 (FJ 07 DVK), SC7 (FJ 07 DVN), SC8 (FJ 07 DVO), SC9 (FJ 07 DVP), SC10 (FJ 07 DVR), SC14 (FN 07 BYZ), SC19 (FJ 57 KHY), SC25 (FJ 57 KJE), SC26 (FJ 57 KHT), SC27 (FJ 57 KJF), SC30 (FJ 57 KHW), SC33 (FJ 57 KHA), SC37 (FJ 57 KHE), SC39 (FJ 57 KHG) to A6/ A9 branding. D327 (Y327 HUA) to new NX.

## ■ NATIONAL EXPRESS CONTRACTORS

Selwyns (350), Galloway/Stagecoach Viscount (484) : Traffic

The closure of Colchester town centre on 18/6/09, for the Colchester cycle race, caused the following diversions:

350 Liverpool bound; 484 London bound; normal route to Elmstead Rd, then Colne Causeway, Hythe Quay, Maudlyn Rd, Hythe Hill, Barrack St, Magdalen St, St Botholphs Circus, Osborne St, Stanwell St (temporary coach stop), Southway, St Botholphs Circus, Southway, Balmerne Hill, then;

350 Westway, Colne Bank Av, Cowdray Av, to normal route via Ipswich Rd.  
484 via Westway to normal route.

350 Clacton bound; normal route to Ipswich Rd, then Cowdray Av, Colne Bank Av, Westway, Balmerne Hill, Southway, St Botholphs Circus, Osborne St, Stanwell St (temporary coach stop), Southway, to normal route via St Botholphs Circus.

484 Clacton & Walton bound; normal route to Westway, then as Clacton bound 350.

*John Podgorski*



*Veolia (Dunn-Line in old money) Volvo B12B/Caetano 0602 (FJ06 GHA) leaves Chelmsford bus station for VCS on the 481 from Ipswich, 28th June. Chris Stewart*

## Regal Busways

After operating with a mixture of blue and unpainted metal panels for some time, Dennis Dart/Alexander 501 (K716 PCN) now looks very smart in Regal livery.

*Ian Ransom with thanks to the PSV Circle*

## Trustybus

Former Metroline Dart/Plaxton R141 RLY has been acquired via Ensign (dlr). Dennis Dart/Plaxton M150 HPL has been withdrawn.

*Ian Ransom with thanks to the PSV Circle*

## Stansted Transit

LDV Convoy YK53 JPU has been sold to Home Counties Travel, Heydon.

*Ian Ransom with thanks to the PSV Circle*

The fleet at cloure is a bit difficult to establish, but with the help of Ian Ransom, Dave Stewart of LOTS and Colin Sigston, the list below is suggested.

There are three sections: (a) vehicles believed to have been in use recently; (b) vehicles withdrawn but thought still owned, and (c) short-term hired vehicles used in the final few weeks. The six E200 Darts and some of the newer SLF Darts were removed from the fleet during May, being replaced by short-term hires. These appear to have come from Home Counties Travel Ltd. of Heydon, Royston, Herts., being new to Meteor Parking at Stansted (and perhaps elsewhere) for car park and airside duties.

Disposals known so far include the LDV Convoy noted above, and Darts EU06 KOW/X/KPA, KE53 VDP/Y, V682 FPO, W483 OUF and T223 SAS, which have passed to Ensign (dlr).

### (a) "Recent" fleet

|      |          |                  |                           |
|------|----------|------------------|---------------------------|
|      | NML 616E | AEC Routemaster  | Park Royal H40/32R        |
|      | D182 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D               |
|      | D194 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D               |
|      | D195 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D               |
|      | D212 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D               |
|      | D219 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D               |
|      | D245 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D               |
|      | F259 YTJ | Leyland Olympian | Northern Counties H45/20F |
| 1957 | G957 KJX | DAF SB220        | Optare Delta B47F         |
|      | J102 DUV | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B24F              |
|      | J128 DUV | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B24F              |
| 1202 | J202 VHN | DAF SB220        | Optare Delta B51F         |
|      | J302 WHJ | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B35F              |
|      | J309 WHJ | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B35F              |
|      | K710 KGU | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B35F              |
| 1370 | K370 RTY | Dennis Dart      | Wright B40F               |
|      | N5 BLU   | Dennis Dart      | Alexander B40F            |
|      | P739 FMS | Dennis Dart SLF  | UVG B39F                  |
|      | R739 TMO | Dennis Dart SPD  | Plaxton B41F              |
|      | R79 GNW  | Dart SLF         | UVG B40F                  |

|      |          |                   |               |
|------|----------|-------------------|---------------|
|      | S45 UBO  | Volvo B10M        | Plaxton C49FT |
| 1402 | T402 LGP | Dennis Dart SLF   | SCC B31D      |
| 1414 | T414 LGP | Dennis Dart SLF   | SCC B30D      |
|      | T13 VCC  | Dennis Javelin    | Plaxton C49FT |
|      | T13 VVC  | Dennis Javelin    | Plaxton C49FT |
| 1074 | T74 WWV  | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B33D  |
| 1075 | T75 WWV  | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B33D  |
|      | T431 EBD | MB 0814D          | Plaxton B31F  |
|      | T462 HNH | MB 0814D          | Plaxton B27F  |
|      | T223 SAS | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B??F  |
| 1682 | V682 FPO | Dennis Dart       | SCC B44F      |
|      | V237 LWU | Optare MR15       | Optare B31F   |
|      | W483 OUF | Dennis Dart SLF   | SCC B44F      |
|      | KM51 BFZ | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B37F  |
|      | KP51 SXU | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B29F  |
|      | KP51 SXZ | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B29F  |
|      | KV51 KZC | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B29F  |
|      | YT51 EAG | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B29F  |
|      | YT51 EAK | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B29F  |
|      | YT51 EAM | Dennis Dart SLF   | Plaxton B29F  |
|      | KV03 ZGP | Transbus Dart SLF | Transbus B29F |
|      | KV03 ZGR | Transbus Dart SLF | Transbus B29F |
| 1007 | KE53 VDP | Transbus Dart SLF | Transbus B29F |
| 1008 | KE53 VDY | Transbus Dart SLF | Transbus B29F |
|      | YC53 NZZ | LDV Convoy        | LDV M16       |
|      | YK53 JPU | LDV Convoy        | LDV M16       |
|      | DN54 EKB | Ford Transit      |               |
|      | EU06 KOW | ADL Dart          | ADL B29F      |
|      | EU06 KOX | ADL Dart          | ADL B29F      |
|      | EU06 KPA | ADL Dart          | ADL B29F      |
|      | KX07 HDG | Volvo B12B        | Plaxton C49FT |
|      | KX07 HDH | Volvo B12B        | Plaxton C49FT |
|      | KX07 HDJ | Volvo B12B        | Plaxton C49FT |
| 1010 | KX57 FMA | ADL E200 Dart     | ADL B29F      |
| 1012 | KX57 FMC | ADL E200 Dart     | ADL B29F      |
| 1011 | KX57 FMD | ADL E200 Dart     | ADL B29F      |
| 1013 | KX57 FME | ADL E200 Dart     | ADL B29F      |
|      | KX57 FMF | ADL E200 Dart     | ADL B29F      |
|      | KX57 FMG | ADL E200 Dart     | ADL B29F      |
|      | AE08 DLE | ADL E200 Dart     | MCV B37F      |
|      | AE08 DLF | ADL E200 Dart     | MCV B37F      |
|      | KX08 HLR | Volvo B12B        | Plaxton C??F  |
|      | KX08 HLU | Volvo B12B        | Plaxton C??F  |

**(b) Withdrawn but thought still owned**

|          |                  |                    |
|----------|------------------|--------------------|
| BOK 5V   | MCW Metrobus     | MCW H43/30F        |
| POG 502Y | MCW Metrobus     | MCW H43/30F        |
| POG 600Y | MCW Metrobus     | MCW H43/30F        |
| A503 EJF | Leyland Olympian | ECW H45/32F        |
| D197 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D        |
| D228 FYM | Leyland Olympian | ECW H42/26D        |
| G121 FJW | MCW Metrobus     | MCW H43/30F        |
| H101 THE | Dennis Dart      | Reeve Burgess B28F |
| J304 WHJ | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B35F       |
| J306 WHJ | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B35F       |
| K710 KGU | Dennis Dart      | Plaxton B35F       |
| N410 NTN | Optare MR15      | Optare B25F        |
| P679 RWU | Dennis Dart SLF  | Plaxton B35F       |

|          |              |                   |
|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| R817 WJA | Optare Excel | Optare B42F       |
| T273 EWW | DAF SB220    | Optare Delta B49F |

**(c) Short-term hires from Home Counties Travel, Heydon**

|          |              |             |
|----------|--------------|-------------|
| T412 OUB | Optare Solo  | Optare B25F |
| T415 OUB | Optare Solo  | Optare B25F |
| T417 OUB | Optare Solo  | Optare B25F |
| T418 OUB | Optare Solo  | Optare B25F |
| T419 OUB | Optare Solo  | Optare B25F |
| V937 VUB | Optare Excel | Optare B??F |
| V938 VUB | Optare Excel | Optare B??F |
| V939 VUB | Optare Excel | Optare B??F |
| V119 LVH | Optare Excel | Optare B??F |

David Harman

## Ensignbus

### ■ DEALING STOCK MOVEMENTS

#### Vehicles in

|                           |                                                                         |  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|                           | <i>from</i>                                                             |  |
| Tony Acaris, Glasgow:     | RML2465                                                                 |  |
| Arriva Midlands:          | Olympians P602/5 CAY                                                    |  |
| Arriva North East:        | Scania N383/4/5 OTY                                                     |  |
| Carters Coaches, Ipswich: | Spectra K310 FYG                                                        |  |
| Chambers, Bures:          | Olympian N952 KBJ                                                       |  |
| Dublin Bus:               | Olympians 90-D-1005, 97-D-381, 98-D-20382/4/5/6/7/9/430.                |  |
| East London Bus Group:    | Darts V117 MVX, W173 -5/7/8/81/96/8/223/ 6/7/233 DNO, Trident T698 KPU. |  |
|                           | London General: Volvo B7TL PN02 XCH/P                                   |  |
| McKever Hotels,           | Glasgow: RML2525.                                                       |  |
| MK Metro:                 | Spectra K302 FYG.                                                       |  |
| Stagecoach East:          | Javelin J860 COO                                                        |  |
| Stagecoach East Midland:  | Olympian G709 TCD                                                       |  |
| Stagecoach Merseyside:    | Mercedes 709 N614 VSS.                                                  |  |
| Stagecoach South East:    | Olympians G701 TCD, H815/9 CBP                                          |  |
| Stagecoach Wales:         | Volvo B10Ms L581/2/6 HSG                                                |  |
| Stansted Transit:         | Darts EU06 KOW/X/KPA, KE53 VDP/Y, V682 FPO, W483 OUF, T223 SAS          |  |
| Stockton Council:         | Solo V648 CEF                                                           |  |
| The Theme Group, Reading: | RML2715                                                                 |  |

#### Vehicles out

|                                                     |                                            |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--|
|                                                     | <i>to</i>                                  |  |
| Dublin Olympian 98-D-20425/7                        | now S236/1 YOO with                        |  |
|                                                     | Aintree Coachlines, Liverpool              |  |
| Scania YN04 AHA:                                    | Arriva Midlands                            |  |
| Olympian P419 KSX:                                  | Carters Coaches, Ipswich                   |  |
| Volvo B10Ms L581/2/6 HSG:                           | Edwards, Llandrit Fadre                    |  |
| Scania E706 EFG:                                    | Flagfinders, Braintree                     |  |
| Dart R141 RLY:                                      | Galleon Travel, Herts.                     |  |
| Volvo B10Ms N91 RVK, M914 WJK:                      | Gwent Transport Services, Blackwood, Gwent |  |
| Darts V117 MVX, W174-8/81/96/8/9/201/24/7/33/6 DNO: | Heart of Wales Travel, Cardiff             |  |
|                                                     | Herberts, Shefford, Beds.                  |  |
| Olympian P413 KSX:                                  | North Somerset Coaches, Weston-super-Mare  |  |
| Volvo B10Ms M752/6 LAX:                             | Stephensons, Easingwold.                   |  |
| Volvo B10B M103 UKX:                                |                                            |  |

Dart R148 RLY: **Tates Travel**, Barnsley  
Javelin J860 COO: **Tourmaster**, Peterborough  
Olympians P424/8 KSX: **Westbus**, London

RM822: **Harry Hobson**, Herts.  
RML2470: **Jason Price**, South Ockendon, Essex  
RML2408: **thisbus.com**

Metrobus POG 514Y: **ACDC Lighting Systems Ltd**, Barrowford, Lancs.  
Olympians R632/3 MNU: **Nottinghamshire County Council**

RM2022: **City Sightseeing**, Seville, Spain

Metrobus WYW 46T: **Cecile Plantec**, Brest, France.  
Metrobus B170 WUL: **Unique Automotion Ltd**, Sofia, Bulgaria  
Olympian G292 UMJ: **Walsh Bros Catering Ltd.**, Dublin  
Olympian 90-D-1005: **Waterford Polo Club**, Waterford, Eire

## ■ CITY SIGHTSEEING

Metrobuses KYV 724/9X are now open top and allocated to City Sightseeing Washington D.C. Spectra 303 (K703 BBL) has been sold to DeKing Cars Ltd, Nicosia, Cyprus

## ■ ENSIGNBUS LTD.

UVG-bodied Darts 702 and 705 have been sold to Arriva Midlands.

*David Harman, with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus Ltd.*

## Other Operators

**CEDRIC, Ardleigh** Volvo B12/Van Hool YIL 7758 (N316 BYA) has been withdrawn following fire damage.

**CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford** Vehicles sold are Ford Transit T615 TVW and Citroen Relay V513 KBH.

**CM3 CARS, South Woodham Ferrers** Ford Transit NJ04 SOE has been sold.

**CN ENTERPRISES, Abridge** Bova Futura PY02 UMT has been sold, to Bliss Travel, Vauxhall. It was the only vehicle recorded here.

**CRUSADER HOLIDAYS, Clacton-on-Sea** Setra S315 EK51 KZB has gone to Hammond, Langley Mill.

**FIZZ COACH TRIPS, Gt Tey** Former Genial Travel, Gt Tey DAF MB230/Van Hool H140 AFV has been re-registered RUI 6607.

**HARDY MILES/SOUTHEND RADIO CARS** Ford Transit S552 TVW has been sold.

**LINKFAST, Thundersley** MCW Metrobus KYW 724/9X have been sold to Ensign (dealer), Purfleet.

**LODGE, High Easter** Mercedes Benz Tourismo BX04 NBY has been sold to St Margarets Travel, Stansted Abbots.

**NCS, Widdington** Vehicles sold over the past few months are Renault Trafic L819 RHJ, M815 AHJ, M28 AVW and LDV Convoy T996 JRE.

**NEW HORIZON, Frating** Dennis Dart/Plaxton M61/3 VJO have been acquired from Stagecoach Hampshire Bus.

**OLYMPUS/SM TRAVEL, Harlow** Mercedes Benz 709D/Dormobile G99 NBD has been withdrawn. Scania L94/Irizar S342 SET has suffered severe fire damage. Vehicles sold are Mercedes Benz 709D/ Dormobile G99 NBD, Iveco/Marshall L722 OVX and N139 GMJ and Iveco/Mellor M530 VWT.

**SBC, Shotgate** Scania L94/Van Hool R862 SDT has been re-registered K13 SBC.

**VICEROY, Saffron Walden** Bova FHD12-290 MUI 1393 (K297 GDT) and OUI 2298 (K298 GDT) have been sold.

*Ian Ransom with thanks to PSV Circle*

# EASTERN NATIONAL

*Enthusiast's Guild*

## HUNTINGDON DEPOT

The recent closure and rapid demolition of the Stagecoach depot in Stukeley Road, Huntingdon marks the end of an era, not only for that locality but for followers of Eastern National. It was the last former EN Midland Area building still in operational use, having been in United Counties' hands for 35 years from the transfer in 1952 until sale to Stagecoach in November 1987 (albeit that the actual legal entity remained the same even then). Forced to divest it in April 1997 by the competition authorities after they bought neighbouring Cambus and Viscount, Stagecoach sold the operation to Julian Peddle, who ran it as 'Premier Buses' for a year or so before selling to Blazefield who changed the name to 'Huntingdon & District'. More recently H&D was sold on to Cavalier of Long Sutton, but Stagecoach again acquired the depot as part of Cavalier's business (and has had to keep it

separate, t/a 'Stagecoach in the Fens') on 31st March 2008 and occupied it until 6th June 2009. The replacement facility is the former Whippet Coaches site on the A14.

The original garage building dated from 1921 and was taken over by National Omnibus & Transport Co in 1926 with the Progress Motor Co. Five vehicles were also acquired – two Berliets, a Guy, a Thornycroft and a Daimler. A brick extension and offices were built by ENOC in 1947/8 to the right of the original 'tin shed', which was in turn replaced by a brick extension in 1952 (planned by ENOC, but put in hand after UCOC took over). The land at the rear didn't form part of the depot at the time of transfer but was acquired by UCOC in 1967 for additional parking, a rear doorway being formed in the later part of the building at the same time. Luckily Bob Tarling, a Stagecoach



*Outside the original 'tin shed' is 1930 Leyland Lion LT2/Strachan B29R 3002 (TM6904) which became UCOC 163 in May 1952 and was sold in March 1953 to Norths (dealer), Sherburn in Elmet. EBEG*



*Parked in front of the later extension is FNO700 (3727), a 1937 Bristol L5G/ECW B31R which became UCOC 226 but was sold to Coopers Removals of Leicester in December 1953. EBEG*

driver, recorded the final days and indeed drove the last service bus back to the depot – we are grateful for the use of some of his photographs, an interesting comparison with some from the EBEG negative collection and one from 1996 courtesy of David Moth.

As at 1st May 1952 (transfer date), Huntingdon's allocation consisted of the following vehicles, two of which (536/7) were UCOC buses moved in from elsewhere:

- 1947 Bedford OB/Beadle B30F 113 (EN 3932: LPU622)
- 1930 Leyland Lion LT2/Strachan 161 (2998: TM6312) and 163 (3002: TM6904)
- 1936 Bristol JO5G/ECOC C31F 184 (3627: DEV463)
- 1937 Bristol JO5G/ECW B31R 192 (3675: ENO953) and 225/6 (3725/7: FNO798, 800)
- 1938 Bristol L5G/ECW B31R 257 (3773: GPU425)
- 1950 Bristol LL5G/ECW B35R 349 (4081: ONO995) and 385 (4089: RHK124)

1933 Leyland Titan TD2/1949 ECW L53R 536/7 (NV2278/80), withdrawn 1954/55.

1941 Bristol K5G/ECW L55R 692 (3840: JEV431), rebodied by ECW in early 1953

1948 Bristol K5G/ECW L55R 732 (3952: MPU13)

By December 1961, the only former ENOC vehicles allocated were K5Gs 693/5 (JEV432/4) – like 692 above, fitted in 1953 with new 8ft wide ECW bodies – and 736 (MPU23) which shared the depot with four LS5G saloons (100/1/2/7: MNV759/60/1/6), 'native' K5G 804 (ERP614) and Lodekka LD6Bs 512/45/6 and 987 (NBD911, SBD545/6, MNV104). LL5G 385 (RHK124) was photographed in 1966 again working from Huntingdon, however, although it was withdrawn from the fleet the following February (and sister ONO995 is preserved). 693/5 were withdrawn in 1962/3 and 736 in 1965.

By 1969, the all-Bristol allocation contained only examples new to United Counties



*MPU47, a Leyland PD1/ECW L55R new to ENOC as 3986 but seen at Mill Common, Huntingdon as United Counties 593. It was a Luton bus at the time the Midland Area of ENOC was transferred to UCOC in 1952 along with eleven others from the original batch of 18. After about 12 years service the UCOC examples all went to Cumberland for another 5-6 years use.*

EBEG



*Also at Mill Common was JEV431, a 1941 Bristol K5G/ECW L55R new to EN as 3840 but which became UCOC 692 (a Huntingdon bus at the time of transfer), was rebodied by ECW with an 8ft wide body in 1953 and was finally withdrawn in 1961. EBEG*



*Stagecoach United Counties VR 863 (RRP863R), seen outside the depot in 1996, was one of several UCOC vehicles loaned to Eastern National in 1986 (in this case for five months) and eventually lasted until 1998. D Moth*

(amongst them the first Bristol REs), but within a few years Bedford YRQ/YRTs and Leyland Nationals reintroduced marques which had been familiar in ENOC days. Bristol VRs were, however, much in evidence from the 1970s until the 1990s. 31st December 1968 also saw the retirement of Mr Jack Spicer, who had been Manager/Inspector in Charge since 1933!

*Chris Stewart, with thanks to Bob Tarling, Keith Shayshutt, David Moth, Richard Haughey, Alan Watkins and Roger Warwick's very informative Illustrated Histories of United Counties.*





*Evidence of the Tilling Group architectural style (which continued into BTC days), was once common in Eastern National territory and elsewhere, but is now fast disappearing. Tilling garages and bus stations shared a family likeness, yet each managed to look different. At Huntingdon, the curved frontage of the little office was a pleasing and distinctive detail. Bob Tarling's pictures show the structure in its declining days and just before demolition regrettably erased it from the local landscape.*



**EBN 542:** *Chris Stewart* confirms the FLF6LX which ended up in a field between Hutton Village and The Plough was **2884**. The front bulkhead was pushed back but was able to be repaired, and the bus gained a reflective front number plate (then, an unusual feature) in the process. 2884 had swerved to avoid the accident involving the car, and had narrowly missed a telegraph pole in the process.

**FLF 1648** stuck under a bridge: *John Collins* suggests, and *Richard Delahoy* concurs that this must be Hambro Hill bridge, Rayleigh. The driver had evidently forgotten to turn right from Hullbridge Road into Down Hall Road, and continued straight on ... with unfortunate results.

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Single-deckers were not immune to the occasional mishap and we have some examples this month courtesy, once again, of *Peter Carr*.

The first is a collision recorded in an unnamed local newspaper, involving two Bishops Stortford [BS] MW saloons. It occurred on 26th August 1960 (a Friday), when **474** (211 MHK) met **506** (1270 EV) head-on at Block's Corner, near White Notley. 474 had been new in 1958, but 506 was only four months old at the time.

BS always had a small allocation, so the Local Traffic Superintendent was probably not the happiest of bunnies when news reached him that two front-line buses were going to be off the road for repairs at the same time. However, Central Works took prangs like these in their stride, and given time, 474 and 506 would be back in service looking as good as new.

The MWs were working the 352, Braintree - Witham (the old Hicks Bros. 52), which at the time had the distinction of being the highest-numbered Eastern National route. The weekday 352 ran to a roughly two-hourly headway, interspersed with 'shorts' between



the Bus Park and Black Notley Hospital. The timetable shows that buses "crossed", normally without colliding, somewhere between the Notleys. Fares were 1/2d (6p) single all the way; 2/1d (10p) return.

The second mishap is not strictly an accident, but a fire, and did these become more prevalent when they shifted the engine from where it belongs - at the front, next to the driver - to the back and under the floor?

Anyway, a conflagration, cause unknown, occurred in the vicinity of the rear-axle of Maldon's Leyland-National **1723** (NEV 680M), whilst working the 96 to Burnham(!) in Spring 1974. The bus was evidently towed-in, as the centre section of the bumper which concealed the towing-eye has been removed. Note the extensive scorch marks up the side.

**1723**, then just a year old, displays early National details - the long "pod", circular 'L'(eyland) emblem (later replaced by the square NBC 'double-N' badge) and the first, plain white version of the NBC 'double-N'



on the cove panels. It is seen awaiting attention in the yard at Central Works, alongside an "ambulance" (EN slang for the cream-liveried FLF coaches) and what looks like an Engineering Department Transit.

The 96 combined with the 95, 97 and 98 to offer an hourly, clockface timetable on the Chelmsford to Maldon section (as does the present-day 31X), with infrequent extensions to Burnham (95/6) and Bradwell (97/8).

Also on the 96, but just over a year later, sister National 1722 (NEV 679M) received front-end damage in a collision. Peter Carr's picture, taken at Central Works in August 1975 shows it looking rather sorry for itself. The damage seems extensive, but here the Leyland-National's innovative design

doubtless proved its worth. Modular body panels were fixed, Meccano-fashion, to the frame using 'Avdelok' patent lockbolts. Panel repair was straightforward. Instead of alloy sheet, cut/bent to size/shape and pop-riveted in place, a new panel was just bolted-on. Importantly, the work could in theory, be done by less skilled, and therefore less expensive staff.

Standing next to 1722 is former coach (401) RE 1612 (AVX 962B) with WG (Wood Green) depot plates. No accident damage is visible, so it may have been in for repaint, heavy dock, annual CoF work, or possibly the fitment of bus seats, which is recorded as having been done in November 1975.

*David Harman*



## Southend connections in Canada



John Lidstone, who as members will know, edits *Fleet News* in *Buses*, recently went to Canada for the first time. With the kind assistance of *British Buses Abroad* editor

(and Group member) Paul Bateson, he was able to visit Double Deck Tours at Niagara, who operate a fleet of Routemasters, including some which served in Southend.

To mark having edited *Fleet News* for exactly 20 years this month, he took to the wheel of former Southend 104, now in the DDT fleet (see above). 104 has some significance as it was the only bus he had ever been photographed driving during his PSV career at Southend Transport.

A present, due to the economic downturn, DDT only operate one RM per day on the Niagara tourist service, although there are special charters, usually in the evenings. The operation is very professionally run, and all RMs are immaculately turned out.

Paul, former Southend Corporation Senior Traffic Clerk, has ensured that each bus has its blinds permanently set to the Southend or London route which matches its DDT fleet number. No. 17, the former ST104, originally RM797 (WLT 797) thus has scrolls set for Southend route 17. Inside, ST posters are still displayed, and the low bridge warning notice remains in the cab.



Paul Bateson's *British Buses Abroad* issue 1 is out now, and details are available from *British Buses Worldwide* at [bba@busesworldwide.org](mailto:bba@busesworldwide.org)

To subscribe to this quarterly write to **Richard Stedall** at [richard@busesworldwide.org](mailto:richard@busesworldwide.org) or to

**6 Domehays Terrace,  
Okehampton,  
Devon, EX20 1JN.**

### *Rear cover ~ open-top contrasts*

*Talisman* have former South Yorkshire Metrobus **EWF 453V** for the Colchester Tour, here awaiting custom outside the Castle. This was previously used by Lance Young (Over the Top Tours) on the Thanet tour, and has generic City Sightseeing South Coast vinyls, hence the slightly incongruous seagull, beach-ball etc. Colin Humphrey

An unorthodox vehicle for a stage service was used on 20th June by *Travel with Hunny* on their NWF route. Ex-London Metrobus **GYE 433W**, now half open top, leaves Harlow for Epping, fortunately in sunshine as it still has moquette seats in the exposed section.

Owen Woodliffe



Double Deck Tours 17,  
former RM797 (WLT  
797) with John Lidstone.



Former London RM583  
(WLT 583), seen in  
downtown Niagara, with  
advertising for Double  
Deck Tours. As it's  
Double Deck Tours 5, it  
has Southend blinds for  
route 5!



Double Deck Tours 4  
(RM2165, CUV 165C),  
on the pits in the  
servicing area with full  
Southend route 4 blinds  
all round. It has just been  
fitted with the Cummins  
engine and Allison 3-  
speed transmission (same  
as London RMs) taken  
from a schoolbus.

DDT's policy is to take  
out one AEC engine per  
year for a few years, and  
to store and overhaul  
those engines, so as to  
keep a number of  
Routemasters running  
indefinitely with AEC  
engines.

Double Deck Tours 7  
(RM2206, CUV 206C) in  
the storage garage, this  
showing 7 to Rayleigh  
Station.

all: John Lidstone



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