

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

MARCH 1987

ISSUE No. 276



Perhaps most group members favourite type of vehicle, Bristol Lodekka FLF6LX, 2886, is seen when new at ECW, September 1967.
(Peter Yeomans)

Future group meetings will be held at Rochford on 9th April and 14th May, and in Ilford on 28th April.

EDITOR: Ian Ransom, 16 Welland Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2JW
PUBLICATIONS: Bill Morrison, 17 Swan Lane, Wickford, Essex SS11 7DB
PHOTO ORDERS: Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, Essex SS7 4LH
MEMBERSHIP: Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Barkingside, Essex IG2 7NQ

EDITORIAL

My apologies to Southend Transport for the rather unbalanced picture created in last months magazine, which reported the problems they faced during the bad weather, but failed to mention Eastern National's difficulties, the main reason being that I received a lengthy report on ST and very little on EN other than that Southend Depot was closed completely at times.

CORRECTIONS TO ISSUE 275

The gremlins have been at work again to produce the following:-

- Page 3 General. Should read 359 and not 259. 3207/17 should read 3207-17.
- Page 4 Service 314 should read services 3 and 4. Cartes 246 operates Mons-Thurs.
- Page 5 Timetable leaflet for services 24 & 25 is dated 5.1.87.
- Page 7 London Country N.E. service number is 383 not 259.
- Page 11 Routes 9A and 25 commenced on 26.1.87 not the 25th. The 25 also runs during the day, not just evenings.
- Page 12 Simien's service commenced 26.1.87.

MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE GROUP

At the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 14th February 1987, the main committee of the group was elected as follows:-

Alan Osbourne (Chairman & Founder), Mark Bullock (Sales Assistant), Andrew Meadows (Sales Manager), Bill Morrison (Publications Officer), Bob Palmer (Membership Secretary & Treasurer), Ian Ransom (Magazine Editor), Peter Snell (Photographs Officer & Social Secretary), Derek Stebbing (member) and Martin Weyell (Tours Organiser).

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Also at the AGM it was agreed that as from the 1st May 1987, the group's name will become Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group (EBEG). From this date the scope of the group will extend to include all operators running services in Essex.

REPLACEMENT MAGAZINES

Would all members please note that Bob Palmer is the person to contact in this regard and also for notification of Change of Address and not any other committee member.

EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERING

The Company was sold during early March to Front Source Limited, although no details of any changes at the Chelmsford workshops are known at present.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITED

A celebration luncheon was held in Great Leighs on Wednesday March 11th, to mark the privatisation of the company. The guest of honour was Sir Terrence Beckett KBE, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry. The group was represented by Derek Stebbing and our thanks go to the Company for the invitation.

NEW VEHICLES

Mercedes minibus 0232 has entered service at BD; however it is still used for driver training work when required.

WITHDRAWN VEHICLES

1625(BGX 649Y) 1626(BGX 650Y) 1627(A651 CMY) These three were all taken out of service in early March.

AQUIRED VEHICLES

The two FX4 taxis were repainted into all over green livery with two narrow yellow vertical stripes by A1, Mundon during w/e 28.2.87.

ALLOCATIONS and TRANSFERS

2/87 3021 MN-PL(P), 3200 PL(P)-MN.
3/87 1625 CN-D/L(D), 1626 CN-D/L(D), 1627 CN-D/L(D), 1865 CF-BE, 1866 BE-BD,
1876 BD-CF.

VEHICLE REPAINTS

w/e 14.2.87 1301 at A1, Mundon (Highwayman livery).
w/e 21.2.87 1118 at HH (dual purpose livery), 1797 at CW, 1867 at CW (overall advert for Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre, Chelmsford).
w/e 28.2.87 1876 at CW.
w/e 7.3.87 1112 at CW (dual purpose livery), 3083 at CW (overall advert for Bolingbroke & Wenly, Chelmsford).

It is also reported that 1300, 1302 and 1600 have been repainted and details will be published when known.

GENERAL

Chelmsford depot took over operation of the Mon-Sat operation of Essex County Council routes 52/A/B and the Sunday route 41A/44C at short notice from 8th March. The reason why Webbs Coaches, who were originally awarded these contracts for 18 months, have ceased is not yet known. The services are operated to the same timetable and do not use Chelmsford Bus Station except for crew changing.

It is reported that LRT route is now worked from Ponders End - could a local member confirm this?

The Enfield allocation of Bedford midibuses will be relocated to Ponders End when building work there is finished. To clarify last months notes, Ponders End will carry out maintainance work on Walthamstow based buses, although Walthamstow will retain its own allocation.

The Post Office "Information Bus" toured Essex during February. The vehicle is a former London Transport DMS (KUC 988P) and it and its generator trailer have been parked overnight in Chelmsford depot for much of the month.

Leyland Nationals were a common sight on the 333 during February as both 1111 & 1126 were away from Bishops Stortford. It is also worth mentioning that the spare buses used at BS are coming from Braintree still, even though it is in a different operating area.

Hadleigh's 1118, 1928 and 3085 have been fitted with HH plates of the same size as the fleet number plate, the reason being that they are private hire vehicles.

1725 remains at Gatwick Engineering having accident damage repaired.

Springfield Road, Chelmsford was closed from lunchtime 24th February between Bond Street and the High Street due to a serious fire. Services were diverted via New Street and Victoria Road in both directions until 27th when incoming buses resumed normal routing. (One way working past the fire site). The road was finally reopened during the day on the 6th March.

No official date can be given for the closure of Southend depot, although it is known that it will now remain open into April.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

- Service 20 (LRT) 07:20 Mon-Fri departs 07:25 and runs 5 mins. later. Extra trip Mon-Fri Woodford Green to Debden (morning peak). All 26.1.87.
- Service 78/78A Additional early morning and evening journeys Mon-Sat commercially operated from 16.3.87.
- Service 79 Route amended in Colchester to serve Greenstead estate from 16.3.87, including journeys worked by Hedingham and District.
- Service 88/88A Additional journeys to be introduced from 16.3.87.
- Service 253 (LRT) Extended from Sewardstonebury to Chingford Station. Departs Chingford 08:20 and returns from King Harold School at 15:55 commencing 26.1.87.
- Service 330 07:10 from Braintree departs 07:05 and runs 5 mins. earlier. 07:45 departure is withdrawn. Both from 16.3.87.
- Service 337 Additional early morning journeys to be introduced from 16.3.87.
- Service 353 Minor route alteration for certain trips in Cressing. 16.3.87.
- Service 359 (LRT) NEW SERVICE Hammond Street, Smiths Lane to Waltham Cross.. Sundays only from 25.1.87.
- Service 370 Additional journeys Mon-Fri from Braintree at 05:30 to Stanstead Airport; 07:25 to Bishops Stortford via the Airport; and 15:15 to Bishops Stortford not via Felstead or Little Dunmow. 06:30 Stanstead Airport to Braintree; 08:40 Bishops Stortford to Braintree. The 07:07 Dunmow to Braintree is withdrawn. 16.3.87.
- Service 406 Additional stop at Prince Ave/Southbourne Grove from 23.2.87.
- Service 551 Mon-Fri only the 07:19 from Brentwood departs at 07:14 and runs 5 mins. earlier and the 07:53 from Billericay leaves at 07:43 and runs 10 mins. earlier. Commencing 26.1.87.
- Service X15 Two extra stops introduced from 26.1.87 are Canvey High Street/Normans Road and Chalvedon, Pitsea Road/Beambridge.
- Service X70 All journeys extended to Bishops Stortford and all stops to be observed and a new timetable introduced from 16.3.87.
- Service 812 Service withdrawn from 23.2.87.
- Service 834 Additional journeys. 07:55 Turnpike Lane to Clacton returning at 17:45 Sats & Suns only. 10:50 from Turnpike Lane in advanced to 10:46. Commencing 7.3.87.
- Service A1 Revised evening service with certain trips operating via High Street and not Western Road from 9.2.87.
- Service B No longer serves Hall Green Lane, Hutton. Additional hourly off peak service between Brentwood and Shenfield Stations introduced 1.1.2.86.

In addition to the above Essex County Council contracts have been taken over from Venturer Travel on the 21 (26.1.87), and from Webbs Coaches on the 41A/44C and the 52/A/B (8th & 9th March 1987 respectively).

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

- 5/2 BS 1120 on X51.
- 6/2 SD 4000 on X51. SD 4002 on 4.
- 8/2 Rail replacement Chelmsford-Colchester North worked by 17 buses.
- 9/2 SD 4020 on 11A.
- 10/2 BE 1745 on 301.
- 12/2 SD 3090 on 406.
- 13/2 BS 1502 on 309.
- 16/2 PL(P) 1050 on 351. ED 1057 on 551.
- 19/2 SD 3108 on 4. ED 1051 on 351/2 (replacing failed CF 1860).
- 21/2 BS 1502 on 333.
- 22/2 SD 3064 on X51.
- 23/2 BE 1718 on 309.
- 24/2 BE 1658 on 309. SD 3084 on 4.
- 25/2 Lincoln City 379 (ex LCBS RS 139) noted on private hire in Colchester.

27/2 CR 3203 on 109.

3/3 CN 0203 noted on driver training duties in Chelmsford. WW 1858 on 145A.

11/3 CN 0216 used to bring guests to celebration luncheon in Great Leighs.

Loans noted are 0753 at South Woodham with 0756 at Chelmsford between 4th & 12th March, and CF 1842, CF 1905 and CF 1121 at Dunmow.

DISPOSALS

Initial Disposals

701 (LWN 701L) Sold to Kirby Bros., Rochford for scrap. 2/87.

727 (NWN 727M) Sold to Kirby Bros., Rochford for scrap. 12/86.

Subsequent Disposals

1400 (PWC 344K) Withdrawn by Carters, East Bergholt after being vandalised in Colchester. 1/87.

1512 (FVX 614H) Reported as withdrawn by Associated Coachways, Harlow. c2/87.

1794 (PEV 706R) Allocated to Sailsbury depot by Wilts and Dorset. (Additional information to NS273).

2730 (177 XNO) Now claimed not to have been aquired by Blackes Mill, Portadown, (NS266).

2736 (183 XNO) Noted outside Omnibus Promotions, London, 10/86, with rear of lower deck altered to a ramp, and living accomodation on top deck. Last reported as a mobile caravan by 10/81. (NS222).

2834 (LWC 660C) Loaned to Magic Bus, Glasgow 10/86 - 11/86 by Stagecoach, Perth.

2932 (184 XNO) Re-registered ACA 507A by Walker, Anderton, by 6/86. (NS275)

9430 (LWC 981J) Jordan (dealer), Coltishall, by 1/87, ex-Eastern Counties RE 846.

PUBLICITY NEWS (All operators)

Essex County Council. Timetable revision leaflets for Basildon, Chelmsford, Clacton/Harwich and Colchester area timetables dated 26.1.87.

Colchester Borough Council. Timetable leaflet for services 5/A/B dated 24.2.87.

Duplicated letter giving details of revised morning journeys on 4/4A. 23.2.87.

Southend Transport. Timetable leaflets for services X1 inc. X10 & X11; X21; X31 inc. X30; and X40 all dated 26.1.87.

Chelmsford Borough Council. Leaflet showing OAP's free days 1987/88.

Coastal Red. Harwich area timetable. (Undated, but with effect from 26.1.87).

Eastern National. South Woodham Ferrier minibuses dated 9.2.87.

Grey Green/Eastern National. Commuter services 204/205 dated 6.10.86.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

VEHICLES

Bristol RE25 was extensively damaged in an accident on 27.2.87. RE 22 returned to service by 6.2.87. Lynx 32 was out of service in late February having damage repaired & Atlantean 82 was awaiting similar attention. Also accident damaged was Olympian 41 on 23.2.87. Atlantean 51 was receiving mechanical attention during February and 87 was awaiting a replacement engine. Other buses off the road are reported to be 52, 58, 60 & 69. The batch of vehicles 55-60 are being fitted with Autosteer power steering; 58 is currently being attended to and 56 & 59 remain to be equipped.

SERVICES

CBT is to operate a joint service with Ipswich Buses between Colchester and Ipswich, Tower Ramparts, via Manningtree on Saturdays only commencing 4.4.87. There will be an hourly headway (with a 2 hour gap at 13:00) from 09:00 to 18:00 and will be numbered 25. Colchester will use an Olympian.

Service 5A was extended from Five Ways to the new Sainsbury's store at Tollgate from 24.2.87. All 5A journeys from 08:00 to 18:00 on Mon-Sat are involved. Buses

continue to show "Stanway-Five Ways" but carry a board saying 'To and from Tollgate, Sainsbury's'. As mentioned elsewhere a new timetable leaflet has been issued.

The Tesco's contract service T1 between St. John's Street, Colchester and Highwoods was discontinued after 20.2.87. The usual allocation was one Atlantean, usually 87, 88, 89 or 90. 88 was used on the last day.

From 23.2.87 changes were made to the morning peak hour services and running times on services 4 and 4A.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

- 6/2 RE23 on 4/4A.
- 9/2 Atlantean 53 on 9A, with 62 on 3/31.
- 26/2 Atlantean 53 on 74A.
- 2/3 RE26 on 4/4A.
- 3/3 Leopard 102 on 2/2A/2B replacing failed Atlantean 80.
- 5/3 Atlantean 89 on 16:05 journey on service 83.

SOUTHEAST TRANSPORT LIMITED

VEHICLES

Withdrawn

- 323 Returned to Burnley & Pendle 3/87.
- 327 Returned to Fylde 3/87.

Acquired

- 304 (ex Northampton 7) entered service on 12/2, in full STL livery. 303 remains in service as well at present.

Modifications

- 309 has been repainted into fleet livery, ex Case Olden overall advert.

On Hire

Full details of RM 1571 are 571 CLT, AEC Routemaster, Park Royal H36/28R, it entered service at 14:00 on the 3A on the day it arrived, 7.2.87. It is fitted with a full set of STL blinds at the front and carries STL legal lettering; otherwise it is in "as withdrawn" condition. It has been used on routes 1, 3A, 7, 23, 23A & 25 although generally only at times of severe vehicle shortage, and was not used at all in the school half-term week commencing 23.2.87. It is on loan from a preservationist in East London, and was briefly owned by Stagecoach of Perth after sale by London Buses Limited.

Full details of buses and coaches hired from Harris and Ensign to cover for bad weather are believed to be as follows:- (See last month's magazine)
NEV 772W, 27-30.1.87; UHK 201W, 2-11.2.87; UHK, 202W 26.1.87-2.2.87 and 5-12.2.87; WHK 81W, 2-13.2.87; CGP 311X, 26.1.87-5.2.87; and 2936 FH, 27.1.87-5.2.87. All were used on London X services and in addition CGP 311X operated on local services on 26th January only. Ensign vehicles now:-

The Brakell DMS (THM 684M), 26.1.87-6.2.87; however since this hire more DMS's have been hired during the weeks commencing 9.2 and 16.2;

MLH 476L Culture Bus livery, 10-20.2.87.

MLK 620L }
GHV 43N } 10-19.2.87.

MLK 589L Hitachi overall advert (black), 11-14.2.87.

Generally these were used crew operated on the 1 and 3A.

CARDIFF OLYMPIANS. 365 has now been repainted and 364 is likely to have been by the time this appears. Cardiff 556 was not included on the 6 loaned to STL as it is in overall advert livery. Contrary to reports in the trade press, these buses are on long term loan and have not been purchased.

On Loan

254 to Venturer Travel for private hire work; 7/2, 28/2 and 2/3.
 237 to Venturer Travel for use on service 6; 22/2.
 365 to Eastern National; 26/2.
 203 to Venturer Travel for use on service 6 due to 4453 having an engine change; 1/3.
 303 & 353 to East Midland, Dordingham; 3/3.

GENERAL

CULTUREBUS. The most outstanding news of the month (year?) is that STL have purchased the Culturebus London tourist circular route from Ensign Bus Services Limited of Purfleet. The route licence and trade name only have been bought, no vehicles. STL will take over the service on April 1st and will generally use Astronogas and Olympians on layover from X services. It is not yet known if the Ensign timetable and route number (614) will be used.
FARES. From 1.3.87 local service fares were slightly modified - 18p increased to 20p, 34p to 35p and 43p to 45p. As a result of this all full fares are multiples of 5p. At the same time the City Rover was increased to £4.60. This ticket gives unlimited travel on all STL services (except Kensington - Heathrow and Dartford - Brighton); the Day Rover, available on services in S.E. Essex (including X19), remains at £2.60.

SERVICES

10B Most journeys no longer serve Rochford Station from 26.1.87.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

5/2 254 on 4A.
 16/2 304 on 18.
 22/2 254 on 23A.
 25/2 364 noted in Colchester.

SOUTHEAST SUPPLEMENT

TV TAXIS. This operator, previously a partnership between Messrs Neville & Fisk, is now registered as a limited company, TV Taxis and Transport Services Ltd, Unit 4, 149 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff. The service to the east of Southend started on 16/2 between Southchurch Road/Chichester Road and Newington Ave, Whittingham Ave. via the existing EN/STL route 64. Operation is advertised as hourly, 07:30-19:30 M-S; however an un-registered Sunday service was noted on 1/3. There are two authorised route alterations - the hospital route to run via Fairfax Drive and Springfield Gardens instead of the eastern end of Prittlewell Chase, and the route following the 24 bus to operate via the roads it already uses through Westcliff to Chalkwell, as opposed to the Genesta Rd/Kings Rd route which was initially registered but never operated! Hours of operation of the 3 existing routes are also officially altered to end 21:00 Su-F and 02:03 sats, but it is not known if their actual operation reflects those times.

UMBH. Essex CC Sunday contract routes to Paglesham/Wallasea continues to suffer confusion. We have earlier recorded that UMBH initially ran full size coaches, but from 23.11.86 subcontracted the services (evidently without permission) to Southend Radio Cars, who use 8 seat Toyota C623 HJN. SRC continued to work into 1987 but on 8/2 used a full size coach, UVW 89L (Reliance/Plaxton C53F, ex-Osbourne of Tollesbury), apparently owned by SRC but running on UMBH's operators licence as SRC only have a restricted one themselves. The following Sunday, 15/2, UMBH's own DAF/Plaxton XPP 422S was used and on 22/2 ex-UMBH Ford coach OMJ 792M operated - it is thought that SRC own this also. On the next Sunday, 1/3, there did not appear to be any service from any operator!

OTHER OPERATORSVEHICLES

CARTERS COACHES have been using ex-Nottingham AEC Renown DAU 364C, previously with Theobald's Coaches, Long Melford. DFG 246 was used on the 09:20 Cattawade

to Colchester on 5.3.87 and JFM 238D operated the 16:40 service 247 on 27.2.87. COASTAL RED was using Optare City Pacer demonstrator C525 EWR on 11.2.87.

SERVICES

BRENTWOOD COACHES. NEW SERVICE numbered B1 from Blackmore to London Victoria, Monday to Friday commuter service. Commencing date unknown.

HARRIS BUS COMPANY LIMITED. Service 375; additional services and revised timetable from 2.2.87.

LONDON COUNTRY NORTH EAST. Service T1; the 17:08 ex-Harlow Mill starts from Potter Street from 26.1.87. Service T3; the 07:36 ex-Harlow Town is extended to Potter Street from 26.1.87.

NATIONAL EXPRESS. Service 355; extended from Colchester to Harwich from 11.3.87.

WIFFENS COACHES LIMITED. NEW SERVICE numbered 'Commuter 1' from Shalford to London, Millbank via Wethersfield, Great Bardfield, Thaxted and Gt. Dunmow. 06:15 from Shalford returning at 17:10 Mon-Fri only commencing 30.1.87.

Although nothing official has appeared, it is believed that LEE-ROY COACHES have taken over operation of ENSIGN's 603 from 2.3.87.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The following publication is now available from Andy Meadows, 52, Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, SS6 9NW:-

BUS ENTHUSIAST REVEIW of 1986 by Stewart Brown, priced £2.95 post free. CHEQUES should be made payable to EBEC not ENEG. Thank You.

The group sales stand will be at the following events with a full range of books and photographs:-

5th April LPTL Barking RT Rally (rear of Barking Town Hall).

12th April LBPG Chobham Open Day (free bus service available at Weybridge Stn.).

LONDON TO BRIGHTON ROAD RUN. This year's Historic Commercial Vehicle Rally will take place on Sunday May 3rd, and three local buses will take part, AJN 825 an ex Westcliff Bristol K; CJN 435C an ex Southend Transport Leyland PD3; and UHJ 842 an ex Southend Hospital Bedford/Duple. In connection with this event, Venturer Travel will operate an excursion using Southend Transport's WRO 435S which carries the same fleet number, 335, as the PD3. During the day passengers will have the opportunity to ride on the other 335. Starting point for the tour will be Southend Central Bus Station picking up at any X1 stop to Benfleet, but timings are not yet finalised. The fare is £4.00, Childeren and OAP's £2.75, and bookings can be sent to Frank Spence, 184 Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Southend, SS1 3ND. CHEQUES should be made payable to 'Venturer Travel' for this event.

NEWS SHEET CONTRIBUTIONS

Items for the next magazine to editor by 3rd April.

A.Osbourne(C&F);B.Palmer(M105);R.Delahoy(M180);D.Stebbing(M183);P.Harvey(M219); R.Clark(M268);J.Wilby(M298);D.Arnold(M379);J.Collins(M405);I.Groves(M440);G.Toon (M452);T.Wiffens(M467);C.Sigston(M523);R.Dennis(M535);F.Spence(M545);D.Coulson (M568);S.Barnes(M576);J.Simpkin(M623);G.Huggins(AM1); and the PSV Circle.