

Due to the current postal dispute it is likely that the September issue of Essex Bus News will not appear but will instead be amalgamated with the October issue. Accordingly this free 4 page issue has been produced for distribution at meetings. We apologise for the inconvenience due to our inability to bring all members up to the minute news this month.

EVENTS

Sunday October 9 - open day at the Castle Point Transport Museum and vehicle display at Labworth car park; EBEG stand in attendance.

Tuesday October 11 - regular monthly meeting at Freight House, Rochford.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITED

NEW VEHICLES:

1410-1417 F410-417 MNO Leyland Lynx, B49F: allocations are to BN (1410-2), CF (1413-5), MN (1416) & HH (1417).

At least three new Mercedes long wheelbase minibuses have been delivered - bodywork not yet known. It is believed that a large number of minibuses are on order, for LRT route W9 (replacing the YMQS's) and for the new LRT Walthamstow minibus routes W11/5/6 for which we understand EN have been awarded the contract.

WITHDRAWN: 1707, after accident damage.

ALLOCATIONS: with over 50 reallocations in the past few weeks, we do not have room here for details. The next full issue will include a complete EN allocation list.

DEPOTS: the new Clacton premises at Gorse Lane (ex Coastal Red) were brought into use over the weekend of September 3/4.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

NEW VEHICLES:

45/6 F245/6 MTW Leyland Olympian Leyland Workington DPH43/29F

We believe that the Maidstone & District and Reading double deck coaches may still be on hire despite the delivery of 45/6.

OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

Dealers: Spence (Thorpe Bay) activity last month saw the acquisition of the shell of BCS 959C (Fleetline/Alexander) from Southend Transport who had acquired it in 7/87 for its engine, which was then sold, along with ex Barrow PD2 EO 9172; to PVS (dealer) Barnsley for scrap. Acquired from S&M Coaches was 905.GVX (Fleetline/PRV, orig RFN 963G), this bus being sold on to Avro Coaches of Stanford Le Hope. Former M&E Coaches Bedford SNM 73R has been hired to S&M Coaches. Finally, to correct the last issue, 10 ATO (PD2 ex Nottingham) was NOT owned by Spence - it passed direct from being a Southend playbus to Hawkes, then of Corringham but now of Pode Hole, Lincs.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to September 3.

Vehicles

ACQUIRED:

106	.WLT	949	AEC	Routemaster	PRV	H36/28R	Delivered	18/8
107	WLT	993	"	"	"	"	"	19/8
109	183	CLT	"	"	"	"	"	8/8
110	ALM	34B	"	"	"	"	"	18/8
111	ALM	101B	"	"	"	"	"	8/8
112	CUV	124C	"	"	"	"	"	19/8

They are ex London Buses RM 949/93/1183/2034/101/124 respectively. The remaining 6 Routemasters (101-5/7) are due shortly and are expected to be OYM 413A (ex VLT 12), VLT 172, WLT 577, WLT 797, WLT 937 and 61 CLT respectively. The identity of the thirteenth RM, to be acquired for spares, is not yet known.

The first to enter service was 111 on 2/9 on the 29. In addition, 112 was in use from 22/8 on (in LT red) for driver familiarisation. Before entering service, the buses are being fitted with fluorescent lights and improved heaters, in a similar programme to that being tried experimentally by London Buses. The livery comprises blue lower panels, white around the lower deck windows, between the decks and around the upper deck windows, with blue on the roof; in addition there is a thin red band just below the upper deck windows, and a blue band above the lower deck windows (in the conventional LT relief band position). All 12 will be named in due course. A new style of fleetname has been introduced, in large white letters: Southend

Transport This is carried below the lower deck windows, and also as a single line display on the front and rear domes; the Southend crest is not used, except on the radiator grille in place of the AEC badge. Reflective registration number plates are fitted, whilst internally the vehicles have white ceilings and carry, in the lower saloon, a 'Welcome aboard this Southend Transport Routemaster Bus' poster. Farecharts are displayed in the traditional LT position. The last three RM's, 110-2 have offside illuminated advert panels and these will remain in use as such with Southend, carrying advertising for the Prudential (which matches nicely with the livery).

334 CJN 434C Leyland PD3/6 Massey H38/32R 1965

This latter acquisition sees the welcome return to the fleet of one of Southend's highbridge PD3's. It has been acquired on a 5 year loan from its preservationist owner Bob Salmon and will be used as a driver trainer. It was re-delivered to Southend on August 22 (basically in the condition it was in when withdrawn in 1980). This bus had earlier been recorded as being sold to a breaker (Meynell) but in fact it had been kept at a secret location on Canvey Island.

MODIFIED:

A couple of corrections to previous issues are required:

In issue 269/9 we reported 206/7 [then 386/7] as H49/29D after their modification for driver training use; it transpires (after checking with a tape measure!) that they are in fact 30 seaters downstairs. We have recorded the 3 most recently acquired DMS's 301-3 [305/11/2] as H45/28D - in fact they remain 44 seaters upstairs, unlike ST's other DMS's, which were all reseated to 45 on top.

WITHDRAWN:-

302 [311] MLH 476L Withdrawn 11/8
303 [312] MLK 620L Withdrawn 11/8
308 [313] GHV 106N Withdrawn 31/8
309 [317] SMU 926N Withdrawn 31/8*
522 [344] XWX 161S Withdrawn 8/8* (it never carried its new no.)

Note: * 309 had not been used since 25/7 and 522 had not since 20/7.
In addition 301/5 [305/16] are out of service: from 5/9 the DMS's are expected to be restricted mainly to peak hour workings, and all should be withdrawn by 30/9: coaches 512/3 [254/5 - Berkhof rebodies] are up for sale. LATE NEWS: 305 reinstated by 10/9.

INITIAL DISPOSALS:

302 [311] MLH 476L To Ensign Bus Sales, 8/88
303 [312] MLK 620L To Ensign Bus Sales, 8/88
308 [313] GHV 106N To Ensign Bus Sales, 8/88
309 [317] SMU 926N To Ensign Bus Sales, 8/88
- [331] XWX 166S To Millmans, Warrington (date not known)
- [347] XWX 184S Re 288/8, the sale to Featherstone Coaches (date unknown) is confirmed.

We still require disposals for a number of ex ST coaches, viz:
Initial disposals for 332 (XWX 189S) - thought to have gone to Millmans of Warrington - confirmation required: 334 (WRO 433S) & 337 (CTM407T): in addition, the following have only been recorded to dealers - where are they now?: 345 (CWW 191T), 346 (XWX 186S), 352 (DAX 452V), 353 (CPT 822S) and 357 (YDW 317T) - reports please!

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

- [366] (WJN 366J) Reported as withdrawn by Aspdens, Blackburn.
- [322] (CMJ 450T) Reported transferred from the Armstrong Galley fleet (unused) to Newcastle City Buses and renumbered 1872, retaining its coach seats.

Services

An additional ECC contract change is that 10C (Stambridge - Golden X, schooldays only) is not being renewed (the Education Dept will provide a replacement); last day of operation was therefore 22/7.

With reference to 292/6 the licence for 674 (Baker Street - London Zoo) has now been surrendered upon the grant of the licence to Ensign Bus.

Major service revisions are due to be implemented on October 2nd: full details will be given next month, but the major elements will include:
1/1A/3A recast timetable - 1A withdrawn but combined headway on the London Road of every 10 minutes - both RM operation M-S daytime;
7/8 recast timetable - basic headway every 20 minutes Rayleigh to Shoebury (East Beach all day long), with additional 20 minute service Ashington - Woodgrange Dr (thence to Bournes Green via the White Horse, numbered 7B), to give a 10 min. headway on the central section of the route. All 8's will go to Shoebury. As a result of these changes, a commercial service will be registered on 7C (Ashington - Rochford Stn. M-F am peaks) in 'competition' with the ECC contract route which is due to pass from ST to District Bus at the end of October:
23/A/B recast timetable to give a more even headway;
X1 group - revised timetable, improving peak headways and speeding up X10 journeys. 2 journeys extended to Heathrow via Victoria Coach Stn.

General

In preparation for the introduction of the Routemasters service 29 was reconverted to crew operation (M-S daytime) from 22/8, mainly using DMS's: it had been converted to double deck OMO in October '71 as part SCT's first phase of major OMO conversions.

The new livery introduced on the RM's is expected to be applied to all of the bus fleet in due course, along with the new style of fleetname. It should be noted that the blue used on the RM's and on the open top-pers (and the City Pacers) is a slightly different shade to that previously used by ST.

Other livery details to note are: all the City Pacers have received rear painted adverts for ST's 'Autorama' car repair service; X service adverts on coach boots have been painted out, in anticipation of a new publicity campaign later in the year; and all Culturebus lettering has now been removed from the Astromegas.

New destination and passing point blinds are being introduced, the latter using lower case lettering. The new blinds were first used on the RM's but will be extended to the entire fleet; we hope to publish a listing of some of the new displays in next month's magazine.

Good progress was made during August with the conversion to Wayfarer ticket machines - by the end of the month, all buses in classes 2xx & 4xx were fitted. The 3xx class (DMS) have not been fitted, because of their imminent withdrawal; open tops 901-3 are not yet fitted either. Progress in fitting the coach fleet with Wayfarers has been more protracted, with only about 25% done by the end of August.

Diversions have affected commercial & /or contracted services recently as a consequence of carnival processions in Benfleet, Canvey, Rochford and Southend (2 separate days). Open topper 903 was used by Southend Borough Council on Aug. 20 for the official switch on near the Pier of the Southend illuminations on the occasion of the torchlight carnival.

ST has continued to attract press coverage, including the delivery of the first Routemaster and the forthcoming introduction of new uniforms (which will allow the women crews to wear skirts on duty for the first time).

Finally, Southend Transport will have a large number of surplus items for sale shortly, including uniforms, destination blinds, Culturebus stop signs, magazines, etc. A sales list can be obtained by sending a large SAE to Southend Transport at 87 London Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 1PP.

Publicity news

A new X1 timetable was published recently (issue 30, valid to 1/10/88), in the standard style but with the new style of fleetname on the cover.

An example of the new ST Wayfarer tickets appears below:

