

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

FEBRUARY 1987

ISSUE No. 275



Eastern National 3214, formerly with Milton Keynes Citybus, is seen freshly repainted at Central Works. (D.Arnold.)

ROCHFORD MEETING

The next meeting at the Freight House, Bradely Way, Rochford will be on Tuesday 3rd March at 19:30 for 20:00. There will be a slide show and talk on the Southend Pier Railway, and a further talk on the activities of the Southend Pier Society. Please give all your support to our guest speakers.

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EDITORIAL

First of all I would like to thank all those of you who have written praising the new style of news sheet; it makes all the work seem worthwhile! If you have any comments or ideas about what you would like to see, please let me know - remember it's your magazine.

As you are by now aware the delivery date of the news sheet is now a few days later than previously due to the revised production methods. Whilst we were at fault for not making this clear we would ask all members who correspond with myself, Bob Palmer or any other member of the Committee to do so by post with an SAE if a reply is required. Under no circumstances should Paul Harvey be telephoned whilst he is at work.

CORRECTIONS TO ISSUE 274

- Page 6- 3216 is FRP 907T and has been upseated to H43/31F.
Allocations of 1625-1627 should read PL(P) not LWA, and in addition 1705 CN-CR and 3025 CR-CN should be included.
- Page 7- Repaint w/e 20.12.86 should read 3117 at BN, and 3213 at CN.
The full allocation at Ponders End excluded "home grown" VRs 3053/6 3062/6/71/2/4/6/80/1, 3095 is of course UAR 585W not as stated.
- Page 9- BD 1846 not BD 1864 on Service 36, 13/1.
The Webb's Leyland National is KBU 892P.

My apologies for the above and full marks to anyone who spotted all of them!

WESTCLIFF ON SEA MOTOR SERVICES

Following privatisation on 23.12.86 the new company was initially known officially as 'Westcliff on Sea Motor Services' due to difficulties in registering 'Eastern National Limited' at Companies House; however these have now been overcome and the new title became effective from 10th February. The "On Hire" labels will continue to be used until a new Operators Licence has been issued by the Traffic Commissioners.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDNEW VEHICLES

Mercedes minibus 0232 (D232 PPU) is still in use as a driver training bus based at the driving school in New Writtle Street.

AQUIRED VEHICLES

Two Austin FX4 taxis (the type used in London) have been acquired for use as staff transfer vehicles at Walthamstow and Ponders End. Registered TLK 415M & RHU 44S it should be noted that these do not form part of the PSV fleet.

ALLOCATIONS AND TRANSFERS

- 2/87 0601 PL(P) - DT, 1625 PL(P) - CN, 1626 PL(P) - CN, 1627 PL(P) - CN, 1865 BE - CF, 1866 CR - BE, 1888 CF - CR, 3020 PL(P) - DT, 3022 CR - CN, 3023 PL(P) - SD, 3113 WW - PD, 3201 PL(P) - CN, 3207 PL(P) - PD, 3208-17 inclusive, all PL(P) - PD.

Despite being PL(P) officially, 1308 remains in use from Harwich (DT) Depot and 3204 has been in use at Walthamstow. It is now possible to confirm that 3004 has been withdrawn from the PSV fleet and should now be regarded as part of the service fleet; however, 3001 is still licenced as a PSV although used as a driver trainer.

VEHICLE REPAIRS

The Company have kindly supplied the following details:-

w/e 3.1.87 - 3025 at CN (additional to NS274)
 w/e 10.1.87 - 1762 at CW (additional to NS274)
 w/e 17.1.87 - 1717 at BN
 w/e 24.1.87 - 1881 at CW, 3212 at CW
 w/e 31.1.87 - 1859 at CW
 w/e 7.2.87 - 3103 at HH

All the above vehicles are in the new livery and it should be noted that 1859 was formerly a Unibus advert for Lancaster Garages and 1881 was previously an all-over advert for IML Garages. In addition 3212 received the London vinyls.

MODIFIED VEHICLE

2201 (KCG 618L) has received bus seats in the front half to become B44F. The seats are covered in the same red moquette as the coach seats in the rear part. In addition a drivers' cab door and Wayfarer ticket machine have been fitted. The seats are removable to allow the bus to be used to carry wheelchair passengers via the central entrance ramp. 2201 is in use from Chelmsford Depot and is regarded as a normal Leyland National for allocation purposes and has consequently seen service on most routes operated from there since 21.1.87.

GENERAL

The new depot at Wharf Road, Ponders End opened on Sunday 25th January, but until building work is completed only the 259 is being operated from there, the 307 remains worked from Brentwood Depot. As a guide 3075, 3113 and 3207/17 operate from PD on the 359 with the remainder of the allocation at BD for the 307. It is reported that at least 6 vehicles are to be fitted with assault alarms and driver protection screens for the 359 service.

Clacton based Leyland Tiger 1117 suffered front end damage when it left the road in Wivenhoe whilst operating on service 74 on Sunday 11.1.87.

Hadleigh based Nationals 1725 & 1727 were involved in an accident at the depot and both have been sent to Gatwick Engineering Limited, Crawley, for repairs. 1727 has since returned.

Continued on page 7...

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Due to the fact that deregulation makes it far easier for operators to introduce, amend and cancel services, it may now be that changes occur before actually appearing in official notices from the Traffic Commissioners, and in an effort to avoid much confusion, only changes officially confirmed by the Company will be included in this section from now on. (Similarly, only definite alterations to independent's services will be included.)

EASTERN NATIONAL

Service 31 Additional journeys from Maldon 18:20, and from Chelmsford at 19:05.

Service 33 0645 Chelmsford departure is retarded by 10 minutes throughout.

Service 36 0729 from South Woodham starts from Broughton Road at 07:26 and operates via Creekview Road and Town Centre. The 16:10 from Chelmsford operates to a similar route in South Woodham.

Services 37/38 South Woodham minibus routes to be re-routed with revised timetables

Service 44D NEW SERVICE. Schooldays only. 08:48 Skerry Rise to Chelmsford via Melbourne Junior School, and 15:12 Melbourne Junior School to Skerry Rise.

Services 87/87A Timetable amended with one extra journey.

Services 103/104 Timetable altered with additional journeys.

- Service 106 Service withdrawn.
 Service 115 Limited winter timetable to operate Tuesdays and Thursdays using full size buses.
 Services 118/119 Revised timetable with extra journeys between Colchester and Clacton, most of which have been re-routed via Thorpe-le-Soken.
 Service 120 Additional services schooldays only.
 Service 122 Revised timetable.
 Service 314 NEW SERVICE. Clacton Bus Station to Clacton Bus Station via Bockings Elm and Great Clacton. Using full size buses.
 Service 402 Additional services 07:17 Mon-Fri, 08:17 Mon-Sat Stanford-le-Hope to Baaildon. Between Corringham and Stanford, Rookery Corner, all services observe all stops.
 Service 795 Operates Mondays to Fridays not Monday and Friday. (STL on Sats.)
 Service X23 Revised timetable.
 Service X26 Revised timetable with the 14:15 from Clacton running 15 mins earlier.

ALL the above changes took place from 1st February except services 33, 44D and 795 from 26th January and 37/38 from 9th February.

ASSOCIATED COACHWAYS (HARLOW)

- Service T5 Anevening service between Foldcroft and Potter Street, 19:00 until 00:00 Mons-Sats. An hourly service under contract to Essex County Council (ECC) from 5th December 1986.

CARTERS COACHES

- Service 246 NEW SERVICE. 09:20 Cattawade to Colchester returning at 12:25 commencing 26th January.
 Service 247 Withdrawn on Tuesdays. Friday service amended with 12:25 from Colchester extended to Cattawade. 15:11 from Flatford starts from Cattawade at 13:10 and re-numbered 246. Additional service at 14:35 to Dedham. 16:30 from Colchester retimed to depart at 16:40, from 26th January service 247 also now runs non-stop between Cooks Garage and Stratford St. Mary Church.

CHARTERCOACH (Coastal Red)

- Services 10/10A Additional services Mondays to Saturdays.
 Service 20 NEW SERVICE. Harwich Rail Station to Great Oakley Garage via Dovercourt and Little Oakley on Mons-Sats. 3 trips Harwich to Gt. Oakley, 3 trips Harwich to the Transit Camp and return and 1 trip Gt. Oakley to Harwich.
 Service 30 Service withdrawn.
 Service 40 NEW SERVICE. Clacton to Harwich on Mons-Sats.
 Services 50A/50B NEW SERVICE. Clacton to Clacton via Bocking Elms on Mons-Sats. (Sound familiar?)
 Service 60 NEW SERVICE. Clacton (Thorpe Road) to Clacton (Station Road) via Great Clacton. Mons-Sats.
 Service 126 Certain journeys withdrawn and replaced by service 40
 ALL these changes apply from 26th January 1987.

LONDON BUSES LIMITED

- Service X99 Withdrawn from 7th February 1987.

LONDON COUNTRY (NORTH EAST)

- Service 503 Change of route in Harlow.
 Service 555 NEW SERVICE. Harlow Bus Station to Harlow Town Rail Station on Mons-Sats every 15 mins.
 Service 724 NEW SERVICE. Pitsea Broadway to London Victoria via Basildon & Stanford-le-Hope on Mons-Fris departing Pitsea at 06:43 and returning at 16:51.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

Service 783 Extended from Ipswich to Felixstow from 26th January.

NELSONS (NIBS)

Services 1 and 5 withdrawn from 21st December 1986.

V.R.NEVILLE and A.E.FISK

MAXI TAXI, NEW SERVICE. Southend (Southchurch Road) to Southend (Newington Avenue). This is an hail and ride service commencing 16th Feb on Mons-Sats running hourly between 07:30 and 21:00 or 02:30 on Saturday night/ Sunday mornings. Using cars.

Mrs R.D.RAYMOND

R&R Bus Service withdrawn from 26th January 1987.

PUBLICITY NEWS (All operators)

The following material has reached me during the month:-

EASTERN NATIONAL. Timetable leaflets for Clacton town services 3 & 4 (undated) Services 150/153/402 details of all services between Basildon and Grays via Corringham (dated 2nd Feb); Service 795 (dated 25th Jan); Buses to Hullbridge covering routes 9/20/20A/22/22A (undated); Clacton area covering routes X19/X22/X26/74/109/115/118/119/124/127 (dated 2nd Feb); Buses in Harwich with routes X4/X23/X26/87/87A/103/104/120 and minibus routes 22A & 22B (undated); Paester buses/ More buses leaflet covering routes X4/103 and 104 only; and Highwayman leaflets covering North Essex and Central Essex including Day Breaks and Leisure Breaks as well as Highwayman services.

STANSTED AIRPORT. Leaflet covering bus, coach and rail connections.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT. 48 page booklet covering all commercial services dated 26th October 1986; Leaflets for 9A dated 26th Jan, 24 & 25 dated 26th Jan, X3 dated 26th Jan and X19 dated 26th Jan.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT. Leaflets dated 26th Jan. for services 1/1A/3/31 and 2/2A/2B.

CAOSTAL RED. Timetables covering the Clacton area appeared on January 23rd in the Evening Gazette, copies are available from the news sheet editor but an SAE must be included!

With regard to last month's publicity news it should be added that leaflets for E.N. services X64 not X74 have been issued. Also Essex County Council have issued a leaflet covering routes 10A/10B & 10C (dated 26th Jan.).

BUS SHOP

Eastern National's Bus Shop for enthusiasts is open at Hadleigh on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 09:00 and 17:00 and on Saturdays between 09:00 and 15:00.

COMPULSORY
BOOK
STOP

The latest book available from Andy Meadows is 'Paris Transport-a pocket guide'. Price £2.00 POST FREE.

In addition the following Bus Enthusiasts Publishing Company books have been reduced;

Daimler Rear Engine Buses from £4.95 to £2.95

Demonstration Buses from £4.50 to £2.95

PLEASE ADD 50p to cover P&P on these two items when ordering from Andy at 52, Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 9NW. It would help if you include your news sheet address label to assist despatch.

LONDON REGIONAL TRANSPORT SERVICES

EASTERN NATIONAL
CITYBUS

As members are no doubt aware Eastern National operate a number of LRT services under contract in North and North East London. To assist members who may wish to travel on or photograph these a summary is included here. Service frequencies apply Mon-Fri daytimes;

SERVICE 20 Walthamstow Central - Debden, Burton Road. Operates at 15 min. intervals using mainly VRs from WW depot

SERVICE 145A Chingford Station - Goodmayes, Lord Napier. Schooldays only with departures from Goodmayes at 07:33 & 07:44 together with a short journey to Woodford Wells at 07:38 and one at 15:38 from Woodford "Castle" to Chingford. From Chingford Station the first trip is a short to Woodford "Castle" at 08:33, then through journeys at 15:34 & 15:56. Also from Woodford Wells to Goodmayes departing at 15:54. Journey time is 51 minutes using VRs from WW, most of which display '45A' in the 3-track number display although some can show '14' in a somewhat squeezed fashion on the first track enabling the correct number to be exhibited.

SERVICE 167 Ilford, Thompson Way - Loughton Station via Debden. Operates half-hourly with a journey time of 60 minutes using Leyland Nationals from WW. Between Loughton and Debden vehicles operate in a clockwise direction from Ilford and vice versa to Ilford.

SERVICE 193 The 'Hornchurch Hoppa'. Romford St. Edwards Way - Upminster, County Park Estate. Operates at 10 to 15 minute intervals with a journey time of twenty minutes. Service provided with 20 seat Mercedes and Ford Transit minibuses from BD depot.

SERVICE 206 Walthamstow Central - Chigwell Station. (Evening service only to Claybury Hospital). 20 minute service with Leyland Nationals from WW.

SERVICE 252 Waltham Cross - Chingford Station. Mon-Fri peak hours only using Ford Transit 0600.

SERVICE 253 Sewardstonebury - Waltham Abbey, King Harold School. One return journey on schooldays only, again using Transit 0600.

SERVICE 254 Waltham Abbey, Honey Lane Hospital - Epping, St. Margarets Hosp. Two return trips Mon-Fri only. Minibus 0600 is used to operate this route.

SERVICE 275 Walthamstow Central - Barkingside, Fullwell Cross. (Extended on Sundays to Barkingside, Claybury Bdy.). Twenty minute frequency, 35 minute running time using VRs from WW.

SERVICE 307 Brimsdown Station - Barnet, Arkley Hotel. Operates at 15 minute intervals using VRs from BD. (This will be PD when building work there is completed). In addition to this, services to Barnet terminate at Victoria Maternity Hospital and start from Wood Street according to notices at stops. No reason is given.

SERVICE 359 Manor House Station - Waltham Cross Bus Station. Operates at 20 minute intervals although this is reduced to 8-15 mins in the peaks. Bristol VRs from PD are used. On Sundays the route is extended from Waltham Cross to Hammond Street. (This section is operated Mon-Bats by London Country N.E. as route 259).

SERVICE W9 Enfield, Cecil Road - Muswell Hill Broadway. Mondays to Saturdays only. Operates $\frac{1}{2}$ hourly (20 mins between 16:00 & 18:00) using Bedford YMQSs from Enfield Depot. Journey time is 35 minutes.

All the above routes operate daily unless otherwise stated.

OPERATING DEPOTS

ENFIELD (ED) The depot is located at the London Borough of Enfield depot in Carterhatch Lane. The allocation is 6 Bedford YMQS midibuses.

PONDERS END (PD) Wharf Road Industrial Estate, Ponders End. If arriving by public transport the best approach is to travel by train to Ponders End and leave the station by the London bound platform and turn right. Follow the road past Fords and take the first turning on the left. The depot is in this road and has an allocation of 22 buses.

WALTHAMSTOW (WW) Located at the London Borough of Waltham Forest's Low Hall Depot. If arriving by public transport alight from LRT bus routes 58, 158 or 230 or British Rail at St. James Street station, cross into Station Road and then right into Markhouse Avenue at the end. Continue past the main entrance to the depot and the bus park can be seen from the public tip which is open daily from 07:30 until 16:30. Not a very scenic spot this! The depot has an allocation of 33 vehicles.

Members will obviously be aware that all these sites are private property.

Eastern National - General News. (Continued from page 3)

The following Maldon vehicles are reported to be equiped with full depth destination blinds; 1755, 1806, 1833, 3038, 3079 and 3094. Buses at Clacton Silver End and Chelmsford are now starting to receive these items, the Chelmsford blind is reported to be a mammoth 100 feet long.

Revisions to services in the Harwich, Clacton and Colchester areas have meant that Maldon now provide two vehicles for the 119 although not beyond Colchester. Clacton and Colchester depots provide 2 buses for the 109 and 1 each for the X19, usually an Alexander/Leyland Tiger. Colchester vehicles now operate to Harwich.

A newspaper report in early February indicate that the start of minibus services in the Witham area have been delayed again; Mr. Michael Holden, the manager of the North Essex area has said that there will be a service but that he cannot give a starting date.

Recent retirements from the Company include Mr. Joe Lawrence, Mechanical Superintendent at Clacton who had been with the firm for 22 years; and Mr. Ted Rose, an inspector, also from Clacton depot, who started as a driver 35 years ago. Our best wishes go to both for a long and happy retirement.

Fame for group member Les Thorington whose name appears in an article in the Yellow Advertiser (2.2.87) due to the fact that his father and uncle both worked for Westcliff Motor Services. The same article also found a new name for bus enthusiasts - omnibiologists! You can now impress people who will think you are into science...

Operation of daytime Monday to Friday route 21 commenced on 26th January on a three month ECC contract replacing Venturer Travel.

It is belived that Southend Garage will close after operations on the 31st March, 1987; however there is no official confirmation of this and judging by the state of building works at the new Prittlewell Depot it seems unlikely.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

- 6/1 BD 1913 on service 251.
 11/1 17 buses plus SW 3070 on rail replacement services between Chelmsford and Colchester. Due to poor weather the work on the line overran and PL(P) 3215 and CBT 70, 72, 74, 83 and 88 were in use at 20:00.
 13/1 CR 3114 on service 31.
 14/1 MN 3049 on service 119; BN 3120 on 22; Hedingham L101 (formerly ENOC 2841) on 90.
 16/1 CF 3033 on 60; SD 4001 on 25.
 17/1 BE 1745 on 353.
 18/1 CF 1730 on 452 (should be a BE bus); PL(P) 3215 parked at Chelmsford Bus Station.
 19/1 CR 3022 failed at Boreham on 91; CF 3035 on 353.
 20/1 SD 1116 on 251 and again on 30/1.
 22/1 CN 0214 on X22; WW 3115 on 206.
 23/1 BS 1769 on 44; CR 3202 on 88; BS 1502or1503 on 333.
 24/1 SD 1125 on 406.
 25/1 14 buses plus SW 3070 on rail replacement duties between Chelmsford and Colchester.
 26/1 PD 3209 parked at rear of Chelmsford Depot having failed on delivery trip to Ponders End.
 27/1 SW 1931 on 44 - this bus then spent a week working from CF; BN 4507 on 229
 28/1 BN 1795 On Pitsea - Wickford Tesco contract.
 29/1 CN 0209 On X22; ECOC LN586 failed in Colchester on the 06:30 ex-Ipswich service, does any member know which if any EN vehicle replaced it?
 30/1 SD 4502 on 20.
 31/1 BE 3063 on an SE Asda contract.
 1/2 CF 0751 seen in Brentwood - it had been swapped for a BD Mercedes to work a private hire from CF which required the extra capacity; the rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Colchester was worked by at least 26 vehicles.
 4/2 CF 3003 on driver training work in Wickford.
 5/2 BE 1303 on 311; BN 1847 on 40; CF 1873 on minibus route 57; BD 1933 on 6/2 333 and again on 6/2.
 7/2 CN 1310 noted in Chelmsford Bus Station.

Whilst all reports are welcome many reports arrive including workings that are not particularly unusual such as 45xx vehicles on the 406, 40xx dual-purpose buses on Southend local routes. It has also been decided that rail replacement services that are arranged in advance will not be shown normally, although special features of these and pure emergency workings will. For the record the recent Chelmsford - Colchester workings have employed 16-20 vehicles from CF, 6 from BE, 3 from SE and 4 from MN.

Vehicles on loan include 1112 CF-DW, 1121 CF-DW (these two to get a bus that will start on cold mornings from Dunmow outstation, which is of course in the open), and 1924 BE-SE. Many loans or unusual workings took place during the bad weather from 11/1 to 18/1.

CENTRAL WORKS

Visitors during January include Cambus Leyland National 234 (DFW 783T), Berks & Bucks Bristol VR 608 (GGM 78W), East Kent VR 7016 (PJJ 16S), Southend Transport 343 (XWX 193S) and another former GMT Leyland National for Webb's Coaches HJA 131N. In addition CBT 22 (OWC 722M) and Alder Valley North (now Berks & Bucks) Leyland National 166 (not 155) remained here.

SNOW NEWS (Is good news?)

As members will be aware the severe weather conditions led to many roads being blocked or at best only just passable between 12th January and the 18th January. This led to many disruptions to services, especially in the East of the County. As an example of the problems faced member G.Toon sent the following news of services in the North-East:-

- Mon 12/1 No service to Brightlingsea before 09:30, Coastline services in Clacton were reported as coping better than their full-size big brothers.
- Tues 13/1 No service to Harwich via The Oakleys.
- Wed 14/1 Colchester was cut off except for the A12 and most Colchester vehicles were operating to that famous place "SERVICE" which appeared to be the first snow drift. Some EN services were crew worked with the 'conductor' exchanging the ticket machine for a shovel. To add to the problems a fish & chip shop caught light in East St. and all services had to be re-routed via Brook Street, Barrack Street and the Hythe. No service from Clacton to Colchester, Harwich, Walton and Jaywick.
- Thur 15/1 The same snow problems with the addition of Point Clear being cut off.
- Fri 16/1 Service 103/104 reaching Mistley from Colchester. The first attempt by EN on route 7 got stuck in snow on the Peldon Road. The 12:25 74 to Clacton was seen leaving Colchester.
- Sat 17/1 Service 103/104 had reached Bradfield.
- Sun 18/1 The first bus to West Mersea for a week made it today but by running via Dawes Lane rather than Blue Row.
- Mon 19/1 All services back to normal except for The Oakleys still cut off.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS COMPANY - Subsequent disposals.

- 350 (573 UVX) - FK Historic Omnibus Co. Ltd. (for preservation) 12/86 ex-Cott Banham (correction to NS274).
- 1215 (BNO 701T) - Maidstone Borough Transport (Holdings) Ltd., 214 c.10/86 ex-Metrobus, Orpington, having been on extended loan as no. 291 (NS272 refers).
- 1504 (CVW 858G) - Still with Felixstow Omnibuses, 2/87 and in use on Ipswich -Melton service
- 1511 (FVX 613H) - Chase, Chasetown, 11/86 ex-Jones, dealer, High Wycombe.
- 1512 (FVX 614H) - Associated Coachways, Harlow, 11/86 ex-Wilder, Byfleet.
- 2386 (WNO 484) - Still with SWT Co. Ltd., Swansea, 12/86.
- 2493 (1838 F) - Parked in scrapyard, Wymeswold, by 8/86, ex-Midlands Land Yacht Club (N-PSV)
- 2901 (WVX 528F) - Magic Bus, Glasgow, 10/86 ex-Stagecoach, Perth
- 2905 (WVX 532F) - Magic Bus, Glasgow, 10/86 ex-Stagecoach, Perth
- 2928 (AVW 397F) - Reportedly to be withdrawn by Passenger Transportation Services (Asia) Ltd., Hong Kong, at the end of the 1987 season.
- 2932 (184 XNO) - A Volvo B10M-61 of Walker, Anderton, now carries this registration. Fate of original 184 XNO is unknown.
- 3047 (OCS 576H) - Jones, Minera, 10/86, ex-South Midland Limited. Ignore all reference to Ribble ownership.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Further information regarding the Coastal Red operation on schools service 16 is that they have done so since 3.11.86 (not 3.1.87) under contract to the County Council. Prior to this CBT used an 82 seater (since September) but the introduction of Coastal Red's bus makes this unneeded.

With reference to last month's notes there were services on Tesco contracts T2-T5 only on New Years Day. Vehicles used were T2-42; T3-32; T4-43 & T5-44. Contract T1 runs Mondays to Fridays, not as stated last month.

Service 1B was withdrawn after 24.1.87 and must have been one of the shortest lived services, having been introduced only on 26.10.86. The last journey was operated by Atlantean 86. Replacement service 31 is interworked with the 3, using two REs.

Since 26.1.87 the two Lynxes have worked on services 2, 2A, and 2B. The two Leopards are now reserved for the Tesco contracts and other private hire work, although 102 was observed on service 15 on the morning of 19.1.87.

The driver training bus 96 (WEV 746F), an Atlantean FDR1/1, has been moved from the yard at Magdalen Street, where it has been unused for a few years, to the paint shop. Bristol RE 16 returned to service in early February after a couple of months out of service. No. 82 was noted at the depot on 22.1.87 with damage to the rear upper deck.

Both afternoon trips on the 75 have been extended from Rowhedge to Colchester via the route of service 6A. The first journey runs to the Bus Station, where it forms the second journey, which runs to Osbourne Street.

Highclere Road opened on 26.1.87 and so service 9 (and 9A on Sats) now operate through to Highwoods Square (Tesco's). The afternoon trip on the 83 is at 16:05 from the Bus Station - there isn't one at 16:00 as shown in the ECC timetable. Although some buses do show 'Marks Tey' on the blind (NS274) this is still incorrect as the destination in Wakes Colne, which is shown on a board.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITEDVEHICLESDisposals/Subsequent Disposals

The remains of 370 were removed by a scrap dealer on 29.1.87. Former Southend vehicle, 348 (WJN 348J), was sold by Rochford District Council to F.G.Spence, 1/87, for preservation.

On hire

To cover for vehicles out of service as a result of the bad weather the following short term hires took place:-

From Harris Coaches, Grays;

NEV 772V	}	DAF MB200/Plaxton C-F
UHK 201W		
UHK 202W		
2936 FH	}	Volvo B58/Plaxton C-F
CGP 311X		
WHK 81W		

As many as four of the above have been on hire at any one time from the week commencing 26.1.87 and have been used on London services. UHK 201/2W & WHK 81W remain on hire at the time of writing.

From Ensign Bus, Purfleet;

THM 680M	culture Bus liveried DMS
THM 684M	Green/Yellow DMS
? ?	Blue/Silver DMS

All hired in the week commencing 26.1.87 for use on local routes.

Short term hires cont/d...

BM 1571 has been hired from a group of enthusiasts for about 3 months and will operate mainly on route 3A.

ROK 453M a CRG6/East Lancs H44/30F (Originally with WMPTE) has been hired from Venturer Travel in the week commencing 26.1.87, most likely for a minimum period of three months. It is available for STL's use on Mon-Sat as Venturer require it for their ECC Sunday contract on the 6.

Further information on the CARDIFF OLYMPIANS is that they are primarily used on services X3/30/31, but they also appear on bus routes at times. With an overall height of 14'2" they have restricted route availability, like the DMSs. At the time of writing the following was correct:-

363	ex-Cardiff	553	- Repainted and in service.
364	"	554	- In service in Cardiff livery.
365	"	555	- Repainted and in service.
367	"	557	- Repainted and about to enter service.
368	"	558	- Repainted and in service.
369	"	559	- Repainted but awaiting repair and annual testing.

On Loan

247	(A247 SVW)	to Venturer Travel for private hire work 10/1.
203	(UTD 203P)	to Venturer Travel for service 6, 11/1.
303	(JEH 179K)	to East Midland, Dordingham, 29-31/1.
220	(KWG 130W)	to Venturer Travel for private hire work, 31/1.
323	(YHG 3N)	to East Midland, Dordingham, 5/2.

Also to report this month is that the Garder 6LX engine will be removed from Venturer Travel's 4453 and exchanged with a Leyland unit from an unknown Southend Transport vehicle.

SERVICES

- 9A Extended from Western Approaches to Eastwood (Rayleigh Avenue) via Green Lane, Dandies Drive and Jones Corner. Operation extended to include hourly Mon-Sat evening service, and all day Sunday. Commenced 25/1.
- 10A Revised Essex County Council Contract. Existing 10A transferred to
- 10C Southend Radio Taxis, and a new STL operated contract introduced from Stambridge, Royal Oak to Golden Cross (King Edmund School) via Canewdon (Loftmans Corner and Anchor) and Larks Hill. One journey each way on schooldays only commencing 26/1, numbered 10C.
- 24 New commercial operation from Southend Central to Dawes Heath (Rivers Corner) via E.N. route 24 (except for loop operation at the outer terminus via Western Road and Dawes Heath Road). Hourly Mon-Sat eves. and all day Sundays. This replaces a ECC contract in favour of UMBH which was revoked. Commencing 5/1.
- 25 New commercial service from Southend Central to Leigh Church, daily hourly operation, evenings only, replacing the previous 1/2-hourly STL service which was an ECC contract that has now expired. Start 25/1.
- X3 New commercial operation from Southend Central to Canvey, Leigh Beck via X1 to Hadleigh, 3A to Waterside Farm and X31 to Leigh Beck. Hourly limited-stop Mon-Sat service excluding evenings. Most X3's interwork with X30/31 on Mon-Fri. Commencing 26/1.
- X19 New commercial service from South Woodham Ferrers to Southend Central via Rayleigh. One journey each way Mon-Fri commencing 26/1.
- X1/10/11/30/31 Additional journeys together with retimed trips during peak hours introduced from 25/1

Fares on London X services were increased from 26th January, 1987.

As a result of the heavy snow falls on Sunday 11th January, and subsequently, services were severely disrupted and at the worst time only a skeleton hourly service was being provided on routes 1, 4A, 7, 8, 29 & X1. There were many

instances of diversions and unusual workings, too numerous to mention! The normal service was not officially resumed until 18:15 on 21st January. There were many instances of London X services being covered by Ensign vehicles and crews, mainly working from the Stanford/Grays area into London. (The worst of the weather being in the East). Ensign operation was mainly with DMSS - the one spectacular exception was when RT 3232 operated throughout on the 18:25 Green Park to Southend on Monday 12th January!!! (If any member was lucky enough to photograph that working could they please contact Richard Delahoy on 0702 588 590). At the height of the bad weather some buses were parked overnight in the Deeping Underpass.

A major rail replacement service was provided on 21/1 in response to a 24hr strike by guards on the Fenchurch Street line. Vehicles were used to connect Chalkwell, Leigh, Benfleet, Pitsea, Basildon & Laindon stations to the Liverpool street line and to provide an all stations service from Southend to Upminster and around the Tilbury loop. It is understood that 45 vehicles were required. STL provided 2 all day (241/2) with at least 6 'deckers from Ensign and coaches from Frosts, Stephensons, Supreme, Harris and Limebourne.

Members may like to know that services 1 and 3A remain crew operated on Mon-Fri.

SOUTHEAST SUPPLEMENT

Commercial Operations

TV TAXIS are using a variety of saloon and estate cars in addition to the VWs.

R & R BUS SERVICES Both routes officially withdrawn after 25/1/87.

NELSONS Services 01 & 05 withdrawn from 21/12/86.

VENTURER Commercial operations on routes 19 & 403 were officially withdrawn after 21/1/87 but in practice last ran in the week commencing 5/1/87.

SIMLEN COACHES The evening Benfleet Station to Canvey service duly started on 27/1/87 using HYX 418W, a Ford R1114/Duple C-F.

NEWS SHEET CONTRIBUTIONS

Items for next edition to editor by 6th March.

A.Osbourne(O&F); E.Thompson(M58); R.Delahoy(M180); D.Stebbing(M183); D.Arnold(M379); J.Collins(M405); I.Groves(M440); G.Toon(M452); C.Paynter(M515) C.Sigston(M523); F.Spence(M545); J.Murphy(M546); S.Barnes(M576); M.Bullock (M574); P.Ashton(599); J.Simpkin(M623) and the PSV Circle.

