

ESSEX BUS NEWS

JULY 1991

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

Issue number: 327



The Heddingham fleet includes a number of Bristol VRTs including L178 (DWU 294T) in Norfolk's livery and L161 (SNJ 591R) in non standard livery this being based on its former Brighton & Hove colours.

(A Colebourne)

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SOLENTSIDE TOUR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15th

Our out of area excursion this year is to the Southampton area to visit a number of the local operators including Solent Blue Line and Southampton Citybus. Again a London Forest Tiger coach will be used. Please book as early as possible since demand is likely to be high, note that railway connections are provided as well as a new picking up point at Tower Hill to cater for LTS passengers into Fenchurch Street.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4.8.91. Sevenoaks Bus and Vintage Vehicle Rally. High Street and Bus Station. Local services with preserved vehicles. Hickstead. Vintage and Classic Transport Show.
- 18.8.91 Ipswich Transport Museum Open Day at Cobham Road.
- 31.8.91 Castle Point Transport Museum Open Day.

WESTCLIFF ON SEA VOLUME 2

Continues where Volume 1 left off in providing an excellent photographic history of this well known operator. The book is priced £4.75 including post and is available from Peter Snell.

EASTERN NATIONAL

New Vehicles

601-09	H601-09	OVW	Mercedes Benz 709D	Reeve Burgess	B23F
610-30	J610-30	UTW	Mercedes Benz 709D	Reeve Burgess	B23F

The entire batch 601-30 have manual gearboxes.

601-9 are for revised minibus services at Chelmsford commencing 29.7.91.

610-30 are due for delivery during August and September.

Contrary to the report given last month, 628 is not held as a special number by DVLC, although BMW 628s do exist and hence the number has been issued to EN.

Acquired Vehicles

4018/9	C418/9	HJN	Leyland Olympian	ECW	DPH42/30F
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Both acquired from Thamesway (same fleetnumbers) in 7/91. These vehicles replace 4003/6 (see below).

Vehicle On Loan

2501	D501	GHY	Volvo	Van Hool	C53F
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This vehicle has been on loan from Badgerline from mid June and is in Shearings Holidays livery. It has seen use on commuter work, excursions and Highwayman routes from Chelmsford depot. It is not known if an Eastern National fleetnumber has been allocated for the duration of its stay.

Allocation Changes

5/91 0200 Pool-CN; 1501 D/L(D)-CR; 1816 CR-D/L(D);
3052 CR-D/L(D); 3054 POOL-MN; 3058 MN-D/L(D).
7/91 4003 CR-TWAY; 4006 DT-TWAY; 4018 TWAY-CR; 4019 TWAY-DT.
1816 was withdrawn as a result of mechanical defects and is to be
stripped for spares at Clacton.
Pool vehicle 0705 has been in use at Braintree during July.

Repaints

April 4501 May 1833 3103 June 3094 4021

General

Chelmsford bus station has been sold for re-development for an
undisclosed amount. The new owners are Berkley Hambro Property
Company who plan to start demolition early next year. They will
lease back a new depot planned for the site to EN.
Newspaper reports suggest that a new office complex will be built
on the site and discussions were going ahead with local planners
to formulate a suitable plan.

Brightlingsea residents continue to complain about changes to
their services and an Action Group has been formed. EN have
stated that although the protest is out of all proportion a 0904
and 1304 Brightlingsea to General Hospital and 1005 and 1405 will
be introduced from 14th August. It is now claimed a 30 minute
service to Brightlingsea only operates because of passenger
levels at the University.

The Colchester Park and Ride service will be operated by open top
VRs 3500 and 3501 every Saturday between 20.7. and 31.8.

Members will not be surprised to read that following continued
problems computer destination gear is to be removed from all EN
vehicles and replaced with conventional blinds. Vehicles
converted so far are 3218, 4014, 4501 and 4503. Others will be done
at the rate of one a month.

Unusual Workings

17.5.91. BS 1931 on service 153 (CF duty).
16.6.91. CF 1805 on service 451 (normally Lynx).
18.6.91. CF 1819 on service 119 (CN duty).
26.6.91. BE 3128 on service 353 (normally National).
1.7.91. CF 3070 on service 53 (CR operated).

CN 2202 has been noted on stage work during early July.

Subsequent Disposals

In order to prevent a duplication of information, all subsequent
disposals of former Thamesway vehicles that originated with
Eastern National will appear under the Eastern National heading.
Initial Disposals of Thamesway vehicles will continue to appear
under the Thamesway heading.

1113 (HHJ 374Y) Brewer, Caerau, 2/91, not yet numbered, ex. Thamesway 1113. Has been painted two tone blue, white and red with side panel lettering for 'Cityrunner' service X3 with Maesteg... Port Talbot... Swansea roof lettering.

1118 (HHJ 379Y) As 1113.

1122 (A691 OHJ) As 1113.

1212 (BNO 698T) Numbered 25 by Yeoman, Hereford.

1213 (BNO 699T) Numbered 26 by Yeoman, Hereford.

1400 (PWC 344K) Parton & Aleen (dealer), Carlton, by 1/90, ex. Norfolk, Nayland.

1404 (VHK 177L) Still wiith Sykes (dealer), Carlton, 4/91.

(929 CVJ)

1412 (X00 881L) Hawkes, Waunarlwyl, 4/91, ex. Edmunds, Rassau.

(CSV 303)

(WEU 72L)

1522 (KHK 414J) Hedingham & District, 4/91, ex. Norfolk, Nayland.

1600 (B457 WHJ) Swallow, Rainham, 2/91, ex. Alder Valley, 1457

1601 (B458 WHJ) As 1600, fleetnumber 1458.

1602 (B459 WHJ) As 1600, fleetnumber 1459.

1603 (B460 WHJ) As 1600, fleetnumber 1460.

1655 (KCG 612L) Withdrawn by Powney, Aintree, by 7/90.

1658 (KCG 615L) Withdrawn by Solent Blue Line, 424, 3/91, to North (dealer), Sherburn, 3/91.

1715 (WNO 564L) Tame Valley, Bringsty, by 4/91. Based at Birmingham depot, painted yellow and green and used on service 94 (Birmingham-Chelmsley Wood) in competition with WMT.

1722 (NEV 679M) As 1658, fleetnumber 427.

2816 (HEV 994B) London Bus Export Co., by 4/91. Previously noted in Kosijsde, Belgium, 7/83, numbered HB1 and advertising "Whitbread-Campbell". However, it does not seem to have gained a Belgian registration and was noted back in the UK in 1985 (see NS 253) and 1988 (at least). Further details appreciated.

2860 (RHK 346D) Hoare (dealer), Chepstow, -/90, ex Merton Community Bus Association (N-PSV), London.

2907 (WVX 530F) Seen in Twickenham as hospitality vehicle 5/91 owner unknown. Previously noted (NS286) in Grays LCNE garage in ICI livery. Previously owned by Bus Fare, (N-PSV), Cranleigh.

3047 (OCS 576H) Still with Eagle & Hughes, Mold, 3/91.

3065 (UVX 2S) Badgerline Ltd., Weston Super Mare, 2/91, numbered 5552, ex Thamesway.

3067 (K00 785V) Western National Ltd., Truro, 3/91, numbered 1238. Repainted blue/red/cream livery and allocated to Cambourne. Spent some time at Badgerlines Bath garage in course of transfer. Ex. Thamesway.

3073 (K00 791V) As 3065, fleetnumber 5553.

3074 (K00 792V) As 3065, fleetnumber 5551.

3075 (K00 793V) As 3065, fleetnumber 5554.

3082 (STW 26W) As 3065, fleetnumber 5550. allocated to Bath.

3086 (STW 30W) Green, Kirkintilloch, by 5/91, ex Thamesway. Repainted into grey/blue livery.

3206 (OBD 843P) Badgerline Ltd. Weston Super Mare, 2/91, to be used for spares only, ex. Thamesway.

3208 (RRP 859R) As 3206.

3212 (YVV 896S) Green, Kirkintilloch, by 5/91.

3215 (FRP 906T) As 3065, fleetnumber 5556.

3217 (LBD 922V) As 3065, fleetnumber 5555.

3709 (FEV 178) Restoration work now completed by apprentices at Luton garage of Luton & District. Vehicle repainted into Luton Corporation colours (red & cream). (Historical note: Eastern National (Midland area) and Luton Corporation Transport ran co-ordinated services in the Luton area trading as 'Luton & District Transport'. However the EN vehicles were in traditional Tilling green livery.

4502 (B690 BPU) South Wales Transport, Swansea, 908, 2/91 ex Thamesway. Repainted into two tone green/white/red livery with Swansea- Cardiff Shuttle lettering.

4504 (B692 BPU) Cullinan, Birkenhead, by 4/91, ex Thamesway.

4505 (B693 BPU) Liverbus, Huyton, by 4/91, ex Thamesway.

4506 (B694 BPU) As 4505.

4508 (B696 BPU) As 4502, fleetnumber 909.

9445 (XVW 633L) Withdrawn at depot of Aero, Lincoln, by 3/91.

Services

33 Revised route between Takeley and Bishops Stortford introduced from 29.7.91.

44 Revised to operate between North Melbourne and Oaklands Park from 29.7.91.

44A/B Revised timetable introduced from 29.7.91.

47/A Revised to operate between North Melbourne and Chelmer Village from 29.7.91.

48 Revised timetable with some journeys rerouted (as service 49) from 29.7.91.

48A The evening journeys on this service and 56B will be revised from 29.7.91.

55 Revised route and timetable introduced from 29.7.91. with new variations 54/A and 55A.

56 Revised route and timetable introduced from 29.7.91. with new variations 57/57A.

78/A The Monday to Saturday evening journeys operated under contract to ECC passed to Carters Coaches on 22.7.91.

133 Revised timetable introduced from 29.7.91.

333 Revised route and timetable introduced from 29.7.91.

Most (if not all) services on the former 55 and 56 group will be converted to minibus as a result of the above changes. Further details can be found in the New North Essex timetable. Service 48 will link Gateways, Tesco's, Asda's and Sainsbury's, perhaps a 'ShoppaHoppa'!

Thamesway Ltd

These notes are correct to July 10th

New Vehicles

357 - 387 H368-398 OHK Mercedes Benz L709D Reeve Burgess B23F

All delivered in Thamesway livery, for service at Basildon. All Mercedes have large Thamesway Logo on lower side panels.

Aquired Vehicles

Transits 711-717 which were previously recorded as being on loan have in fact been aquired, but still retain Badgerline livery. This information was provided by Thamesway Ltd. It is understood Leyland Olympians 4003/6 (B698 BPU/C712 GEV) have been aquired as from 6th July 1991.

Vehicles on Loan

718-720 C449/50/51 BHY Ford Transits Dormobile B16F

These vehicles are in Thamesway livery, but with Bristol Omnibus legal name and address, and were 7449-7451 in the Cityline fleet.

721/22 B454/64 WTC Ford Transit Dormobile/Carlyle B16F

These vehicles are in Badgerline livery and were 4454/64 in that fleet. Noted on loan during June was Bristol Cityline Q130 REV (T1) Bedford Q Marshall ex MOD for driver training.

Allocations

July 7th 357-87 New-BN 718-22 D/L-BN

Vehicle Disposals

Leyland Olympians 4018/19 have been exchanged with 4003/6 from Eastern National. 1747/61/62 and 3213 were noted at Wigley Carlton Dealers on the 27th June. Noted withdrawn at BN depot recently was 1742/43/45/52/58/61.

Repaints

Noted repainted in new livery is 1893, 1898, 1904 and 1913.

Service Revisions

- 11 From 8th July this service will operate to a revised timetable.
- 15 From 8th July this service will operate to a revised route in Basildon omitting Vange Hill Drive and serving Clay Hill road.
- 19 From 8th July this service will be withdrawn.
- 151 from 8th July this service will operate to a revised route in Basildon and timetable.
- 250 From 8th July this service will operate to a revised timetable

operating every half hour.

251 From 8th July this service will operate to a revised timetable.

From 8th July a major revision of Commercial services will occur in the

Basildon area. The following services will be withdrawn :

232, 233, 234, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 510, 511, 520 and 521. These will largely be replaced by the following Minibus services:-

- 30 Pitsea(Rail Stn/Tesco Store) to Southfields(Bramston Way) via Long Riding and Laindon.
- 31 Pitsea(Rail Stn/Tesco Store) to Great Berry(Shelly Avenue) via Ashlyns Church Road and Laindon.
- 31A Pitsea(Rail Stn/Tesco Store) to Langdon Hills via Ashlyns, Church Road and Great Berry. Evenings only.
- 31B Pitsea(Tesco Store) to Langdon Hills via Ashlyns, Church Road St Nicholas Lane and Great Berry. School days only.
- 32 Pitsea(Rail Stn) to Langdon Hills via Luncies road and Laindon.
- 32A Pitsea(Rail Stn) to Langdon Hills via Luncies Road, Laindon and Great Berry. Evenings only.
- 33 Basildon Bus Station to Shotgate(Hodgson Way) via Whitmore Way and Wickford Beauchamps Drive.
- 34 Basildon Bus Station to Runwell Hospital via Whitmore Way and Wickford Alderney Gardens.
- 35 Basildon Bus Station to Grimston Way via Whitmore Way.
- 36 Basildon Hospital to Rushley(Burnt Mills Road) via Whitmore Way and Felmores.
- 37 Basildon Hospital to Pitsea(Rail Stn/Tesco Store) via Whitmore Way and Felmores.
- 38 Pitsea(Rail Stn) to Felmores via Clayhill Road and Whitmore Way Weekday evenings only.

Full details of routings and times can be obtained from Thamesway timetables/Network map or ECC South Essex timetable dated 7th July 91.

Publicity

Basildon Network Map dated 8-7-91

2/15/151 dated 7-7-91

33/34/250/251 dated 8-7-91

Minibus timetable booklet for Basildon dated 8-7-91

Usually Workings

4-6-91 SD344 on service 251

12-6-91 BD1859 on service 251

13-6-91 SD 1868 on Roots Hall Market Free bus. This service operates on Thursdays only from Rayleigh, Rochford and Shoeburyness. No further details available.

18-6-91 BD1912 on service 251

19-6-91 SD328 on service 250.

General

Minibus 315 now carries large Thamesway fleetnames on lower red side panels. SD353 was used as the information bus in Basildon from 1st to 6th July, also noted on Friday 5th July was BN360 in Basildon Centre.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT NEWS

VEHICLES

Double-Decker Acquired from Southern Vectis (701).

256 Al10FDL Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R New 3/84
ECW DPH41/23F.

When new this bus was seated H45/32F and registered A701DDL. It was later reseated as a coach and reregistered WDL748 thence to Al10FDL before sale. It has been repainted into standard bus livery. 256 will be used on London and local services as required and the coach seating will be retained.

559 was, at the time of writing, receiving repaint into the standard coach livery.

Pristine Routemaster showbus 102 was in attendance at the North Weald Rally on 30/6/91.

PUBLICITY

St have produced an attractive 'Your local bus map and guide' printed in blue on glossy paper. It contains E.C.C. style Southend local and district map (modelled on the old co-ordination area but extended to include Basildon & Wickford) plus a service frequency guide and fare offers.

The map shows a service 10 running from Rayleigh(High St) to Paglesham via Hullbridge(Coventry Corner), Lower Hockley, Ashington, Canewdon & Loftmans Corner. (Shades of the old 13 route). However, it is understood this service is not yet operating. We will follow this up for next month.

MEMBERS OBSERVATIONS

Tickfield Ave Workshops; 4/6 ex ST 602 Astromega, now Swallow Coaches of Rainham, Essex KIW8801, receiving attention. 12/6 (in yard) D202NON Freight Rover Sherpa, Carlyle B18F, ex Bee Line Buzz Co. 3202. 'Manchester Minibuses Ltd' clearly visible under paint. 'For Sale' sign on windscreen. (still there 26/6). 26/6 A Thamesway incursion, with 319 & 320 receiving attention.

Open-Tops 904/5 were busy before commencing the ECC tender on 67 seafront run on 29/6 (runs until 15/9).

904- 29 on 12/6; 1 on 19/6; /3A on 26/6.

905- 62 on 12/6, 1 & 3 on 14/6; 29 on 19/6; 1 on 26/6.

Olympian 262 was noted on a 7 relief to Golden Cross on 12/6. To give a flavour of STs varied allocations we detail Phil Ford's observations on 26 June. It is hoped to provide an article on Routemaster allocations in the near future.

1. RM,FL,OTF,OL 2.LN. 3^A RM,FL,OTF 4. RM 4A FL,OL
4B.IV 7/7A/8 FL,LN 9a. FL,OL 12A. LN 17. LN 18. LN
22. FL,LN 29. RM,LN 61. IV 62. LN 63. RM 250 FL,LN

RM Routemaster; FL Fleetline; OTF Open-top Fleetline; IV Iveco
LN National; OL Olympian. Notes accurate to 5 July 91.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Vehicles

Coach seated Olympian 46 has strayed from the usual 2/2A/5A in recent weeks being observed on 1/1A on 28.6 and 4/4A on 5.7 where the appearance of any Olympian is unusual.

Lynx 30 has been demonstrated to the Kowloon Motor Bus Company of Hong Kong (but in London) recently. It is reported that Leylands asked CBT because of its high reputation for vehicle standards. Another large Far East operator has also received a demonstration.

It is understood that AN 61 was due to have been sold to Carters, but has been retained for the time being while Lynxes are off the road. The reference in Junes Buses to 62 and 64 being renumbered 29,30 should have said they are with Eastbourne.

Services

The open top town tour commenced on 1.7.91 and operates Mondays to Saturdays (excluding Bank Holiday Monday) until 31.8.91. There are three depatures at 1130, 1400 and 1530.

Coachways have a regular Saturday working on National Express service 084 (Clacton & Victoria). Could timings be provided please?

General

According to press reports the reduction in passenger levels because of the recession will cause some redundancies. No bus services would be affected and all 60 buses will continue to be operated. As advertisements have subsequently appeared for drivers it is assumed that road staff are not affected.

In an unsigned letter to the local press drivers reported concern at the prospects of a management buyout without the involvement of employees. The directors said that this had not even been discussed and the council have now stated that they have no intention of selling CBT.

From 1.9.91. all 14 and 15 year olds will have to hold an Under 16 Permit to obtain half fare. The photocard is also available to younger children if there is likely to be any dispute over their age. To prevent fraud etc. a birth certigicate together with two passport size photos signed by the parents have to accompany any application.

The garage has been extended with the addition of a parking ground the town side of the complex.

In an attempt to solve traffic delays in the evening peak the traffic lights at East Hill/Brook Street have been replaced by a mini-roundabout this in true traffic management style has made things even worse and buses are now taking up to half an hour to travel the length of East Hill.

HEDINGHAMS

Vehicles

Further to EBN 326 the Bova Europa is now registered EGV 391Y (ex 15 NOR). Two vehicles used as a source of spares by Norfolks are now at Burnham depot. These being ex Brighton and Hove Leyland National RUF 39R and Bristol RE KHK 414J which was ex Heddingham L118 but new to Eastern National as 1522.

Services

A revised timetable was introduced on service 59 to coincide with the revised BR timetable from 8.7.91.

OTHER OPERATORS REST OF ESSEX

BISS The joint service with Lacey departs Romford St Edwards Way at 0600,0900,1200,1430,1800 and 1945 and Stansted at 0615,0900,1145,1500,1715 and 2100. It operates daily (except 25, 26 December) with a fare of 7.50 single and 15 return.

CARTERS Further to EBN 326 the ECC journeys on service 247 passed to Partridge from 28.5.91.

CEDRICS A vehicle registered A341 YDT was noted on 18.6.91 (further to EBN 326) comments please.

CLINTONA Missing from the fleetlist published last month were Freight Rover Sherpas D531/2 NDA. These have recently been sold to Ruffle, Castle Heddingham. To correct the fleetlist the last vehicle is registered G994 JKY.

COOK, SOUTHEND Jonckhree bodied Scania A597 XRP has been sold to Appleby, Humberside.

CUNNINGHAM Both Mercedes L207D JFS 948X and Caetano bodied Fiat D837 CNV have been sold.

DISTRICT BUS Blue skirts are now being added to this already colourful fleet.

HARRIS Service 14 will be withdrawn with effect from 31.7.91. A timetable leaflet for buses serving Lakeside is available dated 1.7.91.

KIRBY To correct EBN 326 the vehicle is registered not reregistered F993 MTW.

MILLERS, FOXTON Certain journeys on service 313 are now being operated under contract to ECC. This service is partly interworked with service 18. Both services are scheduled for operation by D21/3 CTR Bedford YMT/ Wadham Stringer which were acquired earlier in the year from Metrobus, Orpington.

RUFFLES, CASTLE HEDDINGHAM Have sold Mercedes/Reebur B505 LJU, Fiat Caetano E707 GNH and Sherpa E398 BMX to GP Travel. E707 and E398 were originally with Wiffens of Finchingfield. See Clintona notes for details of two acquired Sherpas.

STEPHENSONS Service 222 between Kent Elms and Southend will be renumbered 6 from 22.7.91 and will be extended to Southchurch, White Horse with a slightly rescheduled timetable. The service is still funded by Southend Borough Council. Service 22 will be revised from the same date and will consist of isolated journeys only. Due to the same poor loadings experienced by other operators service 401 to Lakeside was withdrawn after 11.7.91. A number of vehicles for resale in a dealer capacity are Bristol VR ECW GRP 789L and Leopard coaches XWX 169S and WFH 166S.

TEDS COACHES Leopard/Duple JDG 282V has passed to Bourne &

Woodhall, Laindon.

TV TAXIS F35 TJN a Mercedes/Reebur has passed to Plaxton, Anston.

UMBH Further to EBN 326 VFJ 586 was originally registered A169 OHJ and has not been reregistered with this mark!

VICEROY Minor timing changes were made to service 59 from 8.7.91 in connection with the new BR timetable. ECC tender journeys on service 313 are operated by Millers (see above).

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Timetable leaflets are available for the following services 93B and 98/99 dated 17.6.91; 313 dated 24.6.91; 10,21,37,59 and 511 all dated 8.7.91; 90/90A dated 22.7.91.

A leaflet giving details of revised departure points for ECC services from Basildon Bus Station is also available.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to reply to Mr Miles letter included in the June Magazine.

Firstly, my comments regarding service 94 were correct. In May 1966 the Burnham/Bradwell services were recast and extended to Chelmsford via Hatfield Peveral (over the erstwhile 38 route), the various routings required service numbers 95 to 98 inclusive. To allow for this the 96 (Maldon-Basildon) was renumbered 94. The article referred to 1967 so my observations for routes 94,96 & 97 were valid and examination of an EN 1967 timetable will verify these service changes.

I was aware of the correct spelling of 'Grimston Road'. 'Grimsdown Road' as printed was a publishing error. (Sorry Ed.) However, my recollection was gravely at fault concerning my remark about Basildon operations. I retract these remarks and hope that members, in particular Mr Miles, will accept my profound apologies.

I accept Mr Miles's criticism about accuracy and will attempt to be more circumspect in future.

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All enquiries welcome



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LATE NEWS

Thamesway Allocation Changes

The following observations were made during mid July

1753/65/70/71/77/84/88	HH-D/L(D)	
1738/44/55/63/67/86	BN-D/L(D)	All stored at SD
1772/73/76/80/85/99	BN-D/L(D)	
1809	SD-D/L(D)	Stored at SD

1808 BN-SD; 1814 BN-HH; 1838 BN-SD; 1849/52/75 BN-HH;
4018/9 BD-EN; 4003/6 EN-??

In addition 1818/20/22/23/36/47/48 have been removed from BN, new allocations are awaited.

It is reported that 4000/1/3/6 are to be moved to Ponders End in the near future.

Local press reports have suggested that either Hadleigh or Southend garages may be closed in a bid to cut costs. This this has been denied by MD Peter Edwards.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MONTHS MAGAZINE WERE RECEIVED FROM:-

A Colebourne, R Delahoy, R Dennis, P Ford, A Osborne, B Palmer, C Sigston, G Toon, M Torrance, M Weyell, Badgerline Enthusiasts, Eastern National, Essex County Council, Millers Coaches, PSV Circle, Southend Transport and Thamesway.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AUGUST MAGAZINE IS 2.8.91.