

EDITORIAL

Model Collectors Extravaganza - Saturday, March 28th - 1100-1600 hrs.

Members are reminded about this event which is being held at the Pope Paul Hall, London Road, Rayleigh on Saturday, March 28th commencing at 1100 hrs. Full details were published in last month's news sheet. It is expected that the Eastern National Golden Jubilee VRT (3048) together with buses from the Castle Point Transport Museum will be on display at the event.

Farewell to the Southend Transport PD3 Tour - Sunday, April 26th.

The two remaining Southend Transport Leyland PD3's are expected to be withdrawn during May and a tour on one of these vehicles has been organised for Sunday, April 26th. A booking form for this tour is enclosed with this news sheet, and members should note that all bookings should be made to the Group's Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq.)..

South Essex Coach Tour - Sunday, May 10th.

A booking form for this tour is enclosed with this news sheet. Bookings for this tour are being taken by the Tours Organiser (M.L. Weyell Esq.,) and members are asked to book their seats as soon as possible to avoid disappointment - our tours are very popular ! The vehicle to be used on this tour will be a Bristol FLF6LX, and this will provide members with a good opportunity to ride on one of these excellent vehicles.

Chelmsford Meeting - Monday, April 13th.

A meeting will be held at 33. Goldlay Road, Chelmsford on Monday, April 13th commencing at 1945 hrs. A range of Group photographs will be available for sale and the meeting will also provide an opportunity for general discussion. Goldlay Road is in two sections and No. 33 is in the cul-de-sac leading towards Parkway.

Group Photographs

A new colour photograph list has recently been published and a copy is enclosed with this news sheet. Please direct all orders for these photographs to the Group's Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 37. Warren Chase, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex. SS7 3DZ.).

Essex County Council Publications

A new timetable booklet for the Braintree/Dunmow/Witham/Halstead area dated February 1981 has recently been published by Essex County Council. Copies are available from the Administrative Officer (address above) at £0-25p each plus £0-25p postage and packing for each timetable.

Southend Historic Transport Rally - Sunday, June 7th

The Castle Point Transport Museum Society has recently published preliminary details of this year's Southend Historic Transport Rally which will be held on Sunday, June 7th at Southchurch Park, Southend. E.N.E.G. members will be able to take advantage of a special concessionary admission rate to the rally, which will be £0-40p for adults and £0-20p for children and OAPs. Group membership cards must be shown. The rally organisers are also seeking volunteers to help run the event on the rally day. Any Group member who considers that he/she will be able to assist for a half-day shift is asked to write to Mr. L.F. Watson at 15. Rubens Close, Shoeburyness, Essex for further details. Please note that all volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. Members who offer their help in this way will receive a free pass to the Rally together with a lunch voucher.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

The delivery dates for 3088-94 (see NS203) were 3088/9 (18.2.81), 3090/1 (20.2.81), 3092/3 (23.2.81) and 3094 (25.2.81).

Delivery of the 10 Bedford YMQ/Wadham Stringer 'midi-buses' has been delayed and is unlikely to commence during March as previously indicated.

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Further to the information contained in last month's news sheet, some additional information regarding the Bristol FLF6G's sold to Southdown Motor Services Ltd. is available. On February 16th 2826 and 2835 were observed at Conway Street garage, and by mid-March 2822/6/45 were at Conway Street in the main depot and 2835 was at the smaller Hove depot. 2826, as already reported, has been extensively cannibalised, whilst 2835 was noted without its engine. The engines from these vehicles are being fitted to Southdown vehicles 3226-9, which are convertible open-top Bristol FS6B's, and not to Leyland PD3/4's (see NS203).

Allocations & Transfers

3.81 1214 CN-DT, 1504 D/L (P)-CN, 2884 D/L (P)-CF, 2889 CF-D/L (D), 3021 HD-BD, 3025 SD-HD, 3048 BD-SD, 3086 D/L, 3087 D/L, 3088 D/L, 3089 D/L, 3090 D/L, 3091 D/L, 3092 D/L, 3093 D/L, 3094 D/L.

3048 was not allocated to DN as planned in March, and instead the vehicle has been allocated to SD, with 3025 moving to HD as the replacement vehicle. It is expected to be transferred to HH in April as originally intended. The allocation of 1214 to DT gives that depot its third dual-purpose Bedford YMT and will provide an extra vehicle for the two 'Highwayman' services starting from Harwich (see page 3).

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks and this continues from the information published in NS203:-

February : w/e 21.2.81 - 1741 at PL, 1865 at CW.

w/e 28.2.81 - 1411 at CW, 1543 at CW, 1840 at PL, 1881 at CW.

March : w/e 6.3.81 - 1419 at CW, 1530 at PL.

w/e 13.3.81 - 1838 at CW, 1842 at PL, 3050 at PL.

1410 PL is a further Bristol RELH6G carrying the National Express transfers (see NS201 for details).

Service Vehicles

Bristol FLF6G driver training vehicle 9010 (RHK346D) was delicensed for disposal (D/L (D)) during March and the vehicle is currently in store at HD depot.

Allocations of D/L (D) and D/L (P) Vehicles - by personal observation

Following the full allocation of delicensed vehicles published in last month's news sheet a number of changes have been recorded during March. Revised allocations are as follows :-

CF - 2889/90, CN (Wash Lane) - 1503 2875, CW 4 1600/9 and 2841/57 being prepared for Heddingham & District Omnibuses Ltd., HD - 1511 9010, PL (Depot) - 1502 2300-3/82 2874/93/8 2904/9/10, PL (Yard) - 2877, SE - 1101/2 1505/15 1610.

New Bristol VRT's 3086-94 are all currently delicensed at Central Works awaiting allocation. The Ensign Bus Co. have begun collecting the Bristol FLF6G's which were sold to them in February (see NS203). At the end of February Ensign Bus Co. had a total of 32 ex-Eastern National Bristol FLF6G's in store as follows :-

2752/72/5/6/83/90/7-9 2801/4/9/12/5-9/25/7/8/31/4/42/4/51/2/6/9/64 2928/40.

Of these vehicles, 2828 was noted at the company's Grays premises on March 15th together with 2853, which had been collected during March.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS (By kind courtesy of the P.S.V. Circle, continued from NS203)

380 (VY0 767) - Herbert, Shefford (for preservation), 11/80, ex. Bonner, Fyfield.
 409 (YHK726F) - Harrison, West Quantoxhead, 12/80, ex. Lincolnshire Road Car Co., 1427.
 1312 (207 MHK) - Breaker, Carlton, 1/81, ex. Ensign (N-PSV), Grays, 2.
 2795 (BVX671B) - Exported to Lusaka, Zambia, ex. dealer, Grays (date unknown).
 2796 (BVX672D) - Exported to Lusaka, Zambia, ex. dealer, Grays (date unknown).
 2823 (JHK455C) 2853 (OVX297D) 2859 (RHK344D) All to
 2833 (LWC659C) 2854 (OVX298D) 2860 (RHK345D) dealer, Grays,
 2851 (NTW944C) 2856 (OPU825D) 2864 (RVW390D) 2/81
 2841 (MVX878C) - Heddingham & District, 2/81.
 2849 (NTW942C) - Eastern National Preservation Group (for preservation), 2/81.
 2857 (OPU822D) - Heddingham & District, 2/81.

It has been reported that 2843 (MVX880C), which was sold to Essex County Council in 12/80, is being converted to a playbus, as part of a Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) scheme at Basildon. Further details will be published as soon as they become available.

Service Revisions

There have been a number of important service revisions during March, the most significant of which has been the introduction of a new network of 'Highwayman' express coach services linking many Essex towns with other parts of East Anglia and Kent. Seven new services have been introduced, numbered 801-7, and special leaflets and pocket timetable cards outlining the routes and fares are available from Company offices. Full details of these services are as follows :-

- 801 - Southend - Peterborough via Basildon, Chelmsford, Harlow and Bishop's Stortford. Operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- 802 - Harwich - Hemel Hempstead via Colchester, Braintree and Bishop's Stortford. Operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- 803 - Southend - Kings Lynn via Basildon, Chelmsford, Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Ely. Operates on Mondays and Fridays.
- 804 - Southend - Norwich via Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester and Ipswich. Operates on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- 805 - Southend - Norwich via Basildon, Maldon, Colchester and Ipswich. Operates on Thursdays only.
- 806 - Harwich - Milton Keynes via Colchester, Braintree, Bishop's Stortford, Harlow, Hertford and Luton. Operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- 807 - Southend - Maidstone via Basildon, Rochester and Chatham. Operates on Tuesdays only.

The publicity material for these services features a distinctive 'Highwayman' logo and picture, and it is understood that the vehicles operating the services will also carry special signs. These services were all introduced from Monday, March 23rd.

Other new services introduced recently have included four services from various towns to Romford. These services are aimed at shoppers and day return fares are available on each service at £1-20p. Full details are as follows :-

- 431 - Maldon - Romford via Danbury, Great Baddow and Chelmsford. This service operates on Wednesdays only and was introduced on March 11th.
- 435 - Braintree - Romford via Witham, Hatfield Peverel and Chelmsford. This service operates on Fridays only and was introduced on March 13th. The first journey was operated by Bedford YMT 1200 (BN0686T) from BE.
- 451 - Springfield (New Bowers Way) - Romford via Chelmsford, Galleywood, Margaretting, Ingatestone and Mounthnessing. This service operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and was introduced on March 10th.
- 461 - Blackmore - Romford via Hook End, Doddingtonhurst and Brentwood (see NS203). This service operates on Wednesdays only and was introduced on March 11th.

Two other new services have recently been introduced on behalf of the Granada Bingo Club, Bishop's Stortford for that club's patrons. Both services operate on a limited-stop basis with a flat fare of £0-50p. They operate as follows :-

- 701 - Saffron Walden - Bishop's Stortford (Granada Bingo Club). This service operates on Mondays only with one return journey. The first day of operation was February 23rd and the vehicle used was Bedford YMT 1202 (BN0688T) from BS.
- 726 - Braintree - Bishop's Stortford (Granada Bingo Club). This service also operates on Mondays only with one return journey. The first day of operation was February 23rd, with a Bristol VRT from Braintree (BE) and a duplicate vehicle from Great Dunmow.

Increased fares were introduced on all services from Sunday, March 8th. Revised prices for the travel cards at Basildon, Chelmsford and Southend were also introduced from the same date.

Revisions to services recently applied for have been as follows :-

- 22B - To introduce revised route at Rawreth.
- 70 - Weekdays : two minor timetable changes to evening journeys.
- 75 - Schooldays : two minor timetable changes.
- 95-98/95A-98A - To revise the evening timetable on Weekdays, and to revise the Sunday timetable with all journeys being numbered 95A.
- 148 - Revised timetable.
- 152 - Weekdays : one minor timetable change.
- 153 - Mondays to Fridays : one minor timetable change.

- 154 - Saturdays : one minor timetable change.
- 226 - Revised timetable.
- 261 - Revised terminals to be Collier Row (White Hart P.H.) and Blackmore (Bus Terminal) or Ongar (L.T. Station). New section of route between Collier Row and Brentwood, Brook Street to be via White Hart Lane, Collier Row Road, Chase Cross Road, Lower Bedford Road, Straight Road, Hilldene Ave., Gooshays Drive, Peterfield Ave. and Colchester Road. Timetable to be revised.
- 262 - Revised timetable, and one journey to be withdrawn on Mondays to Fridays.
- 270-3 - Revised timetable.
- 350 - Revised terminals to be Chelmsford (Bus Station) and Romford (Oldchurch Hospital Roundabout). Route between Brentwood and Romford to be via A1023, A12, A118, St. Edwards Way and Waterloo Road. Timetable to be revised. Following a Public Sitting of the Traffic Commissioners has been decided not to vary the conditions of this licence, in respect of Oliver Road, Shenfield (see NS200).
- 351 - Revised terminals to be Chelmsford (Bus Station) and Romford (Oldchurch Hospital Roundabout). Route between Brentwood and Romford to be via A1023, Kings Road, Crescent Road, Kavanaghs Road, A1023, A12, A118, St. Edwards Way and Waterloo Road. Certain journeys to operate to and from Romford (Weald Way) via St. Edwards Way, London Road, Southern Way and Weald Way. Timetable to be revised.
- 503-6 - Revised timetable.

Revisions to services recently introduced have been as follows :-

- 35 - 9.3.81 (NS203); 35A - 9.3.81 (NS203) and pocket timetable cards for services 35/A are available from Chelmsford Bus Station); 152-4 - 9.3.81 (NS203); 229 - 9.3.81 (NS203); 236 - 9.3.81 (NS203); 257/8 - 9.3.81 (NS203).

Express Services

The Company's licence for express service 136 (Brentwood - Dymchurch) has been surrendered.

Excursions and Tours

Leaflets outlining the range of Spring excursions are now available from Company offices. Amongst the many excursions being operated are visits to the Historic Commercial Vehicle Rally at Brighton, the Museum of British Road Transport at Coventry and the London Transport Museum at Covent Garden.

General

The Company has recently announced its decision to close two depots during 1981. Wood Green (WG) depot will close on Saturday, June 13th and Prittlewell (PL) depot will close on Saturday, August 8th. Additionally Prittlewell Works will close on this date. Further information regarding these closures will be published as soon as it becomes available.

Bristol VRTSL6G 3002 (CFU981G), allocated to Chelmsford (CF), was involved in a serious accident at Colchester on March 12th. The vehicle was extensively damaged and it is currently at Central Works.

Bristol RELH6G 1404 (VHK177L) is currently on loan to Eastern Coach Works at Lowestoft for experimental work. It has been reported that it will be rebuilt as a prototype for a new type of ECW coach body to be introduced later this year. It is expected that the vehicle will be returned to Eastern National during April.

The two Bristol FLF6G's recently acquired by Hedingham & District Omnibuses Ltd. (2841/57) are being repainted by Eastern National into Hedingham & District livery. 2857 was the first vehicle to be repainted and was noted at Central Works on March 13th awaiting collection by its new owners.

During a visit to the yard of Martins, Middlewich (Dealer) on March 8th former Eastern National Bristol FLF6G 2873 (RWC945D), latterly Alexander (Midland) MRD203, was amongst the vehicles noted (see also NS202).

Local newspapers in mid-Essex have recently contained reports that all Eastern National services will be one-man-operated by the Spring of 1982. It was also reported that a fully operational one-man-operated bus service throughout the Company's area could save £300,000 a year.

Full details regarding the service changes that will be introduced following the closure of Wood Green (WG) depot in June are not yet available. However, it has been widely reported that service 251 (Southend - Wood Green) will be revised to operate from Southend to Romford, with an extension to Walthamstow during peak periods. It is likely that these changes to service 251 would occur in conjunction with other service changes in the Southend & District Joint Services area.

Open-top Bristol KSW5G's 2383/4 have recently been recertified for operation this Summer. They both received three year Certificates of Fitness.

From March 8th, additional picking up points were introduced on service 402 for journeys to London. They are at Dartford, Crayford, Bexleyheath, Welling, Shooters Hill and Blackheath.

Unusual Workings

Following from the information published in NS203 recent observations of Chelmsford (CF) vehicles operating on temporary loan from other depots have been as follows :-

March 1st : 1209 and 1500 at BS, 1506 at BN, 1508 at CN, 1700 at SE, 1701 at CR, 1718 at MN, 1734 at BD, 1778 at BE, 1802 at BD, 1829 at HH, 1867 at BE, and 3033 at HD. 1819 was at Great Dunmow (outstation), 1842 was at Prittlewell Works and 1855, 3078, 3079 and 3082 were on private hire work on this date.

March 15th : 1508 at CN, 1700 at SE, 1718 at MN, 1775 at HD, 1829 at HH, 1860 at MN, 1867 at BE and 3033 at HD. 1774 was at Great Dunmow (outstation), 1869 and 3002 were at Central Works and 3079-81 were on private hire work on this date.

Clacton (CN) vehicles which worked on temporary loan from Harwich (DT) during February were as follows :- 1.2-1529 replacing 1521 and 1751 replacing 1901; 2.2-1527 replacing 1532; 3.2-1901 returned from CN with 1920 going to CN; 4.2-1415 replacing 1405 CN (but on loan to DT), 1520 replacing 1522 and 1532 returned from CN to replace 1527; 5.2-1405 replaced 1415 and 1522 returned to replace 1520; 6.2-2383 moved to DT for winter storage following recertification and 2384 was moved to CN for recertification; 7.2-1834 replaced 1901; 10.2-1901 returned from CN replacing 1783 DT, 1208 moved to CN for maintenance; 11.2-1415 replaced 1405 CN; 12.2-1783 returned from CN and replaced 1834 and 1521 returned to replace 1529; 13.2-1415 to CN for private hire work returning on 15.2; 16.2-1405 replaced 1415; 17.2-1208 returned from CN and replaced 1204 whilst 1920 replaced 1781; 18.2-1781 returned from CN replacing 1783; 20.2-1405 returned to CN; 21.2-1783 returned from CN replacing 1751; 23.2-1204 returned to DT replacing 1208 and 1791 replaced 1781; 28.2-1523 replaced 1522 and 1781 returned to replace 1791.

Other details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members are as follows :-

- 1.1-1917 CF noted on hire to British Rail.
- 2.1-1505 CR on service 351, 3054 SD on service 311.
- 3.1-1773 SD on service 311, 1923 CR on service 152, 3054 SD on service 154.
- 22.1-1982 DE on service 351.
- 26.1-3006 SD on service 311, 3055 SE on service 311.
- 29.1-1731 SE on service 311, 1863 BE on service 353.
- 1.2-2907 HH on service 251.
- 10.2-1728 MN on service 351.
- 14.2-1500 CF on service 152, 1833 MN on service 351.
- 16.2-3006 SD on service 311, 3079 CF on service 53.
- 19.2-1201 MN on service 19A, 1934 BN on service 311, 2925 HH on service 251.
- 21.2-1867 CF on service 70.
- 22.2-1787 SD on service 151, 1934 BN on service 402, 2945 SD on service 400, 3044 SD on service 402.
- 23.2-1829 CF on service 24.
- 24.2-1829 CF on service 2.
- 25.2-1833 MN on service 351.
- 26.2-1726 HH on service 311, 3051 MN on service 3.
- 27.2-1794 BN on service 402, 1898 BN on service 251, 2888 CF on service 251, 2917 WG on service 400.
- 28.2-1772 BN on service 11, 1906 BN on service 311, 1932 BE on service 154, 2885 CF on service 11, 3054 SD on service 31, 3068 BN on service 350.
- 1.3-2906 DD on service 152.
- 3.3-3071 SD on service 25.

- 4.3-1530 BD freshly repainted at Prittlewell Works on service 2.
 6.3-1530 BD noted outside Prittlewell garage, 1778 CF on services 70 and 326, 2911 WG noted at HH depot and on service 23A.
 7.3-1204/8/14 (all DT) operated Ipswich Town F.C. football excursions to Nottingham, 3054 SD on service 311.
 8.3-1530 BD noted at SD depot displaying service 19 on the destination blinds.
 9.3-1506 CF noted in Wickford operating a local service, 3025 HD noted on service 311, 3033 CF noted on service 312.
 10.3-3004 BE on service 53.
 11.3-1209 CF on service 154, 1517 BD on service 251.
 13.3-1401 HD was towed from Battersea Coach Park to HH depot for repairs, and it was still at HH on 16.3, 1829 CF on service 3A, 3033 CF noted in BE depot.
 15.3-1409 PL operated the 1500 hrs. service 609 journey from Southend in place of the usual National Travel (South West) vehicle.
 16.3-1721 SD on service 233.
 17.3-1540 BD on service 251.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

Withdrawn Vehicles

The only news to report this month is that Leyland Atlantean 52 (AVX 52G) is still at the depot, but has now been reduced to a body shell only (see also NS200)

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

The 12 Leyland Fleetlines currently on order (231-42) are now expected to be delivered during April and early May. It has been reported that they will displace the remaining two Leyland PD3's (346/7) and Daimler Fleetlines (348-52/4-9).

Withdrawn Vehicles

3.81 345 (MHJ345F)
 353 (WJN353J)

The two remaining Leyland PD3's are expected to remain in service until early May, when they will become surplus to requirements, and they will be delicensed at the end of May. They are unlikely to be used in regular service during May, although a special final journey may operate on May 31st, and full details will be published as soon as they become available.

Vehicle On Loan

Leicester City Transport 206 (MUT206W), which is an East Lancs bodied Dennis Dominator, was on loan from March 16th to 21st. It was numbered E14 by Southend Transport, and it was used in service from March 18th to 21st on services 1 and 27 with crew operation.

General

The withdrawal of the final Leyland PD3's will not eliminate crew operation with Southend Transport. Services 1 and 27 will remain crew operated during Weekdays (not evenings), and it is reported that from June services 1 and 25A (but not 27) will be crew operated.

Following the news in last month's news sheet that Reading Transport had ceased operation on the limited stop service (X1) from February 16th, it can now be reported that they resumed operation of the service from Saturday, February 28th. The service now operates to a revised timetable, which was originally scheduled to be introduced from February 16th, with six journeys each way daily (0630, 0830, 1030, 1230, 1430 and 1630 hrs. from Southend and 0715, 0855, 1055, 1255, 1440 and 1640 hrs. from Reading),

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), R.H. Palmer (M105), W.J. Morrison (M131), R. Delahoy (M180), P.J. Carr (M207), P.W. Harvey (M219), S.D. Barham (M313), W. White (M320), L. Thorington (M352), J. Perrett (M402), J.G. Collins (M405), S. Simister (M419) and G. Huggins (AM1). Notes and information for the April news sheet should be sent to the News Sheet Editor (address below) by Wednesday, April 22nd.