

EDITORIAL

Committee Membership

The Group's 1979 committee were re-elected at the fifteenth A.G.M. to serve for 1980. The officers are as follows :

A.G. Osborne (Chairman & Founder), R. Delahoy (Events Secretary), P.W. Harvey (Administrative Officer & Treasurer), A.W. Meadows (Publications Officer), W.J. Morrison (Production Officer), R.H. Palmer (Membership Secretary), P.J. Snell (Photographs Officer), D.A. Stebbing (News Sheet Editor) and M.L. Weyell (Tours Organiser).

A copy of the Group's Annual Report for 1979 is enclosed with this news sheet. Copies of the Group's Accounts for 1979, which were approved at the A.G.M., are available from the Administrative Officer & Treasurer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 37. Warren Chase, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex. SS7 3DZ) and a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed with all requests.

Photograph Lists

In order to simplify the Group's Photograph Lists a revised and updated list (E.C. 7 Revised) has recently been produced. This new list details all black and white and colour photographs previously listed in E.C. 7, E.C. 7B, E.C. 7C and E.C. 7E which have now been superceded. Copies of the new list may be obtained from the Administrative Officer & Treasurer (address above) or the Membership Secretary (R.H. Palmer Esq., 67. Perkins Road, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. IG2 7NQ) and a stamped addressed envelope should also be provided.

The 'Southend Busman'

Will members please note that the January edition of the 'Southend Busman' has been held over until February and will be distributed with next month's news sheet.

Group Membership

We are pleased to announce that the Group's 400th new member has recently been enrolled.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

NIL

Bristol VRTSL6Gs 3067-71 (K00785-9V) entered service on Service 400 on January 1st and full details of their allocations may be found below. Further details of the external signwriting carried by these vehicles are also available. On the sides of the vehicles the legend 'LIMITED STOP THE 400 SOUTHEM BASILDON ROMFORD KINGS CROSS' is painted on the green panels immediately above the lower deck windows, and not on the white panels below the upper deck windows as indicated in NS189. On the off-side the following additional information is painted on the stair panel behind the driver's cab 'EVERY HOUR DAY RETURN FARES KINGS CROSS - SOUTHEM £1.95 ROMFORD - SOUTHEM £1.50', whilst on the rear engine cover the following information is also painted 'LIMITED STOP SERVICE 400 REGULAR BUSES KINGS CROSS ROMFORD - BASILDON SOUTHEM DAY RETURN FARES KINGS CROSS - SOUTHEM £1.95 ROMFORD - SOUTHEM £1.50'. This signwriting was undertaken at Central Works during December. The interior finish of these vehicles is predominantly beige and are similar to the latest Leyland National and Bristol VRTSL6Ls 3064-6 in this respect.

Three of the recently delivered Leyland Nationals (1918/21/3) have been stored at Prittlewell (PL) depot during January pending their introduction into service probably during February.

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Vehicles on Order

Details of the 1980 vehicle programme are now available :

15 Leyland National, series A, 11.6 metre saloons (1925-39)

18 Bristol series 3 VRTSL6G double deckers (70 seats) (3077-94)

Registration numbers for the first batch of Leyland Nationals have now been reserved. 1925-36 will have registrations MHJ721-32V.

Five vehicles from the 1979 order for Bristol VRTs are still outstanding. These are 3072-6 which will be registered KO0790-4V and will also be finished in dual-purpose livery. Delivery is expected to commence in April and the chassis numbers of these vehicles will be 3/2270-4. Body numbers are at present unknown.

Allocations & Transfers

1.80 1203 BE-D/L, 1207 HH-BE, 1402 D/L-PL, 1440 CN-D/L (D), 1500 CN-D/L, 1501 HH-D/L, 1608 BD-CN, 1757 HD-HH, 1785 BD-D/L, 1828 CR-D/L, 1903 MN-BD, 1910 BE-BN, 1922 D/L-temporary allocation to BN, 1924 D/L-HD, 2774 SD-SD (PLDS), 2775 SD (PLDS)-D/L (D), 2776 SD (PLDS)-D/L (D), 2790 SD-SD (PLDS), 2798 BS-D/L (D), 2801 WG-D/L (D)-MN, 2849 HH-SD, 2857 CF-D/L, 2910 WG-HH, 2945 BN-CF, 3035 CF-D/L, 3036 BN-BS, 3067 D/L-BN, 3068 D/L-BN, 3069 D/L-WG, 3070 D/L-SD, 3071 D/L-SD.

Amongst a number of very interesting allocations this month have been the transfer of 1608 from BD to CN, the movement of 1757 which was HD's first Leyland National to HH, the transfer of the last manual gearbox FLF at HH depot and ENOC rally entrant, 2849, to SD, and the reallocation of BN's last FLF (2945) to CF. The last Bristol MW6G (1440) has been delicensed for disposal, and a further three FLF6Gs have also been delicensed for disposal. 1922 has been allocated to BN on a temporary basis to replace a BN VRT now working for WG, where 3057 is out of service for engine repairs. Following the entry into service of the latest VRTs a further WG FLF has been reallocated with 2910 moving to HH. There are now eighteen semi-automatic FLFs at HH making this the largest allocation of such vehicles at any depot. The number of FLFs at BS has been reduced to one (2834), following the replacement of 2798 by 3036.

Unusual Workings

Following from the information published in NS189 recent observations of Chelmsford (CF) vehicles operating on temporary loan from other depots have been as follows :-
January 13th : 1509 at SE, 1701 at DT, 1702 at BD, 1705 at DT, 1718 at SD, 1752 at HH, 2831 at SD, 2887 at HH and 3033 at CR. 1899 was at Great Dunmow (outstation), 1710 was at Prittlewell Works and 2885 and 3019 were at Central Works on this date.
January 20th : 1509 at SE, 1700 at SD, 1701 at DT, 1702 at BD, 1705 at DT, 1707 at MN, 1718 at SD, 1752 at HH, 1811 at BN, 2831 at SD and 2887 at HH. 1899 was at Great Dunmow (outstation), 1710 was at Prittlewell Works and 2885 was at Central Works on this date.

Clacton (CN) vehicles which worked on temporary loan to Harwich (DT) during December were as follows :- 1.12-1519/20/32 1756 1826/58 (see also NS189) and 1705 CF replacing 1522 DT at Central Works; 4.12-1202 replacing 1208 DT, 1505; 7.12-1526; 8.12-1527 replacing 1529 which still carries DT depot plates although officially allocated to CN; 14.12-1520 and 2384 arrived from Prittlewell (PL) for storage (D/L); 20.12-1526; 23.12-2842 and 3027 were moved to CN for parking over the Christmas holiday; 27.12-1515 CF (CWDS); 28.12-1508 and 1701 CF replacing 1783 at Central Works; 31.12-3027 returned from CN.

Other details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :- 10.11-3021 WG on service 25; 5.12-2910 WG (now HH) on service 5; 9.12-1531 BD on service 251, 1801 CF on limited stop service 404 from Canvey to Rochford and 2902 HH on service 251; 17.12-2831 CF on service 25A (whilst working on temporary loan to SD, see above); 19.12-1553 LWA but carrying HH depot plates on service 402; 20.12-1801 CF on service 25A; 27.12-1718 CF on service 6 (whilst working on temporary loan to SD, see above); 1.1-1610 CF on loan to National Travel (London), 3070 (the first of the new VRTs noted in service) on service 400 without depot plates; 4.1-a HH VRT on service 11; 7.1-2801 without depot allocation plates on service 31, 1796 BD on service 55, 2928 still carrying Alder Valley fleetnames noted at CF depot; 8.1-2831 CF on services 2 and 25 (this vehicle does not carry CF depot allocation plates at the rear); 9.1-1200 MN on service 38, 3070 with SD depot allocation plates on service 400; 10.1-3068 on service 26 without depot allocation plates; 11.1-1530 BD on service 251, 2887 CF on service 151; 12.1-1202 on service 105 without depot allocation plates, 1752 CF on services 5A and 21; 14.1-1895 SD on service 11 (normally a VRT working); 18.1-1510 BD on service 251; 19.1-1510 BD on service 251, 2887 CF on service 151, new Maidstone & District VRT 5876 (FKMB76V) noted at CF depot and also on 20.1-22.1, probably on delivery from Lowestoft.

Since October 27th railway engineering works at Pitsea have curtailed the train service between Leigh-on-Sea and Laindon or Stanford-le-Hope. Work has usually been carried out on Sundays but has, on occasions, also affected the Saturday service. Replacement bus services have been provided at all times when the train service has been disrupted and a number of operators, including Eastern National, have been involved. Generally Eastern National vehicles from Chelmsford (CF) have been hired to British Rail with Chelmsford drivers. Vehicles noted on this service on occasions since October have been as follows :-

11.11-2812/35/56/85/7/9 3018.
 18.11-2885/6/9 2905.
 16.12-2851 2905/19 3002/29.
 6.1 -2854 2919/39 3002/29 and 3008 BN.
 13.1 -2875/7/89 2905 3018/29.
 20.1 -2886 2919 3018/9/29.

Additionally many vehicles are hired from other operators including Colchester Transport, Ensign, Grays, Lewington, Abridge and Southend Transport who usually provide the largest number of vehicles. Amongst the Colchester vehicles noted on this service have been 76 83/4/7 on January 5th and 83/4 on January 12th operating the Leigh-on-Sea to Stanford-le-Hope section.

Allocations of D/L Vehicles - by personal observation.

CF - 2857, CW - 1727 3035 (both receiving repairs to accident damage), CR - 1828, HH - 1501, PL (Depot) - 1918/21/3 2300-3/83, DT - 2384, Duple Coachbuilders Ltd. - 1203.

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

CN - 1440/8, CW - 2753/71 2928, MN - 1361 1434/43/5-7 2773/91 2813, BE - 2781, PL (Depot) - 2379/82 2775/6/98, PL (Yard) - 1423, SE - 1340/7 1451 2778.

General

From January 1st the National Bus Company have stated that the white band on single-deck vehicles, excluding dual-purpose vehicles and coaches, will be removed as vehicles are repainted and also on deliveries of new vehicles. In the Eastern National fleet this policy will affect Bristol REL6Gs (1501-54), Bristol RELH6G (1608) and all Leyland Nationals (1700-2/4/5/7-1924) together with the Ford R1014s (1000-4) and Bristol LH6Ls (1100-3). The first vehicles to be repainted without the white band were 1533 SD and 1780 CN (see under Vehicle Repaints below). The last vehicle to be repainted with the white band was 1817 HH during late-December.

Leyland National 1846 (WJN566S), allocated to Brentwood, was repainted during mid-December to incorporate a 'unibus' advertisement for Hensmans, the Ford dealers based in Brentwood. The advertisement extends in a band around the vehicle and consists of blue and red lettering on a white base. The signwriting associated with this advertisement was carried out at Central Works.

In association with the opening of a new 'SavaCentre' supermarket at Basildon early this year, 25 Eastern National vehicles will receive 'polybus' advertisements from March 1st to advertise the supermarket. Fifteen single-deck vehicles will receive advertisements, with five vehicles from Brentwood (BD) and ten vehicles from Basildon (BN) being involved. In addition ten double-deck vehicles will receive advertisements with five from Basildon (BN) and five from Southend (SD) being involved.

Bristol REL6G 1500 (CVW854G) was delicensed from January 1st and the vehicle is currently being converted into a mobile Market Analysis Project (MAP) office at Prittlewell Works. It is also possible that the vehicle will be used as a mobile travel agency visiting towns not served by Eastern National offices and major events when the MAP exercise has been completed. Further details on the conversion of this vehicle will be published when they are available.

At least two semi-automatic Bristol FLF6LXs have recently been fitted with unpainted aluminium radiator grilles. The vehicles concerned are 2901 SD and 2911 WG and they can be distinguished very easily.

The programme of modifying the rear panels of Leyland Nationals to allow advertisements to be carried is continuing, and amongst the vehicles recently modified has been 1881 (BN0671T), allocated to Brentwood, following accident repairs at Prittlewell Works. This is the highest numbered Leyland National to be modified, and unusually the vehicle has not been repainted.

Service Revisions

Increased fares were introduced on all stage services from Sunday, December 30th. An application has been made to revise the concessionary fares for persons holding Brentwood District Council Elderly and Handicapped Persons Passes on 16 services in the Brentwood area.

Stage Services

An application has recently been made to allow pre-booked excursions and tours passengers to travel by suitable stage services to and from authorised excursion and tour picking up points at the authorised excursion fares. This is in order to achieve operational economies.

The Company have also applied to increase the maximum length of vehicles allowed on stage services from 11.3 metres to 11.6 metres. This is in connection with the 1980 order for new vehicles which includes Mark II Leyland Nationals with an overall length of 11.6 metres.

Other revisions to services recently applied for have been as follows :-

- 2B - Minor route revision in Southend.
- 6/6A - Revised terminal to be Southchurch (Whittingham Avenue).
Journeys to Eastwood to be routed via Newington Avenue and return journeys to be via Newington Avenue and Poynings Avenue (see also NS189).
- 22 - Minor route revision in Southend.
- 22C - Minor route revision in Southend.
- 23 - Minor route revision in Leigh.
- 23A - Minor route revision in Leigh.
- 24/24A - Minor route revision in Southend.
- 30 - Period of operation to be Tuesdays and Thursdays only when schools are open; minor route revision in Great Dunmow.
- 33 - Minor route revision between Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden.
- 44A - Two works journeys to be withdrawn on Mondays to Fridays (see also NS189).
- 45 - Period of operation to be Mondays to Fridays.
- 53 - One evening journey from Colchester to Silver End to operate via Cypress Road and Forest Road in Witham (see also NS189).
- 61/61A - To revise timetable and new terminals to be Southend (Central Bus Station) and Sutton (Cemetery or Access House).
- 95/96 - To add an alternative route in the Mayland area.
- 232 - Mondays to Fridays - to introduce a revised timetable.
- 233 - Daily - to introduce a revised timetable incorporating increased running time between Runwell and Basildon.
- 234 - Daily - to introduce a revised timetable incorporating increased running time over sections of route between Billericay and Ramsden Heath and Wickford and Basildon.
- 235 - Weekdays - to introduce a revised timetable incorporating increased running time over sections of route between Billericay and Ramsden Heath and Wickford and Basildon.
- 259 - Schooldays - two minor timetable changes.
- 261 - Schooldays - an additional journey to be introduced from Warley, Eagle Way to Brentwood, Sawyers Hall Lane.
- 301 - Mondays to Fridays - one journey to be withdrawn.
- 302 - Four journeys to be withdrawn (two on weekdays, one on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and one on Thursdays only); three minor timetable changes (one on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, one on Thursdays only and one on Saturdays only) with two journeys being routed via Park Road and Maitland Road in Stansted.
- 310-3 - Minor route revisions in Halstead; certain journeys to operate via the A131 (Little Waltham By-Pass) in Little Waltham; certain journeys to operate via Braintree Railway Station in Braintree with minor route revisions to certain 311 journeys between Halstead and Braintree; certain journeys to operate from St. Francis Catholic School, Braintree; certain journeys to operate from Blessed John Payne School, Chelmsford and Chelmer Valley High School, Broomfield; and

certain journeys to operate to or from Chelmsford R.H.P.

Works, New Street, Chelmsford.

315 - Minor route revision in Great Dunmow.

317/8 - Terminal at Broxted to be Broxted (Church End).

326/7 - Minor route revision in Great Dunmow.

The application for a minor timetable change to service 152 on Schooldays only, which was listed in NS188, has now been withdrawn.

Excursions and Tours

An application has been made to introduce a new full day excursion from Braintree, Chelmsford, Halstead, Maldon and Southend to the Brierley Hill (Crystal Works). For excursions and tours starting from Southend-on-Sea (Victoria Bus Station), an application has also been made to revise the picking up points in Billericay and Wickford.

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during weeks and these are listed below :-

December

w/e 14.12.79 - 1402 at PL, 1720 at CW.

w/e 21.12.79 - 2930 at CW, 3023 at PL, 3031 at CW.

w/e 28.12.79 - 1817 at CW - this was the last vehicle to receive the white waist band (see above).

January

w/e 4.1.80 - no vehicles repainted.

w/e 11.1.80 - 1780 at PL.

w/e 18.1.80 - 1533 at PL.

Additionally 1846 received a 'unibus' advertisement at Central Works during the week ending December 14th.

Amongst the vehicles currently being repainted at Central Works is an Ipswich Transport Leyland AN68/1R, 97 (TRT 97M), which is receiving an overall advertisement.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

83	MEV 83V	Leyland AN68A/1	- - - - -	E.C.W.	H43/31F	- - - - -
84	MEV 84V	Leyland AN68A/1	- - - - -	E.C.W.	H43/31F	- - - - -
85	MEV 85V	Leyland AN68A/1	- - - - -	E.C.W.	H43/31F	- - - - -
86	MEV 86V	Leyland AN68A/1	- - - - -	E.C.W.	H43/31F	- - - - -
87	MEV 87V	Leyland AN68A/1	- - - - -	E.C.W.	H43/31F	- - - - -

The chassis and body numbers of these vehicles together with dates of delivery will be published as soon as they become available.

It is expected that the remaining Leyland PD2A/30s (40/2/4) will be withdrawn following the arrival of these new vehicles, together with possibly the first of the Massey bodied Leyland PDR1/1s.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles on Order

Southend Transport have recently confirmed that the following new vehicles are on order :-

1980 - 4 Leyland Leopards with Duple Dominant 2 coach bodies fitted with dual purpose seating and in blue and cream livery. These vehicles will be numbered 205-8 (see also NS181).

Early 1981 - 12 Leyland Fleetlines (FE33ALR) with Northern Counties H49/31D bodies in the traditional Southend style. These vehicles will presumably be numbered 231-42.

Dates uncertain at present - 28 Leyland B45s (low height chassis version of the Leyland Titan, believed to be known as the Olympian), with Gardner engines and Northern Counties bodies. These vehicles will be delivered in four batches of 10, 6, 6 and 6.

Dates uncertain at present - 2 Leyland B43s (replacement chassis for the Leyland Leopard) with coach bodies.

This information corrects and updates previous reports regarding new vehicles on order.

Rebuilt Vehicles

Work on the conversion of Daimler Fleetlines 370/3 to open-top is now well advanced and 370 is almost complete having been repainted in open-top livery, with a blue lower deck and cream above. 371 has also now entered the Tickfield Road works, but 372 was still in normal use during late-January. 370 has been fitted with a small front windscreen on the upper deck. Part of the driver's cab instrument panel has been replaced, and it is expected that the Videmat machines will be removed from these vehicles.

Vehicles on Loan

Daimler Fleetline 351 (WJN351J) has returned from loan to Darlington Transport with mechanical defects. A replacement vehicle has not been sent to Darlington. Four additional Darlington Daimler Fleetlines noted at the Tickfield Road Works are 49, 50, 53 and 58 (NHN249K), and it is understood that these will be the last Darlington vehicles to be overhauled by Southend Transport.

General

The complete list of vehicles fitted with radio sets is 215/6/8/21-30 351/2/4-71 373-97. Leyland Leopard coaches 201-4 and the Leyland PD3s will not be fitted with radios, although it is anticipated that the four Leyland Leopards on order (205-8) will have radios. Additionally the Transport Department's Land Rover (594) and Austin Taxi (688) have radios, and there are 6 mobile sets for inspectors.

By mid-January most of the Leyland PD3s were out of service with mechanical defects. The only vehicles noted in regular service have been 334 and 347. 338 has accident damage and is unlikely to be used in service again.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS (By kind courtesy of the P.S.V. Circle, continued from NS189).

- 1411 (2736 VX) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS183).
- 1422 (201 YVX) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 1435 (00 9543) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS177).
- 1437 (00 9545) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 1441 (NWC 15) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS177).
- 1442 (NWC 16) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS177).
- 1450 (BPU 24B) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS177).
- 1600 (BNO101B) - Breaker, Carlton, 9/79, ex. dealer, Sherburn.
- 1601 (BNO102B) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS176).
- 1612 (AVX962B) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 2716 (96 TVX) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 2728 (175 XNO) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 2739 (EOO 581) - Dealer, Barnsley, 7/77. (see also NS167).
- 2741 (EOO 583) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS177).
- 2756 (JWC 716) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 2758 (JWC 718) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 2760 (RWC 601) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 2766 (VWC 46) - Dealer, Sherburn, 2/78. (see also NS172).
- 2779 (992 KOO) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS183).
- 2787 (938 LWC) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS177).
- 2793 (BVX667B) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS177).
- 2803 (BVX679B) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78. (see also NS185).
- 2933 (186 XNO) - Dealer, Middlewich, 7/78.

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), R.H. Palmer (M105), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), A. Kelleher (M225), R.E. Huggins (M296), S.D. Barham (M313), L. Thorington (M352) and S.D. Spencer (M358). Notes and information for the February news sheet should be sent to the News Sheet Editor by Wednesday, February 20th (address below).