

EDITORIAL

Committee Membership

The committee elected at the thirteenth A.G.M. to serve for 1978 is A. G. Osborne, M. L. Weyell and P. J. Snell (M32).

News Sheet Coverage

Following a resolution passed at the thirteenth A.G.M. news sheet coverage of the operations of Ipswich Transport is to be discontinued. Regular coverage of Premier Travel activities will also cease, however, significant events will be recorded under Independents notes.

Southend Meeting, Tuesday February 14

At the Committee Rooms, Southend Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue commencing at 1930. The main feature of the evening will be advice and hints on better photography from members of the Southend Photographic Society. Camera accessories will also be discussed. This promises to be an interesting and instructive evening so please give it your support.

Essex County Council timetables

The timetable for the Chelmsford/Maldon area is now available, price 25p (post free) from the address given in NS165. The Group now has stocks of all Essex County Council timetables which are available for sale at meetings, rallies etc.

Independents timetables

Timetables of independents services operated in the Lake District and also in Leicestershire, compiled from personal information, may be obtained from D. Blumsom Esq. (M139), 6, Wolves Lane, Palmers Green, LONDON N.13 6DR. Timetables are priced at 30p (post free) and further information may be obtained from the above address.

Southend Busman Photo Service

A quantity of negatives has been obtained by Peter Snell. These are from C. L. Rayner Esq. and include many elderly views of Westcliff-on-Sea and Borough Services, Southend vehicles and also of Southend Corporation trams. Many of the negatives are of poor quality but the views are very rare. A list of the prints available may be obtained from Southend Busman Photo Service, 6, Mandeville Way, BENFLEET, Essex SS7 4LH (please enclose an S.A.E.)

Morris Register London to Brighton Run, Sunday 5 February

This run (the 16th Annual event) will commence at Clapham Common at 0900 and finish at Shoreham-by-Sea (Royal Coach Hotel). The Eastern National Preservation Group Braintree Branch Bristol KSW5G, VNO 859 will be attending the event and members wishing to participate are asked to telephone Braintree 22239 after 1800. Departure times are Braintree (0600), Chelmsford (0630), Brentwood (0650), Romford (0715), and Ilford (0725).

Items Wanted for Private Collection

Pre-1950 National/Eastern National badges, buttons, tickets and vehicle pictures. Also any pre-1930 timetables. Will pay cash. Offers to Major S. J. Williams (M323), H. Q. Baltrap, Naval Party 1004, B.F.P.O. Ships, LONDON.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

1832	VK	VNO898S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04910	Leyland National	B49F
1833	VK	VNO899S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04911	Leyland National	B49F

1838	WJN558S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04937	Leyland National	B49F
1839	WJN559S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04938	Leyland National	B49F
1840	WJN560S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04941	Leyland National	B49F
1841	WJN561S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04942	Leyland National	B49F
1842	WJN562S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04944	Leyland National	B49F
1843	WJN563S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04945	Leyland National	B49F
1844	WJN564S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04948	Leyland National	B49F
1845	WJN565S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04949	Leyland National	B49F
1846	WJN566S	Leyland National	11351A/1R	04952	Leyland National	B49F

Delivery dates:	1832 - 12.77	1840 - 1.78	1844 - 1.78
	1833 - 12.77	1841 - 1.78	1845 - 1.78
	1838 - 1.78	1842 - 1.78	1846 - 1.78
	1839 - 1.78	1843 - 1.78	

1832/3 (VAR898/9S) complete the 1977 vehicle programme.

1838-46 (WJN558-66S) are the nine Leyland Nationals diverted from East Kent. These vehicles were to have been 1090-8 (PJJ 90-8S) in the 1977 vehicle programme for East Kent. (see also NS165)

The four Leyland Nationals which were to have been numbered 1834-7, which were replaced by 1834-7 (VAR894-7S) a diverted order from East Midland (which were to have been URA607-10S); have been delivered to Northern General as 4626-9 (BPT906-9S).

The 1978 vehicle programme has been amended. The 17 Bristol LH's will not be received, instead an additional quantity of Leyland Nationals will be delivered. The 1978 programme now consists of 49 Leyland Nationals (which includes the diverted order from East Kent already received) these vehicles will be numbered 1838 - 1886.

Withdrawn Vehicles

1.78 1606 (BNO107B) 1611 (AVX961B) 2717 (97 TVX)

These vehicles have been acquired by the Eastern Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd., Norwich, 1/78.

1606/11 (BNO107B, AVX961B) will be used to provide spares whilst it is thought that 2717 (97 TVX) will be converted for use as a Driver Training Vehicle.

Rebuilt/Reseated Vehicles

Conversion of 2856 (OPU825D) to FLF6G is at present in progress.

Contrary to reports published elsewhere, 2785 (936 LWC) has not be converted to FLF6G.

Allocations & Transfers

1.78 2741 - SD, 2903 - SD, 2914 - D/L.

Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

103 Circular journeys via Ramsey Church, Mayes Lane and Oakley Road to be operated in the reverse direction.

237/A Saturday service to be withdrawn.

The following service revisions have been introduced recently on the dates shown, details will be found in the appropriate news sheets indicated :

71 - 8.12.77, NS165 323 - 6.12.77, NS165

99 - Service withdrawn. (see also NS158, 30.12.77)

Service 71 was introduced following the commencement of the market in Coggeshall on Thursdays. It was originally thought that the market would only operate during December for Christmas shopping and service 71 was to operate for this period only. However, the market and service 71 have continued operation into the new year.

Basildon area services are to be revised in April and service numbers in the 500 series are to be introduced. (see also General section)

General

Revised fares were introduced from 1 January 1978. A National 'Wanderbus' ticket is to be introduced later in the year and will provide one days unlimited travel on N.B.C. services. Eastern National are to participate in the scheme.

London Transport a Multi-Ride ticket experiment in the London Borough of Havering is to commence on 26 February. Under the scheme pre-paid multi-ride tickets will provide cheaper travel. The scheme will also apply to certain sections of Eastern National services within the London Borough of Havering which parallel London Transport routes. The sections of Eastern National services involved are :

- 26 Romford, Market Place - Cranham, Front Lane.
- 151 Romford, Market Place - Gidea Park, Gallows Corner.
- 251 Romford, Mawney Road - Gidea Park, Gallows Corner. (also to be available for journeys out of the area to and from Gants Hill Station only).

Other Eastern National services which enter the borough will not be involved, viz :

- 40 The 4 mile section of this service which is within the borough is not served by London Transport.
- 400 Express service, no local fares.

Basildon area services are to be revised in April and a new 500 series of service numbers introduced. This is to create a local atmosphere for Basildon services (a sort of BASIBUS - ed.). At a later stage a Basildon area travelcard scheme may be introduced.

A special free bus service was operated on Saturday 26 November between Colchester (E. N. Garage) and Peartree Road (Marley Homecentre) to mark the opening of the Centre. The service was operated hourly and Bristol FLF 2794 (BVX670B) was used.

A special service was also provided by Eastern National on 27 December on services 152/3 between Basildon and Grays to provide a facility for people visiting Basildon and Orsett Hospitals. (All other Eastern National services were cancelled on this day). Two vehicles from Basildon were used.

Following the introduction of the timetable booklets published by Essex County Council, Eastern National are not to issue any more timetable booklets. The Eastern National North East and Central area timetables have already been covered and the remaining areas (other than the Southend district) will be documented by new timetable booklets to be issued by Essex C.C. in 1978. The Basildon area booklet will also incorporate the proposed revisions in that area. (see also NS165 Editorial)

The Silver Jubilee bus, Bristol VRT 3053 (LJN648P) has now entered Central Works, Chelmsford to be re-painted.

Bristol FLF 2712 (92 TVX) was also noted in service at Brentwood during December, fleetnumber plates were carried by the vehicle. (see also NS165)

Bristol FLF 2741 (E00 583) has been noted on several occasions on service 251. Other abnormal workings noted on this service included 3040 (PWC515M, BD), 3034 (NPU981M, BN), and 1349 (209 YVX, BD) all substituted for the O.M.O. Bristol VRT provided by Wood Green on various occasions.

Bristol MW 1425 (204 YVX) is in use as a store at Braintree.

Further notes are now available concerning the maintainance of Alder Valley vehicles on Eastern National premises. (see also NS165) This practice will continue as long as there is spare works capacity available. Work has also been performed at Wood Green and at Colchester. Vehicles noted to date are 634/42 (840 CRX, DRX1210) - Bristol FLF's, 411/89 (LJB338F, HOR489L) - Bristol RESL's, 935 (MPM390P) - Bristol VRT and 155 (NRD155M) - Leyland National.

Some notes concerning seating moquette have been submitted. The green P.V.C. seats originally fitted to Leyland National 1711 (WNO560L) were altered to standard moquette design in October 1976. This is an experiment to assess appearance and wear. It is expected that when Leyland Nationals are due for a re-trim they will

be replaced by moquette style seating. It is general policy to use moquette covered seats when possible, several Bristol RE saloons have been so treated. However, owing to periodic shortages of moquette, green vinyl covering has had to be used from time to time.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

General

A.E.C. Regent V 2 (682 HEV) which was withdrawn in 9.76 and subsequently stored at the garage, was sold in 11.77 for preservation.

A.E.C. Regent V 5 (681 HEV) which was previously in use as a driver training vehicle has been out of service for several months and was not in evidence at the garage in mid December, presumably this has been replaced by 96 (CWC 36B).

Leyland PD2A 36 (CWC 36B) has been repaired following accident damage (see also NS159) and has received a front peak reminiscent of the E.C.W. bodied batch of Leyland Atlanteans, 55-60 (JHK495-500N). The vehicle is now in use as a Driver Training Vehicle (from 11.77), it is in normal livery and carries fleetnumber 96.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles on Loan/Hire

The loan of vehicles to Cardiff City Transport has now terminated. 361-4 (WJN361-4J) were returned during November and 365/6 (WJN365/6J) during December.

A number of Leyland PD3's have recently been noted on hire to Lesney Bros. Ltd. for staff transport use at Rochford.

Some notes are now available concerning the operations on service 400 during the Christmas period. The service was licensed for operation by Southend Transport on December 25/26 and for operation on December 27 by the Ensign Bus Co. Ltd., Grays. Ensign provided part of the service on December 26 and the complete service on December 27, using Southend Transport Daimler Fleetlines on hire. Setright ticket machines were used with the Videmat and farebox being covered over. Travelcards and concessionary passes were not accepted. Following the withdrawal of rail services between London and Southend on December 26 due to industrial action by railmen, certain heavily loaded journeys were duplicated on that day.

General

The anti-mugging screen fitted to Leyland Leopard 217 (MJN217F) has been removed.

Leyland PD3 346 (MHJ346F) has now returned to service following fire damage which has now been repaired.

Additional former London Transport A.E.C. Merlins which have been overhauled at Tickfield Road before shipment to Citybus, Belfast, Northern Ireland are MBA 518/46/8 (VLW518/46G, AML548H). London Transport MB338 (VLW338G) is still at Tickfield Road Works to provide spare parts. This vehicle is still owned by London Transport and is officially allocated to Southend. (additional notes to NS162/3)

London Transport SMS class A.E.C. Swifts are now being overhauled at the works, those noted to date are SMS 187/98/205/6/373/590 (EGN187J etc.)

INDEPENDENTS

Coggeshall Market Day Services

Following the commencement of the market in Coggeshall application has been made by two independent operators for special stage carriage market day services. (see also Eastern National service 71 notes)

Copeman, Little Tey (C & R Coaches)

Application has been made to alter the express service (see NS153/9) between Little Tey and Coggeshall to become a stage carriage service and to operate on Thursdays. It is thought that this service first operated on December 1.

Whybrow, Kelvedon (Kelvedon Coaches)

Application has been made for a stage carriage service between TIPTREE (Factory Cnr.) and COGGESHALL (Church Green) via B1023, Kelvedon and B1024. No passengers may be carried locally between Tiptree and Monks Farm Lane. (market days only)