

ESSEX BUS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1994

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

365



THAMESWAY 522 F 614XWY LEYLAND TIGER - PLAXTON, ACQUIRED FROM FELLOW BADGERLIE GROUP COMPANY GOLD RIDER, YORKSHIRE RIDER 1614 522 is seen here at Central Bus Station on its first appearance at Southend on City Saver service S1.

P SNELL.

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Editorial

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS.

Thamesway have put new Dennis Darts in service at Basildon sporting a new livery and an interesting fleet motif outlining Tower Bridge, outline of the River Thames and a Thames Barge. Southend Transport have hired a mixed bag of vehicles to cover an acute shortage of buses, and Colchester acquire a fleet of Leyland Atlanteans, all this and more in this month magazine.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS. Freight House 8 pm.

October 11th Slide show by John Weekes.

November 8th Programme details next month.

December 13th Guest Speaker Mr W Hiran MD Thamesway Ltd

PUBLICATIONS

Grey Green Fleet List 30p

Eastern National AEC Regents 1929-1932 illustrated 50p

Postage 25p each or both publications plus postage £1-00.

From Peter Snell.

E N Fleet Record 1964-1990

Lists all vehicles owned between 1964-1990 £4-50 post free.

From Andy Meadows.

Change of address for Southend Transport Sub-Editor.

Steve Thompson now Flat 7 30 Palmerston Rd. Westcliff on Sea SSO 7TB.

Acknowledgements

Eastern National Ltd, Thamesway Ltd, Colchester B.T., Southend Transport, Essex C.C. County Bus & Coach, Eastern National Grapevine Magazine, I Burton, G Toon, A Rook, M Weyell, P Harvey, R Dennis, S Menzies, D Moth, M Torrance, C Sigston, R Delahoye,.

Deadline for October E B N .October 10th-11th.

ALLOCATION CHANGES

8/94 120 BE-D/L(D); 211 BE-D/L(D); 212 D/L(D)-BE; 213 DT-CN; 222 CR-BE;
238/39 POOL-CR; 242/44 D/L(D)-BE; 245 POOL-CF; 247 D/L(D)-CR;
750 POOL-D/L(D); 1111 CN-DT; 1870 CR-POOL; 1892 POOL-D/L(D);
3064 D/L(D)-CR; 3069 CR-CF; 3111 CR-D/L(D); 4016 BS-CR

The above changes see the last Ford Transit withdrawn. Bristol VR 3111 was gutted by fire, following what was thought to be an electrical fire (according to press reports) at Marks Tey.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

- 10.7.94. CF1914 on service 452 (normally Lynx)
- 3.8.94. CF4013 on service 59 (normally BS Tiger)
- 4.8.94. CN1111 on service 53 (CR operated service)
- 13.8.94. CF1940 on service 35 (1940 is normally on 52)
- 19.8.94. CR803 on service 53 (0935 ex Colchester)
- 20.8.94. CF3084 on service 53 (CR operated service)
- 31.8.94. CN1111 on service 53 (as above)
- 1.9.94. CN821 on service 53

The remaining Ford Transit 750 was noted in use from Bishops Stortford in late August. Bristol VR 3064 was noted in use from Clacton depot during August, but should have moved to Colchester for the start of the new school term.

GENERAL

The new Bishops Stortford depot was opened on Sunday 4th September. The new depot is adjacent to the Bus Station in Anchor Street. It replaces the former premises in South Street, which was opened by the London General on 25th March 1926. It was vacated by LPTB on 26th April 1934 and sold to Eastern National on 13th June 1935.

Bristol VRs 3106 & 3112 have had a bench seat fitted in place of the luggage pen and now seat H43/34F. This is in connection with a contract service.

All Leyland Olympians with the exception of 4007 are now fitted with manual blinds. Following an appeal from the Mayor of Colchester on behalf of the people of Sarajevo, EN donated the first days takings on a Dennis Dart on its first day inservice on 21st June.

REPAINTS

8/94 1414 4008



SERVICES

- 31** The Sunday service will pass to Hedingham from 30.10.94.
- 33** Revised timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 35** Revised timetable, with most journeys extended to Braintree College from 5.9.94.
- 41B** Revised route and timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 42** Revised timetable with extension to new Anglia University from 5.9.94.
- 43** Revised timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 45** Revised to operate Bus Station to Loftin Way and revised timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 49** Revised timetable from 5.9.94. (Harlow-Bishops Stortford).
- 58** Revised timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 59** As service 58.
- 61** Introduced on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes, with two journeys from Woods Factory to Colchester Town Centre from 13.9.94.
- 64** Revised timetable, with some evening services extended to Layer-de-la-Haye from 5.9.94.
- 66** Extended to West Bergholt to replace service 67 from 5.9.94.
- 67** Section of route between North Station and West Bergholt withdrawn with effect from 5.9.94.
- 70** Section of 133 between Colchester and Braintree re-numbered 70 from 5.9.94
- 73** Revised timetable and re-numbered 79/A from 5.9.94.
- 78** Timetable revised from 5.9.94.
- 87** Afternoon journey extended to Horsley Cross on schooldays from 18.9.94.
- 88** Revised timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 103** As service 88.
- 104** As service 88.
- 118** Revised timetable and re-numbered 75A from 5.9.94.
- 119** Revised timetable and re-numbered 75 from 5.9.94. Unchanged on Sundays
- 133** Revised to operate Braintree- Bishops Stortford only from 5.9.94.
- 301** Revised timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 306** Revised route and timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 307** Revised timetable introduced from 5.9.94.
- 308** As service 307.
- 309** As service 307.
- 333** As service 307.
- 351** As service 307.

In addition the winter timetables will re-commence on Clacton area services 1/1A/1B, 2, 12, 13 and 14 from 12.9.94.

PUBLICITY

Timetable booklets all dated 4.9.94. for:-
Chelmsford and District (price 25p)
Bishops Stortford, Harlow and District (price 10p)
Colchester District (price 25p)

INITIAL DISPOSALS

751 (D751 RWC)	Sevenways, Talbot Green, Pont-y-Clun, South Wales, 8/94
1926 (MHJ 722V)	Frontline Buses, Tamworth, 8/94.
1939 (STW 20W)	As for 1926.

HEDINGHAM

SERVICES

88A Sunday service withdrawn after 25.9.94.
89 To correct EBN 364, this service was revised from 16.8.94.
90/A Revised timetable introduced from 24.9.94.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

APT RAYLEIGH A further Bristol VR is WTU 484W ex Midland Red North.
B&C TRAVEL AVELEY Bedford/Duple C445 LGN now carries Essex Pride fleetnames, thus reviving a name carried by a Rainham based company in the 60s and 70s.
BOON BOREHAM Setra K124 OCT has been re-registered SSU 331.
BJS GT WAKERING Bristol VR URB 161S has been sold to APT, Rayleigh.
BORDABUS WEST HORNDON Service 8 was revised from 1.9.94. Service 89 has been withdrawn.
BRANDON BLACKMORE END Have acquired WOI 2658 a Volvo/Plaxton from Leon's Stafford, whose livery it still carries.
CAMBUS Slight timetable revision to 112 from 5.9.94.
CARTERS COLCHESTER Ipswich 150 XRT 931X a Bristol B21/Alexander (Belfast) was hired on noted on service 53A on 21.8.94.
CHAMBERS BENFLEET A new all Ford Transit L723 YRT is in use. It is assumed to have replaced similar K254 DPU.
CHELMSFORD CAB COMPANY Another Ford Transit to report is J996 XKU with Advanced conversion.
COACHSTOP SOUTHEND New is Scania/Irizar M100 FLY named "Fleur de Leigh", it has a fly on the side.
COGGESHALL COMMUNITY BUS A revised timetable was introduced on the Kelvedon station service from 5.9.94.
EASTERN COUNTIES Services 92/93 were revised from 5.9.94.
FARGO RAYNE Sherpa L637 ANX is fitted with a tail lift and is DP16F or DP12F + 2 wheelchairs. A new service numbered 31 was introduced on 5.9.94. providing commuter journeys between Great Notley Village and Braintree. The timetable for service 32 was revised from the same date.
FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE MIB 1366 (ex SGS 507W) a Leyland Tiger/Duple has been acquired from Stans Gt Totham.
FORD ALTHORNE New is M486 HBC a ?/Caetano.
FOURWAYS CHELMSFORD Acquired is former Osbornes OUC 38R an ex London Fleetline.
GRAHAMS KELVEDON New is Mercedes/Plaxton Beaver B31F M345 UVX.

HAROLDS CAR HIRE NAZEING Talbot Express H521 ENK is the only vehicle operated.

HARRIS BUS WEST THURROCK Talbot Freeway G637 BHP was on loan from Sochulbus, Ashford, Middlesex during early August. Talbot Freeway E859 AKN B12FL + Wheelchairs has been acquired as cover for Easybus services. Services 390S and 391 were revised from 6.9.94. Service 392 has been withdrawn.

INGATESTONE COACHES Added to the fleet is PIW 4128 a Bedford/Plaxton Panorama, it appears to have replaced newer NIW 1639 a Berford/Plaxton Supreme.

JACKSONS BICKNACRE Slight timetable revision from 19.9.94.

LODGE HIGH EASTER Service 34 was withdrawn after 31.8.94. Toyota/Caetano G964 WNR has been acquired.

MIKES MINICOACHES BASILDON Sherpa C427 DYX has been sold to MJR, Thundersley.

OSBORNE TOLLESBURY MFK 768V is being used for spares following accident damage.

PARTRIDGE HADLEIGH (SUFFOLK) Introduced a schooldays only service numbered 115 between Weeley and Thorpe-le-Soken from 4.9.94. to replace a similsr Hedingham service, under contract to ECC.

PHILLIPS COACHES SHOTGATE Volvo/Van Hool A351 NPU and Sherpa E577 LNH have been acquired from Rayleigh Roadways.

PRIORY STANFORD LE HOPE Have acquired ADC 366A thought to be a Daf/Van Hool from Rules, Boxford in whose livery it is being operated.

SM TRAVEL HARLOW The operating centre has moved to Unit 9, Harlow Enterprise Centre, Elizabeth Way.

S&P COACHES SOUTHEND LHK 644V (see EBN 364 BJS notes) now has a Hallums (Ronda Coaches) disc and legal lettering, but remains at Southend Airport.

STEPHENSONS ROCHFORD Vehicles sold in a dealer activity are Metroliners B234 XEU and A941 MDV, AEC Reliance REK 927R and Tiger D272 FAS. Leopard XCC 682V (the former LCBS DL2) has been used on Sundays on 11A/222. A large number of Bristol VRs have arrived, some will be kept, the others are for dealer activity, they are:- PHH 407/08R, SAO411R, MAU 141/2/4P, OTO 151R, NEL 119P, CJH 115/41V, LOU 796P and YBF 682S. The use of CJH 141V and XCC 682V on Sundays, has ended the need to hire two VRs from Southend Transporton Sundays. MAU 142P has been sold to Europa Bus Centre, Ramsden Heath. Due to roadworks service 67 has been diverted away from Leigh Hill and now operates via Grand Drive and Leigh Broadway. To serve Leigh Station the route double runs from Thames Drive/ Marine Parade via Belton Way West.

SOUTHERN STAR HARLOW Have taken SM Travel's place at Poplars Farm, Roydon.

TURNERS TAXIS WICKHAM ST PAUL Have acquired Freight Rover/Optare G376 CLC (ex MCH 252 & G934 LUA).

VANTAGE ROMFORD Introduced service 523 between Romford and Ongar, with two journeys each way on Wednesdays and fridays from 2.9.94.

VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN Service 318 will pass to Hedingham with effect from 3.11.94.

WESTS WOODFORD GREEN Services 531/2/3 were revised from 5.9.94.

WHM LITTLE WALTHAM Further to EBN 360, 454 EAN has indeed been sold and is now A791 VVX with Sutherland, Barking.

Southend Transport

Subsequent Disposals.

FL 314 (GHV 29N) has passed to London & Country, with the purchase of Horsham Coaches. It is used on school contracts.

LD 333 (AYF 864T) has been sold. (ex S & M Benfleet.)

Hire, s.

Due to a large vehicle shortage, the following vehicle, s where on loan.

14/7	C.B.T 26 (EON 826V)	noted on 15.45 3A to Southend.
15/7	C.B.T 26 & 43 (D43 RWC).	
27/7	" 43 & 81 (YNO 81S)	
28/7	" 43 (D43 RWC)	noted on 11.32 9 to Southend.
2/8	" 71 (TPU 71R)	noted on 15.05 2 to Southend.
"	" 75 (TPU 75R)	noted on 15.42 12 to Southend.
"	" 82 (YNO 82S)	noted on 15.05 4A to Southend.
"	" 103 (OHE 274X)	
3/8	" 103 & 82 returned to C.B.T in exchange for 10 (BVP 810V)	
4/8	" 71 back to C.B.T replaced by 21 (BVP 821V).	
6/8	" 75 back to C.B.T replaced by 104 (OHE 280X)	
8/8	" 21 back to C.B.T.	
"	AN 131 & 865 (PUF 131M/MUA 865P)	from C.B.T via London & Country.
11/8	AN 865 back to C.B.T. (Not used).	
		131 & 865 in full L & C livery.
12/8	C.B.T 104	noted on 16.40 X10 Embankment to Southend.
13/8	" 104	noted on service 21. AN 131 on service 2.
16/8	" 10	back to C.B.T replaced by 25 (EON 825V).

All C.D.T vehicles returned to Colchester by Bank Holiday weekend.

(29/31 August).

Former S.T VR 351 (YBF 686S) has arrived on long term loan from L&C.

It is in L&C livery with fleetnames removed and S.T fleet No 351 applied.

Unusual Workings.

13/7	LN 745 (PJI 3745)	17.30 X2(Southend to Hyde Park)
		20.45 X2(Hyde Park to Southend.)
15/7	ON 257 (B185 BLG)	17.30 X2(Southend to Hyde Park)
		20.45 X2(Hyde Park to Southend.)
26/7	ON 283 (MUH 283X)	16.30 X1(Southend to Victoria)
		19.40 X2(Victoria to Southend.)
27/7	ON 263 (H263 GEV)	07.00 X11(Southend to Victoria)
		10.35 X1 (Victoria to Southend)
		18.30 X2 (Southend to Victoria)
		21.40 X2 (Victoria to Southend)
	LN 726 (GGE 174 T)	on Rail replacement service, Shoebury to Southend.
		(one trip only)
4/8	LN 745 (PJI 3745)	18.30 X2(Southend to Victoria)
		21.40 X2(Victoria to Southend)
18/8	ON 281 (MUH 281X)	11.16 X1(Vange, five bells to Victoria)
		replaced ON 256 due to breakdown. 281 replaced by Tiger at Victoria.
		281 then operated 14.35 X1 (Victoria to Southend)

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

As foretold last month, six Atlanteans have been drafted in from other subsidiaries of British Bus. TPU 69 P arrived from C Line on 4.8.94 and was reallocated its old CBT number of 69. It was repainted in CBT livery and entered service on 1.9.94. On 7.8.94, PUF 131 M and MUA 865 P arrived from London & Country, Leatherhead, and were numbered 64 and 65. On 3.9.94, RFR 416 P, RFR 419 P, and RFR 421 P arrived from London & Country, Addlestone, and were numbered 66, 72 and 70. The ex-L&C vehicles are all 73 seaters.

Lynxes 40, 30 and 27 were transferred to Crosville Wales on 5.8.94, 19.8.94 and 31.8.94, respectively. 27 and 30 had their Bright-tech equipment removed so that it can be used in other buses, possibly Olympians. Lynxes 28 and 29 remained in use by CBT on 7.9.94. Both carry overall advertisements: 28 for Wests and 29 for Foulkes. The report in *Buses* that 28 and 29 had gone and 40 remained was wrong; it did **not** come from the Company. It is, however, planned to transfer 28 and 29 to Wales as soon as two more Nationals can be obtained (and repainted).

Nationals 9 and 12 both entered service on 2.9.94, 9 in CBT livery and 12 in an overall advertisement for Foulkes, in anticipation of 29's departure.

During August 1994 a lot of vehicles were lent to Southend Transport. On 2.8.94, 71, 75, 82 and 103 went and 10 followed on 3.8.94, when 82 and 103 were returned. On 4.8.94, 21 went and 71 returned. On 6.8.94, 104 was sent to replace 75. 64 and 65 (see above) were sent to Southend, the day after they had arrived in Colchester: 8.8.94. 21 came back the same day. 65 was returned on 11.8.94. On 16.8.94 Nationals 25 and 10 were swapped, 25 coming back on 24.8.94, with 64. That left only 104 at Southend; it had been damaged in an accident on 24.8.94.

Service 31/31A/31B/31C/31D started on 6.9.94, with four fleet-liveried Atlanteans and two Olympians. Atlanteans 64, 66, 70 and 72 entered service the same day, but on town services, the last three still in their L&C colours; (it is intended to use only CBT-liveried buses on the 31-group).

It is hoped to take 84 (in 90th anniversary livery) to Duxford on 25.9.94.



VEHICLES

NEW

The first ten Dennis Darts are now in service. 918-923/925-928 (M918 TEV etc) entered service at Basildon on 5th September. Livery is quite different - they are predominantly yellow with a bright purple band that extends from the rear wheelarch to the back of the bus which goes diagonally upwards. A purple THAMESWAY fleetname appears under the windscreen and a new purple logo appears below the window line (this logo is illustrated below). More of these vehicles will be delivered at the end of September.

ALLOCATIONS (effective 5th September)

918-23/25-28 NEW-BN 1406 BN-HH; 1410 BN-HH; 1411 BN-HH; 1412 BN-HH; 1422 BN-HH; 1423 BN-HH; 1424 BN-HH; 1709 HH-D/L(D); 1712 HH-D/L(D); 1782 HH-D/L(D); 1783 HH-D/L(D); 1810 BD-D/L(D); 1817 HH-D/L(D); 1852 HH-D/L(D); 1866 BN-D/L(D); 1875 HH-D/L(D); 1898 BN-BD; 1900 BD-D/L(D); 1908 BN-BD; 1915 HH-D/L(D).

INITIAL DISPOSALS

1709, 1712, 1782, 1783, 1810, 1852, 1900, 1915 - Lister (dlr), Bolton 9.94
1817, 1836, 1849 - Bristol Bus & Coach, Bristol 9.94
(BB & C are vehicle refurbishers).

REPAINT

521 is now in City Saver livery and has revised signwriting.
521 retains Yorkshire Rider livery and was noted in service on 10.9.94.
232 repainted 8.94 in all-over advert livery for Magnus Vauxhall, Brentwood (front retains fleet livery).

WORKINGS

9.8.94 PD803 on LRT 193
20.8.94 BD3113 on route 225

SERVICE

D26 LYD is a Ford Transit 8 seat crew bus acquired from Clapton Coaches, Midsomer Norton (recently taken over by Badgerline). It carries a white and Blue livery and is on crew transfer duties at Ponders End.

GENERAL

208	C491 HCV	chassis no 310327-20-723807, body no 15559
209	C967 GCV	chassis no 310327-20-718482, body no 15554



OPERATIONS

The 1.8.94 changes to Brentwood town services did not effect vehicle requirement but their is now interworking of routes.

- 252/3 Essex County Council contract (Chingford-Waltham Cross/Abbey) passed to County Bus and Coach on 1.8.94
256 This Essex County Council contracted Billericay Town Service has since 22.8.94 been operating to a revised timetable to allow for an extension to/from Tye Common Road.
350/1 Minor changes to Mon to Fri timetable from 5.9.84

From 1.8.94 until 2.9.94,, Thamesway operated a Brentwood Council contract a free bus service known as 'Brentwood Centre Fun Bus'. The service operated Mon-Fri following a different route each day to and from the Brentwood Centre. A Brentwood Leyland National normally worked the service.

PUBLICITY

Brentwood Centre Fun Bus Timetable leaflet issued by Brentwood Centre.

40 New leaflet dated 1.8.94

71/4/72-4/80-83 new leaflet dated 1.8.94

TRIVIA

Recently acquired Leyland Tiger 2202 (FDZ 984) is certainly well travelled. When with Grey-Green (as OHM 831Y), this vehicle was the regular performer on the 163 London to Munich service, it was also the first Grey Green coach to carry Eurolines livery.

FLEET

COUNTY BUS & COACH

New Vehicles

MB 719/20 were received on 17/8, MB 721 on 10/8, MB 725/6 on 6/8, MB 727 on 9/8.

Chassis Numbers for MB 717-27 and MBT 805 are respectively:-

ZCGC5980002102980, ZCFC5980002103105/5029/30/4041/5032/
7122/5/239/240/372 and SDB290D5C00452597

Acquired Vehicles

The legal identity of the ex-Blazefield Iveco 49.10 will now be D129 DRV and not D547 HNW as proposed - the vehicle is an amalgamation of the two! D129 HRV will be MB 702 and is a 1986 machine with a Robin Hood B21F body. MB 747 (D547 HNW) is now considered to be under cannibalisation.

Vehicles on Hire

Dennis Dart/ Marshall demonstrator L416 PAR was returned on 1/8. MB 724 was returned from Citibus on 16/8. Citibus E329 SWY was returned on 9/8.

Repaints

COUNTY BUS & COACH

8/94 LDL 533 from Biss to Sampson livery
 MB 990 from Biss to new CB livery

Allocation Changes for August 1994

MB 702 Cannibalisation/ Delicensed to Harlow
MB 747 Delicensed to Cannibalisation
MBT 801 Delicensed to Harlow

SERVICES

3 October 256 Revised Monday to Friday off-peak timetable incorporating Noak Hill loop which is currently only served during peak periods.

Publicity

An updated version of the 'Travellers Guide' and map was issued during August.

Season Ticket leaflet, undated

Faresaver leaflet, undated

August Holiday Specials leaflet, August 1994

Townlink update leaflet number 1 for Country Services only including changes during August & September 1994

Thameside update leaflet number 1 incorporating changes during 28th May 1994

Thameside update leaflet number 2 incorporating changes during August & September 1994

Lea Valley update leaflet number 1 incorporating changes during August & September 1994

Lea Valley update. Minor changes to services in Ware up to & including 6th September 1994

Mobility Bus Services booklet showing services operated by Lea Valley in Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Newham and Waltham Forest areas produced by the London Transport unit for disabled passengers dated 18th June 1994

OTHER GROUP COMPANIES

Airport Coaches Limited

D526/7 MJO Dodge/ Reeve Burgess minibuses were repainted into the new livery during 7/94 thus completing the repainting programme.

Acquired in 8/94 was E473 YWJ Neoplan N122/3 CH75CT new in 1988 ex-Silver Choice, East Kilbride. It was repainted into Airport Coaches livery during 8/94.

Biss Brothers Coaches Limited

New in 8/94 was M121 SKY Toyota Coaster/ Caetano Optimo III C18F. E357 NEG Iveco 49.10/ Robin Hood DP19F of 1988 was acquired from County Bus in 8/94 and E290 OMG Mercedes 709D/ Reeve Burgess DP25F was transferred to County.

DID YOU READ.....

July 29th: Residents in the New Town area want EN to operate bigger buses as they find that buses are often full, particularly at peak times and small buses are difficult for elderly residents to board. A town councillor wants to meet EN to see if the problem could be resolved. (Essex County Standard).

August 1st: The 90th anniversary of CBT has been marked with the staff lining up for a commemorative photo outside the depot, half the item however dwells on last years problems and yet again mentions the £1 price. (Evening Gazette)

August 5th: Neighbourhood News for Aldham confirms that EN will operate the 1630 journey on Service 88 during school holidays. A letter is published following up on the complaints regarding overcrowding on buses. The writer points out that these were the same people who stood back and allowed CBT buses to pass by. They were quite happy then, they had made their choice so why moan. (ECS) The Royal Mail today announced eight new Postbus routes including Langley to Saffron Walden. (EG)

August 6th: Mainline Group of Sheffield is to set up a unit with 10 new buses in Ipswich to compete with Ipswich Buses. (Coach & Bus Week)

August 8th: Stop Your Bus is On Fire. Last Friday (5th) evening two fire crews spent two hours fighting a fire on an Eastern National bus at Marks Tey. Two passengers and the driver were forced to flee the service 133 from Colchester to Braintree bus. The fire took hold on the upper deck and had gone unnoticed until the bus pulled up at Marks Tey station when people queuing for it saw smoke billowing from the windows and raised the alarm. A photograph shows the remains of 3111 (XHK 216X). (EG)

August 12th: Two photos of the fire at Marks Tey appear and the bus is facing Colchester. One taken by a reader shows the entire vehicle engulfed in flames rising some 20ft above the roof and from all the windows; despite this traffic is still passing. The other shows the remains; the whole of the offside has gone, nearside the upper deck consists of a couple of panels supporting a seat frame, the lower deck is a tangle of debris. Surprising the front panel is hardly marked, nearside indicator gone and headlight missing the glass. (ECS) An angry passenger has criticised an EN boss over what she claims are cramped buses on a Colchester route. She refers to the need for passengers to stand on mini bus journeys from Shrub End while bigger buses serve St. Michael's. Robin Orbell said "We have checked on loadings and have increased the frequency of the service to Shrub End using a mixture of double and single-deckers". (EG)

August 17th: A CBT bus and driver appear on the front page of under a headline Bus Driver In Blaze Rescue. The previous evening a passenger sitting on the upper deck of a bus to Greenstead dropped a cigarette onto her lap and did not initially noticed her dress smouldering. When she did she ran down stairs and was described by the driver Terry Sawkins as "well alight". He beat the flames out with his bare hands and required treatment from a nurse for burns to the ends of his fingers; the passenger was taken to hospital suffering from burns on her legs and body. (EG)

August 19th: A councillor is responsible for the diversion on Saturdays of Service 84 to serve Little Horkesley which "begins tomorrow" and is for a six week experimental period. The 'My Job' feature is on CBT driver Peter Smith (beard and bow tie) and is clearly a very strong man as readers are told he

Kelvedon By-pass. The coach carrying around 70 passengers from Northumberland to Czechoslovakia, via Harwich, was abandoned when the brake seized and overheated . (EG)

August 25th: A bus fan in Clacton who has bought an old London bus to help fund raising groups who want to offer cheap trips. (EG)

August 29th: Crusader Holidays has made its second major investment of the year with the purchase of the new coaches. So far this year they have paid out £800,000 to boost their fleet by seven new luxury coaches. (EG)

August 31st: The EN advert details changes to services that will take effect from September 6th, although the 25p increase in the cost of Colchester Ranger is not mentioned. A news item also gives coverage. (EG) Bus passengers meanwhile need to 8ft tall as the notices in the buses are placed on windows with the text facing outwards!!!!

September 3rd: Eastern Counties are to hit back at the proposed Mainline operation by introducing its own town services in Ipswich. If they changed their mind or withdrew after losing money EC would withdraw and return to the present situation (CBW)

September 7th: School buses and minibuses will be the subject of spot checks by Police on their way to or from taking up service to avoid delaying children. Checks will include mechanical condition, licensing and safety of children being carried. (EG) The latter will be difficult if the vehicle is empty.

September 9th: The front page photo accompanying an item on traffic congestion in Colchester High Street could in years to come set people guessing as to just where it was taken as a London & Country AN fills part of the frame.



M345 UVX is a new Mercedes -Plaxton Beaver of Grahams (Ellis) Kelvedon photographed at the Du Cane Arms,Great Braxted on Malbus service 2 on 16-August 1994

Dave Arnold.

1964 Eastern National received 2805/6 (BVX681/2B) Bristol FLF6G during August and were allocated to Chelmsford and Southend.

From September 7th limited stop Service 99 was introduced on Mondays to Fridays between Maldon (East Station Road) and Witham (Railway Station) following the closure of the rail line. Super Coaches of Upminster commenced a stage service between Chadwell Heath and Woodford Bridge from August 17th using the fleet name Redbridge & District. AEC Reliances OOU 594 and PCG33 formerly 26/7 with Mansfield & District were used.

1974 Bristol MW Saloon 1431 (MOO 976) was fitted with a luggage boot mounted towing bar by EN. Colchester Borough Transport 60 (682HEV) an AEC Regent V appeared in a new cherry red and ivory livery with the fleet name on the first panel between decks. The Departments offices had moved from Magdalen St to Osborne St in June. Southend Transport hired 320 (VVO737) a Leyland PS 1/1 and 321 (OHY935) a Bristol KSW from S&M Coaches during August. 328 (7092HJ) returned from Elder Valley on August 21st while 323/6/7/31 (7087/90/1/5HJ) went to that company on loan.

1984 EN took delivery in late August and early September of MCW Metroliners 1600-3 (B457-60WHJ). Alder Valley 101 (LMO223L) which was going to be acquired by the company as 1650 is replaced with 103 (LMO225L). A short term licence was obtained in order to operate Malbus service 2/2A from August 2nd until February 1st. From September 5th no fewer than nine commuter services were being operated into London jointly with Grey-Green. Southend Transport 215 on hire to EN operated Highwayman service 801 to Grantham on August 25th. Major rail problems on the evening of September 4th and the following morning saw a major bus replacement operated ST - 14 CBT 6 including 2 on long term loan from ST, Ensign - 6 including 2 on loan from ST and vehicles from Boon, Cedric, London Pride and Nelson. ST acquired 314-6 (GHV29/15/8N) former LT Daimler Fleetlines and 352 (DAX452V) a Leyland Leopard new to Hill of Tredegar. 369 (WJN369J) was withdrawn on September 6th having spent the previous day on the rail replacement. Fylde 35 returned home on August 13th but CBT102 remained on loan with 234 and 241 in Colchester. Burnley 13 remained but was out of service with accident damage.

Half-cabs, a modern LN from CBT and vehicles from the Moores, Hicks and other local fleets have been observed in Long Wyre Street, Colchester recently. Regretably only hand finished models in the window of W E Wass.

NEW

One slight correction to last month is that Dennis Dart 670 (L670 SMC) has only ONE (the top) red band, the bottom one being omitted. 670 is still running on the D5 ex DM depot and plans to transfer it to NP seem to be on hold.

ACQUIRED

750 (NLP 389V) finally arrived at DM on Friday 2nd September and entered service on a pm 246 duty on Tuesday 06 SEPT. It is B49F.

RLN 233W, the Leyland-DAB artic, arrived back at DM on Friday 09 SEPT having undergone conversion to AB59+62T at Ensign's Rainham premises. The two offside doors have been removed but the three nearside (1 rear, 2 front) are retained. The doorways have outward opening plug type doors. It had not entered service at the time of writing (SEPT 11). Reports indicate that a total of TWO are to be purchased and reports elsewhere that five are due may well be premature.

REPAINTS

260 (H460 KVX) -yellow, thus resuming the repaint programme after a break of 6-7 months.

SERVICES

89 New EssexCC contract, schooldays only. Chigwell Row, Maypole Inn (dep 08.30) via B 173 (Lambourne Rd), Grange Hill Station, Manor Rd, to Woodford Bridge, then A 113 to Chigwell, West Hatch School, Return at 15.15 via A 113 Chigwell High Rd to Chigwell Station, then A 123 Hainault Rd to the Bald Hind pub, then B 173 to Chigwell Row. This was formerly a Bordabus commercial operation.

550,552 renumbered 650,652

648 New college days only route, Romford Market via 248 to Cranham, Front Lane, via 348 to Aveley Hall Rd, then non-stop via A1306 (Arterial Rd, Lodge Lane) and B 149 Wood View to Little Thurrock, Woodside College. The return jny can be extended on beyond Romford to Rainham to set down only if required.

GENERAL

In a very rare move, J-reg Leyland/Leyland Olympians were used on the 123 on SUN 04 SEPT due to the need to keep as many Metrobuses in at DM for blind changing work in connection with the new school term. J-reg Olympians are not normally used on Sundays. This years last Coastliner on SEPT 25 to Eastbourne has been cancelled due to the receipt of two big railway jobs on that day. The last Coastliner will now be on SEPT 18 and this will go to Eastbourne instead of the planned Portsmouth & Southsea.

DRIVER TRAINERS

570 (UMS 571T), an Alexander bodied Mk1 Metrobus, is now a driver trainer at Np. Still at NP, it is reported that the status of the three GDR-N Atlantean driver trainers is that one is on the road, one is off the road with engine failure, and the third is being used for spares. Could someone please report which is which ?

RAIL REPLACEMENT SERVICES

Due to problems with the overhead power cables, a rail replacement service was operating between Shenfield and Witham, with some extensions to Sudbury on 9.8.94. Vehicles from Grahams of Kelvedon, Heddingham, Harris Bus, Ipswich BT, Capital Citybus, East London, Nelsons, Brandons and Cedrics were noted.

XXXXXXXXXX

In a recent issue of Coach and Bus Week an advertisement appeared offering for sale a 1949 AEC Regent III with Weyman bodywork. The vehicle was new to Pest Control Ltd thence to Moores of Kelvedon. No record of this vehicle can be found in Moores fleet list. Has any member any ideas, could it have been with Osbornes?

XXXXXXXXXX

This Bus is COMING SOON!

THAMESWAY will be introducing some brand new buses in the near future!

Initially, these will run on services

151
Canvey • Basildon •
Romford

152 / 155
Chelmsford • Basildon •
Lakeside

After that, they will be introduced on other Thamesway services.

HELPLINE - 01268 287541 HELPLINE - 01268 287541 HELPLINE - 01268 287541



ABOUT THESE BUSES!

These buses are part of Thamesway's commitment to improving the quality and standard of service and incorporate many design and safety features. Thamesway welcomes your comments on either these buses or its services in general.

Features

- ★ attractive new colour scheme
- ★ good sized luggage areas
- ★ "good grip" handrails
- ★ bright interior lighting
- ★ low and wide entrance steps
- ★ roomy gangway
- ★ priority seats for elderly and disabled
- ★ easy to read destination blinds
- ★ bright, airy interior
- ★ bus stopping display
- ★ efficient heating system



THAMESWAY

