

Annual General Meeting - Saturday, January 17th, 1987

Full details are now available regarding the Group's twenty-second Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday, January 17th, 1987 at Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford. The meeting will be held in the Carriage Room at Freight House and the doors will be open at 1300 hrs. Tea and biscuits will be provided and the Annual General Meeting will commence at 1400 hrs. This will be an important meeting, with two new Committee members to be elected and details of changes to the Group's news sheet production and sales team to be discussed. The Group's sales stand will be at this meeting with our full range of sales items. Please make every effort to attend, as this meeting provides an opportunity for all members to put forward comments and suggestions on the Group's activities.

Subscription Renewals for 1987 - A Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your subscription for 1987, then please do so as soon as possible using the renewal form enclosed with last month's news sheet. All subscriptions should be paid no later than January 12th to ensure delivery of the January news sheet. Members' co-operation in this matter is vitally important as from January distribution of the Group's news sheet will be undertaken by a private company.

Committee Member Vacancies

The Group has been fortunate in receiving a number of offers of help from members, and details of revised procedures for news sheet production and Group sales were discussed at a special Committee meeting on December 7th. Ian Ranson has offered to fill the post of News Sheet Editor and Andrew Rook has offered to become our News Sheet Assistant Editor, whilst Mark Bullock, Jason Skinner and Robert Searle have offered to assist with our Sales Team. Other offers of help have been received to assist with providing storage for our sales items, and our thanks go to all those members who have made offers of help.

Changes to our news sheet production will be introduced progressively from January 1987, and the most noticeable change will be that the news sheet will be in the form of a folded A5 size booklet. The content and coverage of our news sheet is not expected to change significantly; in fact, improvements are planned possibly to include details of Essex area independent operators, a regular news sheet cover photograph and improved printing quality. As always, our coverage of the Eastern National, Colchester Borough Transport Ltd, and Southend Transport Ltd. fleets will be second to none.

Proposed Change to Group Title

Following the de-regulation of the bus industry on October 26th, there has been an inevitable increase to our interest in other operators serving the Essex area. It has been proposed that the title of the Group should be changed to the 'Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group' (E.B.E.G.) at a future date, in order to more fully reflect that wider interest. This matter will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting on January 17th, 1987, and members' views will be welcomed. However, the Committee stresses that this proposed change will not in any way reduce our coverage and interest in the Eastern National fleet, which of course remains the largest company operating in Essex. Our Group has a long tradition of co-operation and assistance from the management and staff of Eastern National, and we intend to maintain that tradition in the future.

Southend Area Supplement

This month's news sheet includes a special Southend Area Supplement produced by kind courtesy of Richard Delahoy. Any comments and additional information regarding the items included in the supplement should be sent direct to Richard Delahoy.

News Sheet Envelopes

With the forthcoming changes in news sheet production there will no longer be any need for members to return their news sheet envelopes for future use. The News Sheet Editor is grateful to those members who have taken the trouble to return envelopes during the past year.

Essex County Council Publications

Members are reminded that the Group now has stocks of all ten E.C.C. timetable booklets, as listed in last month's news sheet together with the appropriate prices. Orders should be directed to the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 19, Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, Essex. SS3 9NX.).

Photographs Wanted

Group member Ian Harden of 142, Malmesbury Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire. SO1 5PQ. is seeking photographs of a former Hants & Dorset Bristol REIL now owned by CharterCoach of Great Oakley. If any member can help by supplying a photograph of this vehicle, with details of the location and date, please write direct to Ian Harden at the above address. Costs will be reimbursed.

This news sheet being the last before the festive season, the Committee would like to convey to all members the Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 1987. The Committee would also like to thank everyone for their interest in the Group, and we look forward to another successful year in 1987.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.New Vehicles

Delivery of the Mercedes-Benz L608D mini-buses with Reeve Burgess bodywork has now been completed, and details of the remaining vehicles are as follows :-

0227	D227PFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-774424	Reeve Burgess B20F	16057
0228	D228EFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-779672	Reeve Burgess B20F	16058
0229	D229PFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-779467	Reeve Burgess B20F	16059
0230	D230PFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-779739	Reeve Burgess B20F	16060
0231	D231PFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-780398	Reeve Burgess B20F	16061
0232	D232PFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-780284	Reeve Burgess B20F	16062
0233	D233PFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-781159	Reeve Burgess B20F	16063
0234	D234PFU	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-781079	Reeve Burgess B20F	16064

Delivery dates : 0227/8-November 21st; 0229/31-December 1st; 0230-December 3rd;
0232/3-November 25th; 0234-November 28th.

As a correction to last month's news sheet, it should be noted that 0238/44 were the vehicles delivered on October 20th.

All twenty vehicles in this current batch of Mercedes-Benz L608D mini-buses (0225-44) are allocated to Brentwood (BD) depot, with the exception that 0232 is currently being used for driver training work and is temporarily based at the driver training vehicle yard at Chelmsford. Certain vehicles have had the front registration plate moved to the nearside of the bumper to allow the London Regional Transport service board to be fitted for operation of 'Hornchurch Hoppa' service 193. Examples include 0236 and 0241, although at present it is by no means uncommon to see vehicles on LRT service 193 without the LRT board fitted.

The three Dova EL26/581 integral coaches have been numbered 1625-7 by the Company, as follows :-1625-DGX649Y, 1626-DGX650Y and 1627-A651CMY. Full details of these vehicles were published in last month's news sheet, and the vehicles have now all been repainted by A1 International Motor Engineers Ltd., Mundon. 1625/6 have been repainted into the latest yellow and green Highwayman livery, whilst 1627 has received National Holidays livery. At the time of writing, 1625 was stored at Chelmsford (CF) depot with 1626 being stored at Maldon (MN) depot. 1627 remained at Mundon at the time of writing. The seating capacity of these vehicles has not been changed, and the toilet facilities remain fitted.

The Ford Transit VE6 mini-buses (0750-6) have now been fitted with Wayfarer ticket equipment, and 0755/6 are now in use at South Woodham Ferrers (SW) as included in last month's vehicle allocations. 0755 carries 'Ferrier' vinyls on its side panels, whilst at Chelmsford (CF) 0750/1 now carry 'Minilink' vinyls on the side panels.

Vehicles On Order

There has been no official confirmation regarding the recent newspaper report that eleven 20 seat vehicles are on order for future mini-bus operations in Braintree.

However, an unofficial report has suggested that further Mercedes-Denz vehicles are expected. At the present time, it must be stressed that there has been no official news regarding these reports.

Acquired Vehicles

A number of the recently acquired Bristol VMT double-deck vehicles have been noted in service, either repainted or simply with the addition of new style Eastern National fleetnames. 3202/3 are now officially allocated to Colchester (CR) depot, whilst 3211 has been noted in service on the Basildon 'Park and Ride' service. It is understood that the planned allocation of these vehicles will be 3200-3 to Colchester (CR) (as replacements for 3020-3), 3204-17 to Ponders End (PD) and 3218 to Southend (SD). 3218 is fitted with Transign electronic display equipment and will be allocated to Southend (SD) in place of 3075 which will be transferred to Ponders End (PD). 3206 latterly carried an overall advertisement livery for the Milton Keynes Citizen newspaper whilst with Milton Keynes City Bus Ltd., and this vehicle is now at Central Works for a repaint. See under General news for notes on 3217-9.

Vehicles On Hire

Cambus 2010 (0297MEG) remains on hire to the Company, and it is understood that the vehicle is currently in use at Enfield (ED) depot on services 252/3/4. It is officially allocated as a Pool vehicle (PL (P)).

During late-November, a Milton Keynes City Bus Ltd. Mercedes-Denz L608D mini-bus, registered D183VRP, was noted on driver training work at Chelmsford (Dus Station). The Company has not officially recorded this vehicle as being on hire, and it is not possible to confirm the precise situation regarding that vehicle.

Allocations & Transfers

12.86 0227 D/L-ED, 0228 D/L-ED, 0229 D/L-ED, 0230 D/L-ED, 0231 D/L-ED, 0232 D/L-ED, 0233 D/L-ED, 0234 D/L-ED, 1050 ED-PL (P), 1056 ED-EL (P), 1058 ED-PL (P), 1705 CR-CN, 1723 HH-SD, 1738 SD-HH, 1866 CF-HH, 1897 HH-CF, 3020 CR-PL (P), 3023 CR-PL (P), 3025 CN-CR, 3200 D/L-PL (P), 3201 D/L-EL (P), 3202 D/L-CR, 3203 D/L-CR, 3204 D/L-PL (P), 3205 D/L-PL (P), 3206 D/L-PL (P), 3207 D/L-PL (P), 3208 D/L-EL (P), 3209 D/L-PL (P), 3210 D/L-PL (P), 3211 D/L-PL (P), 3212 D/L-PL (P), 3213 D/L-PL (P), 3214 D/L-EL (P), 3215 D/L-EL (P), 3216 D/L-PL (P), 3217 D/L-EL (P), 3218 D/L-PL (P).

Bristol VRTSL6G 3001 (CPU980G) has been allocated for use as a driver training vehicle at Chelmsford (CF). However, this vehicle remains licensed for PSV operation and should not be regarded as part of the service vehicle fleet at the present time. Similar vehicle 3004 (CPU983G) is in fact also still licensed for PSV operation, although its current PSV licence expires on December 19th, from which date it will become part of the service vehicle fleet.

Bedford YMQS midi-buses 1050/6/8 are now allocated as Pool vehicles, although it is understood that they remain at Brentwood (BD) depot. 3018 is currently in use as a Pool (PL (P)) vehicle at Maldon (MN) depot, whilst 3020 is currently in use as a Pool vehicle at Harwich (DT) depot.

Bristol REEL6G 1548 (WN0537L) remains Delicensed for Disposal (D/L (D)) and is still parked at the driver training vehicle yard at New Writtle Street, Chelmsford. It is used for static training purposes at this location.

The five former South Wales Transport Leyland National's (701/2/6/16/27) all remain Delicensed for Disposal (D/L (D)) and continue to be stored at Maldon (MN) depot. They are being progressively cannibalised for spares, and the vehicles will then be sold at a future date.

A full fleet allocation is published on page 7 of this news sheet.

Service Vehicles

As noted above, Bristol VRTSL6G 3004 (CPU983G) remains licensed for PSV operation until December 19th, and should not be regarded as part of the service vehicle fleet until after that date. In practice, this vehicle together with 3000-3 are now solely performing driver training duties.

The Atkinson recovery vehicle (0103) was repainted at Chelmsford (CF) during early-December.

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 NS272 :-

November w/e 15.11.86 - 3068 at BN (New Livery) (date subject to confirmation).
 w/e 22.11.86 - 1857 at CW (New Livery), 3207 at MN (New Livery - London version), 3209 at BN (New Livery - London version), 3211 at BN (New Livery - London version), 3215 at CN (New Livery - London version).
 w/e 29.11.86 - 1625 at A1, Mundon (Highwayman Livery), 1626 at A1, Mundon (Highwayman Livery), 1627 at A1, Mundon (National Holidays Livery), 3205 at CW (New Livery - London version), 3210 at CW (New Livery - London version).
 December w/e 6.12.86 - 1503 at CF (Yellow Livery), 1501 at CW (New Livery), 1928 at HH (New Livery), 3204 at CW (New Livery - London version).
 w/e 13.12.86 - 3075 at CW (New Livery - London version), 3097 at HH (New Livery).

It is not yet possible to confirm the repaint date for Leyland National 1875 (see NS271/2).

Vehicles currently passing through the paintshops are 1117 (at Clacton), 1831 (at Maldon) and 3206 (at Central Works).

General

News received as this news sheet was being prepared is that the Company has not acquired Bristol VRTSL6G HHD913T from Milton Keynes City Bus Ltd. It appears that this vehicle could not be acquired due to an earlier lease agreement in respect of the vehicle, and 3218 (LHD922V) and 3219 (ONH924V) will now be numbered 3217 and 3218 respectively. 3218 (ONH924V) is the vehicle fitted with Transign electronic destination display equipment, and this vehicle will be allocated to Southend (SD), with 3204-17 being the vehicles to be allocated to Ponders End (PD). It seems that HHD913T was delivered to Eastern National, and one report indicated that the vehicle was stored at Southend (SD). However, it has since been returned to Milton Keynes City Bus Ltd.

Group member John Simpkin has kindly supplied some extensive notes on recent events at Bishop's Stortford (BS) depot. Services 58, 59, 301 and 309 are now being operated by standard Leyland National's, whilst service 333 is being operated by the dual-purpose Leyland Tiger vehicles and service 341 is of course being operated by the short length Leyland National's (1500-3). To date, there have been no recorded instances of 1500-3 being noted on other services, although one of the vehicles was noted at the depot on November 21st displaying service 309. There have been a few reports of standard Leyland National's operating on service 341, although these are restricted to journeys not operating via Essendon. Vehicles for service 341 operate dead via Hadham Road, A120, A10 and Ware to take up the service, although there have been further reports that an outstation may be established at Hertford.

One consequence of the increased allocation at Bishop's Stortford (BS) is that there is now a shortage of space at the depot. During late-October and for much of November four vehicles were parked overnight and at weekends at the Unigate dairy premises at Hallingbury Road. By November 29th, vehicles were being parked in the roadway at the south end of the British Rail coal yard off London Road. This location is nearer the depot, and on Sunday, December 7th eight vehicles were parked there nose to tail, comprising 1113, 1126, 1500, 1503, 1739, 1768, 1781 and 1914.

South of Epping, service 333 appears at present to be rather poorly used, although the situation has not been helped by a lack of roadside publicity in the area. The Leyland Tiger vehicles carry vinyls in the front windscreen with details of the intermediate points served, and mentioning that local fares are available. By local arrangement, a return fare of £0.50 was offered for journeys on services 309 and 333 within Bishop's Stortford on December 6th and December 13th. Services 309 and 333 both use the special bus only link between Villiers-sur-Marne Avenue and Elizabeth Road, and three journeys are now scheduled to use this single carriageway link within about ten minutes each hour. Finally, service 333 northbound journeys are shown in the published timetable as operating via Post Office Road in Harlow. In fact, many journeys seem to operate via Fourth Avenue and Velizy Avenue to reach the Bus Station.

Vehicles at Colchester (CR) depot also now carry a vinyl new style Eastern National fleetname below the front windscreen, similar to those first applied at Brentwood (BD). Bristol VRTSL6L 3061 (IJN656P) has also received new style fleetnames without receiving a full repaint. A number of the former Milton Keynes City Bus Ltd. Bristol VRT's carry new style fleetnames as an interim measure pending full repaints.

Leyland Olympian 4006 (C712CEV) recently received a partial repaint in the old livery following accident damage, whilst Bristol VRTSL6G 3048 (JN0189N) has had its new livery (yellow areas) partially repainted at Central Works during w/e. 13.12.86.

A large number of double-deck vehicles now carry promotional vinyls for BBC Essex and the Company's local offices on both sides of the destination display.

(S) For the record, Northumbria Motor Services commenced operation on September 8th, 1986, the Company being re-named from Southern National Omnibus Co. Ltd. which had remained dormant since 1969.

Several vehicles have sustained accident damage during recent months, and brief details are as follows :- 3075 at Gants Hill (service 400) on September 14th, 1831 at Mundon (service 97A) on September 19th, 1881 at Margaretting (service 351) on November 21st and 1762 at Springfield (service 48) on December 5th. Leyland Olympian 4010 has also recently received accident damage whilst operating service X51.

Service Developments

The Company has registered a large number of services following recent tenders awarded by Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Suffolk County Council. Space does not allow full details to be published, but the following services are involved : Colchester town services 1/1A, 2/2C, 4/4A, 5A, 6A (all on Sundays); services 6 (Weekday evenings), 7/8 (Colchester area) (Sundays), 25 (Sundays), 31 (Daily), 33 (Weekdays), 40 (Sundays), 53 (Weekdays), 53A (Sundays), 57 (Sundays), 61 (Mondays to Fridays/Sundays), 66 (Tuesdays), 70 (Weekdays), 74 (Sundays), 78 (Sundays), 80C (Mondays to Fridays), 83 (Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays), 91/92 (Weekdays), 93 (Tuesdays/Thursdays/Fridays/Saturdays), 95 (Weekdays), 95A (Mondays to Fridays), 96/96A (Weekdays), 98 (Mondays to Fridays), 119 (Daily), 127 (Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays), 152 (Daily), 153 (Daily), 154 (Weekdays), 245A (Mondays to Fridays), 245B (Mondays to Fridays), 255 (Mondays to Fridays), 309 (Weekdays), 311 (Weekdays), 315 (Thursdays), 316 (Fridays), 321 (Daily), 339 (Mondays to Fridays), 341 (Weekdays), 346 (Thursdays), 351/451 (Daily), 353 (Weekdays), 370 (Daily), 373 (Fridays), 452 (Sundays), 494 (Mondays/Wednesdays), 754 (Newton Green, Saracens Head P.H.-Colchester, Bus Station via Stoke-by-Nayland, Higham and Langham) (Wednesdays) and Colchester area Countrycar services to East Mersea (Thursdays), Stones Green (Wednesdays/Saturdays), Mount Dunes (Tuesdays/Thursdays), Pebrmarsh (circular) (Tuesdays) and Tolleshunt Knights (Wednesdays/Fridays).

The Company has also applied for variations to the following services, which were registered before October 26th :

- 120 - to provide a service for Harwich School, Hall Lane.
- 230 (Noak Bridge-Basildon) - 1540 hrs. journey from Laindon (High Road School) to be advanced by 10 minutes on Schooldays.
- 520 (Langdon Hills-Pitsea) - 1545 hrs. journey from Laindon (High Road School) to be advanced by 15 minutes on Schooldays.
- 526 (Laindon-Laindon School) - 1545 hrs. journey from Laindon (High Road School) to be advanced by 15 minutes on Schooldays.

From December 1st, Brentwood area mini-bus service B was revised and the section of route via Hutton (Kingsley Road) has now been deleted. Journeys now terminate at Hornbeam Close during off-peak periods, whilst additional off-peak journeys have been introduced on this service between Brentwood (Rail Station) and Shenfield (Rail Station) via Hornbeam Close and Hutton (Bracken Bank).

From November 15th, LRT service 167 was extended in Ilford to a new terminus at Hainault Street, with journeys now operating via Cranbrook Road and High Road. The revised terminal point is Ilford (High Road), as shown on the revised timetable leaflet.

Other operators have continued to register certain services following recent local authority tenders. London Country Bus (North East) Ltd. has registered journeys

on service 341 (Hertford-St. Albans) (Mondays to Fridays). Biss Brothers Coaches, Bishop's Stortford has registered journeys on services 300 (Bishop's Stortford-Baldhams Lane) (Weekdays) and 306 (Bishop's Stortford-Wicken Bonhunt) (Mondays to Fridays). Onusader Coaches (Harlow) Ltd., Birchanger has also registered journeys on service 300 (Schooldays only). East Midland Motor Services Ltd. has registered journeys on services 239 (Ongar-Warley) (Weekdays), 260 (Ongar-Warley) (Sundays), 261 (Warley-Blackmore) (Weekdays), 270 (Brentwood Station-Hutton Drive) (Sundays), 263 (Wyatts Green-Ongar) (Daily), 264 (Wyatts Green-Shenfield Station) (Mondays to Fridays) and also two Schooldays journeys on service 260 between Warley (Eagle Way) and Sawyers Hall Lane. Harris Bus Company Ltd. has registered service 269 (Grays-Brentwood/Shenfield Technical College) (Weekdays). Brandons Coaches, Blackmore End has registered one journey on service 320 (Braintree-Springwood Industrial Estate) (Mondays to Fridays). Hedingham & District Omnibuses Ltd., Sible Hedingham has registered journeys on Schooldays on services 82 (Fordham Heath-Stanway) and 90 (Great Totham-Witham). F.C. Moore Ltd., Saffron Walden has registered service 313 (Saffron Walden-Great Dunmow) (Weekdays) together with a large number of other occasional services, mainly on Schooldays only, in the Newport, Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford areas. R. Staines (t/a Clinton Minicoaches), Brentwood has registered service 4D (Southend-Little Wakering) with one journey on Schooldays.

Finally, U.M.D.H. (Southend) Ltd., Southend has applied to withdraw the 1915 hrs. journey from Southend (Central Bus Station) on service 24 on Weekdays.

Publicity News

Details of recent publicity material known to the News Sheet Editor are as follows :-
 Eastern National timetable leaflets - leaflets for service X15 (dated October 29th), services 2 (dated October 27th), 4D (dated October 27th), 6/6A/6B (dated October 27th), 11/11A (dated October 27th, and a different version to that previously listed), 25 (dated October 27th), 26 (dated October 27th), 29D (dated October 27th), 60/62/64 (dated October 27th) and Brentwood mini-bus service B (dated December 1st).
 - LRT service 167 (dated November 15th).
 - Buses in the Colchester area (20 page leaflet) (dated October 26th).

Basildon 'Park & Ride' Service - a leaflet with details of the 1986 Christmas 'Park & Ride' service in Basildon.

CharterCoach (t/a Coastal RED) - details of the Harwich area timetables were published in local newspapers in late-November.

Additionally, the Company has produced an attractive pocket calendar for 1987 featuring a colour photograph of Bristol VRPSL6G 3091 and Leyland Olympian 4013.

Unusual Workings

Selected details of unusual workings reported by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

12.11-1308 PL (P) (but still carrying DF depot plates) noted on a schools contract from Harwich to Colchester, and this vehicle was noted at Southend (SD) depot on 22.11.

16.11-4021 SD noted on service 20A. 3033/54/82/91, 3106/11 (all CF), 3038/51 (both MN), 3050 CR and 3059, 4013-5 (all SE) noted on a rail replacement service between Shenfield and Witham. This service was operated on 23.11 by 1819 CF, 3035 CF, 3022 CR and 3049/79 (both MN), on 30.11 by 3057/69/82/91, 3106/11/2, 4005 (all CF), 3059, 4015 (both SE) and 3038/79/94 (all MN), on 7.12 by 3049/51 (both MN), 4016/7 (both DE) and 3091, 3106/12 and 4005/6 (all CF).

17.11-1764 MN noted on service 494; 4503 SD noted on service 251.

22.11-1122 BD noted on service X51 (and again on 2.12); 0200 CN, 1719 BD and 1839 BD noted on Brentwood area mini-bus services; 4511 DE noted on an ASDA service to Chelmer Village.

26.11-3092 BD noted at Ilford on service 551 (and again on 27.11).

1.12-1123 CR noted on service 88; 2202 CN noted at Chelmsford (Bus Station); 3212 PL (P) noted on service 78, and on service 7 on 4.12.

3.12-0601 PL (P) noted on Brentwood area mini-bus services with 0227/8/31/3/4 (mostly without destination blinds); 1054 ED noted being towed by a Leyland National to Brentwood (BD) depot.

10.12-1050 PL (P) and 1760 BD noted in Brentwood displaying services 1C and 2C (for C1/2).

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET ALLOCATION - DECEMBER 1986Basildon & Thurrock District

Basildon (IN) : 1124 1655 1704/11-7/32/6/40-2/4/6/8/63/7/72/6/86/95
 1808/18/20/2/30/43/4/7-9/52-4/74/7-80/3/4/6/7/9/91/6/8
 1904/6-9/18/9/22/34 2200 3032/68 3117/20 4300/1/7-9 (69)

Braintree, Uttlesford & East Herts. District

Braintree (IE) : 0120 1130 1300/3/6/7 1650 1718/26/45/82 1812/28
 1863/5 1902/24/6/9/30/2 3043/63/7 3128 4016/7
 4511/2 (29)
 Bishop's Stortford (BS) : 1111/3/9/20/6/7 1500-3 1739/49/61/8/9/92 1914/6
 4510 (19)
 Silver End (SE) : 1301 1653/9 1747 1813/61/2/75 3041/55/9 4013-5 (14)

Brentwood & Havering District

Brentwood (ID) : 0225-44 0602-4 1122 1700/19/22/54/60/05/96 1839/40
 1845/6/59/76/81 1903/12/3/33 3092 4012/8/9 (46)
 Enfield (ED) : 0600 1051-5/7 (7)
 Ponders End (PD) : 3053/6/62/6/71/2/4/6/30/1 (10)
 Walthamstow (WW) : 1779/80/9/91/7 1800-3/10/25/6/58/82 1915 3096
 3100-2/4/5/7/9/10/3/5/6/8/9/21/3-6 (34)

Chelmsford & Maldon District

Chelmsford (CF) : 0750-4 1112/21/9/31 1309 1601/3 1651/4/6/7 1701/7
 1730/4/52/62/71/4/5/8 1804/5/11/9/24/7/32/42/50/1/5/6/60
 1867/73/85/97/9 1905/17/39 2201/3 3033/5/54/7/69/77
 3082/3/91/3 3106/11/2 4005/6 (64)
 Great Dunmow (DW) : 1890 (1)
 Maldon (MN) : 1114 1708/55/64 1806/29/31/3/41/70 1921/3/7
 3021/38/40/9/51/79/94 (20)
 South Woodham Ferrers (SW) : 0755/6 1931 3070 (4)

Colchester & Tendring District

Colchester (CH) : 0121 1115/23 1302 1650 1790/3 1816/88/92 1910/1
 1925/35/6 3022/5/9/32/9/50/78/95 3114/27 3202/3
 4003/4 (29)
 Clacton (CN) : 0200-19 1110/7/32 1310 1600/2 1705/51/6 1834/72
 2202 3030/1 (34)
 Harwich (HT) : 1750 1901/20 3024/61 4007/8 (7)
 Walton-on-Naze (WN) : 0220-4 (5)

Southend & District

Southend (SD) : 1116/25/8/33 1304/5 1702/23/4/9/66/70/3/87/8/98/9
 1807/9/14/23/36-8/68/93-5 1937/8 3028/34/6/7/58/60
 3064/5/73/5/84/6-90/8 3108/22/9 4000-2/9-11/20/1
 4502-6 (63)
 Hadleigh (HE) : 1118 1703/9/20/1/5/7/8/31/3/5/7/8/43/53/7/8/65/77/81/4
 1817/21/35/57/64/6/9/71 1900/28 3085/97/9 3103 (35)

Licensed Open-Top Vehicle (L) : 2383 (1)

Licensed As Private Vehicle (LP) : 2384 (1)

Licensed Pool Vehicles (PL (P)) : 0601 1050/6/8 1308 3018/20/3 3200/1/4-18
 3500/1. Canbus 2010 (28)

Delicensed For Disposal (D/L (D))) : 1548 South Wales 701/2/6/16/27 (6)

Driver Training Vehicles : 3000/2-4 9021 (all allocated to Chelmsford (CF)) (5)

3001 CF (also being used for driver training work) (1)

Notes - 2200-3 are Disabled Persons' vehicles.

2383/4 and 3500/1 are open-top vehicles.

Ponders End (PD) depot is not yet operational, and vehicles are at present operating from Brentwood (ID) depot.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT LTD.New Vehicles

Leyland Lynx 31 (D31 RWC) was delivered on November 14th. It was noted on the service 2/2A working described in NS272 on November 21st, but it may have been used for the first time on the previous evening. Since then, the policy appears to have been to use one of the two Leyland Lynx vehicles on the service 2/2A working, and to use the other vehicle only during the peak periods often on the duty that includes the service 83 workings. For example, 32 (D32 RWC) was noted on service 83 on November 18th. On Saturdays, both vehicles are used on service 2/2A workings, being the journeys which operate from the Fire Office at 25 and 40 minutes past the hour.

It is not yet possible to confirm the full chassis designation and chassis numbers of the two Leyland Lynx vehicles.

It should also be noted that 32 (D32 RWC) could not have entered service on Tesco contract service T2 on November 5th, as this service does not operate on Wednesdays (see NS272). It is no longer the intention to use one of these vehicles on Mondays to Fridays on services 1/1A/1B/3 (see also NS272), but instead to operate the vehicle on service 5A, although this is not yet a firm decision.

General

Colchester Borough Transport Ltd. has been valued at £696,000. The nominal valuation on October 26th was £100. The remaining 695,900 shares have now been issued, with the Town Clerk holding one share and the Borough Council the remainder.

Traffic delays are continuing to be a major problem in Colchester, and the Essex County Standard newspaper featured the problem on November 28th. On December 5th, delays of up to 45 minutes were evident during the evening peak period. Further disruption was caused earlier that day by a bomb scare in the High Street, and it is assumed that the usual diversions were operated.

Leyland Olympian's are regularly used on service 7 and fairly frequently on one of the service 8 workings, in addition to the workings listed in last month's news sheet. Since November 17th, the service 5A working on Mondays to Fridays on which a Leyland Olympian had been used is now being operated by a Leyland Atlantean. Conversely, the service 5A working which had been operated by a Leyland Atlantean is now operated by a Leyland Olympian. This vehicle starts on service 8 and then does single journeys on services 2 and 2A, before spending the bulk of the day on service 5A. After a schools journey on service 2B, it spends the evening peak period on services 4/4A until finishing at 1827 hrs.

Also from November 17th, a Bristol REEL6L rather than a Leyland Atlantean has been used normally on the evening peak working on services 13, 5/7, 5 and 11. As a result, Leyland Atlantean's 61-90 are no longer scheduled to be used on service 13, and are only booked to operate one journey on service 11.

Changes to the Tesco contract services were also introduced from November 17th. Service T2 no longer operates via Wivenhoe, but still often requires two Leyland Atlantean's, with 88 (RVW 88W) and 90 (RVW 90W) being noted on December 1st. A new service, numbered T5, was introduced on Thursdays and Fridays from November 20th between Wivenhoe and the Tesco store. It operates at an hourly frequency from Wivenhoe between 0940-1540 hrs., returning from Highwoods (Tesco) from 1020-1620 hrs. New stops were also introduced on services T3 and T4 from November 17th. A new timetable leaflet has not yet been published, and it should be noted that these leaflets are published by Tesco rather than Colchester Borough Transport.

Also from November 17th, the service 9 journey from Head Street at 0722 hrs. on Mondays to Fridays was advanced by 5 minutes for the benefit of workers at the Trebor factory at Severalls Lane.

Bristol REEL6L's 23 (OWC723M) and 28 (SWC 28K) are now back in service, as are Leyland Atlantean's 51 (MVE538R), 77 (YNO 77S), 84 (MEV 84V) and 90 (RVW 90W).

Bristol REEL6L 25 (SWC 25K) was noted on Tesco contract service T1 on October 25th (see also NS272).

Leyland Leopard coach 101 (DHK101T) was used on a rail replacement service to Sudbury on December 5th.

On the evening of December 8th, service 7C operated via the service 7 route between Abberton and Peldon (Rose P.H.) due to the closure of the road via Peldon village.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LTD.

Acquired Vehicles

Two interesting vehicles have been acquired recently, and details are as follows :-

DCS960C Daimler CRG6LX 61084 Alexander H44/31F 16/D/1764/47 New -/65

This vehicle was new to Western S.M.T., fleet number 1977, and was purchased in 11/86 at the auction of the vehicles of Davie, Rye. This vehicle had been owned by Davie, Rye, but had been withdrawn from service by 6/85. The vehicle has been acquired for spares only, and its engine has been fitted to Daimler Fleetline 397 (JTD397P). The body shell will be sold for scrap shortly.

UNH 7L Daimler SRL6-36 ——— Willowbrook B45D ——— New /73

This vehicle was purchased from Northampton Transport in 11/86, together with a large quantity of Fleetline spares. At the time of writing, it had not been collected, but it will enter service with Southend Transport if it is in sufficiently good condition, probably to be numbered 304. If the vehicle does enter service, it is expected to replace Bristol REL6L 303. It is interesting to note that two other vehicles from this batch, 4 and 20 (UNH 4L and UNH 20L), were hired to Southend in 7/82.

Withdrawn Vehicles

41.06 ——— 370 (WJN370J)

This is the first of the open-top Daimler Fleetline's to be withdrawn, and it has already been largely broken up for spares at the Tickfield Avenue works.

The sale of 301 (NLJ828G) to Gynon Valley District Council (see NS272) fell through. Instead, the vehicle was sold during November to Yelloway, Rochdale.

Vehicles On Hire

At the time of writing, City of Cardiff Transport Leyland Olympian 559 (D559ATX) remains on hire. There is no definite news to report regarding recent suggestions that other vehicles from this particular batch are to be hired, possibly on a long-term basis (see also NS272).

The Volkswagen/Optare City Pacer B25F demonstrator, registered G525EWR, was hired again from November 25th to December 1st. On this occasion it was numbered 305, and the vehicle is now fitted with an Allison automatic gearbox in place of the manual unit it carried when previously inspected on May 16th. The vehicle entered service on November 26th, and was fitted with a farebox for use on services 9B, 23 and 23A.

There is also an unconfirmed report that a London Regional Transport Optare City Pacer vehicle has also been recently inspected by Southend Transport Ltd.

General

Change giving will commence on December 14th, and the first vehicle to be noted with its farebox removed and a cash tray fitted was Daimler Fleetline 307 (JTD307P) on December 6th.

Members are referred to the special Southend Area Supplement included with this news sheet for additional information regarding other operations by Southend Transport Ltd. It should be noted that the operation of one mid-day journey on service 21 (under sub-contract to Venturer Travel) was for the week commencing November 10th only. Additionally, certain service 225 journeys have been operated by Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet under sub-contract to Southend Transport Ltd.

The main news this month is that a new service, numbered X23, commenced on Mondays to Fridays from November 24th. The service operates between East Beckton (District Centre) and Green Park (Station) with one return journey, departing from East Beckton at 1000 hrs, and returning from Green Park at 1500 hrs. The service is being operated by Van Hool Astronega vehicles, and operates via West Ham, Canning Town, Poplar, Stepney, Aldgate, Tower Hill, Blackfriars, Embankment and Trafalgar Square. The service has a journey time of 40 minutes, and a timetable leaflet has been published (dated November 24th).

SOUTHEND AREA SUPPLEMENT

The following additional notes have been received since the publication of the Southend Area Supplement included with this news sheet :-

Clintona - the seating capacity of the Bedford CF/Reeve Burgess is DP17F. Service 18 has a protective £0.60 minimum fare in both directions over the section between Southend (Central Bus Station) and Rose Inn.

Stephensons - due to the non-availability of CCN911D, local Leigh services 26 and 26A were being operated on December 6th by NFJ377W, a MAN coach complete with video and toilet.

TV Taxis - an additional cream Volkswagen LT28 noted is VKW 32Y. The operator hopes to have six vehicles by mid-December, which will permit a half-hourly frequency. Routes (b) and (c) appear to inter-work at Central Bus Station. Route (a) now terminates in London Road at Victoria Circus, outside W.H. Smith, and no longer serves Central Bus Station. Local reports suggest that a spasmodic Sunday service does exist. It is understood that the operator plans more routes, to the east of Southend, in 1987.

ADVERTISEMENT

Members may be interested to know that the Bookcase shop at 26, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4 currently has the following TPC titles at very low prices - Best of British Buses series : AEC Regal's, Cumberland M.S., Thames Valley and Northampton C.T. all at £2.99; North Western R.C.C. at £3.99; Alexander's Buses at £3.95; Blackpool's Buses and Western S.M.T. both at £4.95. If any member is interested, and can collect their books from the Events Secretary's home or at the Group's Annual General Meeting on January 17th, then please telephone Richard Delahoy on Southend-on-Sea (0702) 588590.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALSInitial Disposals

- 1759 (MAR781P) - Numbered 3760 by Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86, and allocated to Salisbury depot. (see also NS271/2).
- 1783 (PEV695R) - Numbered 3761 by Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86, and allocated to Salisbury depot. (see also NS271/2).
- 1794 (PEV706R) - Numbered 3762 by Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86. (see also NS271/2).
- 1815 (VNO738S) - Numbered 3763 by Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86, and allocated to Salisbury depot. (additional information to NS272).
- 3014 (SMS 40H) - Cannibalisation for spares/scrap at Central Works, Chelmsford was completed, 12/86. (see also NS259-65/7-9).

Subsequent Disposals

- 425 (LWC976J) - Breaker, Carlton, by 9/85, ex. breaker, Wombwell. (additional information to NS268).
- 1408 (X00077L) - Dealer, Purfleet, 8/86, ex. Cheltenham & Gloucester Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2091. Still with dealer, Purfleet, 12/86.
- 1524 (KVX570J) - Now B50F + 23 with Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 790. (additional information to NS272).
- 2710 (90 TVX) - Still unused by Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5, by 10/86.
- 2717 (97 TVX) - Withdrawn by Eastern Counties O.C. Ltd., X67, 10/86.
- 2844 (MVX881C) - R. Sally, Ottawa, Canada, by 8/86, ex. The London Deli, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (immobile). Last recorded with D. Darlow, Country Place Apartments, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A., 8/82. (see NS224/63).
- 2877 (STW765D) - Named "Stew" with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5, and was still licensed as a PSV in 10/86.
- 2892 (WNO980F) - Named "Wino" with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5. Seating capacity is now H10/16F.
- 2900 (WVX527F) - Named "Da Bus" with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5.
- 2913 (WWC743F) - Named "Akko" with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5. Seating capacity is now H12/16F.

- 3011 (SMS 37H) - Crosville Wales Ltd., Llandudno Junction, DVG550, 8/86, ex. Crosville Motor Services Ltd. Current allocation is Bangor.
- 3012 (SMS 38H) - Crosville Wales Ltd., Llandudno Junction, DVG559, 8/86, ex. Crosville Motor Services Ltd. Current allocation is Bangor.
- 3016 (SMS 42H) - Dealer, Purfleet, by 11/86, ex. Lambeth Inner City Consultative Group, London, S.W.9 (N-PSV) (see also NS270).
- 3042 (LFS287F) - Exported to U.S.A., 6/86, ex. dealer, Purfleet. (see also NS265).
- 3046 (NAG586G) - Crosville Wales Ltd., Llandudno Junction, DVG563, 8/86, ex. Crosville Motor Services Ltd. Current allocation is Bangor.
- 9020 (LFS299F) - Still unused by Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5, by 10/86.
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EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT (by Derek Stebbing)

This is the last news sheet that I shall be producing for the Group, as from January Ian Ransom has indicated his willingness to take over the post of News Sheet Editor and Andrew Rook will be commencing as News Sheet Assistant Editor. Your news and information for the news sheet should be sent direct to Ian Ransom in the future, and his address is as follows :-

I. Ransom Esq.,
16. Welland Avenue,
Chelmsford,
Essex.
CM1 2JW.

Obviously our new system of news sheet production will take a few months to settle down, and members' tolerance will be appreciated.

The deadline for the January news sheet is Friday, January 9th, whilst the deadline for the February and March news sheets will be February 6th and March 6th respectively. Please ensure that your notes arrive no later than these dates.

Looking back over the last eight years there have been many highlights for me as News Sheet Editor. My first news sheet was produced in March 1979 (NS100), and the new vehicles delivered in that month were 1213 (LN0699T) and 1901-3 (DAR123-5T). There were still a large number of Bristol FLP's in operation at that time, and they still remain my own favourite vehicle. For example, there were no less than 24 in service at Chelmsford (CF) and 27 at Southend (SD). The commemorative 14 page supplement that we produced for NS200 (November 1980) seemed to take a lot of effort, but recent news sheets have been equally lengthy, and of course have reflected the much greater volume of news that there has been during the past year. The Company's vehicles and services have changed out of all recognition during the past eight years. There have been new liveries, new services, depot closures and openings, new and second-hand vehicles, mini-buses and of course most recently de-regulation. Southend Transport, and to a lesser extent Colchester Transport, have also changed significantly during the period.

With our local operators now embarking on a new phase in their history, it seems an appropriate time for me to hand over to a new Editor, and I wish Ian Ransom and Andrew Rook good luck for the future. I shall continue to be involved in news sheet production, by preparing the address labels for the envelopes.

Finally, thanks are due to the other members of the Group's Committee for their efforts over the past eight years, to all those members who have supplied news and information during the period, to Dave Arnold who has helped enormously with collating and despatching the news sheet and to everyone else who has been connected with the news sheet.

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News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), R. Delahoy (M100), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), S.D.M. Tarrant (M246), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), I. Ransom (M421), G.G. Toon (M452), C.D. Sigston (M523), J.E. Duly (M529), R.A. Dennis (M535), I. Harden (M572), M. Bullock (M574), S.J. Barnes (M576), P.D. Ashton (M599), J. Simpkin (M623) and the P.S.V. Circle.

Remember, the deadline for the January news sheet is Friday, January 9th, and contributions should be sent to Ian Ransom (News Sheet Editor) at the above address.