

ESSEX BUS NEWS

OCTOBER 1992

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

342



Boons of Boreham coach fleet includes this Van Hool bodied Scania K113 seen here at its home depot in April 1992.

(D Arnold)

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VACANCY FOR MANAGING EDITOR

It is with regret that I have to announce my resignation as magazine editor from 1.1.93.

A combination of circumstances has reduced the amount of time available to produce the magazine, and I also feel that a new editor may be able to inject some new ideas into the magazine. I will however be continuing as Sub Editor- Eastern National and as no offers were received for the South Essex Independents sub editor I intend to cover this position as well.

Therefore a person is required to cover the following role:-

1. Add illustration and caption to prepared covers.
2. Type any editorial items eg meetings, tours etc.
3. Type up draft notes (currently CBT and other operators).
4. Coordinate final presentation of Mag. using submitted and prepared drafts including bold headings.
5. Paginate and type acknowledgments and deadlines etc.
6. Act as group "post office" for distribution of contributions etc.

It is thought the above will take about 3 hours a month, please apply if you are able to help, don't leave it to someone else.

The post includes membership of the committee and free membership.

Applications for the above position are invited to :-

Mr A. G. Osborne, 7 Farley Drive, Seven Kings, Ilford, IG3 8LT.
Further details are available from Ian Ransom phone 0245 266713.

VACANCY FOR AUDITOR

The group needs an auditor to replace Richard Delahoy who has so ably produced the end of year accounts and balance sheet until now. Any member who feels suitably qualified and would like to volunteer their services please write now to Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Ilford, Essex, IG2 7NQ. Ideally the person should live in the Essex or London area or work in London. This is an honorary position.

TIMETABLE REPRODUCTION SERVICE

This service is provided for members by courtesy of the Chairman. His extensive collection of timetables is available for photocopying for private research, nostalgic souvenirs etc.

The collection is very extensive, the Eastern National set being almost complete from 1935, with earlier National items dating back to 1909, and even a stage coach guide from 1840.

Local independent operators are also covered, both ancient (Thundersley, Hadleigh & District - 1921) and modern (Four Seasons - 1982).

For a copy of the more detailed introductory circular please write to Mr A. G. Osborne at the above address enclosing a sae.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

The following dates have now been booked 10/11; 8/12; 9/2 and 9/3. The November meeting will be a video evening and members are asked to bring their own videos along. The meetings are all held at The Freight House adjacent to Rochford station.

BOREHAM MEETING

An evening to chat about the local bus scene and operations further afield will be held at the home of Colin Sigston, 62 Plantation Road, Boreham on Tuesday 24th November commencing at 8pm.

REPORT ON ALANS FAREWELL TOUR - 19th SEPTEMBER 1992

The vehicle used for this final effort was FEV 178, the splendidly restored former Eastern National TD5, kindly made available by The Luton & District Bus Preservation Society. There was a very hesitant start, since after just 100 yards a connecting bolt sheared, but fortunately it was readily repaired at Luton garage whilst the tour participants photographed the vehicles present, which included a former Southend Transport PD3 used as a driver trainer. Then it was on to Hitchin where FEV was positioned at the entrance of its old home base, in the same place as captured on an old photograph in the group collection. Lunch was at Stevenage Bus Station, where Sovereign and Stevenage Bus were much in evidence. A long run through Hatfield and St. Albans took us to Two Waters garage where former Lincoln City Bristol VRs were the main attraction. A refreshment stop at Hemel Hempstead Bus Station produced Seamarks and Rover Bus offerings. The journey to the final port of call at Aylesbury was by way of Tring, and in the gathering gloom a good selection of photographs was obtained. Then it was back to Luton once again to end 31 years of tours organised by Alan. After the initial repair the Titan performed very well and was in every way a credit to the Preservation Group.

All agreed that the tour had been a great success and that they were all looking forward to the next Farewell Tour.

TOUR TO SUSSEX COAST 26th SEPTEMBER 1992

Owing to a lack of bookings this tour was cancelled.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Allocations

9/92 1813 CF-D/L(D)
10/92 1833 Pool-CF; 1856 CF-D/L(D)
Planned 11/92 707 BS-Pool; 1832 CF-Pool; 1842 CF-D/L(D);
1861 BS-CF; 1863/74 MN-CF

Leyland National 1844 has been operating from Chelmsford for some months now and should no longer be regarded as part of the

outstation allocation at Bishops Stortford.

General

To counter the Cedrics services between Wivenhoe and Colchester the Unicard is now available to all Wivenhoe residents, which based on a weekly ticket gives a single journey to Colchester for 50p.

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for services 53/B,133 dated 9.8.92; 53/B dated 6.9.92. and 97A/B dated 27.9.92.

Undated leaflets (but including 27.9.92.) revisions for Wivenhoe to Colchester and Brightlingsea to Colchester. These are a revised style in white and green with a photo of 4018 on the cover.

Booklets for Buses in Braintree, Witham, Halstead and District dated 6.9.92. and Buses in Clacton, Frinton & Walton on the Naze. The latter included the Sunday service from 27.9.92. and included a (pre)supplement for Sunday services before this date.

Students Survival Pack including timetable, travel voucher, information booklet and Unicard Application for students at Essex University.

Services

- 32 The 1805 ex Chelmsford and 1855 ex Ongar were withdrawn from 23.10.92.
- 37 From 7.11.92 a revised Saturday service will be introduced. The 1805 ex Braintree and 1901 from Witham, will be operated by Freemans under contract to ECC and are re-timed to 1810 and 1904.
- 38 Revised Saturday service introduced from 7.11.92.
- 39 Revised Saturday service introduced from 7.11.92.
- 49 Revised route and timetable introduced from 7.11.92.
- 58/A Revised route and timetable introduced from 7.11.92.
- 62 Further to EBN 341, the Saturday service was withdrawn, without replacement.
- 78 Further to EBN 341 the X78 is in fact numbered 178 and it operates via the B1027 and avoids Wivenhoe
From 1.11.92. the Sunday service passes to Carters with a slightly revised timetable.
- 86 Revised route in Stowmarket from 4.9.92.
- 93 From 27.10.92. passes to Freemans under contract to ECC.
- 94 Withdrawn on Tuesdays and Fridays (this may be as a result of a revised ASDA contract, with which it interworked) after 31.10.92. A Tuesday service under contract to ECC will operate from 3.11.92. operator unknown at present.
- 333 Revised route and timetable introduced from 2.11.92.
- 354 Slight timetable revisions introduced from 2.11.92.
- 370 From 2.11.92. the 1905 and 2120 ex Bishops Stortford, the 2005 and 2235 ex Braintree and 2308 ex Gt. Dunmow are withdrawn.
- 433 From 2.11.92. the 0807 ex South Street is withdrawn.

The Sunday service on routes 74 and 77 have been operated by Clacton minibuses from 27.9.92.

From the same date the Sunday service on route 78 were according to the timetable leaflet to be run by another operator. The electronic information point at Colchester Bus Station claimed the service was running- the only problem being- no buses were to be seen.

Initial Disposals

1819 (VNO 742S) Peterborough PVS, (breaker), 10/92.

Subsequent Disposals

To correct EBN 341 the new Brewer livery is red with a white roof.

THAMESWAY

New Vehicles

The new Mercedes Benz minibuses for LT contract D8 have not been delivered in time for the start of the new contract (5th October) due to problems at Plaxtons. These vehicles are due shortly and will be:-

805-11 K805-11 DJN Mercedes Benz Plaxton Beaver B31F

Acquired Vehicles

512/13 B336/37 BGL Leyland Tiger Duple Caribbean C46FT

Ex Western National 2221/2 and were acquired in early October for Citysaver services. 512 has entered service in Citysaver livery while 513 entered service still in National Express livery.

Vehicles on Loan

158-60 E209-11 BOD Iveco Reeve Burgess B21F

On loan from Western National and all are allocated to Basildon. During September Transit 707 was on loan to Eastern National while EN VR open top 3501 has been on loan to Thamesway for Driver Training.

Allocations

October 512/13 WNOC-BN E209-11 BOD WNOC-BN(loan)

1820 Pool-D/L(D)

When Delivered 805-11 New-PD

Temporary Allocations

Since 5th October to cover the absence of new Mercedes for D8, various Mercedes have been transferred on a temporary basis to

cover the vehicle shortage. Mercedes 307/34/55 have been loaned to BD from HH with a further 3 on loan from BN to BD to operate service LT service 362. Noted in service on D8 on 7.10.92. were 388/9 and 800-3. BD have loaned 6 Mercedes to PD from the batch 388-95.

Leyland National 1889 has been on loan to HH from BN.

Repaints

Noted repainted in fleet livery are 247,248,259 and 802. Austin FX4 taxi CYP 96V used as a crew ferry is also now in fleet livery.

General

Noted in Southend Carnival in August were Mercedes 309 and Citysaver coach 506. Dennis Dart 914 was present at Showbus in September. Citysaver coach 503 has been named Sir Christopher Wren. Darts 901-17 have large Badger logos and a revised style fleetname (see cover photo last month).

Service Revisions

- 242 New Herts CC contract. Waltham Cross and Potters Bar. Sundays only at hourly intervals.
- 363 New Herts CC contract. Waltham Cross and Hammond Street. Sundays only at half-hourly intervals.

The above services interwork and are operated by Mercedes 23 seaters from Ponders End. Operation commenced on Sunday 6th September. Timetables for both services are in the new edition of Eastern area Herts CC timetable dated October 92.

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for services 31/32/36 dated 7.9.92. and D8 dated 5.10.92.

Unusual Workings

- 15.9.92. BN 1423 on Citysaver services.
- 21.9.92. BN 1424 on Citysaver services.
- 22.9.92. BN 1410/11/12 on Citysaver services. 1110 used on Citysaver services while on delivery from Bristol Engineering to EN.
- 28.9.92. EN CF 1121 noted on Citysaver services.
- 29.9.92. HH 1400 on Citysaver services.
- 7.10.92. BN 1404 noted on Citysaver services.

Extra peak hour services are being operated on Citysaver services S1-S3 due to the high demand for these services.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Your sub-editor apologises for the lack of ST news last month. Delays occurred in trying to check information and the editor's earlier holiday deadline was missed.

As Southend area members are probably aware from press releases that Mr Graeme Torrance has been appointed as STs new Traffic and Commercial Director. Mr Torrance was previously with Eastern Scottish in Edinburgh.

Members will be pleased to learn that Mr Torrance has kindly agreed to continue full co-operation with the group. For this I am sure that members would like to thank Mr Torrance and wish him well in his new appointment.

Vehicles

Bristol VR 353 (GTX 740W) will not after all enter service and the fleetnumber has no further validity. This vehicle will be sold in due course.

A further two Bristol VRs have been acquired from the former National Welsh (Barry Bus Co) operation at Barry. These buses were new to Crosville before being sold to N.W.

307/9 WTU 473/4W Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB ECW LH43/31W

These vehicles have been repainted and have entered service. The VR fleet is therefore 301-9, 351/2, 381/2 and 401-4. It is unlikely that further VRs will be obtained.

Four Leyland Olympians have been obtained from the former National Welsh (Barry Bus Co) at Barry. They are:-

MUH 281/3/5/6X Leyland ONLXB/1R ECW LH77F

They are to similar to the 257-60 batch and fleetnumbers have not been allocated as yet. They are at the works being prepared for service, although none have as yet been used in service.

The AEC Regent open topper 594 is tested to Class V standard and is therefore precluded from PSV duties. Being converted from a highbridge vehicle (retaining the full depth top deck front windows) it is too high to pass under the Pier Bridge. Let us hope that this fine vehicle may enter PSV service at some stage. Many members may recall STs fine 1950 Massey L27/26R bodied Regent IIIs.

Services

Service 404 was withdrawn from 19.10.92. and as a result the associated service 3C from Southend at 1235 and the Sunday service 12 were withdrawn.

Traffic

To cope with the increased fleet size, a second fuel point has been installed at the entrance to the depot alongside the existing one. Extra parking space has been created by terminating an arrangement with Supreme for parking about 8 vehicles on the site.

Visitors to the depot, during the summer (what summer!) have included Olympians of Luton and District and capital Citybus on their seasonal services.

ST have won the ECC contract for virtually all of the scholars passes in the Southend/Rochford/Castle Point areas for those children travelling over 3 miles to school. Previously, the passes were shared between ST, Thamesway and Network South East. It is thought that this will lead to increased duplication on schooldays. Indeed, service 3B received an additional schooldays journey Benfleet Stn-Bournes Green AM, with a PM return.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Vehicles

Leyland Lynx 27 is a LX2R11C15Z4/S with chassis number LX2048 and is fitted with a Cummins engine. It had entered service by 9.9.92.

Atlanteans 65,69,70 and 72 have all been withdrawn and were expected to pass to Bee Line, Manchester in early October. Atlantean 76 has been repainted during September.

Services

Service 1C appears to be the focus of attention in Colchester. It attracted a number of adverse comments before it had started but there has been little since its introduction. The Evening Gazette even sent a reporter out on the bus! They found that it was popular with Greenstead residents, but not many passengers on the Westlands section (it would of course depend on the time of day). Service 7 of both CBT and EN is being diverted in West Mersea for 10 weeks from 5.10.92. As a result it is operating via the 7A route on Mersea, as the alternative route is too small for big buses. As a result a minibus is operating under contract to Anglian Water between West Mersea and Blue Row via Broomhills Road, Victoria Esplanade and Seaview Avenue.

General

A new fleetlist is available from the Director of Operations on receipt of a SAE marked fleetlist. Following the recent timetable changes the following allocations to services are:-

1/A/B/C	LX,AN,ON
2/A	ON coach
	AN (M-F)
	LX (SAT)
3A	LX (M-F) Leopard (SAT)
4/A	AN
	LX (M-F)
	ON (SAT)
5/A	LX,AN
6/A/B	LX,AN
7/A	AN,ON

8/A ON,AN
9/A LX

HEDINGHAMS

Services

- 2 Revised timetable introduced from 7.11.92.
89/A Revised Saturday service introduced from 7.11.92.
327 Further to EBN 341, the new operator is Freemans.
H4 This new service started on 1.9.92. and is a Haverhill Town Service. operating Monday to Friday.

COUNTY BUS

- 239 Slight timetable revisions introduced from 2.11.92.
260 Withdrawn after 30.10.92.
261 Slight timetable revisions introduced from 2.11.92.
857/8 Are being operated commercially by County- see below.

With effect from 3.10.92. the local bus services, of Golden Boy were taken over. The deal included a number of vehicles- details next month. Golden Boy continues its excursion and private hire coach work.

OTHER OPERATORS

As part of ECC tenders vehicles operating these routes have to be fitted with electronic ticket equipment and this is now appearing with Carters and Freemans.

BLUE TRIANGLE The 2232 ex Harlow and 2255 ex Epping on service 500 will be withdrawn from 8.11.92.

BRITISH RAIL(!) All train services to Tilbury Riverside are to be withdrawn after 28.11.92. A bus service will operate between Tilbury Town and Tilbury Riverside after this date, although the operator is not yet known.

CAMBRIDGE COACH SERVICES Slight timetable revisions to service 38 will be introduced from 2.11.92.

CARTERS A green VR has been noted on service 75. Although Ipswich Buses Dodge 206 was noted on 7.9.92. on loan to Carters.

CHELMSFORD CAB The taxibus service between Chelmsford and Maltings Estate has been withdrawn.

DISTRICT BUS From 3.11.92. service 111 has been revised to operate Tuesday, Friday and Saturday only at 1010 & 1310 ex The Bryn and 1000 & 1300 ex Basildon. A revised timetable will be introduced on services 271-4 from 2.11.92.

EAST LONDON Service 723X between Stratford and Lakeside was reintroduced on Saturdays from 24.10.92. with four journeys in each direction.

FORDS Have started a subsidised service between South Woodham and Maldon (Blackwater Leisure Centre) although no further details are known.

FREEMANS Service 344 is operating for an experimental period of six months (additional to EBN 341). From 22.9.92. the the am

journey was revised to depart at 0802.

GOLDEN BOY Have joined the operators serving Lakeside, with a Saturday only service from Puckeridge, Bishops Stortford and Harlow which commenced from 3.10.92.

GREEN ROVER Services 724 and 725 were revised from 25.10.92.

KENTISH BUS Service 722 between Gravesend and Lakeside has been revised to operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, in addition to the existing Saturday service.

MILLERBUS ECC tendered journeys on service 313 were extended to St. Edmunds Lane, Gt. Dunmow from 2.11.92. with a revised timetable.

NELSONS Revisions were made to schools services 41 and 45 from 8.9.92. From 2.11.92. service 21 was revised to incorporate service 511 which has been withdrawn. The 1725 service 44 ex Basildon has been revised to operate Monday to Friday.

STEPHENSONS Minor timetable revisions were made to service 7B from 19.10.92.

VANTAGE Operation of service 51 (Chelmsford) passes to Freemans from 26.10.92. Services 157 and 357 were withdrawn after 30.10.92.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE WERE RECEIVED FROM:-

M Bullock, R Dennis, B Gilbert, N Lennox, A Meadows, A Osborne, C Sigston, P Snell, D Stebbing, G Toon, M Weyell, Badgerline Enthusiasts, Eastern National, Essex County Council, LOTS, Southend Transport and Thamesway.

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R Dennis, B Gilbert, J Harvie, A Osborne, P Snell, G Toon, Badgerline Enthusiasts, Eastern National, Essex County Council, LOTS, Southend Transport and Thamesway.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES ARE 4.11.92. & 25.11.92.

Apologies for the late arrival of this months magazine your editor misread the deadline by a week.
Also our apologies for those contributions held over until next month.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET ALLOCATION OCTOBER 1992

Chelmsford (CF)	601-20/22 0700-2/4 1110/19/21/28-30 1401/02/08/13/15/26-29 1831/32-34/41-44 1850/51/55/60/62/67/70/73/90/99/1901/10 1916/17/24 3070/77/83/84/3106 4011/13 4510/11
Clacton (CN)	0203-24 1925/27/30-32/37-39 3064 3219-22
Colchester (CR)	1111/12/17/20 1926/29/33/35/36/40 3068 3069/71/78/91/93/95 3103/11/14 3218 4014/15/17/18/20/21 4501/03/12
Maldon (MN)	0703/5/20/21 1114/15 1403/14/16/25 1863/74/92/1921/23 3079/92/94/3112/27/28
Bishops Stortford (BS)	0707-09/11/12/19 1125/27 1861/65 1872/85/1909/14 4016
Braintree (BE)	0120 0200/2 621/23-30 0713/14/16-18
Dunmow (DW)	1407
Harwich (DT)	0750-54 1123 3072/6/3109 4007/8/12/19
Walton (WN)	Three Mercedes from CN depot.
Driver Training	9006 9012
Pool Vehicles	0706/10/15 1824 2383/84 3500/1
Delicensed Disposal	1741/50/66/68/92/1804-6 1811/13/19/28/56 2201 3038/54/60/3204

Bishops Stortford and Dunmow are outstations of Chelmsford, Braintree is an outstation of Maldon, Harwich is an outstation of Colchester and Walton is an outstation of Clacton.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET SUMMARY OCTOBER 1992

	BE	BS	CF	CN	CR	DT	DW	MN	WN	POOL	DIS	TOT
PEUGOT	1											1
MERCEDES	11		21	19					3			54
TRANSIT	5	6	4			5		4		3		27
RE											1	1
TIGER (CO)			2									2
TIGER (DP)		2	4		4	1		2				13
LYNX			9				1	4				14
NATIONAL		6	23	8	6			5		1	13	62
VRT			5	5	11	3		6		2	4	36
ON (CO)			2		3							5
ON (DP)		1	2		6	4						13
KSW										2		2
TOTALS	17	15	72	32	30	13	1	21	3	8	18	230
DRIVER TRG.												2
GRAND TOTAL												232

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agricultural plant and machinery.

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refurbishments.



All enquiries welcome



Contact Tom Sangster

Unit 14 Mayfair Industrial Estate, Maldon Road, Latchingdon

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The latest addition to the City Coach Company fleet is this splendid 7 mm. model of Leyland Gnu G6, scratch-built by John Lankester of Alresford, Hampshire.

(J. Lankester)