

EDITORIAL

Mid Essex Coach Tour, Sunday April 17

A booking form for this tour is included with this news sheet. Please book seats as soon as possible. Both tours that we operated last year carried capacity loads and some late-comers could not be accommodated - so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Reports on Disposals

An arrangement has been negotiated with The P.S.V. Circle such that information on disposals on former Eastern National, Colchester, Ipswich and Southend Transport vehicles which has been reported in the Circle news sheet will be re-produced in our news sheet. This information will appear only when space permits and will be limited to disposals to operators and preservationists rather than to dealers. A survey of information published from January 1976 is being prepared and will appear soon. In the meantime members are encouraged to submit reports of any disposals that they may note.

Colour Photograph List

A new circular (E.C.7B) listing all the Group colour prints is included with this news sheet. This list supercedes the lists previously given in circulars E.C.7B and E.C.7C (Revised - 2.76) and also includes some new views. All prints are now available.

Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Ltd. photographs

The complete collection of negatives from the source in Western Australia (see NS148) has now been acquired. It is hoped that these will be available at the Southend Bus Rally in June.

News Sheet Address Labels

The original fawn coloured address labels prepared for members M.1 to M.236 are now time expired. It is anticipated that these will be replaced for circulation of the May news sheet. Will members please check the accuracy and content of their own label and inform the Secretary of any change. (e.g. addition of postcode required)

Eastern National Fleetnumber Plates

A stock of fleetnumber plates has been acquired, by kind courtesy of the Chief Engineers Department. These will be offered to members on the tour on April 17 and, subject to availability, in the April news sheet.

Eastern National Destination Blinds

A quantity of number blinds has been acquired. These are single track (as used in the three track number blinds) and include the numbers 0 to 9 only. They are available from the Secretary, price 32p (postage and packing included).

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

The Bristol LH's on order for 1977 will have constant mesh gearboxes, and will have chassis numbers LH-1406 to LH-1409 and E.C.W. body numbers 22359-62. Some more Bristol LH's will form part of the 1978 vehicle programme, but these will have semi-automatic gearboxes.

The first batch of Leyland National vehicles will have chassis numbers 04458-63/78/9, 04514-20.

Withdrawn Vehicles

2.77	1318 (213 MHK)	1426 (MOO 178)	2731 (178 XNO)
	1319 (214 MHK)	1613 (AOO 18B)	2732 (179 XNO)
	1321 (1259 EV)	2510 (236 LNO)	2736 (183 XNO)
	1333 (2723 VX)	2700 (80 TVX)	2740 (E00 582)
	1335 (2725 VX)	2707 (87 TVX)	2746 (E00 588)
	1344 (2734 VX)	2718 (98 TVX)	2747 (E00 589)
	1402 (217 MHK)	2719 (99 TVX)	2748 (E00 590) /contd.

1405 (1253 EV)	2720 (801 WWV)	2763 (RWC 605)
1414 (2739 VX)	2723 (171 XNO)	2768 (VWC 48)
1419 (805 WWV)	2724 (172 XNO)	2769 (VWC 49)
1421 (807 WWV)	2730 (177 XNO)	2934 (185 XNO)

The 2500 class is now extinct, with the withdrawal of 2510 (236 LNO).

2934 (185 XNO) is the first of the FLF coach conversions to be withdrawn, it was converted in March 1975 and spent its entire life at Silver End.

1602 (BNO103B), acquired by the Eastern Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd., was obtained via the N.B.C. Eastern Division Vehicle Cannibalisation Centre at Lincoln. Both 1602/4 (BNO103/5B) are both to be used by E.C.O.C. for spares only. (additional notes to NS154/5)

The Bristol RELH's are being withdrawn since it has been found that they are particularly expensive to maintain.

Re-built/Re-seated Vehicles

2.77 2833 (LWC659C) to FLF6G

Service Vehicles

Withdrawn Vehicles

2.77 0052 (52 PPU) 0324 (324 GPU)

Re-numbered Vehicle

2.77 0668 (BVX668B) to 9005

This vehicle is at present undergoing conversion at Prittlewell Works. Details of the conversions made to 9005/6 (BVX668B, AVW401F) will be given in a later news sheet.

Allocations & Transfers

2.77 1437-BN, 1553-BS, 1786-BN, 2717-CF, 2727-CW(SD), 2738-D/L(D), 2739-D/L(D), 2749-CF, 2750-CF, 2755-CW(HH)*, 2756-D/L(D), 2810-D/L, 2860-D/L, 2913-CR, 3036-CW, 3048-WG. * - on temporary loan.

This months allocations include several new "firsts" :

Bishops Stortford receives its first 36' saloon (although not its first 36' vehicle since it had Bristol RELH coach 410 (YHK727F) allocated from 6/73 to 1/74) Colchester receives its first semi-automatic Bristol FLF, it is used on services 78/A.

Wood Green receives its first vehicle for use on normal stage carriage O.M.O. duties, since an early journey on service 251 is now O.M.O. operated.

3036 (NPU983M) is on loan to United Automobile Services Ltd. (see General notes)

The following allocations of D/L (D) vehicles have been noted by personal observation :

BS - 2738 (previously on loan to BS from CF), CY - 2716,
CF - 2704/39, MN - 2734/56 (N.B. in NS155 1427 should read 1426)

Service Revisions

NIL (see also General section notes)

General

Bristol VRT, 3036 (NPU983M) is at present on loan to United Automobile Services Ltd., and is operating from Durham garage. Owing to a vehicle shortage at United, each Eastern Division N.B.C. Company supplied one Bristol VRT to assist in the situation. It is not known how long the loan will last.

Bristol VRT, 3053 (LJN648P) has been re-painted into a special silver and blue livery to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The sponsor of the vehicle is Philips Ltd. and all internal and external advertisements are devoted to Philips. The vehicle is in an overall silver livery with a central pale blue band. It contains a white N.B.C. style Eastern National fleetname and coloured double 'N' motif with the main Philips advertisement between decks.

The Jubilee Scroll and the words 'The Queens Silver Jubilee 1977' are portrayed on the panels beneath the lower deck windows. The vehicle was unveiled at Southend on 16.3.77 and has now entered service on service 400.

Bristol FLF, 2755 (JWC 715) which has been allocated to Hadleigh to cover Engineering Work was used in service, and was not employed as an office or store. The additional vehicle was allocated to Hadleigh since the building work at the garage caused a delay in the maintenance programme. The extra Bristol FLF was used to provide a temporary spare vehicle for service whilst other vehicles were off the road undergoing maintenance for an extended period or awaiting their turn. The building work at Hadleigh has now been completed and 2755 has been re-painted.

Leyland National saloons are now being fitted with new white plates containing the red and blue double 'N' motif at the front of the vehicle to replace the former Leyland National symbol. 1750 (JN0199N) was the first vehicle to be treated.

A change of paint manufacturer has recently been introduced, Williamsons being replaced by Thornley and Knight. The new paint has a slightly richer colour, is better wearing, and deliveries are more certain.

Two new timetable booklets have recently been introduced. These are dated 30 January 1977 until further notice and are priced at 12p each. The new South West area booklet has a pale blue coloured cover whilst the new Central area booklet has a purple coloured cover. The timetables also list services provided by other operators, one change from the earlier issues is that the service of Whybrow, Kelvedon is deleted from the Central area booklet. The information given concerning London Country also gives details of forthcoming revisions to bus and Green Line services. In the South West area booklet the Tilbury Ferry to Gravesend ferry service is not included, since Eastern National no longer serve Tilbury Ferry.

The timetables incorporate revisions to the following services, details of which may be found in the appropriate news sheet specified :

31A Saturday service withdrawn.

124 (NS155)

In the South West area booklet, although the timetable for service 151 has been amended to operate between Canvey and Romford only, the list of stopping places in inner London (within the L.T.E. area) still shows London (Wood Green) as the westerly terminal.

Revised fares came into operation from 6 March.

A Travelcard scheme has been introduced in the Southend area - see Southend Transport notes for details.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

Vehicle on Demonstration

XCW955R	Leyland National	04118	Leyland National	B49F
---------	------------------	-------	------------------	------

The vehicle was new 1/77, it was allocated Colchester fleetnumber D9. It is in a white livery with the legend 'Leyland National City Bus' and apparently is destined to become Fishwick, Leyland no. 24. The vehicle was on demonstration from early March, initially on driver training duties but later in passenger service.

IPSWICH TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

21-26	SDX 21-26R	Leyland AN68A/1R	(to follow)	Roe	H43/29D
	Delivery dates:	21 - 2.77	23 - 2.77	25 - 2.77	
		22 - 2.77	24 - 2.77	26 - 2.77	

The vehicles entered passenger service from 1 March.

Withdrawn Vehicles

12.76	28 (GPV 28)	34 (HPV 34)	36 (HPV 36)
-------	-------------	-------------	-------------

30 (GPV 30)
33 (HPV 33)

35 (HPV 35)

37 (LDX 37)

49 (PPV 49) has also suffered mechanical failure and may have been withdrawn.

General

A.E.C. Tower Wagon PV 8580 has been withdrawn and replaced by a Leyland Chieftain Breakdown lorry.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Withdrawn Vehicles

ca. 2.77

204 (432 FXX)

205 (VDB 915)

These vehicles were on lease from Ensign, Hornchurch. The lease finished on 29.1.77 or 5.2.77. The operational fleet now has no secondhand vehicles in stock.

Re-built Vehicles

The conversion of 208 (GJN508D) to a coach is now in progress. The central exit door and steps have been removed and the doorway panelled over. A rear luggage boot is being fitted and the vehicle is to be converted from manual to semi-automatic transmission.

Daimler Fleetlines 386/9 (JTD386/9P) have been fitted with curved windscreens of the same pattern as fitted to 392 (JTD392P) (see NS154). This conversion is to reduce glare in the lower saloon.

General

A TRAVELCARD scheme has been introduced in the Southend area. The scheme covers a weekly Travelticket and personalised Travelcard which includes a colour photograph and wallet. The ticket costs £2. 95 for a period of seven days and the card 30p (although a special introductory offer has reduced the price to 20p). The ticket zone is defined as the Southend Co-ordination area and by boundary bus stops on the following major roads : A13 (Tarpots Corner); A127 (Arterial Road, Annwood Nurseries); A129 (Rawreth, Carpenters Arms); A130 (Rettendon, Turnpike Corner). Travelcards are valid on all normal Eastern National and Southend Transport bus services and also for second class rail travel between Southend (Victoria) and Rayleigh and also between Shoeburyness and Benfleet.

Camera sales points have been established at the Eastern National travel offices at Southend and Hadleigh and at the Southend Transport office at the Central Bus Station. Tickets may be purchased at any bus or rail station in the area.

East Kent A.E.C. Regent V MFN946F has been hired for three weeks commencing from 9 March to assist with sales promotions and also as a mobile camera issuing point visiting various rail stations etc. This vehicle has been specially equipped for the task and has assisted in the operation of such special ticket schemes in Kent.

The travelcards were first offered for sale on 7 March and the complete scheme commenced on 13 March.

Certain garage layout revisions have occurred at London Road with the result that more routine maintenance may now be carried out at the garage rather than at Tickfield Avenue works.

270 (GYE 60) and 327 (7091 HJ) used as the Conductors School/Store Room and as a Store Room respectively have been moved from the entrance side of the garage to the exit side in the row most remote from London Road. They now occupy the site of the former tyre store.

At the opposite end of the garage nearest to London Road a screen has been erected to separate the pit area from the remainder of the garage. The area between the screen and the store now houses the re-located tyre store and also 331 (7095 HJ) which is also used as a Store Room.