

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The Monthly Magazine Of The ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP)

APRIL 1989

ISSUE No. 300



The newest of the Harris Bus Scania's is F314 RHK which is seen at the Tesco's, Lakeside during March. (D Arnold)

ROCHFORD MEETING

The May meeting will take place on May 9th at the Freight House, which is adjacent to the Railway Station. The subject of the meeting is "Trollybuses in France" and will include a slide show by John Zebedee. This will be the final meeting before the summer recess, the next meeting being in September.

EDITOR: Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CMU OXU

SUB EDITORS: *Southend Transport and Southend Area Small Operators*

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road, Southend, SS1 3TT

Small Operators - Rest Of Essex

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, CM9 7NR

PUBLICATIONS: Andy Meadows, 52 Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS9 9NW

PHOTO ORDERS: Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 4LH

MEMBERSHIP: Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Barkingside, Essex, IG2 7NQ

DATES FOR YOUR DIARYSouth Essex Tour - Sunday 21st May 1989

A booking form giving full details is included with this magazine.

Long Distance Day Tour - Saturday 15th July 1989

This tour will visit some of the larger independent operators in West Cambridgeshire and South Lincolnshire, further details will be available next month.

Bristol FLF Tour - Sunday 13th August 1989

This trip will cover the entire route of services 251 & 400 (X10) which were once operated by 2946 the vehicle that will be used for this tour. Picking up points are Southend CBS 0900, Rayleigh Stn 0925, Billericay Stn Corner 1000, Shenfield Stn 1015, Romford, St Edwards Way 1040 and Newbury Park 1050 although pick ups at any point along the route (via Eastern Avenue not the new Seven Kings version) can be arranged. We then plan to visit Ponders End and Walthamstow depots with a lunch break at Walthamstow Central.

We will then proceed to Kings Cross to return via Newbury Park 1620, Romford 1630, Basildon 1700, Hadleigh 1725 arriving in Southend at about 1750. The actual charge for the trip is £5 which covers the cost of a small souvenir booklet and administration. If you wish to come along on what promises to be a very enjoyable day out, please write to Ian Ransom (address on cover) enclosing a deposit of £3 and stating where you will be joining the tour, and enclose a SAE for confirmation of booking. PLEASE NOTE: NO BOOKING FORM WILL BE ISSUED FOR THIS TOUR.

Weekend Coach Tour - August Bank Holiday Friday 25th to Monday 28th August

It is planned to run a weekend tour over this weekend. Watch this space for further details

NEW BOOK

Bus Enthusiast Review of 1988 is now available from Andy Meadows, priced at £3.50 post free. Please make cheques payable to the 'The Cliff Agency'

NEW TIMETABLES

New ECC timetables are now available from Mark Bullock, 219 Maplin Way North, Thorpe Bay, Southend SS1 3NY for the Colchester and Harlow areas. These are priced at 40p each plus 30p post and parking for one or 45p for both. Please make cheques payable to EBEG.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDNew Vehicles

0253 - 0260 F253 - 60 RHK	Mercedes Benz L709D	Reeve Burgess B23F
0800 - 0804 F800 - 04 RHK	" " L811D	" " B31F

	Chassis No.	Body No.	Delivered		Chassis No.	Body No.	Delivered
0253	937243	17548	23.2	0260	939131	17555	27.2
0254	937280	17549	17.2	0800	933706	17545	22.2
0255	937195	17550	16.2	0801	933335	17543	24.2
0256	937637	17551	22.2	0802	932908	17544	25.2
0257	937645	17552	1.3	0803	933639	17547	3.3
0258	936377	17553	3.3	0804	934084	17546	1.3
0259	939399	17554	2.3				

Vehicle Re-Allocations

4/89 1722 Pool - D/L (D); 1726 BE - D/L (D); 1741 BN - BE - Pool; 1751 Pool - BD;
1779 BD - WW; 3100 WW - PD; 3210 PD - D/L (D)

1748 reported as BN - D/L (D) in 10/88 was an error and this vehicle remains in service at BN.

Vehicle Repaints

w.e. 25.2.89 1745 at CN, 1917 at TS, 3105 at ENE
w.e. 4.3.89 3108 at SD, 4019 at TS
w.e. 11.3.89 2203 at TS, 3085 at HH, 2201 at TS
w.e. 18.3.89 2202 at TS, 3033 at CN, 4020 at SD
w.e. 25.3.89 1857 at HH, 1881 at TS, 2200 at TS, 3113 at TS, 3202 at CN
w.e. 1.4.89 1897 at HH
w.e. 8.4.89 1867 at TS, 3083 at ENE

1867 has been repainted into fleet livery, ex Riverside all over advert. 1881 is another overall advert for Yettons, whilst 1917 has been painted into an advert for Lancaster Cars, Writtle, ex Springfield Motors overall advert. 3083 has been painted into fleet livery, but with a white rear for an advert for Kennings, ex Bolingbrace & Wenley overall advert. 3113 is now an overall advert for the Royals Shopping Centre, Southend and is normally used on the free bus service to the centre. Disabled persons vehicles 2200-3 are now in dual purpose livery, similar to that carried by the Alexander/Tigers.

General

Owing to road works in Church Road, Stanstead, service 333 was diverted via Stanstead Road and Forest Hall Road from 20.3.89 for a period of at least three weeks. During this time a special shuttle service was provided between Bishops Stortford and Stanstead Airport.

A free bus service is being operated by Eastern National between Southend Victoria Circus (Queensway) and Royals Shopping Centre. It is paid for by the management of the shopping centre and is for (lazy) Victoria Avenue office workers.

Their publicity shows a Leyland Olympian, 'borrowed' from Reading Transports X1 publicity, with the fleetname retouched to 'South Transport'!

Unusual Workings

4/2 CF 1771 on 353
12/2 BE 1932 towed into CF depot by 0103, CF 1775 took over the duty by then running very late.
27/2 BD 1913 on 251
28/3 BS 1127 on 32
1722 a pool vehicle was in use from Chelmsford during early March

Disposals - Initial

1658 (KCG 615L), 1716 (WNO 565L), 1717 (WNO 566L), 1722 (NEW 679M), 1726 (NEV 683M), 1732 (HWC 83N), 1749 (JNO 198N) all to Solent Blue Line, 3/89

The remaining Bedford YMQ-S vehicles 1051-7 have been shown to a number of operators and are expected to be sold in the near future

Publicity

Eastern National timetable for 33, 70, X70, 71 & 370 dated 20.3.89; 94/94A dated 17.4.89; 97, 97X, 98X dated 17.4.89; 152/3/4/5 dated 2.4.89; 232/3/4 dated 3.4.89; 235/6 dated 3.4.89; 250 dated 3.4.89; 500, 520, 521, 523 dated 3.4.89; 501 dated 3.4.89; 501/2/3/4/5/6 dated 3.4.89; 333 route diversion in Stansted dated 20.3.89 and for at least three weeks. Guide to Eastern National buses in Bishops Stortford dated 20.3.89. and Harlow also dated 20.3.89. Easter Buses in South Essex and North Essex (and no doubt others that I don't have).

LRT leaflets for 379 dated 5.3.89. and W9 dated 9.1.89 with a further W9 leaflet dated 5.3.89.

Harris Bus leaflet dated 27.2.89. for service 300.

Essex County Council leaflets for 10, 10B, 12 undated; 21A undated; 52/A/B undated; 59, 349 dated 3.1.89; 90/A dated January 1989; 211, 213 dated 1.4.89; 224 undated; 237 dated January 1989; 254 undated; 265 dated 6.3.89; 505 dated March 1989; 687 dated 30.4.89 to 15.10.89; Evening Buses to Three Arch Estate dated 6.3.89; Bus services from Manuden dated 23.3.89; Buses from East Hanningford dated November 1988; Buses from Elmdon undated; Saffron Walden timetables dated 1.4.89.

Supreme Coaches & Harris Coaches summer express services dated May to Sept 89 published as two separate leaflets. GW Osborne timetable booklet priced at 20p plus post & packing. To expand on the information given last month the timetable for service 2 dated 5.2.89 covers the Coastline service, whilst the LRT leaflet for W13, W16 also includes the W14.

London Commuter Services

The Essex commuter services operated by Eastern National and Grey Green were revised from 10.4.89. details of these changes are as follows:-

- 190 0640 ex Witham and 1600 ex Millbank are withdrawn, 1745 ex Millbank is advanced by 10 minutes throughout, all journeys serve Ingatestone.
- 192 Revised terminal at Springfield to be Pump Lane/Havengore, so no longer serves Chelmer Village, plus slight revision to route and timetable in the Chelmsford area. Evening journey terminates at Springfield. Journeys are no longer advertised as double deck coach, although in practise they have not always been so for the past few months anyway.
- 193 Slight revision to route and timetable in the Chelmsford area, evening journeys now terminate in Springfield.
- 194 The 1655 & 1715 ex Millbank now terminate at White Courts.
- 195 The 1625 ex Millbank is extended to Tye Green, arriving at 1837
- 196 Withdrawn
- 204 The 0626 ex Heybridge and 1645 return are withdrawn from 17.4.89.

Timetable leaflets for 190, 191, 204; 190, 192, 193, 204, 205; 194, 195, 197, 198, 199; 197, 198, 199; 204, 205 all dated 17.4.89 have been issued in Connection with the above.

SERVICE REVISIONS - ALL OPERATORS (EXCEPT ST)Bishops Stortford, Saffron Walden

- 14 The Saffron Walden Town service was revised from 1.4.89 and is now operated commercially by Hedingham. Journeys to and from Radwinter Road Hospital are numbered 34 and operated under contract to Essex County Council.
- 16 NEW SERVICE. Stapleford - Saffron Walden, Tuesdays only via Sawston and Hinxton, departs at 0915 returning at 1140 under contract to ECC, further details are unknown at present.
- 17 NEW SERVICE. Great Bardfield to Saffron Walden via Radwinter and Finchingfield on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays Only from 1.4.89. Outward at 0930 returning from Saffron Walden at 1245 with operation by Millers Coaches under contract to ECC
- 17 The 0715 ex Buntingford and 1740 return were withdrawn at the end of 1988.
- 18 Operation passed to Millers Coaches from 1.4.89. and the Hempstead short journeys were withdrawn at the same time.
- 29 Saturday service withdrawn with effect from 1.4.89.
- 59 Viceroy journeys are operated commercially with effect from 1.4.89.
- 370 From 4.5.89 the ECC journeys at 0920 from Watchouse Green and 1205 from Bishops Stortford are withdrawn. They are replaced by a 0935 to Great Dunmow returning at 1155 with operation by Eastern National under contract to ECC, operating Thursdays and Saturdays only.
- 738 Re-numbered 38 with effect from 29.1.89.

Braintree, Halstead, Witham

- 12 Passed to Eastern National from Hedingham with effect from 4.4.89.
- 89/89A Revised timetable introduced with effect from 3.4.89.
- 311 The 1530 ex Halstead operates via the Normal route and the 1750 ex Chelmsford operates via Braintree Rail Station with effect from 17.4.89.

Colchester

- 85 The 1445 ex Brightlingsee was withdrawn after 29.3.89.
- 55 This service passed to Carters Coaches with effect from 18.3.89.

Harlow

- B11 NEW SERVICE. Latton Bush to Mill Station, evening peaks every 10 minutes operated by Buzz-Co-Operative, commenced on 6.3.89.
- B12 NEW SERVICE. Sumners to BP House, evening peaks every 10 minutes operated
- T8 From 17.4.89 the 1500 ex Harlow Bus Stn was extended to Commonsidge arriving 1520.
by Buzz-Co-Operative on 6.3.89.
- 501 Revised from 3.5.89 with the service reduced to one journey, departing Harlow 0910, Epping 0931 and Ongar 0955, arrives Romford 1025 returning at 1345 to Epping.
- 504 Revised from 30.4.89 to operate hourly between Bishops Stortford and Potter Street, two hourly between Potter Street and Walthamstow.
- 711 Revised timetable introduced from 29.4.89.

Loughton, Epping, Ongar

- 381 Operation of this service has been by RS Express Travel since 20.3.89.
211/A, 212, 213 From 1.4.89. operation passed to London Buses, Walthamstow depot with a revised timetable

Chelmsford, Maldon

- 5 The last day of operation of this service was 29.3.89.
- 37, 38 Revised timetables introduced from 2.5.89 as a result of which service 38 is withdrawn.
- 94 A Saturday service was introduced on 22.4.89. departing Maldon at 0800 and returning from South Woodham at 1405.
- 97 NEW SERVICE. Steeple and Latchingdon returning from Maldon at 1515. Operates Monday to Friday only and commenced on 17.4.89.

Basildon, Billericay, Wickford

- 152 The 0634 Basildon to Stanford-le-hope was revised to depart at 0639 and was extended to Grays with effect from 3.4.89.
- 153 All journeys were extended from Grays to West Thurrock, Tescos store with effect from 3.4.89.
- 224 The service revision mentioned last month commenced on 6.3.89.
- 231 The following additional journeys were introduced from 20.3.89., 0840 Saturdays Only
Wickford Halls Cnr. to Billericay station, 1658 Saturdays Only Ramsden Heath to Wickford Swan and 1858 Mondays to Fridays Ramsden Heath to Wickford Swan.
- 234 Rerouted to serve Long Ridings with effect from 3.4.89.
- 235/6 Revised timetable introduced from 3.4.89, the section of route between Basildon and Pitsea is no longer served.
- 240 To be withdrawn after operation on 30.4.89.
- 500 Revised route and timetable introduced from 3.4.89.
- 501 NEW SERVICE. Felmere East to Pitsea station via Basildon Bus Station and Vange, replacing oarts of services 235, 502 and 522 introduced on 3.4.89 running 1/2 hourly Mon-Sat.
- 502 Revised timetable introduced on 3.4.89 with short journeys from Grimston Road now operating as part of service 501.
- 503/5 Revised timetables introduced on 3.4.89.
- 523 The 1438 ex Burnt Mills and 1540 Gt. Berry to Basildon were revised to operate during school holidays only from 3.4.89.
- 524 Service renumbered 504, together with a revised timetable from 3.4.89.

Grays, Tilbury

- 300 NEW SERVICE. Stifford Clays to Lakeside, Tesco via Socketts Heath and Grays with operation by Harris Bus. Operation is hourly Monday to Saturday and was introduced on 27.2.89.
- 380 With effect from 2.5.89 the 0722 ex Stanford-le-Hope and 0755 return are withdrawn
- 387 With effect from 2.5.89 passes from Eagle Coaches to Cunningham Carriage Company, a revised timetable will also be introduced.

Southend

- 2 From 30.4.89 a revised timetable is introduced, with some journeys numbered
- 2A and extended to Romford as part replacement of 400 journeys.
- 3 Revised timetable introduced from 30.4.89.
- 6 Evening ECC journeys pass to Eastern National from 2.5.89 to a revised timetable
- 6A Revised to depart at 0745 and operate 5 minutes earlier throughout from 10.4.89.
- 11 The 0733 ex Chelmsford runs four minutes earlier with effect from 2.5.89.
- 25, 26A Revised routes and timetables introduced from 2.5.89.
- 27A Most 27A journeys are to be extended to Southend Central from 30.4.89.
- 28/A Revised timetable introduced from 2.5.89.

- 151 Revised timetable introduced from 30.4.89.
 400 Revised to operate two hourly from 30.4.89 departing Southend 0600-1800 and returning from London Victoria Coach Station 0900-2100.

National Express

Summer schedules will be introduced on all routes with effect from 30.3.89.

Essex County Council

Operation of this years summer Sunday services will commence on 30.4.89 and continue to 15.10.89, details are as follows:-

- 601 Colchester - Saffron Walden with operation by Hedingham
- 622 Harlow - Gt Yeldham operated by Blue Triangle using RT's
- 631 Braintree - Saffron Walden operated by Eastern National
- 635 Braintree - Burnham-on-Crouch operated by Eastern National
- 636 Chelmsford - South Woodham operated by Lynxline
- 687 Colchester - Manningtree operated by Eastern National
- 699 Romford - County Parks - Upminster operated by London Buses using Metroriders

In addition a further service from Colchester - Walton operated by Eastern National will run between 28.5.89 and 28.8.89.

LRT Operations

- 379 Further to 299/5 this service is confirmed as being operated by Ponders End.
- W9 Limited Sunday service between Enfield and Southgate on 5.3.89.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Good Friday Services (see 299/5). All ran to evening running time. Service 2 operated High Woods - Town Centre - Myland Hospital only. Service 2A extended beyond Town Centre to Myland Hospital. Service 5B operated Horkesley Heath to Fiveways one way only. Return journeys ran Fiveways to Town Centre (5A) then 6A to Rowhedge to Head St. (6A) then 5B to Horkesley Heath; through destinations were being shown.

Service 6A also had 3 additional journeys 1145, 1245, 1345. Service 7C - Hourly service provided as EN also ran one bus. Normal commercial evening service on all routes except 8A journeys diverted to Severalls, and EN ECC contract on 7C. Deckers were used except the 5B/6A to which Lynx 35/6 were allocated.

A scheduled rail replacement was operated Maundy Thursday Evening to Easter Monday evening from Alresford to Clacton/Walton. With all trains to Liverpool St terminating at Stratford during this period coaches were also working on the Staines Crusader Boat Train contract. As members are no doubt aware from Tuesday 28/3 onwards BR experienced major problems in connection with the engineering work that had been carried out at Liverpool St and buses were noted at North Station every evening Tuesday to Friday. The following week was just as bad/good; depending if you were a commuter or a bus operator. Monday 3/4 two buses sighted at Manningtree, more buses at North Station on 4/4 and on 5/4 at Marks Tey, North Station and Manningtree!. Olympian 46 was back in use by the beginning of March 1989 and Atlantean 73 was back in use by 18.3.89.

46 was noted on National Express 084 (0940) on Good Friday and Fri 31/3. 104 was noted on Thursday in CR bus station but was not required.

It is expected that the first use of 55 in its open top form will be for private hire to the Derby. Leopards 101 + 102 have had their seats retrimmed.

The planning applications for demolition of a house next to the garage has been turned down due to the parking of buses being very conspicuous and detrimental to the amenity of the area. Any member familiar with the location of the CBT depot will find this statement rather amusing.

An A4 size sheet has been issued giving the destination and dates of the Excursion programme for 1989, a more detailed listing will no doubt follow. Starting with Pleasurewood Hills on 30th April and ending on 27th September with a run to Brighton no fewer than 48 destinations are featured, from the 20 mile trip to Kentwell Hall or the longest trips yet, over 160 miles to Bath and the Mannington Rose Festival. The leaflet is notable in that it is the first to carry the new St Botolphs St address to which a move will be made prior to the demolition of the present offices for the construction of a car park.

Fares were increased on 17.4.89 as follows: 20p unchanged; 30p to 33p; 38, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 75p fares all up by 5p and the 80p fare up to 90p.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID (Essex County Standard & Evening Gazette)

Lead story, claimed as an exclusive, in the Essex County Standard of 23/3 headlined "Fares Set To Rise Again" and covered the rise in vehicle tax for the CBT fleet. It claimed this would lead to higher fares and fewer buses making the traffic situation in Colchester even worse. The Evening Gazette of the same date devoted its editorial to the subject and hit out at the Chancellors action. More interesting was a short news item detailing the effects on the Countys major bus companies. EN reported that with a fleet of 500 they faced an increase of £120,000. Hedingham claimed a 50 strong fleet and "a huge increase". The 60 strong CBT fleet was reported as facing an increase of £15,000.

For the record the rises are:

Pre Budget	Post Budget
	Under 9 seats £100
Up to 20 seats £52.50	9 to 16 seats £130
21 to 35 seats £68.25	17 to 35 seats £200
36 to 60 seats £94.50	36 to 60 seats £300
Over 60 seats £100.80	Over 60 seats £450

This triples the mini bus tax while a deckers tax increases 3 1/2 times. But is it as bad as it seems. The increase on a decker is £350, or £6.73 a week, or £1.35 per day (5 day week) or if the bus is on the road for just ten hours a day £0.13 1/2 per hour. Thus even with just 14 passengers an hour only a 1p increase per passenger is required. The prospect of the withdrawal of fuel duty rebate for local bus operators is far far more worrying prospect, as is the continuing rise in fuel costs generally.

A new road layout was to be introduced in early April, on a trial basis, at North Station which would segregate taxis, buses etc from other traffic and ban long term parking on the station approach. This plan which entails all cars entering the car park via Crown Bays Road brought complaints from residents and has been deferred while talks are held.

Eastern Nationals Michael Holden was reported as inviting Mistley Parish Councillors to the companies clacton office to see the loading figures for the 103/4 service which they still claimed to be overcrowded.

The owner of the Tower Camp at Jaywick Bryan Mathews has carried out, at his own expense, £1000 of repairs to the private road along the sea wall and Anglian Water have cleared the gullies. His business at the end of the road had lost trade because of the poor conditions. Mr Holden said EN would now consider reinstating the buses if they would no longer be damaged. Paula Mathews said that even a limited service would be a great help.

Tendring Council have given consent for two extra bus stops in West Ave, Clacton which were requested as part of the plan to sell off the Bus Station.

A bus driver was fined £25 at Maldon Court for smoking at the wheel of a PSV outside Plume School. He claimed he thought it was only a company rule that forbid smoking.

Layer de la Haye Parish Council heard that because of the closure of High Road for around two months traffic would be diverted via Maltings Green Rd and The Folley. Osborne has promised that all services would go to Layer Cross as problems would be caused for those who normally used stops in High Road (This means service 10 will make a double run along Maltings Green Rd).

The Tollesbury news column of ECE reported that as from April Osbornes would cease their weekly Romford service, and that the firm would increase fares as from 3 April. It also stated that due to poor road conditions buses would no longer travel to Woodrolfe Farm Lane and in future terminate at Crescent Road also known as Paraffin Lane.

A £28,000 contract bus washer has been installed at the CBT garage and general manager Clive Sampson said "Every bus will be cleaned at least once a week and one third will be cleaned every day" The Evening Gazette featured a picture of two garage hands with buckets and mops watch a Lynx being washed by the new machine, (despite the impression given, CBT have had mechanical washers for at least 25 years).

The Essex Chronicle reports that Eastern National have issued a writ in the High Court against Canute Haulage Co Ltd of Hockley. The writ states that a lorry being driven in a negligent manner collided with the rear end of a Stationary Leyland National, causing damage which meant that the vehicle (thought to be 1807) had to be written off.

Chartercoach are reported to have placed an order worth more than £400,000 for 4 coaches. These will have toilets, TV/video, fridges, coffee machines and micro wave ovens. Two will also have a secretary with typewriter, mobil telephone and FAX machine. Three course meals will be served. Managing Director Derek Betts said businessmen would be able to hire the new coaches to get to conferences or to entertain clients. The company has also obtained a £5000 computerised route planner.

Finally, a worried passerby started a bus hijack alert in Chelmsford on 28th March when they saw a bus being driven along Parkway with a gun being pointed at the driver. The bus, a privately owned vehicle was stopped further along Parkway, when it was found that two youths were playing a practical joke on the driver using toy guns. The only part of this that I find hard to believe is that the two youths are now being reported for public order offences.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to April 8.

Vehicles**NEW:**

261 F261 RHJ Leyland ONCL10/1RZ Alexander H47/32F + 14 standing

Delivered on April 6, 261 is at present in dealer white pending painting by ST. The chassis number is 11072, body RL45/2288/2 and the weight 9725 kg unladen. It is the first new single entrance double deck bus for Southend since December 1967 (345-7) and the first new D/D bus of any type since June 1981.

The destination gear consists of a three track number blind (TRN) and two equal size destination apertures at the front; it is expected that the one destination will be modified to accept ST intermediate blinds. A TRN is also located over the first nearside window, next to the doors, but there is no rear route number. Other features include bright yellow rigidised handrails, shark's tooth nosings on the entrance steps and a luggage pen over the nearside wheelarch.

ACQUIRED:

411	E295 VOM	Iveco	49-10	Carlyle Works	B23F
412	E295 VOM	"	"	"	"

Delivered on 23/3 in LT red livery, these buses have been acquired from Carlyle Vehicles Ltd, from whom they had previously been on loan to London Buses Ltd since July 1988. Seating was B21F with LBL but they are being upseated to 23 by removal of the luggage pen. Both are being repainted into fleet colours and had not entered service as we went to press. It is expected that they will replace City Pacers.

704	GPD 295N	Leyland National	10351/1R/SC	DP39F
705	HPF 309N	"	"	"
706	TPL 292S	"	103510A/1R	B41F
707	TPL 293S	"	"	"

704 has not yet been delivered to Southend and will be acquired from Midland Red North; it was originally LCBS and latterly LC-SW, SNC141, passing to MRN in 8/88 as their 795. 705-7 were collected on 29/3 from Harlow, these LN's being ex County Bus & Coach (latterly LC-NE; orig. LCBS) in which fleet they were SNC159, SNB292/3 respectively. Together with the first 3 LN's (see 299/6) they are being repainted, retrimmed and overhauled; no LN's had entered service at the time of writing.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

310	KUC 949P	Ensign Bus Sales to Black Horse, Gravesend, c.1/89
367	WJN 367J	Further to 295/11, after sale by Eagre, Gainsborough, this Fleetline passed to Acheson, Ripon (5/87) and then to Moseley (dealer) before going to Arena Travel, Speke

ON HIRE:

Another demonstrator has been evaluated:

F756 NPJ Dennis Javelin Duple B55F, examined between March 13 and 17 but not used in passenger service.

To amplify last month's notes about coach hires to Matchbox Toys, this is a Mon-Fri only hiring. Used so far are 509/23/4/6.

Services

A further round of revisions takes place from Sunday April 30 (in practice Tuesday May 2 for M-F/S workings, due to the Bank Holiday):-

- 1 The present M-S day-time short workings between CBS & Hadleigh will be extended to Rayleigh Station. These will remain OPO, and in a highly unusual (unique?) schedule, will be given more running time than the crew 1's - thus, OPO 1's will leave CBS 10 minutes behind the RM crew operated journeys, but will have 5 minutes more running time, so that they are 15 minutes apart at Kenneth Road. This arrangement provides for a 10 min headway on the London Rd (RM on 1, OPO 1 & RM on 3A in turn), but a 15 min headway on 1 between Kenneth Rd & Rayleigh Station!

- 3A Revised timetable, mainly earlier departures from Canvey.

- 5 This evening/Sunday service is diverted via the 3A route from Hadleigh to Benfleet, rather than Essex Way; limited peak hour service M-F introduced between Southend & Leigh Church, being positioning journeys on/off of 16.

- 7/8 M-S daytime journeys curtailed at Shoebury Osprey; see 7A/7B.

- 7B Extended from Bournes Green to Shoebury East Beach via Bournes Green Chase, North Shoebury Rd, Asda and present 7/8 route; renumbered 7A. Every 20 minutes M - S days, replacing daytime Osprey - East Beach portion of 7/8. One jny starts at Hockley Spa. The effect of this change is to retain a 20 min headway from East Beach but to increase the service west of the Osprey to every 10 mins, alternately via Nth. Shoebury or Thorpe Bay.

- 13 One additional jny introduced on M-F between Hadleigh Victoria Hse & CBS, extended on schooldays to Bournes Green via 7A rte.

- 16 Additional evening journey introduced; contra peak positioning journeys made live, running from Kent Elms via 16 to London Rd then Leigh Rd, Broadway, Grand Dr & Grand Parade, no'd 16A.

- 65/66 Sunday service reduced to afternoons only (plus one late jny); 66 renumbered 64. Will the County provide a replacement?

- X1 group Minor timetable changes, the main effect being that the Mon - Fri extensions to Heathrow will also operate on Saturdays; as a result, an additional positioning journey will be introduced on Saturdays from Southend to Hyde Park Corner.

- 3, 4A, 9A, 14, 23, 29 Minor timetable revisions.

- 23A/C As noted in 298/6, the Sunday ECC contract for Leigh Station - Eastwood Rise has been won from 30/4 (previously Clintona and Stephenson's). The 23 will continue to double run via Belgrave Road and proceed to Eastwood Rise, and will be numbered 23C to distinguish it from the M-S commercial operation.

General

An eagle eyed correspondent reports that Routemaster 104 has blue wings (all others are black) and that RM 111's bonnet side name has been amended to 'Ride of Thunder'! This may be about as appropriate as the 'Faster National' epithet which used to adorn at least one EN Bristol FS some years ago!

Publicity News:

Yellow leaflet (A4 sheet folded twice) for 795, dated 25/3/89; A4 sheet promoting day rover tickets for the school Easter holidays (produced on ST's new desk top publishing software).

A new edition of the free timetable book will be issued at the end of April, together with an X1 leaflet. Copies will be available from the sub-editor - SAE please (min 5" x 7").

Unusual workings: another first for Essex Bus News! We can now bring you news of an unusual working that has not yet happened!! On Sunday June 4th, an RM will operate on X1 at 0730 CBS - Hyde Park Cnr; 0945 Hyde Park Cnr - CBS and extended to Southchurch Park in connection with the Southend Bus Rally. There will NOT be a corresponding evening working. Normal fares will be charged, including the £2-95 day return to/from London.

A more mundane unusual working saw RM 114 on the 4A on 23/3. We will give details next month of the changes to scheduled workings arising from the April 30 service revisions and the entry to service of the Leyland Nationals.

OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

Clintona, Brentwood: the Sat service on 21A is being extended from Leigh Elms to Southchurch (as per M-F operation) from 29/4. Although the tender showed a separate Leigh Church-Southchurch service, the timings are such that only Clintona (with the existing Canvey-Leigh Elms service) could tender for 1 bus - anyone else would need 2. Hence the result of the tender is a foregone conclusion! A contract loss after 23/4 is the 23A on Sundays, passing on renewal to ST.

District Bus (Tomlin), Wickford: additional (commercial?) journeys were introduced on 223/31 from 20/3. A new commercial service (positioning journeys only) is 23, Shotgate to Daws Heath M-S evenings via Rawreth and Rayleigh Weir, from 2/5. Thanks to proprietor David Tomlin, we can give details of the existing commercial operations:

101 Basildon B/S - Laindon, Kathleen Ferrier Cres: M-F half hourly 0700-1840; peak hours via Laindon Station as ser 100. See also 104. Saturdays every half hour 0800-1840.

103 Basildon B/S - Kathleen Ferrier, via Royal Court day centre. Two jnys Tues am and Weds pm only (operates in place of ser 101 journeys).

104 Basildon B/S - Southcote Cres (off Whitmore Way): M-S half hourly 0700-1830; interworks with 100/1. Additional schooldays journeys Pattiswick Square - Laindon, Kathleen Ferrier Crescent.

105 Basildon B/S - Shotgate via Wickford: M-S occasional jnys - in effect garage runs on/off other services.

106 Basildon B/S - Glebe field: 2 or 3 jnys M-S, mainly as a variation to service 104.

1M. A major publicity campaign/launch is planned - more details next month. On Saturdays a half hourly Southend-Southchurch service will be operated by associate company Lynxline Ltd.

Teds Coaches, Canvey: the coach is XPN 783S, Ford R1114/Duple C53F, in white/two tone blue (see 299/9).

107 Wickford Station circular via Alderney Gardens; evenings only, 3 journeys M-F, one Sats.

Copies of the full timetables can be obtained from the Sub Editor (SAE). In addition to these commercial services, ECC contracts 24 (Southend to Daws Heath, M-S evenings) and 223/31 (The Wick-Wickford-Ramsdens-Billericay) are operated. The fleet comprises 4 Sherpa/Carlyle Works.

Southend Radio Cars: this operator has found commercial competition too much and abandoned all of its taxi bus operations at the end of March. Officially withdrawn from 4/4, in practice the Circle Shuttle (Southend-Rochford-Ashingdon-Rayleigh-Eastwood-Southend) was notable by its absence for some time. Other operations comprised 66/A, shopping services to Rochford on Tuesdays from Gt Wakering and Lower Hockley. As the 66/A had replaced ECC contracts, we wait to see if the County will provide a replacement. Southend's other taxi bus operator, TVT, continues to be very active with a fleet of about 13 eight seaters, although they too will face even more increased competition from big bus operators from the beginning of May.

Stephensons, Southend: lost ECC contracts for 6 (Southend-Eastwood, M-S evenings - to EN) and 23 (Leigh-Eastwood, Suns - to ST) at the end of April upon renewal, but retained the South Woodham minibus service (M-S, now reduced to one bus). However, a major development from 2/5 sees the start of a commercial M-F service, Eastwood Rise to Southchurch, Newington Ave, numbered 60. The route is via Kent Elms, Hospital, Fairfax Dr, Central Southend, Bournemouth Park Rd and Central/North Ave; from Newington Ave only buses will run via Southchurch Ave (the old tram/trolleybus route, unserved since September 1955), Queensway and CBS. Basic service is hourly throughout, with a half hourly frequency between Southchurch and Southend (short workings show 60A), but with a 2.5 hour gap in the afternoons on schooldays. Operation will be by RE's LHT 166L and RBW 84M, plus Leopard/Plaxton TUB

"ENOC 2954"

3556 - 3561 were six Leyland TD3's fitted with Eastern Counties 56 seat lowbridge bodies, delivered in 1935, these carried registrations BTW 495-500, and had petrol engines, which were later replaced with Leyland 8-6 engines. Three of the batch 3556/9/61 exchanged engines with 3663-5 ENOC 941-943, Leyland TS7's with ECW C31F bodies.

When 3561 BTW 500 was delivered it was allocated to Borough Motor Services at Southend, where it remained until September 1940 when it was transferred to the midland area at Luton. 3560 BTW 499 was destroyed in May 1943 when Chelmsford Depot was destroyed by enemy action.

3559 BTW 498 was rebuilt by Beadle in 1945 and in 1949 was sent to Eastern Coachworks and fitted with a new L53R body.

In May 1952 the five remaining TD3's 3556-9/61 were all allocated to the midland area and were consequently transferred to United Counties and renumbered 543-547, of these 543/5/500 saw little service with UC, being withdrawn the same month and later in the year sold to W North Ltd at Leeds. 544 continued until April 1953 when it was broken up for spares. The last vehicle 546 remained in service until January 1956, when it was withdrawn and sold, and was last seen with Sir Robert Mc Alpine the contractor.

So the story of the TD35 ends except that one other TD3 was operated by Eastern National having been acquired from Herold Bros at Braintree (86), originating with Bolton Corporation (79) WH 4908 was fitted with a Park Royal L53R body, it survived to be numbered 1106 in 1954.

Photographs are available of the following vehicles mentioned in this article.

1135 BTW 495 with United Counties
1010 BTW 496 at Luton
SCU1 BTW 498 with United Counties

Details from Photographic Department.

Next month

3756-8 GNO 700-2 Dennis Lancets. The body changes, what went where!, if you know anything about these three vehicles please let Peter Snell know.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

CHAMBERS, BURES	The Olympian is F243 RRT and is fitted with an Alexander H47/32F body. Bedford YRT VRT 840S has been sold.
CHELMSFORD TRAVEL	New is F897 SMU a Leyland Swift with Reeve Burgess Harrier Coach bodywork.
FARGO COACHLINES	Have a similar vehicle to Chelmsford Travel registered F723 SML.
GRAHAMS, KELVEDON	Also have a new Swift / Reeve Burgess registered F164 SMT.
HARRIS, GRAYS	The new Scania N113DR / Alexander is in fact registered F314 RHK not F314 PEV as previously reported. MLH 358L has been withdrawn and together with MLH 318L has been sold for scrap. Two new coaches to report are F98/99 RAR, DAF SB3000 with Van Hool bodies. F98 RAR is C41FT with tables, the seating capacity of the other vehicle is unknown at present.
HEDINGHAM	The new Reeve Burgess / Mercedes minibus is F154 RHK and is allocated to the Pleshy out station.
KINGS, STANWAY	A recent acquisition is a Bova Futura B335 ANY.
WEBBS, HIGHWOOD	A most surprising vehicle has arrived in the form of TGE 836R ex Strathclyde. This is a Leyland Atlantean cut down to a single deck form as B31F and is the regular vehicle on service 46 (Chelmsford-Ongar via Roxwell).

FOCUS ON ... BUZZ CO OPERATIVE

This is the first of a new feature taking a look at operators in the county that do not receive full coverage in the magazine, covering vehicles, routes and where possible timetables.

Fleet List

F71 SMC Mercedes Benz 609D Reeve Burgess Beaver C25F
 F72-9 SMC " " " " " " B20F

Routes

- B1 Latton Bush to BP house via Tumbler Road or Bush Fair (Phoenix), Bus Stn, Town Stn. Operation is Monday to Friday peak hours only at 10 minute intervals and only with the direction of traffic flow.
- B2 Summers to Mill station via Katherines, then Pinacles or Abercrombie Way, Bus Stn then both via Town Station. Operation is per the B1.
- B3 Town Station to Katherines via Town Centre, then Abercrombie Way or Pyenest Road and Summers (which is not served on the return). Operation is Monday - Saturday daytimes at 20 minutes intervals.
- B4 Town Centre circular via Northbrooks, Shawbridge, Joyners Field, Millwards and Jerrouds. Operation is Monday to Saturday daytimes at 30 minute intervals.
- B5 Bus Station circular via Tendring Road, Partridge Road, Parnall Road and Northbrooks. Operation is per the B4.
- B6 Town station circular via Bus Stn, The Stow, The Rundells, Bush Fair and Maddox Road. Also from Bus Stn via the same route but in the opposite direction, both routes running half hourly.
- B7 Bus Stn via Princess Alexander Hospital, Leah Manning, Long Tey, The Stow, Leah Manning to Bus Stn. Operation is Monday to Friday at half hourly intervals.
- B11 Latton Bush to Mill Stn via Tumbler Road, The Stow, Templefields. Monday to Friday evening peaks only at ten minute intervals.
- B12 Summers to BP House via Katherines Way. Operation is per the B11. With the operation of B1, B2, B11, B12 operation is between approx 0900 and 1700. The depot is located at Unit 20, Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow.

VISITORS TO EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERINGFebruary 1989

Frontrunner 427
 National Car Parks TPD 192M, UPE 203M
 Wests GCL 341N

March 1989

Chartercoach WPH 131/3Y, KIB 6991
 CBT 73
 Chelmsford Playbus LFS 300F
 Frontrunner 5, 8, 410, 413, 521
 London Buses V19
 National Car Parks TPD 192M
 Watson Enterprises FIL 6282
 Wests JJH 761P
 Preserved RWC 607 (ex EN 2604) AVX 975G (ex EN 2946)

Visitors To Tom Sangster

Other than Eastern National repaints work has been carried out on :-

w/e 18.2.89 Harris Bus NEV 774Y
 w/e 25.2.89 Fords WGR 66R; Harris Bus RWC 651W (repainted to blue/cream livery)
 w/e 1.4.89 Boons KTW 796V
 w/e 8.4.89 Harris Bus NEV 773V

Commercial Paint Specialists



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For all your requirements, at very competitive rates, contact Tom Sangster on the above number or Maldon (0621) 773284.



3556 (BTW 495) seen here as United Counties 543, during the short time in service after transfer (EBEG)

Contributions to this magazine were received from :- P Carr, J Cooper, R Dennis, District Bus, Eastern National, Essex County Council, Grey Green Enthusiasts Club, P Halls, D Harrison, P Harvey, LOTS, I Mayoh, B Palmer, PSV Circle, C Sigston, P Snell, Southend Transport, G Toon, P Woulton.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY EDITION OF ESSEX BUS NEWS SHOULD REACH ALL EDITORS BY
5TH MAY 1989.