

# ESSEX BUS NEWS

February 1996

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

382



ONE OF THREE BRISTOL VRS RECENTLY ACQUIRED BY OSBORNE'S OF TOLLESBURY  
CJH141 V IS SEEN HERE AT COLCHESTER

D ARNOLD.

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Peter Snell

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Derek Stebbing, 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP

ROCHFORD MEETINGS FREIGHT HOUSE 8pm.

March 12th Group A.G.M. followed by slide show by Alan Osborne "Orkney & Shetlands."

April 9th Slide show by Richard Delahoy "20 years ago"

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Member 710 M. Lloyd has sent me the following letter.

A colleague of mine has recently purchased a coach for preservation. The said vehicle is a Bedford OB with Duple Vista bodywork, registration NTW 706. The vehicle is currently undergoing work on its body frame, chassis and engine. The intention is to complete the necessary work to enable the coach to be MOT tested and on the road ready for the 1996 rally season. (The finer details such as bodywork and interior to be completed as time permits).

However, help is required in tracing the vehicle's history. Hopefully some members of the EBEG can assist, either having records of it in service. It is said that the coach was still in use five years ago, perhaps not PCV use but at least on the road. The coach obviously originates from Essex or N.E London and may have been local to the South Essex area. I would like anyone who knows of the coach's history to contact either myself direct at the address below or via yourself / the magazine. It is hoped that the life of the coach can be traced so that an informative history can be displayed at rallies. Over to you!

Mr. M. Lloyd  
4, New Cottages,  
Wakes Colne,  
Colchester, CO6 2BY

### SPECIAL OFFER

### SPECIAL OFFER

The Eastern National Fleet Record lists in detail all vehicles owned between 1964 and 1990. For a limited period only, this book is available for just £2.50 - yes all of that information for just £2.50! This is an ideal opportunity for you to buy a second copy for file purposes order your copy NOW from Andy Meadows making cheques to the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group. This offer must end on 31st March 1996.

### WANTED

### WANTED

Information and photographs Essex based Dairy operators, in particular Howards Dairies. Contact Andy Meadows.

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A social evening will be held at 62, Plantation Road, Boreham, on April 16th. All members are welcome to come along for a chat about the local bus scene.

Contributions received from PSV Cicle, Eastern National, Thamesway, Southend Transport, Heddingham Omnibuses, Essex C.C., L.O.T.S., P. Fora, C. Sigston, D. Coulsen, G. Toon,  
R. Dennis.

## THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

### A Review of the Group's activities during 1995

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

During the past year we have been able to recruit one more member to the Committee, Paul Sparks, who has now taken over the Eastern national disposals column.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, to thank our select band of ex-officio members who assist the Group, either as a Sub-Editor or in another helpful administrative role. Thank you all, and please keep up the good work. However, we really could do with some extra help on the Committee. In particular, an input from a younger member (aged about 20) would be most welcome who could voice the opinions of the newer generation of bus enthusiasts.

So if you feel that you could help in the running of the Group in any way, as a Committee member or not, then please get in touch. My address is :-

7. Farley Drive, Seven Kings,  
Ilford, Essex. IG3 8LT.

E-mail : osbag@essex.ac.uk

Best Wishes to all members for 1996

ALAN OSBORNE (Chairman & Founder)

#### **PUBLICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT**

Throughout 1995 the Group has attended rallies at Southend, Canvey, Barking, North Weald and Enfield for the purpose of selling photographs and publications. This situation will continue in 1996. Over the last few years, book sales have fallen considerably, due mainly in my view to the marked increase in die-cast models.

Consequently, I will not be attending as many events as usual during 1996, and I will have a reduced level of stock. I am not alone in this situation, and the feeling is that many sales events linked to rallies are now becoming more like toy fairs.

Nevertheless, there continue to be a large number of books published, and if you wish to continue to purchase books do not hesitate to contact me as I shall be supplying books by mail order.

ANDY MEADOWS (Publications Officer)

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

I am pleased to report that the Group's financial situation remains healthy, the year-end balance being similar to that of last year. At present the cost of production of the magazine is roughly balanced by the revenue from subscriptions. Coach tours also experienced a revival during 1995 and have provided valuable income to support other events such as meetings. Although postal costs are due to increase in 1996 we should be able to maintain subscriptions at their present levels for the foreseeable future.

ALAN OSBORNE (Treasurer)

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

I concluded my report in the last Annual Report by hoping that 1995 would be a better year in terms of attracting new members to the Group. I am pleased to be able to report that this did prove to be the case. Although we attracted only 8 new members (M809-M816) through our normal channels, such as advertisements in "Buses" magazine, we were able to attract 9 former members of the Group to rejoin us, and I hope that they will be continuing their membership into 1996/97.

1995 was therefore the first year for some time that we did not experience a slight decline in membership, and it is encouraging that this trend has been reversed. I hope to be able to continue this progress during 1996, but this will depend not only on our advertisements in enthusiasts' magazines but also on your efforts in encouraging friends to join us.

Our 1996 subscriptions have been fixed at £11.00 (1st Class post) and £10.00 (2nd Class post), and I believe that this represents good value for money, with our magazine "Essex Bus News" providing excellent coverage of our local fleets.

Finally, thanks to the efforts of Geoff Toon, I am pleased to say that the Group is now advertising for new members via the Internet. Tell your friends to contact us on the following login <http://www.geopages.com/TheTropics/1546> or alternatively they can send me a letter at my home address on the front page of this magazine.

DEREK STEBBING (Membership Secretary)

## **MANAGING EDITOR, PHOTOGRAPH OFFICER & MEETINGS ORGANISER'S REPORT**

As you can see I am doing three jobs at once ! Firstly, I trust that Group members are satisfied with the Group magazine. I am endeavouring to expand the contents incorporating old and new, and I am always open to comments and will welcome articles about Essex buses at any time.

Photograph sales over the year have shown a steady increase. David Arnold has donated to the Group his negative collection

which contains some very interesting views, and I hope to print some of these shortly. So if you are clearing out the attic and come across some old negatives why not send them to me for the Group archives.

Finally, Group meetings at Rochford continue to have a steady attendance. However, I am always looking for new ideas, and if you know someone in the bus industry who would be willing to give a talk or slide show please let me know.

PETER SNELL (Managing Editor)

### TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

The Group's Timetable Subscription Service has had another successful year, and enables many members to receive Essex County Council's excellent timetables every two months.

We had to re-structure our service during the year, firstly because Essex County Council now publish three area timetables, and secondly because we introduced better packaging. The greatest cost is now postage, which is of course outside our control. It has meant that to avoid frequent subscription renewals, we have had to raise our basic subscription rate to £20.00.

Thanks are due to Dave and Mary Arnold for their invaluable help in despatching the timetables, and to Robin Wheatcroft and his staff at Essex County Council for all their assistance.

DEREK STEBBING (Membership Secretary)

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Westcliff vehicles still in existence

|        |               |                              |
|--------|---------------|------------------------------|
| JN5783 | AEC Q         | Chassis only Science Museum. |
| AJN825 | Bristol K5G   |                              |
| FOP429 | Daimler CWA6  | ex Canvey & District         |
| LEV917 | Leyland PD1   | ex City Coach Co.            |
| EJN638 | Bristol LS    |                              |
| VN0868 | Bristol KSW5G |                              |
| WN0478 | Bristol KSW5G |                              |
| WN0479 | Bristol KSW5G |                              |

Other vehicles exported to the United States of America were Bristol KSW5Gs FJN156 and UVX666 and Leyland PD2 FJN206. Does any member know if these still exist?.

# COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

A National Greenway arrived on 2.2.96 and entered service in the afternoon of 5.2.96. NWO463R was formerly with Red & White and National Welsh. It has 48 coach seats, and has been fitted with the blinds from 41. A TOPPS video screen has not been fitted. It has been numbered LNC 463; apparently the whole fleet will eventually be renumbered in the L&C series.

Olympian 41 is now to full DPTAC specification, including a side digital number box.

72 was repaired by Ipswich Buses between 29.1.96 and 1.2.96, 84 was there from 1.2.96 to 5.2.96, and 74 went there on 7.2.96. 66 had (another) new engine fitted by Duffields. 68 had an electrical fire, but is back in service. ST's 305 was towed home 26.1.96, but is going to be scrapped.

Railway replacement services were operated between Colchester and Witham on 14, 21 and 28.1.96, and between Mark's Tey and Sudbury on 27.1.96 (10, 26, 103 and 104) and 1.2.96 (21). On 22 and 29.1.96 one bus was on stand-by at North Station in case of an engineering over-run. On 23.1.96 77, 84, 103 and 104 were used because of a broken rail at Ingatestone. Finally, buses were hired to Capital Citybus from 4am to 3pm on 10.2.96 for use between Plaistow and Whitechapel.

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ENOC 2954 has now been renamed the Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild and is open to Group members specifically interested in the original Eastern National. Interest has been shown by a few of our older members and already a few questions, comments and memories are being communicated, and hopefully we will get the answers they want.

It is reported that a former Eastern National Bedford OB Duple coach is operating on the Isle of Man - is this 4064 ONO85, any ideas?

Prior to the takeover of the Eastern National in Grays by London Transport in 1951, Six Bristol K 'deckers' were transferred out just prior to this, to other Eastern National depots, three are known to be 3894. KNO597, 4033/50 ONO54/71, the remainder are thought to be 4037/49/54 ONO58/70/75, can anybody confirm these please!

Member Bill White recalls being in Southend early post war, when thousands watched County Cricket. A huge crowd would be waiting at Southend Victoria Station for buses for Grays or places en route, no way was the Southend allocation going to cope. After a long wait no less than five vehicles arrived from Grays depot including Guys and even a Leyland PLSC3.

My journey home was non-stop to Grays via Stanford-Le-Hope by Pass, in a time a car would not easily match today (not many traffic lights in those days of course).

Next month - the Southend Depot Allocation.



# THAMESWAY

No service alterations this month but plenty of vehicle news

## New

701 N701 CPU Dennis Dart 9.8SLF, Plaxton Pointer B37F

This vehicle is the prototype 9.8m Dennis Dart low floor. It was unveiled at Coach and Bus 95 in 10.95 and was delivered to Thamesway in 1.96

## Allocations 1.2.96

701 NEW-HH, 939 BN-HH, 1001 POOL-D/L(D), 1002 POOL-D/L(D), 1003 POOL-D/L(D)  
1004 POOL-D/L(D), 1840 HH-D/L(D), 1846 D/L(D)-DTV, 1911 HH-D/L(D),  
4001 POOL-D/L(D), 4002 POOL-D/L(D)

## Acquired

200 C494 BHY Mercedes L608D 700921, Reeve Burgess B20F 15495  
205 C684 ECV Mercedes L608D 661952, Reeve Burgess B19F 15362  
211 C685 ECV Mercedes L608D 699732, Reeve Burgess B19F 15363

Acquired from Eastern National in 2.96 by whom they were numbered 2234/8/9. All were new in 1985 200 being acquired from Bristol Cityline in 10.93 and 205 and 211 acquired from Western National in 9.93.

Leyland Tigers 1112/14/15 are now owned by Thamesway having been on loan from Eastern National.

## Repaints

323/324/330/331/332/337/377/381, 901-906 and 9717 are in the new livery. 938 is now in advertising livery for Jubilee Windows. 1803 has had its maroon skirt repainted.

9717 C511 BFB has been refurbished and repainted - its future role is not clear.

## General

1846 WJN 566S has been transferred to the Driver Training fleet no 9018. As from Wednesday 17th January 1996 Thamesway's Head Office moved to Stapleford Close New Writtle Street, Chelmsford thus completing the move from Basildon that started in October.

## Disposals

D504 FAE Eastern Counties 734 1.96  
D505 FAE Eastern Counties 735  
D506 FAE Eastern Counties 733 1.96

The above were numbered 33-35 in the District Bus Fleet and are now allocated to Lowestoft.

|     |          |                              |      |
|-----|----------|------------------------------|------|
| 207 | C699 ECV | Johns Travel,                | 1.96 |
| 512 | B336 BGL | Peter Godward, South Woodham | 1.96 |
| 513 | B227 NGL | Peter Godward, South Woodham | 1.96 |
| 514 | E675 UNE | Kirkby (dlr), Anston         | 1.96 |
| 515 | E677 UNE | Kirkby (dlr), Anston         | 1.96 |
| 516 | F771 GVA | Kirkby (dlr), Anston         | 1.96 |
| 517 | J45 SNY  | Kirkby (dlr), Anston         | 1.96 |
| 518 | J46 SNY  | Kirkby (dlr), Anston         | 1.96 |
| 519 | J48 SNY  | Kirkby (dlr), Anston         | 1.96 |
| 520 | J54 SNY  | Kirkby (dlr), Anston         | 1.96 |

## Disposals

|      |          |                                   |
|------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 521  | F613 XWY | Yorkshire Rider (ex loan) 12.95   |
| 522  | F614 XWY | Yorkshire Rider (ex loan) 12.95   |
| 2202 | FDZ 984  | Peter Gadward, South Woodham 1.96 |
| 4001 | XHK 236X | Eastern Counties                  |
| 4002 | XHK 237X | Eastern Counties 1.96             |
| 4101 | H101 KVX | Eastern Counties 1.96             |
| 4102 | H102 KVX | Eastern Counties 1.96             |
| 4103 | H103 KVX | Eastern Counties 1.96             |
| 4104 | H104 KVX | Eastern Counties 1.96             |

1001-4 were renumbered 4101-4 before disposal.

Correction to EBN379 - 1893 (BNO 683T) was not sold to South Wales Transport, it should read 1895 (BNO 685T)

601-619 Volvo B10M, Plaxton Premier C53F Chassis and body numbers

|     |          |       |             |          |
|-----|----------|-------|-------------|----------|
| 601 | N601 APU | 43679 | 9512VOM426  | 8.8.95   |
| 602 | N602 APU | 43680 | 9512VOM4269 | "        |
| 603 | N603 APU | 43681 | 9512VOM4270 | "        |
| 604 | N604 APU | 43682 | 9512VOM4271 | "        |
| 605 | N605 APU | 43683 | 9512VOM4272 | 18.8.95  |
| 606 | N606 APU | 43684 | 9512VOM4273 | "        |
| 607 | N607 APU | 43685 | 9512VOM4274 | "        |
| 608 | N608 APU | 43825 | 9512VOM4275 | 25.8.95  |
| 609 | N609 APU | 43827 | 9512VOM4276 | "        |
| 610 | N610 APU | 43826 | 9512VOM4277 | "        |
| 611 | N611 APU | 43929 | 9512VOM4278 | 21.12.95 |
| 612 | N612 APU | 43926 | 9512VOM4279 | "        |
| 613 | N613 APU | 43927 | 9512VOM4280 | "        |
| 614 | N614 APU | 43930 | 9512VOM4281 | "        |
| 615 | N615 APU | 43931 | 9512VOM4282 | "        |
| 616 | N616 APU | 43928 | 9512VOM4283 | "        |
| 617 | N617 APU | 43913 | 9512VOM4284 | "        |
| 618 | N618 APU | 43925 | 9512VOM4285 | "        |
| 619 | N619 APU | 43912 | 9512VOM4286 | "        |

611-619 were not all delivered on 21.12, some arrived by 28.12.

11.2.96- 701 entered service and 328 went for repaint

944-972 Dennis Dart 9.8SDL, Plaxton Pointer B39F (959-72-V37F0

|     |          |           |              |          |
|-----|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| 944 | N944 CPU | 3054-2779 | 9510HXN4361  | 13.10.95 |
| 945 | N945 CPU | 3054-2780 | 9510HXN42362 | "        |
| 946 | N946 CPU | 3054-2781 | 9510HXN4363  | 19.10.95 |
| 947 | N947 CPU | 3054-2799 | 9510HXN4364  | "        |
| 948 | N948 CPU | 3054-2800 | 9510HXN4265  | "        |
| 949 | N949 CPU | 3054-2801 | 9510HZN4366  | 20.10.95 |
| 950 | N950 CPU | 3054-2802 | 9510HXN4367  | "        |
| 951 | N951 CPU | 3054-2803 | 9510HXN4368  | 31.10.95 |
| 952 | N952 CPU | 3054-2820 | 9510HXN4369  | "        |
| 953 | N953 CPU | 3054-2821 | 9510HXN4370  | "        |
| 954 | N954 CPU | 3054-2822 | 9510HXN4371  | "        |



|     |          |           |              |          |
|-----|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| 955 | N955 CPU | 3054-2823 | 9510HXN4372  | 31.10.95 |
| 956 | N956 CPU | 3054-2824 | 9510HXN4373  | "        |
| 957 | N957 CPU | 3054-2908 | 9510HXN4374  | "        |
| 958 | N958 CPU | 3054-2810 | 9510HXN4375  | "        |
| 959 | N959 CPU | 3054-2811 | 9510HXN4376  | 1.12.95  |
| 960 | N960 CPU | 3054-2812 | 9510HXN4377  | "        |
| 961 | N961 CPU | 3054-2813 | 9510HXN4378  | "        |
| 962 | N962 CPU | 3054-2831 | 9510HXN4379  | "        |
| 963 | N963 CPU | 3054-2932 | 9510HXN4380  | "        |
| 964 | N964 CPU | 3054-2933 | 9510HXN4381  | "        |
| 965 | N965 CPU | 3054-2934 | 9510HXN4382  | "        |
| 966 | N966 CPU | 3054-2935 | 9510HXN4383  | "        |
| 967 | N967 CPU | 3054-2948 | 9510HXN4384  | "        |
| 968 | N968 CPU | 3054-2949 | 9510HXN4385  | "        |
| 969 | N969 CPU | 3054-2955 | 9510HXN4386  | "        |
| 970 | N970 CPU | 3054-2956 | 9510HXN4387  | "        |
| 971 | N971 CPU | 3054-2957 | 9510HXN4388  | "        |
| 972 | N972 CPU | 3054-2958 | 9510 HXN4389 | "        |

### **THAMESWAY, (DISPOSALS, INITIAL).**

| <u>Fleet No.</u> | <u>Registration No.</u> | <u>Details</u>                                                    | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1821             | WNO 744S                | To AJS, (Hardwick), Carlton.                                      | 12/95       |
| 1823             | VAR 900S                | To South Wales Transport                                          | 11/95       |
| 1835             | VAR 895S                | To AJS, (Hardwick), Carlton.                                      | 12/95       |
| 1853             | YEV 311S                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1854             | YEV 312S                | To AJS, (Hardwick), Carlton.                                      | 12/95       |
| 1857             | YEV 315S                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1864             | YEV 322S                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1869             | YEV 327S                | To S & M, Hadleigh.                                               | 11/95       |
| 1881             | BNO 671T                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1884             | BNO 674T                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1887             | BNO 677T                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1891             | BNO 681T                | To S & M, Hadleigh.                                               | 11/95       |
| 1895             | BNO 685T                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1897             | DAR 119T                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |
| 1900             | DAR 122T                | To South Manchester, Hyde as Fleet No.122<br>from MTL Manchester. | 11/95       |
| 1909             | DAR 131T                | To South Wales Transport.                                         | 11/95       |

### **(SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS).**

|      |          |                                                                                             |                |
|------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 0207 | C699 ECV | Reinstated by Western National & then<br>withdrawn.                                         | 07/95<br>09/95 |
| 0504 | D596 MVR | To Finchley, New Southgate.                                                                 | 12/95          |
| 0512 | B336 BGL | Withdrawn by Western National, Fleet<br>No.2221.                                            | 09/95          |
| 0513 | B337 BGL | Withdrawn by Western National, Fleet<br>No.2222.                                            | 09/95          |
| 1849 | YEV 307S | To Yeates, Loughborough & fitted with a<br>Volvo engine ex Briston Bus & Coach,<br>Bristol. | 10/95          |
| 1852 | YEV 310S | To Rest & Ride, Smethwick from MTL<br>Manchester.                                           | 06/78          |
| 1893 | BNO 683T | Broken up by Classic, Anfield Plain (DM)<br>Fleet No.783.                                   | 10/95          |

|      |            |                                        |       |
|------|------------|----------------------------------------|-------|
| 2202 | FDZ 984    |                                        |       |
|      | (OHM 831Y) | Withdrawn by Western National.         | 09/95 |
| 4500 | B688 BPU   | To WHM, Little Waltham ex Metrobus     |       |
|      |            | Orpington (LN) re-registered LIL 7320. | 08/95 |

## LOOKING BACK

**1966** The Group enrolled its 100th member. Eastern National took delivery of Bristol FLFs 2854/5/6 (OVX298D OPU824/5D), while Colchester Corporation received Leyland Titans 39 - 44 (OVX139-44D). Recently withdrawn EN Bristol LS5G 1220 went Hedingham Omnibuses as their L45.

**1976** Eastern National took delivery of 1000/1 (MAR775/6P) to work from Bishops Stortford. These were the first Ford vehicles for more than 50 years.

**1986** Six of the Mercedes L608D minibuses 0204/10/17/24 were hired to Southdown at Eastbourne. The Harwich & Manningtree Standard reported that a mini bus service between East Bergholt Brantham, Lawford and Maningtree was to be operated by Eastern National. (Robin's Coaches eventually ran this service). A new livery of middle green and middle chrome yellow was introduced. Both Colchester Borough Transport Ltd and Southend Transport Ltd were registered at Companies House

The EBEG Internet Home Page took to the road on 1st February and ten days later had been visited by 22 people. A number of people have made contact, all from North America. Gary Haupt has been a driver with BC Transit for 25 years and is involved in union work and wanted to know about UK regulations on the carrying of animals. He would like to make contact with bus drivers in this country to exchange views on the industry. His e-mail address is [haupta@rockland.com](mailto:haupta@rockland.com) or you can write to him at 912 3rd Avenue, New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada, V3M 1P3.

EBEG Home Page can be found at [http://www.geocities.com/The\\_Tropics/1546](http://www.geocities.com/The_Tropics/1546)

## ALLOCATIONS

**1/96** 1933 Pool - D/L(D); 2234/38/39 Pool - D/L(D); 9012 DrT - D/L(D)

As a reminder to members all vehicles with three digit fleetnumbers are now numbered 2XXX. Eg 234 is now 2234. Not all vehicles have yet had the extra 2 applied to them. Pool vehicle 1870 is still in use from Chelmsford, while 1933 was in use from Colchester during mid January (prior to withdrawal).

The current number of vehicles outstationed from Chelmsford depot is as follows:-

Bishops Stortford 1 x Lynx, 7 x Short Dennis Dart, 4 x Mercedes 608

Great Dunmow 1 x single deck (Dart or Lynx as available)

Maldon 2 x Lynx, 6 x Long Dennis Dart, 1 x Double Decker (normally VR)

Long Darts are often used as cover at Bishops Stortford, but the use of short versions at Maldon is rare.

## GENERAL

Former PMT Bristol VR 3223, has had its semi coach seats replaced by normal bus seats, obtained from Eastern Counties. It now seats H43/31F.

An application has been lodged with the Traffic Commissioner for Essex Buses. It increases the number of discs on licence PF0599 (the current Eastern National) from 250 to 461. Legal lettering is in the process of being changed to Essex Buses on all EN and Thamesway vehicles.

## REPAIRS

**1/96** 3219

## UNUSUAL WORKINGS

**31.1.96.** CF1004 on London Commuter 194

## SERVICES

**1/A/B** Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.

**2/12** Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.

**8/A** Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.

**9/10** Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.

**13/14** Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.

**21/A** Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.

**30** Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.

- 33/X Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 34 Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 35 Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 36 Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 37 Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 40 0800 (Sats) ex Chelmsford withdrawn from 26.2.96.
- 41 Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 43 0704 ex Chelmsford withdrawn from 26.2.96.
- 45A/C Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 51 Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 72B The 1455 ex Chelmsford and 1523 ex Boreham withdrawn from 26.2.96.
- 74 Minor timetable revision from 26.2.96.
- 352 The 0743 ex Brentwood (Saturdays) withdrawn from 26.2.96.

## **PUBLICITY**

Going Somewhere? Go by Bus! A guide to Eastern National Bus Services and Places Served.

## **INITIAL DISPOSALS**

- 200 (C200 HJN) Hardwick (dealer), Carlton, 12/95
- 211 (C211 HJN) Hardwick (dealer), Carlton, 12/95
- 1111 (HHJ 372Y) Eastern Counties, Norwich, 1/96.
- 1112 (HHJ 373Y) Thamesway, Chelmsford, 1/96.
- 1114 (HHJ 375Y) Thamesway, Chelmsford, 1/96.
- 1115 (HHJ 376Y) Thamesway, Chelmsford, 1/96.
- 1120 (HHJ 381Y) Eastern Counties, Norwich, 1/96.
- 1121 (HHJ 382Y) Eastern Counties, Norwich, 1/96.
- 1125 (A694 OHJ) Eastern Counties, Norwich, 1/96.
- 1935 (MHJ 731V) Eastern Counties, Norwich, 1/96.
- 1940 (KEP 829X) Eastern Counties, Norwich, 1/96.
- 2234 (C494 BHY) Thamesway, Chelmsford, 1/96. (Numbered 200)
- 2238 (C684 GCV) Thamesway, Chelmsford, 1/96. (Numbered 205)
- 2239 (C685 ECV) Thamesway, Chelmsford, 1/96. (Numbered 211)

1112/14/15 had been on loan to Thamesway for some months.

1111 had been with Badgerline, before passing to Eastern Counties on loan in 9.95.

1940 had also been on loan to Eastern Counties.

Further to EBN 380 the open top VRs have NOT been sold to Eastern Counties and are in store at Walton. This report did not come via your sub-editor, who gets official disposal information from Head Office.

continued on page20

## **EASTERN NATIONAL** **(DISPOSALS, INITIAL)**

| <u>Fleet No.</u> | <u>Registration No.</u> | <u>Details</u>                                    | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 0200             | C200 HJN                | Withdrawn.                                        | 11/95       |
| 0211             | C211 HJN                | Withdrawn.                                        | 11/95       |
| 0220             | C220 HJN                | To Western National as Fleet No.170.              | 09/95       |
| 0223             | C223 HJN                | To Western National as Fleet No.173.              | 10/95       |
| 0245             | C700 ECV                | Withdrawn.                                        | 10/95       |
| 1127             | A696 OHJ                | To Badgerline, Fleet No.2217 via Yorkshire Rider. | 05/95       |
| 1708             | WNO 557L                | J. Sykes, Carlton via Salvation Army.             | 12/95       |
| 1860             | YEV 318S                | Dismantled for spares at Clacton.                 | 09/95       |
| 1935             | MHJ 731V                | To Williams, Crosskeys.                           | 11/95       |

## **EASTERN NATIONAL** **(SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS)**

| <u>Fleet No.</u> | <u>Registration No.</u> | <u>Details</u>                                                                           | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 0708             | C428 AHT                | To Southampton as Fleet No.003 ex White Horse Ferries, Hythe.                            | 10/95       |
| 0709             | C432 BHY                | To Southampton ex White Horse Ferries, Hythe.                                            | 10/95       |
|                  | C433 BHY                | To Southampton ex White Horse Ferries, Hythe.                                            | 10/95       |
|                  | C434 BHY                | To Davies, Tredegar from Red & White via Morgan, Nantyglo.                               | 12/95       |
| 0715             | C443 BHY                | To Southampton as Fleet No.004 ex White Horse Ferries, Hythe.                            | 10/95       |
|                  | C458 BHY                | To Davies & Jones, Letterston from Anthelstan, Chippenham.                               | 12/85       |
| 1111             | HHJ 372Y                | To Eastern Counties via Badgerline as Fleet No.TA532.                                    | 09/95       |
| 1117             | HHJ 378Y                | To de Courcey, Coventry (WM) ex Badgerline Fleet No.2214.                                | 07/95       |
| 1123             | A692 OHJ                | To de Courcey, Coventry (WM) ex Western National (CO) Fleet No.1123.                     | 07/95       |
| 1127             | A696 OHJ                | To Eastern Counties via Badgerline as Fleet No.TA531.                                    | 09/95       |
| 1212             | BNO 698T                | To Primrose, Leominster (HW) ex Yeomans, Hereford (HW) Fleet No.25.                      | 08/95       |
| 1910             | DAR 132T                | To Birmingham Omnibus, Tividale from City Buslines Birmingham.                           | 06/95       |
| 1940             | KEP 829X                | To Eastern Counties as Fleet No.LN629.                                                   | 09/95       |
| 4509             | B697 BPU                | From Northumbria Motor Services Limited, Fleet No.368 to Kelvin Central, Fleet No. 2830. | 08/95       |

# MEDIA MONITOR

January 6th: More than 1400 people travelled on the new Colchester park and ride service in the week before Christmas.

January 9th: Colchester Council has earmarked £27,400 to cover losses incurred on the new park and ride between December and March. The councils transport and parking manager admitted figures showed that during "most of the day there is space on the buses".

January 16th: Part of the £600,000 allocated to Colchester under the county councils TravelWise scheme is to be used on setting up bus lanes. The first will be from Butt Road and Southway into Head Street. Some traffic lights would be changed to give priority to buses.

January 17th: A CBT bus operating the morning journey collided with a bus shelter in Old Heath Road. There were no injuries. It was later reported that a vehicle examiner had carried out an inspection of the bus concerned.

January 19th: Part of the £600,000 allocated to Colchester as part of the Essex County Council TravelWise scheme is to be spent on the introduction of a bus lane from Southway to Head Street. Some traffic lights will be changed to priority to buses. The Yellow Advertiser feature the on bus videos, Ray Giles of CBT said that the "Original Passenger Picture Show" had been a gamble, but there had been positive feedback and he hoped it would continue.

January 25th: Essex University restricted through traffic along Boundary Road to emergency vehicles, buses and cycles from this day. A photograph of Hedinghams new Dart L241 (N241EWC) being held at the check point appears. The bus was only allowed to pass as there was no where for it to turn. Operating on Service 124, a schools contract to the Grammar School (its regular duty) apparently did not entitle it to pass.

February 2nd: A letter from a Brightlingsea resident slams Eastern National for withdrawing services on the evening of January 26th leaving passengers stranded. He is not only amazed that a bit of snow caused withdrawal of service but that it failed to be reported in the paper.

February 5th: A letter from a reader who works in an office overlooking the Colchester park and ride car park noted that the maximum average of cars parked there was 20. Since the walk to town was only five minutes the buses in her opinion were a waste of money and should be withdrawn. Teletext on 3 reported that a coach belonging to APT of Rayleigh was destroyed when fire broke out in the engine while on a German motorway. The 68 passengers on their way to Austria escaped without injury and were returned home.

February 7th: BBC Essex report that Essex County Council will stop the Harwich - Manningtree and Clacton - Wivenhoe services introduced following withdrawal of some Sunday trains unless more passengers use them.

February 8th: A 1000 name petition has been sent to Eastern National by residents on Greenstead Estate in Colchester asking for a direct bus to the General Hospital. The company has said they will look at the request

Unless otherwise stated the above news items appeared in the Colchester Evening Gazette or Essex County Standard



Two full page feature articles on buses have appeared in recent weeks in the Essex County Standard. An appalling example of cheap tabloid journalism by a Sarah Oxley devotes just five short paragraphs and a photograph to that renowned photographer and author Geoff Mills. Half a page of text contains the expected references to anoraks and the like but she even stoops to the level of involving special needs people in her sniping. Factual inaccuracies abound; as an example she tells of a Clacton enthusiast, an ex public school boy, who apparently spends his holidays watching buses at Clacton Bus Station not withstanding the fact its been closed for at least five years. This an article to miss.

The exact opposite is the case of an excellent interview by Lesley Heuer with Rusell Howard-Tricker, who for the past fifteen years has run a travel company in the Netherlands. He hopes to publish a book *All Change Please* detailing his memories as a conductor and driver with Eastern National, Osbornes and Vines in the 1960's. A photograph of Osborne's double deck 2046F appeared and the caption states that it is believed the vehicle has been preserved in the United States. Numerous tales are told including many about long serving conductress Ivy Osborne who during a Colchester Corporation strike is claimed to have packed 106 passengers onto her bus. He tells how when Eastern National outstationed a bus in the yard of the Angel at Stoke by Nayland the landlords hens would take up residence. They had to be chased out and the seats checked for eggs before the first journey. This book should make excellent reading when it is published.

## HEDINGHAM

### VEHICLES

A further Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer B35F is L241 (N241 EWC).  
Three vehicles have been withdrawn they are:-

L155 (D232 HMT) sold to Hatts Coaches, Foxham, Wiltshire  
L192 (A709 KRT) sold to Taylor (dealer) Newmarket in part exchange for L241.  
L218 (UAT 274R) sold for scrap, following engine failure. This vehicle is a rebody of a 30 year old chassis.

Volvo B6 M262 KWK was on loan while the two home grown examples (L207/8) received attention at a dealers.

Leyland National L185 (LMA 413T) was loaned to Eastern Counties for a day during December to cover a failure at Sudbury outstation. While on the subject, the Eastern Counties outstation in Sudbury has now moved to the Hedingham depot in the town.

### GENERAL

The Hedingham Omnibuses empire is set to expand further. The entire Osbornes operation is due to be taken over from 1.3.96, this includes the freehold of the depot in Tollesbury.

Owing to poor loadings the Park & Ride service in Colchester is expected to end soon. If this is the case, the two Volvo B6s will move to Tollesbury, along with a Leyland National to operate Osbornes bus services.

Hedingham Omnibuses have received offers from at least three of the big groups to sell out. However in the words of Robert McGregor "Hedingham are ambitious and Independent and plan to float on the Stock Market at the end of 1996". This will be either on the Alternative Investment Market or like Southern Vectis on the Junior Stock Market. The company hope to sell some shares to enthusiasts, who want to see family independents survive.

The garage at Clacton is currently being enlarged to house two pits. This will enable the entire Walton allocation to be maintained at Clacton. While this work is carried out a temporary parking ground is in use in Gorse Lane, near the EN depot.

## OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

**AIRPORT EXPRESS STANSTED** Bova L343 RWF has been acquired from Biss.

**AMBER BUS** Are now based in Paycocke Road, Basildon. Service 28 between Canvey and benfleet will operate to a revised timetable from 1.3.96.

**BERNARDS HARLOW** Have sold Dennis/Plaxton E538 PRU.

**BLUE TRIANGLE** Used RT2150 on service 265 on Saturdays in late December and early January.

**BORDABUS WICKFORD** Former Western Scottish Dennis Dorchester/Plaxton B577 DRS (WLT 441, B201 CGA) has been acquired.

**BOON BOREHAM** Setra RSU 231 and DAF/Van Hool K550 RJX have been sold.

**BRANDON BLACKMORE END** Further DMS vehicles converted to single door are GHV 3N, GHV 23N, GHV 97N and KUC 217P.

**BROMLEY PRIVATE HIRE GT BROMLEY** Noted here in January was ex LDT, Transit/Carlyle C196 KBH.

**BJS GT WAKERING** A recent addition is Optare Citypacer D345 JUM.

**CAMBUS** The 1600 ex Cambridge service 31, was revised to operate via a different route from 12.2.96.

**CATTON HARLOW** A new Ford Transit Tureno is N660 DAR.

**C&M LAINDON** A further Ford transit has been acquired, K257 BEP.

**CHELMSFORD CAB** Appear to have taken over Stansted Airport Cars. In common with the Chelmsford based company a number of cars now operate with PSV discs.

**COACHSTOP SOUTHEND** LAG J323 HBV has been sold.

**COGGESHALL COMMUNITY BUS** The timetable for the evening service to Kelvedon Station was revised from 5.2.96.

**CROWN COACHES THUNDERSLEY** Have registered a stage service between Canvey Leigh Beck and Benfleet station from 19.2.96. operating Monday to Friday.

**CRUSADER CLACTON** Have moved to a brand new depot on Gorse Lane Industrial Estate in the town. Van Hool E107 GOO had not been re-registered DSU 107 by 1/96. Former Windmill Coaches Beford WGE 37S has been sold and is now a driver trainer in the Corringham area.

**CUNNINGHAM CORRINGHAM** Have acquired A407 GPY a Setra S228DT. Somewhat smaller Bristol LH BKJ 462T has been sold. Volvo/Van Hool JDZ 2774 was on this operators premises in February and is assumed to have been acquired.

**DCH COLCHESTER** Leyland Royal Tiger/Plaxton TJI 3145 (new as A854 UYM) has been acquired.

**EAST LONDON** Service 723X between Stratford and Lakeside withdrawn after 24.2.96.

**FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE** Leyland Leopard/Plaxton JIL 3124 has been sold.

**GAMMER TENDRING** A second vehicle for this operator is LDV 400 G92 WJF. This operator is now trading as ACS Minibuses.

**HAILSTONE BASILDON** Further to EBN 378, NMJ 982H was indeed ex Telgate. A further acquisition is D868 VKE, a Mercedes minibus. It is thought to have replaced F467 MUF.

**HARRIS BUS** Atlantean OCO 118S has been withdrawn following mechanical failure. Its place has been taken by loaned Nottingham Atlantean ARC 668T. A further decker withdrawn is Bristol VR VRP 37S, this has been replaced by Nottingham atlantean XNN 664S also on loan. Scania F312 PEV now has Lakeside Linx lettering, Volvo WRJ 447X has Safeway Free Bus.

**HARRIS COACHES** DAF/Van Hool F591 UVW (F98 RAR) and Setra J92 YAR, have been sold.

**KINGS STANWAY** Have acquired C718 NHJ (ex 5765 OZ, C26 OFL) a Volvo/Van Hool from Travelrich, Copford. Sister C27 OFL is also with this operator.

**KIRBY RAYLEIGH** DAF/Plaxton GWC 32T has been sold.

**LEOS MINIBUS HARLOW** Ford Transit E40 FLF, is the vehicle operated, by this new operator.

**LITTLE CLACTON TAXIS** Have a new Ford Transit, N272 BHJ.

**LODGE HIGH EASTER** Have acquired one time London Buses Iveco/Robin Hood D519 FYL.

**NELSONS WICKFORD** The timetable on service 222 was revised from 20.12.95.

**OSBORNE TOLLESBURY** Fleetlines GSL 899N and GSL 902N have been sold.

**PEVERAL COACHES** Mercedes minibus F619 PPC has been sold to Knights Coaches, Gt Braxted.

**POST OFFICE** LDAF 400 L494 TAV is operating the Post Bus service based on Saffron Walden.

**PRIORY CORRINGHAM** Bova 4543 VC has been sold.

**S&P ROCHFORD** AEC Reliance/Duple REK 927R has been added to the fleet.

**SM TRAVEL HARLOW** Have sold ex Badgerline Ford transit B435 WTC. Its place has been taken by F77 CJC an Iveco minibus ex LDT.

**STANS COACHES GT TOTHAM** Have acquired Mercedes 0303, LSU 113 from Crusader, Clacton. It is expected to remain in their livery as Stans provide vehicles for Crusader work. Volvo/Plaxton HAZ 2951 (VHJ 41W) has been sold.

**SUPREME SOUTHEND** A further Bristol VR has been acquired GHB 85W. This example has East Lancs bodywork. Volvo/Caetano K707 RNR is now in Supreme livery ex Chartercoach colours.

**TOMS MINICOACHES SOUTHEND** Mercedes minibus PJI 2984 has been sold.

**TOWN TRAVEL SAFFRON WALDEN** As Mr A Moore has retired, this fleet and services are now owned by Peter Blanchard, formerly of County Bus!

**TRAVELRICH COPFORD** A further Neoplan has arrived and is now 5765 OZ. The other vehicle here is UGV 847 (not USV 847).

**WALDEN TRAVEL SAFFRON WALDEN** Also acquired Tiger/Plaxton E693 UEX from Town Travel. *Late News: This company now trades as Town Travel, See above.*

**WHM LITTLE WALTHAM** Have sold Volvo/Plaxton HIL 9271 (new as FUA 390Y). Bedford YMP D801 ALR has been re-registered HIL 9273.

**WOODS THORNWOOD** Have sold Bedford/Plaxton KOT 707P.

### **SPECIAL FREE BUS (SORRY IF YOU MISSED IT)**

A special free service numbered 396 operated between Brentwood and Havering Park on 26.12.95. The vehicle used was preserved RT191.

# SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

## Vehicles:

VR 305 (DGR 477S) is withdrawn.(Being stripped at London Road.)  
LN 751 (JTU 586T) is withdrawn.(Stored at London Road.)

Both Buses withdrawn due to Major accident damage.

## Hire,s:

LN (SNB 507) EPD 507V is on hire from London & Country,(Addlestone.)  
(507) is Leyland National 10351B/1R. B41F.

## Repaints:

TR 546 (A246 SVW) into Green Line livery.  
TR 546 & 548 have received small red fleet numbers on Front & Rear.  
ON 447 (H47 MJN) has had its Grey skirt painted Blue.

## On Order:

Due for Fleet replacment are 15 Dennis Dart/East Lancs and  
4 Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties.  
Due shortly are 4 Leyland Olympian /Alexander, aquired from  
London & Country. (F reg,)

## Other News:

Dennis Lance 763 & 764 have been re-numbered

LSL 003 & LSL 004.

## *EASTERN NATIONAL NEWS SHEET*

The first Leyland National is currently being painted into the Company's new livery at Clacton.  
DAR 121T, (Fleet No.1899), should emerge from the paint shop on Saturday 17th February 1996!

Much travelled open top Bristol VR's WNO 564L, (Fleet No.3500), and NPU 974M, (Fleet No.3501), are back at Walton. I am reliably informed that they will be back in service in Clacton for this summer. New drivers are being recruited to put the vehicles back on the road, thus overcoming the problems encountered last year with present staff.

Leyland National 2 MHJ 729V, (Fleet No.1933), is back at Clacton again awaiting probable disposal.

Painted into the new livery is Clacton based Bristol VR VTH 941T, (Fleet No.3219).

|      |          |                              |                           |         |                       |
|------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 53   | JIL 5623 | Ld TRCTL11/3R 8200538        | Pn Pt-3200 8212LTP1C020   | C57F    | (FNM860Y)             |
| 32   | SJI 2954 | Ld TRCTL11/3R 8201466        | LAG AT 92006              | C53F    | (B444BAR)             |
| 10   | SJI 4635 | Ld TRCTL11/3R 8201515        | Bf Es 350 482             | C53F    | (JVW160Y)             |
| (70) | TJI 1670 | Vo B10M-60 22761             | Pn Pt3-3500 9012VCB1499   | C53F    | (G 70RGG)             |
| (85) | TJI 1685 | Vo B10M-60 22894             | Pn Pt3-3500 9012VCB1514 * | C53F    | (G 85RGG)             |
| (88) | TJI 1688 | Vo B10M-60 23016             | Pn Pt3-3500 9012VCB1517   | C49Ft   | (G 88RGG)             |
| (30) | TJI 3130 | VH T815 YE281500H01C19105    | VH 19105                  | C49Ft   | (G430VML)             |
| (31) | TJI 3131 | VH T815 YE281500H01C19104    | VH 19104                  | C49Ft   | (G431VML)             |
| (4)  | GSL 897N | Dr CRG6LXB 67781             | Ar AL31/1372/8            | H49/38F |                       |
| (2)  | KUC 228P | Dr CRL6 68553                | MCW                       | H44/33F |                       |
| (11) | OSR 191R | Bi VRT/LL3/6LXB VRT/LL3/125  | Ar AL52/6374/8            | H49/34D |                       |
| (27) | BHJ 368S | Bi VRT/SL3/6LXB VRT/SL3/1356 | ECW 23273                 | H43/31F | (HIL9273,<br>VPF282S) |
| (60) | EWV 213T | Ld PSU3E/4R 7900142          | Pn Sup 4 7911LC070        | C53F    |                       |
| (18) | CJH 115V | Bi VRT/SL3/6LXB VRT/SL3/2080 | ECW 24045                 | H43/31F |                       |
| (12) | CJH 141V | Bi VRT/SL3/6LXB VRT/SL3/2439 | ECW 24560                 | H43/31F |                       |
| (45) | KBC 2V   | Vo B58-61 14630              | Pn Sup 4 8012VC072        | C57F    |                       |
| (54) | LUA 289V | Ld PSU3E/4R 8030030          | Pn Sup 4 8011LC037        | C53F    |                       |
| 14   | MNK 427V | Ld PSU3E/4R 7930007          | Du Dmt 2 033/5172         | C53F    |                       |
| 16   | MNK 429V | Ld PSU3E/4R 7903233          | Du Dmt 2 033/5174         | C53F    |                       |
| 19   | MNK 430V | Ld PSU3E/4R 7903055          | Du Dmt 2 033/5175         | C53F    |                       |
| (5)  | PHK 620V | Vo B58-56 10402              | Co Aa 79052               | C53F    |                       |
| (40) | RWC 40W  | Ld PSU3E/4R 7930041          | Pn Sup 4 Ex 8011LX564     | C49F    |                       |
| (41) | RWC 41W  | Ld PSU3E/4R 7930015          | Pn Sup 4 Ex 8011LX565     | C49F    |                       |
| (9)  | CPU 125X | Ld TRCTL11/2R 8101716        | Pn Sup 6 Ex 8211LTS6X514  | C53F    |                       |
| 17   | XGS 767X | Ld TRCTL11/3R 8101064        | Pn Sup 5 8212LTS5C008     | C57F    |                       |
| 8    | GVS 948Y | Ld TRCTL11/2R 8102943        | Pn Sup 6 Ex 8211LTS6X515  | C53F    |                       |
| (75) | L705 CNR | DAF SB3000WS601 003544       | Co Ae 2 358024 *          | C53F    |                       |
| (76) | L706 CNR | DAF SB3000WS601 003545       | Co Ae 2 358025 *          | C53F    |                       |
| (77) | M577 JBC | Vo B10M-62 42364             | Co Ae 2 458027            | C49Ft   |                       |

## acquired for spares:-

|          |                     |                 |      |                       |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|
| FGV 261L | Ld PSU5/4R 7204451  | Pn Pe 3 733127  | C57F | (DSU 105,<br>MJH276L) |
| NDF 909M | Ld PSU3B/4R 7300921 | Du Dmt 275/2184 | C35F |                       |

## withdrawn and being used for spares:-

|      |          |                  |                   |                 |
|------|----------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| (26) | GSL 900N | Dr CRG6LXB 67784 | Ar AL31/1372/3    | H.../...D (acc) |
| 68   | MFK 768V | Vo B58-61 15088  | Du Dmt 2 049/7033 | C...F (acc)     |

\* 'Grand UK Holidays Livery'

GVS 948Y is Named "Anita Joy"

29 - 1 - 96