

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the *EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP*)

APRIL 1988

ISSUE No. 289



Operation of ECC service 622 is in the hands of Blue Triangle, using RT and RGL vehicles as seen in this view of RT2799 at Braintree Bus Park.

(Dave Arnold)

PLEASE NOTE

All contributions except for Southend notes for the May magazine should be sent to Mr D Stebbing, 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP as the news sheet editor will be on honeymoon in Italy.

ROCHFORD MEETING

The May meeting will be held on May 10th and will be a members slide evening, so please bring along any slides of interest to the Freight House, which is adjacent to Rochford station. The June meeting will be held on June 14th and sees the return of the popular Group Photographic Competition, full details of which appear overleaf.

EDITOR:	Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford St, Chelmsford, Essex	CM2 0XU
Sub Editors:	<i>Southend Transport and Southend area small operators</i>	
	Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road, Southend	SS1 3TT
	<i>Small operators - rest of Essex</i>	
	Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon	CM9 7NR
PUBLICATIONS:	Andy Meadows, 52 Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex	SS6 9NW
PHOTO ORDERS:	Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, Essex	SS7 4LH
MEMBERSHIP:	Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Barkingside, Essex	IG2 7NQ

NEW BOOKS

Bus Enthusiast Review of 1987 £3.50 + 25p postage
 Capital Transport Interesting Independants - Midlands £5.95 + 50p postage
 Capital Transport Scottish Bus Handbook £6.95 + 50p postage

All the above are available from Andy Meadows (address on cover).
 From Mark Bullock (address given last month) Brentwood area timetable 30p +30p post.

Essex Sunday saver timetable book free with another order or send a 7x5 SAE with a 20p stamp.

IN THE NEWS

XVX 26 purchased by the World Bus Group, Crouch End, London 3/88 ex Spence, Southend. The world Bus Group own a Bristol LD6G 431 FHW ex Bristol Omnibus. They propose to leave London on the 5th November 1988 driving around the world (via Europe, Middle East, India, Far East, Australia, South America, North America and Ireland) arriving back in London on the 5th November 1989. The aim of the trip is to raise money for charity. The money to fund the journey is being raised through bus advertising and collections at various shows around the country this summer. One such event attended will be the Truck Racing weekend at Brands Hatch on the 9/10 April. As part of the show, an American stunt driver will drive a double decker bus around the Brands Hatch on two wheels. The bus concerned will be XVX 26 painted in the World red livery. When finished with, the bus will pass to C Ireland, Hull.

GROUP PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

This years competition will be split into four classes:

- (a) Best slide or color print of an Essex operator
- (b) Best slide or color print of a non Essex operator
- (c) Best black and white print
- (d) Special award for Junior members (under 16)

Entries may be sent by post (SAE for return) or brought along to the meeting on June 14th. Entries by post should be sent to Peter Snell whose address is on the front cover.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDTransfers

3/88 0200 Pool - CN; 1701 BS - Pool; 1865 HH - BN; 1866 CF - CN; 1871 BE - HH;
 1872 CN - BE; 1874 BN - CF; 3059 SE - SD; 3084 MN - SE; 3094 SD - MN
 4/88 0754 Pool - BD; 0755 Pool - BD; 0756 Pool - BD; 1655 CN - Pool;
 1712 CR - Pool; 1754 BD - CN; 1760 BD - CR

Acquired Vehicles

All the vehicles acquired from Coastal Red, remain with EN at the time of writing and GOG 632N is still in use as a driver training vehicle.

Repaints

Owing to staff shortages at EN Head Office it is not possible to publish details of repaints this month. Derek should have a bumper crop next month. Noted have been 1310 with blue Highwayman lettering instead of the green normally used, whilst 1939 is now in the new livery and 4005 in base livery for an advert for Essex County Cricket Club.

General

No further news is yet available regarding the opening of the new depots at Clacton or Braintree.

Service Vehicles

The Hadleigh recovery vehicle is registered NLV 873S not NLU 873S

Services

- 25 The 2020 Leigh to Southend on Sundays will be withdrawn with effect from 2.5.88.
- 136 Service withdrawn with effect from 27.3.88.
- 150 0850 service on Monday to Friday from Grays, is withdrawn and replaced by a journey at 0853 from Stanford-le-Hope to Basildon with effect from 11.4.88.
- 220/1/2 Revised peak journeys and minibus operation of most services introduced from 11.4.88.
- 235/6/8 Revised route in Outward Common introduced from 28.3.88.
- 250 1927 ex Basildon is retimed to 1936, whilst the 2306 is withdrawn and the 2206 is advanced by 30 minutes from 11.4.88. These changes apply Monday to Friday only.
- 333 Revised timetable introduced from 28.3.88.
- 370 The 0905 Braintree to Bishops Stortford and 1205 return on Saturdays passed to Fargo from 7.5.88.
- 500 New service, Basildon Bus Stn to Laindon, Newlands End via Laindon Link and Gt Knightleys introduced from 11.4.88.
- 550 0810 ex Ramsden Heath is revised to depart at 0812 and operate via normal route from 11.4.88.
- A1/2,B,C1/2 Revised timetables on all routes introduced from 11.4.88.
- X41 Additional morning journey and extra stopping points introduced from 5.4.88. Operation of services 347-349 passed to Golden Boy during late March (date unknown). The notes published last month on Romford area changes are incorrect in some details. Corrected details are:
- 151 & 351 Delete all references in last months magazine.
- 251 Withdrawn between Walthamstow & Oxford Circus and rerouted between Romford and Newbury Park to serve Chadwell Heath and Seven Kings via current 551. All stops between Harold Park and Walthamstow will be served. Local fares also are available and all LRT passes are valid.
- 400 Extended from Kings Cross to Oxford Circus via Euston Road. Additional stops introduced at Moby Dick, Sommerville Road, Barley Lane, Whipps Cross Hospital, Lea Bridge Hore and Hounds and Hackney Downs Station, service continues to serve Snaresbrook and local fares introduced although LRT passes are not valid. My apologies for the above, the original information having come from a normally reliable source.

Highwayman

Service 804 between Southend and Norwich, operated on Thursday March 31st, Saturday April 2nd and Tuesday April 5th and will be introduced on a regular basis on 28th May. It is understood that some of the summer Saturdays will be reintroduced, although dates of reintroduction are not yet known.

Unusual Workings

- 3/3 SD 1724 on 251.
- 12/3 BD 1859 on 251.
- 18/3 CF 3111 on Asda working in Wickford.
- 19/3 CF 4005 on 353 (replacing failed SE vehicle).
- 30/3 BN 1124 on 400.
- 4/4 BE 1932 failed at Blackmore on service 452 and was replaced by BD 1933.

From 29/2 the first return working on the 74 became a Coastline minibus operation. Noted in Chelmsford between 12 and 20th of March were ODV 78M a former Western National VR and PHG 592S a Leyland Titan demonstrator, both are now owned by "The Kings Coach" a christian mission. The lower deck has an exhibition area whilst upstairs is a lounge with audio visual facilities. Cambus VR 751 (VEX 298X) was noted in Colchester with Cambridge Utd supporters on 25/3, couldn't they both have come by car?

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for Southend routes 21 & 22 both dated 7 Sept, but printed Feb 88. Timetable leaflets for A1, A2, A3; B; C1, C2; 220/1/2; 550 dated 11.4.88.

" " " 235/6/8; 333 and 722 all dated 28.3.88.

Easter buses in South Essex and Easter buses in Brentwood, giving basic details of EN services.

Essex County Council - Easter buses 1988; leaflet for service 312 dated 2.11.87.

EN Excursions - Spring/Summer 1988 from Halstead, Braintree, Witham & Chelmsford.

Essex Sunday Saver

These excellent value for money tickets are once again available at last years prices of £3.98 for a family, £1.99 adult and £1.00 for under sixteens. In conjunction with this a Sunday Saver Timetable is available although some errors have been pointed out by Paul Harvey:-

Jacksons 10/12 is incorrect, the correct version appears in the Southend Guide.

Eastern National 11A the 1805 ex Southend and 1933 do not operate, whilst the note regarding additional services should be deleted.

VISITORS TO EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERING - MARCH 1988

Chartercoach	CDU 798T, JMB 332T, HBP 332X
Hampshire Bus	3314, 3387, 3397, 3441, 3661
Hampshire Coach	3370
Heddingham	L134
Lodges	THM 601M
London Buses	DMS 2330, plus last months four Titans still present.
Wests	HHA 138L

Also a London Borough of Waltham Forest Playbus OLF 885L a former school bus passed through.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

RE's 18 and 26 followed 20 and 25 to Newcastle Busways at the beginning of March 1988, leaving only 16, 22 and 23, all of which were still in use at the end of the month. 23 was used for a PSV Circle trip on 13th March visiting local operators of RE's as a 'Farewell Tour'. Lynx 37 had entered service by 8.3.88. 35 was returned to Leylands at Nottingham in early March 1988, but was back in service by 22.3.88.

Olympian 44 has also been to Nottingham for repairs, returning on 11.3.88. Later in the month it was badly damaged in an accident. 41 was also off the road for much of March 1988. Atlantean 75 was returned from Great Yarmouth on 12.3.88 in the livery.

It previously had a unique livery, applied in 1979 to celebrate 75 years of municipally-owned transport in Colchester. 79 had a new engine fitted in March 1988.

Leopard 102 had a new engine fitted at Bristol, returning to service on 27.3.88, when together with 101 it inaugurated ECC service 601. The Leopards, Tiger and Lynxes all have new blinds which include Saffron Walden. Despite this, the Tigers, 103 and 104, are not used on bus work and so are unlikely to be seen on service 601. Owing to the non availability of a Leopard, 35 was used on the 601 on 3.4/4. A railway replacement service between Harwich and Manningtree, requiring five vehicles on Saturdays and Sundays for a month, was due to start on 9.4.88. Owing to industrial action by BR drivers at Stratford on 4/3, the evening Liverpool St to Harwich boat train was worked by various coaches including CBT 101.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to April 10.

The Sub Editor would like to apologise for the poor quality of reproduction of the Southend notes in the last two issues; this was due to difficulty in getting the word processing software in his new computer to talk intelligently to the printer - hopefully the problem has now been solved and the notes will be easier to read this month.

Vehicles**ACQUIRED:**

The coaches planned to be 216/7 (FEH 778/80Y) have instead been sold to Grampian (see recent issues for details).

MODIFIED: 307 (Q476 MEV) is being prepared for an overall advert.

WITHDRAWALS/DISPOSALS:

The following were withdrawn on 31/3 or during March:

212	LAK 304W	334	WRO 433S	346	XWX 186S
219	SPN 669X	336	CTM 406T	347	XWX 184S
324	WRO 434S	337*	CTM 407T	352*	DAX 452V
330	BHO 440V	342*	YWW 359S	363-5	B553-5 ATX
331	XWX 166S	345	CWW 191T	367-9	B557-9 ATX

* Subsequently 337/42/52 were loaned to Grey Green from April 1 to 3 and were then reinstated for ST work; 337 was finally withdrawn on 5/4; 342 was still in use on 7/4 but expected to come off any day and 352 was reinstated from 6/4 for an indefinite period after its planned sale fell through.

"RESERVE FLEET": coaches 332/3/40/52 are at present in traffic but will be withdrawn when buyers are found and the vehicles can be released; DMS 313 remains out of use as a reserve vehicle but 314-6 were returned to the operational fleet on 8/4; open tops 371-3 are at present delicensed pending a decision on their future (see service notes below).

Note that, subsequent to the last issue being written, the DMS fleet (and 220/343/4) was reprieved and instead all 6 Olympians were withdrawn on 31/3 and were returned to Cardiff by 5/4, although 364 was hired to Ensign on 4/4.

INITIAL DISPOSALS:

212	Town & Country Coaches, Newton Abbott
219, 330	Brighton Transport (thus 219 returns to its home town - it was new to Alpha Coaches of Brighton)
341	G & G Coaches, Leamington Spa
363-5/7-9	Returned to Cardiff City ex long term hire.

The Sub Editor would particularly welcome news of Southend disposals and changes of owners of former Southend vehicles.

ON HIRE:

To District Bus (Tomlin), Wickford: had an Optare City Pacer on loan during part of March as well - eg 406 noted on 5/3 (288/8 refers).

To Stephensons Coaches, Southend: appear to have had a Southend coach on loan more or less continuously from late Feb to early in April (eg 206, 5/3; 207, 15/3) for ECC service 403, and a City Pacer for most of March and early April for ECC contract services 37/38 (South Woodham, M-S) and 23/23A (Leigh, Suns) - eg 404 noted on 3/4 and again on 9/4.

See above re coach hires to Grey Green and Ensign over Easter.

Services

All the changes listed last month duly occurred, including the complete withdrawal of 69, X2, X21 and X30.

- 1 The three schooldays am jnys Rayleigh - Thundersley operated on contract to ECC will shortly become a commercial operation.
- 4A From 18/4 extended to East Beach (the present turning movement).
- 7 To be extended M-S evenings and all days Suns to Shoebury East Beach from 17/4.
- 8 To be extended to Shoebury East Beach on M-S evenings from 18/4, replacing the existing Deeping - Osprey short journeys on the 7. Despite the Traffic Commissioner deciding that there were no grounds to ban buses from the 4 roads in Hawkwell/Hockley that 8 was rerouted along from 14/6/87 (see issue 280 etc), the County Council are now proposing such a ban: it is not known when (if?) the ban will become effective.
- 14 We can confirm that the jnys previously operated to South Woodham (diverted to Shotgate) ARE schooldays only (to interwork with ECC contract 225): in addition there are still 2 Southend - Rayleigh journeys (1 schooldays only, 1 M-F), all previously numbered 19.
- 23 The short term contract for 3 M-S evening journeys will pass to Clintona after operation on 30/4.
- 65 Withdrawn after operation on 29/4.
- 67 ST have announced that they will NOT be operating a commercial seafront service this year: thus the last day of operation was 12/9/87. We believe that Southend Borough Council may put a replacement out to tender, along with "replacements" for EN 62, the former 17 (not operated since dereg) and part of ST 23.
- X1 From 3/4 the last 4 jnys ex London (3 on Suns) divert via Homesteads and Pitsea Broadway on request, and continue to extend to east (and north) Southend if required, despite the withdrawal of the X21. Additional stops have been introduced at Kents Hill Rd and Basildon Hospital subway.

To clarify/expand on last month, the London services were reduced from 3/4 to the following level of service:

- X1 Basic service hourly daily ex Southend 0430-2030 & 2230 (no 0530 on Suns; 0630 M-F runs as an X11); hourly daily ex Green Park at 0655-0055 (M-F 1655 is an X10; addnl M-F jny @ 1825; no 0755 Sat/Sun and no 2355 Suns); no service west of Green Park at any time.
- X10 (not via Basildon/Grays) 2 jny each way, M-F peaks;
- X11 (not via Basildon) 4 jny each way, M-F peaks;
- X31 (Canvey) 5 jny each way, M-F peaks: 1st pm jny starts at Dagenham;

X41 (Prittlewell via Rayleigh) 3 jny am, 2 jny pm, M-F peaks.
The rush hour frequency thus becomes roughly every 10/15 minutes.
Note also that X10/31 are now non stop between Dagenham & Poplar.

General

From 3/4 Setright ticket machines were withdrawn from use on the London services and the former long range Almexes were reinstated; consequently ten journey tickets are no longer sold, but monthly seasons were reduced in price. We understand that Weyfarer electronic ticket machines will be introduced on all OPO services later in 1988.

It has not been previously reported that from 27/2 all local tavel restrictions on the London routes over the Canning Town - Green Park section were removed; standard LRT fare scales apply (in fact from East Ham westwards); thus one can now travel by X1 from Trafalgar Square to Aldgate (for 50p) for instance; LRT/BR Travelcards/Capitalcards are not valid however!

Following on from last month's notes, the "crisis" affecting STL appears to have been averted. The Council has decided NOT to accept any of the unsolicited offers to buy the company and has instead made a further loan to STL. We can confirm that Managing Director Ian Trevette HAS left ST; with reference to the last issue, Derek Giles (latterly Ops Director) did in fact only return for a few days after his retirement at the end of February. There is no news yet about possible replacements for the MD and Engineering Director.

Member Mike McCabe has supplied some news of the disposals to Busways Travel, as he personally delivered many of the vehicles sold! Thus former Southend 202/322/321 were delivered on Feb 1/10/17 respectively; former S&M PD3's CJF 69C & CJF 72C (to become trainers) went on Feb 19 and Colchester RE's 25 & 18 went north on Mar 1/2 & 8 resp, while CBT 26 followed on 15/3 along with 20 (on tow).

Publicity News

- Many items this month, most available from the Sub Editor (SAE please):
- i) newspaper adverts for minibus route 1A
 - ii) photocopied timetable for 1A (not publicly issued)
 - iii) A5 leaflet re rates for daytime coach hires in London
 - iv) A6 single sheet listing the Feb/Mar changes to 16/65/69/X2/X30/X31
 - v) Duplicated foolscap sheets with summary timetables for London routes from 3/4 (out of stock now)
 - vi) Photocopied leaflet for X31 timetable 7/3 to 31/3 only (o/o/stock)
 - vii) A5 leaflet summarising coach service changes from 3/4
 - viii) A5 leaflet featuring a DMS, advertising bus services to the newly opened Royals Shopping Centre, adjacent to Central Bus Stn
 - ix) X31 timetable in standard corporate style, dated 5/4 (issue 31/11)
 - x) X41 timetable in standard corporate style, dated 5/4 (issue 41/6)
 - xi) X1 timetable in standard corporate style (but now with Tiger/Caribbean on cover in place of Leopard/Duple) dated 3/4 (issue 29)
 - xii) white leaflet 100x220mm for 795 timetable from 2/4.

OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

Clintona, Brentwood: ECC contract changes are -
6 (Southend - Eastwood, M-S evenings) lost after 30/4 on renewal;
21/A (Leigh - Southchurch, M-S) retained on renewal, minor changes;
23 - gained from 3/5 (Leigh-Eastwood, 3 jnys M-S evenings) ex STL.

Eagle Coaches, Basildon: In all 3 Bedford YRQ/Willowbrook B49F were acquired from Heddingham Omnibuses - WTW 778L, YTW 779L and OOO 882M: all have been repainted red/cream with the "fleetname" Circular for use on the Basildon town service, which duly commenced on 5/4. There are 3 routes linked together as a circular, numbered 30/30C: BN B/S - Whitmore Way - Mayland Retail Park: Mayland - Felmores - Pitsea Stn: Pitsea - Clay Hill Rd - BN B/S. Frequency varies from every 30 to every 90 minutes. M-S: at present a maximum 40p fare applies. The depot has now been tracked down to Bentalls, on the Industrial Estate.

Jacksons, Bicknacre: has lost the contract for 6 (Southend-Eastwood, Sundays) from 1/5 to Stephensons upon renewal.

Nelson, Wickford (NIBS): The Basildon station evening peak routes 17-19 were short lived, being due to be withdrawn after 15/4. Other service news is that ECC contract 222 (North Benfleet - Basildon B/S, afternoons) will become commercial from 3/5, but similar contract 226 (North Benfleet - Pitsea) is withdrawn. A Leyland Lynx demonstrator was due to be received from 11/4 for one week's evaluation. Further to last month's fleet list, TUO 255J is in yellow (front) and cream (remainder - undercoat??) while TUO 260J was noted on 5/3 still in NBC green.

Stephensons, Southend: See under Southend Transport re hires. Commercial service X102 (Hullbridge - Rayleigh Park School, sch only) will be extended to Rayleigh High Street from 12/4, renumbered 22C and altered to run M-F: the Sub Editor would appreciate fuller details. 2 ECC contracts have been gained from 2/5 on renewal for 6 (Southend - Eastwood) on M-S evenings (ex Clintona) and all day Suns (ex Jacksons): both are retimed compared to the former operators.

T V Taxis, Southend: an additional VW LT28 is B783 CWF. A further service has been registered to start 7/4, TV7 - Southend Central B/S - Woodgrange Drive (junc The Buttery) via STL route 7. Notified as half hourly. 0730 - 1900 M-S, there have already been reports of (illegal) operation before the commencing date.

LATE NEWS

The 30 Leyland Lynx's on order will have Leyland bodywork, Cummins engines and ZF automatic transmission, the order is stated to be worth £2m. Leyland Leopard 1310 is reported as having blue not green Highwayman lettering and finally the special bus service in conjunction with the Tilbury Armada celebrations will be operated by Nelsons.

MY APOLOGIES

Owing to pressure of work and wedding plans, it has not been possible to provide the notes on EN/Grey Green commuter services or an Eastern National fleet allocation this month. These notes will be published in next months magazine.

Contributions to this months magazine were received from D Arnold, M Brown, M Bullock, J Collins, R Delahoy, P Harvey, M McCabe, A Osborne, P Prior, C Sigston, D Stebbing, G Toon, M Weyell.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY MAGAZINE TO RICHARD DELAHOY (SOUTHEND NOTES) OR DEREK STEBBING (OTHER NOTES) BY 6TH MAY.