

EDITORIAL

Rochford Meeting - Tuesday, November 4th.

The next meeting at the Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford will be held on Tuesday, November 4th commencing at 1930 hrs. (for 2000 hrs.). This meeting will feature the Group's annual Bus Mastermind Quiz, which will be contested this year by two members' teams captained by John Weeks and Mike McCabe. All members and friends are welcome to attend what should prove to be an interesting and entertaining meeting.

Colchester Meeting - Thursday, November 13th.

Members are reminded that the next Colchester meeting will be held at 40, Marlowe Way, Lexden, Colchester on Thursday, November 13th commencing at 1945 hrs. Full details were published in last month's news sheet.

1986 Photographic Competition

This competition was held at the October meeting at Rochford, and attracted a total of 73 entries. The standard of entries was extremely high, and the winners were :-

- a) Prints - 1st : Ian Harden (Pilgrim Coaches Leyland Tiger/Plaxton)  
Runner up : Duncan Grant (Cheltenham & Gloucester Mercedes-Benz mini-bus)
- b) Slides - 1st : Andy Meadows (Southend Transport Leyland Fleetline)  
Runner up : Ray Palmer (E.N. Mercedes-Benz mini-bus)
- c) Compositions - 1st : Graham Huggins (Bristol FLF/Fleetline)  
Runner up : Gareth Morgan (three articulated buses in Sheffield)

Annual General Meeting - Saturday, January 17th, 1987.

Members are advised that the Group's 22nd Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17th, 1987, which is one week later than previously announced.

L.O.T.S. Annual Transport Spectacular - Saturday, November 1st.

The Group's sales stand will be present at this year's L.O.T.S. Annual Transport Spectacular, which is being held on Saturday, November 1st at the Old Hall, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London, S.W.1 from 1100 hrs. to 1600 hrs. Our full range of photographs, publications and other sales items will be available.

Report on Summer Excursion - Saturday, September 20th.

This year's Summer excursion was rather different, for it was to feature a ride in a traditional Daimler half-cab single decker in the shape of Hastings & District CHL 772. Unfortunately, shortly before the tour the vehicle suffered a cracked cylinder head gasket rendering it unavailable.

However, since Saturday, September 20th proved to be an extremely warm day, the replacement vehicle, one of Hastings & District's open top AEC Regal's HKL 826, in traditional M&D livery, was a most acceptable substitute. Our first visit was to Silverhill garage, where an interesting selection of vehicles was presented for photographs, including MFN946F (an AEC Regent V previously used at Basildon Bus Station as an enquiry office), some representatives of the coach fleet, as well as the other AEC Regal. However, all attempts to push the defective Daimler into the sunshine were thwarted by the pre-selector gearbox. The party was then given a preview of a new video on the "Round the Town Tours" featuring the two AEC Regal's.

Then it was off to Rye, where the opportunity was taken to photograph a Bristol VRT in "1066 Country" colours and a Bristol RE saloon acquired from Ribble. Then followed an exhilarating ride back to Hastings, which included a photographic stop at Winchelsea, and the end of a short, but enjoyable, day.

E.N.E.G. News Sheets For Sale

Membership Secretary, Bob Palmer, has a small number of old Group news sheets (Nos. 19-36) available for sale. They cover the period from July 1965 to December 1966 and

are in fair condition. They are available for sale at a price of £1.50, with proceeds going to Group funds. The first application received will receive the news sheets. Send £1.50 plus a £0.18 Stamped Addressed Envelope (large envelope please) to 'News Sheet Offer', 67, Perkins Road, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. IG2 7NQ. Unsuccessful applicants will receive their envelope, stamp and money back with next month's news sheet.

### Essex County Council Publications

Essex County Council has published the first four timetable booklets to coincide with the major service revisions to be introduced from October 26th. These booklets are as follows :-

- Braintree/Halstead/Witham area (Area 2) - dated October 26th, 1986.
- Harlow area (Area 5) - dated October 26th, 1986.
- Brentwood area (Area 8) - dated October 26th, 1986.
- Grays/Tilbury area (Area 10) - dated October 26th, 1986.

Copies of these timetable booklets are available from the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 19, Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, Essex. SS3 9NX.) at the following prices - 1 booklet-£0.57, 2 booklets-£1.00, 3 booklets-£1.51 or 4 booklets-£2.00.

### EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

#### New Vehicles

Delivery has now commenced of the twenty Mercedes-Benz L608D mini-buses which are currently on order, and at the time of writing the following four vehicles had been received :-

|      |         |                     |                  |                    |               |
|------|---------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 0225 | D225PPU | Mercedes-Benz L608D | 310327-20-????   | Reeve Burgess B20F | ?????         |
| 0235 | D235PPU | Mercedes-Benz L608D | 310327-20-774779 | Dormobile B20F     | S6670-M616-86 |
| 0236 | D236PPU | Mercedes-Benz L608D | 310327-20-763911 | Dormobile B20F     | S6671-M616-86 |
| 0241 | D241PPU | Mercedes-Benz L608D | 310327-20-765905 | Dormobile B20F     | S6676-M616-86 |

Delivery dates : 0225-October 11th; 0235/6/41-October 16th.

These vehicles are painted in the latest green and yellow fleet livery, and it is understood that some or all of this batch (0225-44) will carry Eastern National CityBus fleetnames and that eight vehicles are destined for operation on LRT service 193 ('Hornchurch Hoppla').

#### Withdrawn Vehicles

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 10.86          | 1059 (TJN982W) |
| 1759 (MAR781P) | 1794 (PEV706R) |
| 1783 (PEV695R) | 1815 (VNO738S) |

Bedford YMQS 1059 (TJN982W) has been withdrawn following serious accident damage sustained at Baker Street, Enfield on July 24th. This vehicle is currently at Brentwood (BD) depot being cannibalised for spares.

Leyland National's 1759/83/94 and 1815 have passed to Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd. in exchange for four Leyland National 10351A/1R vehicles (see below). At the time of writing, 1759/83/94 and 1815 were being repainted into Wilts & Dorset livery prior to passing to that operator before October 26th.

#### Acquired Vehicles

The Company has exchanged 1759/83/94 and 1815 for four Leyland National 10351A/1R vehicles from Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd. Preliminary details of the four vehicles are as follows :-

|      |         |                            |       |      |                             |      |
|------|---------|----------------------------|-------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| 1500 | PJT255R | Leyland National 10351A/1R | ----- | D41F | New -/76 ex. Wilts & Dorset | 3678 |
| 1501 | PJT256R | Leyland National 10351A/1R | ----- | D41F | New -/76 ex. Wilts & Dorset | 3679 |
| 1502 | PJT257R | Leyland National 10351A/1R | ----- | D41F | New -/76 ex. Wilts & Dorset | 3680 |
| 1503 | PJT258R | Leyland National 10351A/1R | ----- | D41F | New -/76 ex. Wilts & Dorset | 3681 |

These vehicles were new to Hants & Dorset Motor Services Ltd. and passed to Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd. on April 1st, 1983. At the time of writing, they had not yet been delivered to Eastern National, although they are expected to arrive before October 26th. They have been acquired for operation from Bishop's Stortford (BS) depot on a new service (341) between Hertford (Balls Park) and Marshalswick (Sherwood



The ex East Midland Ford Transits entered service on the revamped service 193 'Hornchurch Hoppa' on 2nd August. 0602 is seen in the previously unserved Newmarket Way in South Hornchurch during the first week of operation.

(AM)

Coach-seated Olympian 4018 is on loan to Southdown for evaluation and is seen working the 700 (Brighton - Portsmouth).

(Southdown E C)



In exchange for the above, Eastern National have as Southdown Bristol VRT (266 - JWV 266W): Allocated to Brentwood, it is seen in Hayleigh on a 251 journey.

(AM)

2/1/4



Eastern National won the Premier Operator award at this years Showbus Rally. Bristol VKT 3077 is seen in front of Woburn Abbey having just received the Trophy from the Marchioness of Tavistock.

(AM)

Colchester Olympian 44 (D44 RWC) made its debut at the Brighton 85th Anniversary Rally held on Madiera Drive on 21st September.

(Bus Times)



Former Southend East Lancs bodied Leyland P3 347 (MHJ 347F) is now numbered 7509 in the Plymouth City Bus fleet. It is used solely for driver training and is finished in Plymouths Red and Cream livery.

(AM Collection)

Avenue), to be operated under contract to Hertfordshire County Council from October 27th (see under Service Developments).

### Vehicles On Order

As noted above, delivery has now commenced of the twenty Mercedes-Benz L608D mini-buses that are currently on order (0225-44). It is understood that the first ten of these vehicles (0225-34) will be fitted with Reeve Burgess bodywork, whilst the other ten vehicles (0235-44) will carry Dormobile bodywork.

There have been unconfirmed reports during recent weeks that the Company has ordered seven Ford Transit V66 mini-buses (new shape Ford Transit) to be fitted with Dormobile bodywork. In connection with these reports, members will be interested to know that a photograph of one of these vehicles is currently included on the Dormobile stand at the British International Motor Show, and it is reported that the vehicles are to carry fleet numbers 0750-6 with registration numbers D750-6RWC. Further details regarding these vehicles will be published as soon as they become available.

### Vehicles On Hire

It is understood that Southdown Bristol VRTSL6L 266 (JWV266W) was returned to Southdown during early-October, with Leyland Olympian 4018 (C418HJN) returning to the Company at the same time. Whilst on loan to Eastern National, Southdown 266 also operated on new LRT service 307 (Brinsdown Station-Barnet). It is understood that Leyland Olympian 4018 operated from Southdown's Hilsea depot principally on services 700, 702 and X16.

All United Counties vehicles currently on hire to the Company are due to be returned to United Counties on or about October 25th. The full list of vehicles concerned is as follows :- UCOG 453/60/4/5/75/6/82/3, 507/44/59 and 856/63/78. Leyland National 517 (OVV517R) was returned to United Counties during mid-October for a PSV test, and it was replaced at Chelmsford (CF) depot by Leyland National 460 (ORP460M), which was first noted in service on October 14th. Full details of this vehicle are as follows :-

UCOG 460 ORP460M Leyland National 1151/1R/0401 01028 B49F New 12/73

There are no further allocation changes to report regarding the United Counties vehicles currently on hire. However, it should be noted that Leyland National 559 (ERP559T) has not been evident at Chelmsford (CF) depot for several weeks, although it is still officially allocated to that depot.

The Iveco 79.14/Caetano Viana L B24F mini-bus C99 NNV has now been returned to Salvador Caetano (UK) Ltd., and it is understood that it was returned during early-October.

As a replacement for the Iveco mini-bus at Enfield (ED) depot, the Company has hired a Ford Transit mini-bus from Cambus Ltd. At the time of writing, it is not possible to confirm the precise identity of this vehicle, although it has been reported that the vehicle concerned is Cambus 2001 (C900LEW), which is a Ford Transit 190D/Dormobile B16F vehicle. It is understood that the vehicle has been on hire throughout October, and members' reports on this vehicle would be welcomed.

The three Maidstone & District Mercedes-Benz L608D/Rootes B20F mini-buses (1013/20/1) were all returned to Maidstone & District on October 15th, and it is understood that the hire of these vehicles has now been completed. Latterly, these three vehicles had all been in operation on LRT service 193 ('Hornchurch Hoppa').

The Company has hired a further five Ford Transit mini-buses from Alder Valley North Ltd. These vehicles have been on hire since late-September, and include Alder Valley 322 (C322RPE) which had been on hire during June/July, and details of this vehicle were published in NS267. Details of the other four vehicles recently received on hire are as follows :-

|                  |         |              |             |                     |      |        |
|------------------|---------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|------|--------|
| Alder Valley 325 | D825UTF | Ford Transit | BDVYFA00656 | Carlyle Conversions | B16F | CBS185 |
| Alder Valley 326 | D826UTF | Ford Transit | BDVYFA00657 | Carlyle Conversions | B16F | CBS191 |
| Alder Valley 327 | D827UTF | Ford Transit | BDVYFA00659 | Carlyle Conversions | B16F | CBS186 |
| Alder Valley 328 | D828UTF | Ford Transit | BDVYFA00660 | Carlyle Conversions | B16F | CBS195 |

These vehicles were all new to Alder Valley North Ltd. in 3/86, initially with fleet numbers 325/6/8/9 and registration numbers C325/6/8/9RPE respectively. However, the vehicles have since been re-registered, and 328/9 have been re-numbered 327/8 respectively. The above information is believed to be correct, although there have

been conflicting reports regarding the Alder Valley fleet number of D827UTF. The vehicles are in a blue and yellow livery, as also carried by 322/3, and do not carry any external markings. Their Carlyle bodywork is based on a Dormobile body shell, and the Dormobile body numbers are S4500/1/3/4-924-85 respectively. Certain of these vehicles have been noted at Brentwood (ED) depot, whilst D825/7UTF were both noted at Brimsdown Station on October 11th on driver transfer work. All six Alder Valley North vehicles are allocated by the Company as Pool (PL (P)) vehicles, and 322/3 have been used primarily for driver training work at a variety of locations.

### Allocations & Transfers

10.86 1055 ED-ED, 1133 SD-CF, 3052 DT (P)-PL (P).

Extensive vehicle re-allocations are planned to take effect from October 26th. It is not possible to publish details of these changes until next month.

### Service Vehicles

In response to a member's query, it can be confirmed that the Ford D0910 lorry 0105 (CDV413T) is owned by the Company (ENOC) and not Eastern National Engineering Ltd. It is normally based at Chelmsford (CF) depot.

Bristol VRILL6G 9021 (LFS300F) was noted in store at Chelmsford (CF) depot during mid-October.

### Vehicle Repaints

The Company has been unable to provide details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks. The following list is compiled from personal observations, and continues from the information published in NS270. However, this information may be subject to later amendment.

September w/e 20.9.86 - 3065 at LN (New livery), 3080 at MN (New livery).  
w/e 27.9.86 - 3062 at CW (New livery), 3072 at CW (New livery) (correction to NS270).  
October w/e 4.10.86 - 1733 at HH (New livery).  
w/e 11.10.86 - 3054 at CW (New livery), 3067 at CW (New livery).

Additionally, Leyland National's 1817 and 1875 have both been repainted in the new fleet livery during recent weeks. 1817 was noted repainted (probably at Hadleigh (HH)) by September 23rd, and 1875 was noted repainted (probably at Clacton (CN)) by October 15th. It is not possible to confirm the repaint date for Leyland National 1918, and this is being recorded as w/e 26.7.86 at Basildon (BN) subject to any further correction/confirmation.

Leyland National 1866 (YEV324S) is currently in the paintshops at Central Works being repainted in an overall advertisement livery for BBC Essex (the new BBC local radio station). This will feature the orange and yellow BBC Essex logo, and the vehicle is expected to be completed during w/e 25.10.86.

Leyland National 1859 is still in use with all of its overall advertisement signwriting removed (see also NS270). However, this vehicle is expected to receive a revised overall advertisement livery in the near future.

### General

As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, it should be noted that the Wayfarer ticket equipment conversion took place at Chelmsford (CF) depot on Sunday, September 14th. The last Setright machine (E1469) was used on the 2230 hrs. service 152 journey from Grays on Saturday, September 13th.

Demolition work took place at the Company's former depot at Wood Green (WG) during September. By September 25th, demolition had almost been completed with only one side wall and the two fuel tanks remaining on the site.

Leyland National's 1797 (TJN496R) and 1810 (TJN509R), which were both re-allocated to Walthamstow (WW) depot during July, do not carry the 'CityBus' vinyls in contrast to other Walthamstow (WW) depot vehicles.

Leyland National 1831 (VNO733S) has recently sustained damage in an accident at Latchingdon. The vehicle was subsequently taken to Central Works for repair work.

During recent weeks on Mondays to Fridays, Southend (SD) depot has regularly allocated a double-deck Leyland Olympian coach (45XX series) on service 2.

Service Developments

The main news this month is that Eastern National commenced operation of LRT service 307 between Drimdsdown Station and Barnet (Church) from September 27th. The service operates Daily, and at present the Weekday frequency is every 20 minutes. From October 25th, the Weekday frequency will be increased to every 15 minutes, and a further three vehicles (3062/72/81) are due to be allocated to Ponders End (PD) from that date. Until Ponders End (PD) depot becomes operational (see NS271), the vehicles concerned do not carry PD depot allocation plates and it is understood that they are operating from Enfield (ED) depot as an interim measure.

Obviously, extensive service revisions are due for introduction from October 26th. The principal changes have been recorded in the Group's news sheet earlier this year, and it is not proposed to repeat this information. However, the new series of Essex County Council timetables which are now becoming available (see under Editorial) contain a considerable amount of supplementary information. Members interested in obtaining comprehensive information are strongly advised to purchase these timetables, and stocks are available from the Group's Administrative Officer - all prices quoted are inclusive of postage.

The Company continues to face competition from Chartercoach (Harwich) Ltd. on services between Harwich and Colchester/Parkeston Quay. However, local reports have indicated that the Company has been successful in retaining passengers; indeed, the number of passengers on certain service 103/4 journeys has increased. For example, the 0705 hrs. service 103 journey from Harwich is currently being duplicated on Schooldays by a Colchester (CR) depot vehicle due to capacity loadings. Leyland Olympian's 4007/C are now displaying 'Regular and Reliable, That's Us' slogans on their side panels as part of this campaign.

The Company has been awarded a contract by Hertfordshire County Council to operate service 341 between Hertford (Balls Park) and Marshalls Wick (Sherwood Avenue) on Weekdays from October 27th. This route is currently being operated by London Country Bus (North East) Ltd., and operates via Essendon, Mill Green, Hatfield and St. Albans. The four Leyland National vehicles (15CO-5) acquired from Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd. will be used on this service, and the requirement for 10.3 metre vehicles is due to turning restrictions at Essendon. This service will be operated by Bishop's Stortford (BS) depot.

The Company has applied for a number of service revisions during recent weeks, and brief details of these changes are as follows :-

CoastLine 8 - Revised route via Frinton-on-Sea, and revised timetable (see also NS270).

CoastLine 9 - Revised route via Cliff Way, Audley Way, Quendon Way, Rainham Way and Woodberry Way in Frinton-on-Sea, and revised timetable (see also NS270).

CoastLine 10 - Revised route in Holland-on-Sea, and revised timetable (see also NS270).

CoastLine 10A - NEW SERVICE to operate on Weekdays between Clacton (Bus Station) and Walton (Bus Station) via Holland-on-Sea, Great Holland and Kirby Cross (see also NS270).

CoastLine 10B - NEW SERVICE to operate Daily between Clacton (Bus Station) and Walton (Bus Station) via Great Holland, Kirby Cross, Bomerton Gardens, Laburnum Crescent and Rochford Way (see also NS270).

CoastLine 15 - Service withdrawn.

CoastLine 16 - Service withdrawn.

74C - NEW SERVICE to operate between Colchester (General Hospital) and Clacton (Bus Station) via Great Clacton, with one journey at 0738 hrs. on Weekdays.

309 - All journeys to be advanced by 5 minutes, and layover time to be taken at Thorley Park (Sainsbury's) on return journeys. (This revision is a variation to the Local Service registration)

Other operators have also registered certain services following the tenders recently awarded by Essex County Council. W.H. Webb (t/a Webb's Coaches), Highwood has registered services 41A (Melbourne Farm Estate-Galleywood) on Sundays, 44C (Melbourne Farm Estate-Moulsham Lodge Estate) on Sundays, 46 (Ongar-Chelmsford via Fyfield, Willingale and Roxwell) on Weekdays, 46A (Ongar-Writtle) on Weekdays, 52 (Pleshey-Chelmsford via

Broomfield) on Weekdays, 52A (Pleshey-Chelmsford via North Springfield) on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 52B (Pleshey-Chelmsford via Ford End, North Springfield and Chelmer Valley Road) on Weekdays. Linkfast Ltd. (t/a Castle Point Bus Company) has registered journeys on services 5A (Benfleet (Rail Station)-Canvey (Eastern Esplanade)) on Sundays and 404 (Rochford (Rail Station)-Canvey (Leigh Beck)) on Wednesdays and Sundays, together with three additional schools services (services 49 (routes A and B) and 79) in the South Benfleet area. Chartercoach (Harwich) Ltd. (t/a Coastal Red) has registered services 10/10A (Harwich-Colchester) and 30 (Harwich-Parkeston Quay) to operate on Weekdays.

### Publicity News

New publicity material published during recent weeks has been as follows :-

Timetable leaflets - new timetable leaflets for services 220/221/222 (dated October 26th), 350/351/352 (dated October 26th) and LRT service 307 (dated September 27th).

Essex County Council leaflets - Essex County Council are currently distributing leaflets, titled 'The Complete Bus Guide', throughout Essex. The leaflets are all dated October 26th, and those distributed to date cover the Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Epping, Harlow, Maldon and Tendring areas.

A considerable amount of other publicity material is due to be published from October 26th. The News Sheet Editor would welcome any spare copies of timetable leaflets, particularly from independent operators, that can be obtained in order that full coverage can be included in next month's news sheet. Members' assistance in this respect will be greatly appreciated.

Members will also be interested to know that the Company will be opening a 'Bus Shop' in the former travel office at Hadleigh (HH) depot on October 22nd. It will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and will stock a large number of items for bus enthusiasts, including tickets, timetables and books.

### Temporary Loans

Vehicles recently reported to have been on temporary loan to other depots have included :- 1751 CN to DT (on October 13th), 1830 LN to LD (on September 19th), 1867 CF to DW (on August 20th), 1890 DW to CF (between August 20th and August 26th), 1901 DT to CR (on September 24th/25th, being noted on service 83 on 24.9) and 3055 SE to BE (on September 24th).

### Unusual Workings

Details of unusual workings reported by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

22.8—1802 WW noted parked at Chelmsford (Bus Station).

8.9—3120 LN noted at Chelmsford on service 154.

17.9—1123 CR noted on service 87A; 1722 LD noted on service 251; 3076 HH noted on service 1.

18.9—1112 CF noted on an evening service 44B duty.

19.9—1114 MN observed on service 119; 1130 BE noted on Highwayman service 834; 1766 SD noted on service 11; 1779 WW observed on LRT service 275 with 1810 WW on LRT service 20.

21.9—1060 SD observed on service 11A.

22.9—1719 LD noted on service 251; 1921 MN observed on service 494.

25.9—4006 CF received offside damage in an accident, and the vehicle was taken to Maldon (MN) for repairs - it was still there on 16.10 possibly awaiting a repaint.

26.9—3126 WW noted on a late evening service 3 journey - it remained on loan to Southend (SD) depot until 5.10, when it was noted on service 25.

27.9—Southend Transport 333 (AYF864T) noted at Colchester (Bus Station) on Highwayman service 804; 3501 CN noted parked at Chelmsford (Bus Station); 3126 WW on service 11A.

5.10—1867 CF; 3035 CF; 3040 MN; 3041 SE; 3051 MN; 3059 SE; 3069 CF; 3070 SW; 3077 CF; 3079 MN; 3082 CF; 3091 CF; 3094 LD; 3106/12 (both CF); 4007/8 (both DT); 4014/5 (both SE); 4016/7 (both BE) and 4018 LD operated a rail replacement service between Shenfield and Witham.

12.10—3033 CF; 3051 MN; 3054 CF; 3067 DE; 3069 CF; 3079 MN; 3091 CF; 3092 BD; 3093 CF; 3106/11/2 (all CF); 4013/4 (both SE) and 4016 BE operated a rail replacement service between Shenfield and Witham. UCOC 873 (CF) was noted on a similar service between Southend and Pitsea.

### Late News

Late news is that Mercedes-Benz mini-bus 0226 (D226PPU) was delivered on October 17th.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORTNew Vehicles

31. D31 RWC Leyland Lynx LX112 6LXCT — Leyland B49F + 22 New 10/86  
 32. D32 RWC Leyland Lynx LX112 6LXCT — Leyland B49F + 22 New 10/86

Preliminary details are now available regarding the two Leyland Lynx single-deck vehicles, and the first of these vehicles (32) was delivered to Colchester on October 9th. It is reported that it had several mechanical faults, possibly requiring attention by Leyland Bus Ltd., and it was not evident at the Magdalen Street depot on October 14th. Similar vehicle 31 (D31 RWC) is currently being exhibited at the British International Motor Show at Birmingham on the Leyland stand. The chassis specification details as listed above are still subject to confirmation.

Leyland Olympian 43 (D43 RWC) was delivered to Colchester on September 17th, but was not used until September 25th and did not enter regular service until October 2nd. Similar vehicle 44 (D44 RWC) was at the Brighton Buses 85th Anniversary Rally at Brighton on September 21st, and it entered service on the following day. It was noted on services 1/1A on September 24th. Official Leyland records indicate that the chassis designation of these two vehicles is ONLXCT/1R (correction to NS270). Can a member please check the chassis plates on the vehicles if possible?

Withdrawn Vehicles

Leyland Atlantean's 49 (YWC649F) and 50 (AVX 50G) passed to Rollinson (breaker), Carlton, 5/86, after their sale to Lister (dealer), Bolton (see also NS266).

General

Leyland Atlantean 71 (TPU 71R) was repainted by Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft during July (see also NS269/70).

The Monday to Friday vehicle allocation is now 41 buses in both the morning and evening peak periods. This excludes the Tesco contract services, and there are now 44 buses in use on certain days, although this may change after October 26th.

The Tesco contract services continue to operate as listed in last month's news sheet. The normal pattern is for Leyland Atlantean's 87 (MEV 87V) and 90 (RVW 90W) to operate service T1 with Leyland Leopard coaches 101/2 (DHK101/2T) being used on the country services T2, T3 and T4. However, the passenger loadings on service T2 (Clacton) require a Leyland Atlantean, and 87 and 90 are not always available. This has resulted in the following unusual workings :- T1 - 76 (3.10), 79 (9.10), 101 (7.10/14.10) and new Leyland Olympian 44 (10.10); T2 - 42 (14.10) and 90 (7.10).

Leyland Atlantean's 51 (MVK538R), 52 (MVK546R) and 89 (RVW 89W) are still currently out of use, whilst other vehicles out of service at the present time are Bristol REEL6L's 20 (OWC720M) and 26 (SWC 26K) and Leyland Atlantean's 84/6/7 (MEV 84V etc.)

Leyland Atlantean 55 (JHK495N) has been fitted with a revised front panel similar to that carried by standard ECW-bodied Atlantean's (61-90). It has also received a partial repaint at the front.

Amongst a number of unusual workings reported by members during recent weeks, Bristol REEL6L's 16 and 19 were noted on service 5A on October 3rd and October 1st respectively.

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SOUTHEND TRANSPORTAcquired Vehicles

Former Derby City Transport Dairler Fleetline 269 (OCH269L) was broken up at the Tickfield Avenue works during September/October.

Van Hool Astronoga 258 (NDS841Y) is currently at Van Hool's factory for final preparation work before entering service (see also NS269).

Vehicle On Hire

A Leyland Olympian dual-purpose vehicle is currently on hire from City of Cardiff Transport, and full details of this vehicle are as follows :-

Cardiff 559. D559AEX. Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R 1557 East Lancs DPH43/27F + 13 A2928

This vehicle was new in 1/85, and was received on hire during the week commencing September 22nd. It has been hired initially for four weeks, and it entered service on September 26th. It is being used on the X-group services, and its usual workings are either 0658 Pitsea-Green Park (X31)/0925 Green Park-Canvey (X31)/1310 Canvey-Green Park (X31)/1550 Green Park-Canvey (X31) or 0719 Socketts Heath-Green Park (X1)/1720 Green Park-Canvey (X31).

#### Re-built Vehicles

Leyland Leopard coach 205 (BTE205V) is still at the Tickfield Avenue works being fitted with a DAF DKDL engine (see also NS268).

Leyland Leopard coach 212 (LAK304W) is due to be fitted with a DAF DKL engine in the near future.

#### General

Work is currently in progress at the London Road depot to enclose the tyre store and to fit new doors and heating to the maintenance area.

As part of the termination of the Southend Co-ordination agreement, all previously joint bus stops in the area have been allocated to one of the two operators (Eastern National and Southend Transport). Ownership is now indicated by either a blue or yellow sticker on the flag or pole. Where a bus stop will only be served by one operator after deregulation, the other name is being obliterated.

Southend Transport has recently painted a batch of five Freight Rover Sherpa/Carlyle Works mini-buses for Cynon Valley District Council.

#### Service Developments

New timetable leaflets were published for services X1/X10/X11 on September 21st and for services X30/X31 on September 22nd. The main features are the introduction of X10 journeys from London during the evening peak period, the introduction of an X1 journey from Southend to Basildon at 0630 hrs. on Mondays to Fridays and major revisions to the X30/X31 timetable including the diversion of service X31 via Pitsea Broadway (double run) and Homesteads.

The Winter timetable on service 795 (Southend-Brighton) commenced on September 27th. Southend Transport operate on Saturdays and Sundays, whilst Eastern National operate on Fridays and Mondays; there is one return journey at 0815 hrs. from Southend and at 1715 hrs. from Brighton.

#### EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS

##### Initial Disposals

- 1059 (TJN982W) - Withdrawn from service and being cannibalised for spares at Brentwood depot, 10/86.
- 1759 (MAR781P) - Sold to Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86.
- 1783 (PEV695R) - Sold to Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86.
- 1794 (PEV706R) - Sold to Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86.
- 1815 (VNO738S) - Sold to Wilts & Dorset Bus Co. Ltd., Poole, 10/86.

##### Subsequent Disposals

- 1142 (TFW 573) - Foster, Retford (for preservation); later to unknown owner, Boston (for preservation), by 6/75.
- 1414 (GJD197N) - Hutchinson, Leigh, 12/84, ex. dealer, Middlewich. Re-registered 841 FAT in 8/85. (NS256 records this vehicle as still with dealer, Middlewich, 5/85. Date of acquisition by Hutchinson, Leigh requires confirmation).

#### News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), V.J. Cooper (M128), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), J.S. Wilby (M298), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), I. Ransom (M421), J. Rugg (M443), A.F. Rook (M457), G.D. Sigston (M523), J.E. Duly (M529), R.A. Dennis (M535), I. Harden (M572), S.J. Barnes (M576), A. Way (M628) and the P.S.V. Circle. The deadline for the November news sheet is Wednesday, November 12th.