

EDITORIALSubscription Renewals - July 1980

This will be the last news sheet to be received by those members whose subscription year runs from July to June. A new system for renewing subscriptions has been instituted. Those members involved will have received a renewal form printed on green paper. If you have not received a green form then your subscription is not due for renewal (or you paid at the Southend Historic Transport Rally). Members renewing their subscriptions this July should send the appropriate remittance of either £2-00p (2nd class postage) or £2-35p (1st class postage) together with their completed renewal form to the Membership Secretary (Renewals) at 67, PERKINS ROAD, BARKINGSIDE, ILFORD, ESSEX. IG2 7NQ. (Only cheques or crossed Postal Orders please). Members may, if they wish, renew their subscriptions at the Chelmsford Central Works Open Day on July 5th at the Group Stand (see also below). No further reminders will be issued nor will any further news sheets be sent until subscriptions are renewed. The Committee thanks members for their co-operation, in advance, and hopes that the new system meets with your approval.

Eastern National Central Works Open Day, Saturday July 5th, 1030-1600 hrs.

As part of the celebrations to commemorate their Golden Jubilee, Eastern National are holding a public open day at Central Works, Chelmsford on Saturday, July 5th. Amongst the many vehicles on display will be the Golden Jubilee Bristol VRTSL6G (3048 JN0189N) repainted in 1930 style livery, and other attractions include the Yorkshire Woollen District brass band and numerous side shows. All members are invited to attend this event which marks an extremely important part of the Company's history. The gates will open at 1030 hrs. with events running throughout the day until 1600 hrs. The Group will have a large sales stand at the Works and our full range of publications, photographs and other items will be on sale - we look forward to seeing you there. For those members who are not familiar with the location of Central Works, it is situated in New Writtle Street, which is the first turning on the right off London Road, when approaching from the town centre.

New Fleet List Booklets

Copies have been received of two new fleet list books for review and both are recommended to members. They are not available from the E.N.E.G. but can be obtained from the addresses below (and remember to include postage) :-

-the Southdown Enthusiasts Club has published another edition of their excellent fleet list booklet of Southdown vehicles. Full details include chassis and body numbers plus allocations together with a good selection of photographs. The price is £0-55p (+£0-10p postage) and copies are obtainable from the Southdown Enthusiasts Club, 18, Oldfield Crescent, Southwick, Brighton, BN4 4FZ.

-the Northern Group Enthusiasts Club has produced for the first time an illustrated fleet book for the Northern General company. Information given includes the usual vehicle details plus chassis numbers, allocations, liveries carried by individual vehicles and, most unusual of all, the date of last recertification of all vehicles. Fleet analyses complete the booklet. The price is £0-75p (+£0-10p postage) and copies are obtainable from the Northern Group Enthusiasts Club, 20, Thornton Crescent, Blaydon-on-Tyne, NE21 4BA.

Basildon Open Air Meeting, Saturday, July 12th

There will be an open air meeting in Basildon Bus Station, starting at 0900 hrs. on Saturday, July 12th. The meeting will be a good opportunity to view the large number of express coach services operating via Basildon, which include vehicles from Eastern National, East Kent, Maidstone & District and London Country. Various Committee members will be in attendance.

London Bus Rally, Brockwell Park, Lambeth, Sunday, July 20th

The Group will be attending the London Bus Rally at Brockwell Park, Lambeth on Sunday, July 20th (all day) and there will be a small sales stand with a limited range of Group publications and photographs on sale.

Group Excursion to Clacton, Sunday, August 10th.

The Group is hoping to arrange an excursion to Clacton on Sunday, August 10th to enable members to observe, photograph and travel on the open-top Bristol KSW5Gs operating there this summer. We hope to use an open-top vehicle for the journey to and from Clacton - in the meantime keep this date free.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.New Vehicles

1931	MHJ727V	Leyland National 2	NL116L11/1R	06945	Leyland National B49F
1935	MHJ731V	Leyland National 2	NL116L11/1R	06949	Leyland National B49F
1936	MHJ732V	Leyland National 2	NL116L11/1R	06950	Leyland National B49F

Delivery dates : 1931 - 18.6.80, 1935 - 6.6.80, 1936 - 30.5.80.

These three vehicles complete the delivery of the first batch of Leyland National 2s (1925-36) from the 1980 order. The remaining three vehicles of the 1980 order (1937-9), together with the first of the Bristol VRTSL6Gs from the 1980 order (3077-94), are not expected for several months and probably not until the Autumn.

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Allocations & Transfers

6.80 1751 BD-CN, 1769 CR-CN, 1779 BE-CN, 1927 D/L-MN, 1928 D/L-CR, 1929 D/L-BE, 1930 D/L-BE, 1931 D/L, 1935 D/L, 1936 D/L, 2382 D/L (D)-LWA (Licensed waiting allocation), 2383 D/L-CN, 2384 D/L-CN, 2801 MN-D/L (D), 2805 CN-D/L (D), 2817 BE-D/L (D), 2821 MN-D/L (D), 2824 BE-D/L (D), 2834 BS-CF, 2837 BE-D/L (D), 2849 MN-LWA (Licensed waiting allocation), 2852 HD-BE, 2898 CN-SD (for Driver Training purposes), 2936 BE-D/L (D), 2939 CF-D/L (D), 3021 WG-BD, 3023 SD-BS, 3038 SD-MN, 3048 WG-BE, 3056 BN-BE, 3066 BN-HD, 3072 D/L-SD, 3073 D/L-SD, 3074 D/L-BN, 3075 D/L-WG, 3076 D/L-BN.

The June re-allocations and transfers have seen a number of important changes. However, a number of vehicles continued to operate at their former depots during June, and it is anticipated that the changes will not become fully effective until June 30th. For example, 3048 is currently at Central Works being repainted in 1930 style livery in preparation for the Central Works Open Day, and 2936 was still in service at BE during mid-June. With these transfers Bishop's Stortford (BS), Halstead (HD) and Maldon (MN) depots have all lost their remaining Bristol FLF6Gs, with Braintree (BE) only retaining three of these vehicles. The oldest FLF6G, after 2936 is delicensed for disposal, will be 2802 at CN. Also of special interest is the reinstatement of open-top Bristol KSW5G 2382. This vehicle was refurbished for the Southend Historic Transport Rally, where it won 1st prize in the pre-1970 double deckers class, and is at present licensed waiting allocation (LWA). The other two KSW5Gs (2383/4) have been licensed for service at Clacton again this summer (see also under General news). The second batch of dual-purpose VRTs (3072-6) all entered service during early June at Basildon (BN), Southend (SD) and Wood Green (WG), resulting in a number of standard VRTs being re-allocated to other depots. Of these, 3021 is now at Brentwood (BD), the first allocation of a VRT there since September 1978. A further four Leyland National 2s, have entered service, with 1932-6 all due to enter service during July. Three earlier Leyland Nationals have also been re-allocated, the most significant of which being the transfer of 1751 to Clacton (CN) from Brentwood (BD), where it was that depot's first Leyland National in November 1975.

Service Vehicles

Bristol FLF6G 9004 (85 TVX) has been delicensed for disposal (D/L (D)), and the vehicle is currently stored in Prittlewell depot (PL). When noted in early June, this vehicle had been fitted with a green bonnet creating a very unusual appearance.

Allocations of D/L-(D) Vehicles - by personal observation

CF - 2832 2939, CW - 2771 2928, SE - 1340/7 1451 2778/90/6, WG - 2772, PL (Yard) - 1423 2753, PL (Depot) - 2379 2752/74-6/95/7/8 2801/18/44 2940 9004.

Service Revisions

Increased fares were introduced on all stage services including those within the Southend Co-ordination Area, but excluding those operated jointly with other companies, from Sunday, June 1st.

Stage Services

Revisions to services recently applied for have been as follows :-

- 37 - To withdraw the special facilities relating to Beeleigh Races.
- 67 - All eastbound journeys from Eastwood, Kent Elm to operate two minutes later (see also NS194).
- 502 - Journeys terminating at Burnt Mills Industrial Area to turn via Swinbourne Road, Ridley Road, Harvey Road and Swinbourne Road (see also NS193).

A leaflet outlining the summer service on Limited Stop service 400 is now available from Company offices. The service is being marketed as 'The 400' in a similar fashion to the signwriting carried on Bristol VRTs 3067-76. Additional picking up points on journeys to London (and setting down points on journeys from London) have been introduced at Gidea Park, Gallows Corner and Romford, St. Edwards Way.

A short term licence (1.5.80-31.10.80) has been granted for new stage service 300 (see also NS194).

Express Services

Applications have been made to introduce the summer timetables and faretables on express services jointly operated with Eastern Counties O.C. Ltd., Norfolk Motor Services Ltd. and Grey-Green Coaches Ltd.

Other revisions to services recently applied for have been as follows :-

- 123 (Southend-on-Sea-Victoria Coach Station - Portsmouth, Winston Churchill Ave.) : to revise time and fare tables, to revise the route in Southend retaining an optional extension to Southend Airport and to operate on Saturdays only from 24.5.80-27.9.80. A further amendment applied for concerns the deletion of picking up points at Pitsea, Colchester, Kelvedon, Witham, Chelmsford and Galleywood, and the addition of a picking up point at Hadleigh (Lloyd's Bank). This service, together with express service 127, is being operated during 1980 jointly with Southdown Motor Services Ltd. and Grey-Green Coaches Ltd.
- 137 (East Croydon, Dingwall Road Coach Station - Great Yarmouth, Beach Coach Station) : to revise route, faretable and timetable, and to operate on Saturdays only from 24.5.80-20.9.80.
- 138 (East Croydon, Dingwall Road Coach Station - Walton-on-Naze, Coach Park/Jaywick Sands, Coach Stop) : revised terminals to be East Croydon, Dingwall Road Coach Station or Catford, Rushey Green Coach Station and Walton-on-Naze, Coach Park or Clacton, Wash Lane Coach Park. Application has also been made to revise the timetable and faretable together with the picking up points for this service, and the period of operation will be Saturdays Sundays from 24.5.80 to 21.9.80 and Daily from 21.7.80 to 5.9.80.
- 189 (Bishop's Stortford, Rye Street, Sun Garage - Southend-on-Sea, Victoria Bus Station) - operated jointly with Biss Bros. : to revise route in Harlow, and revise the picking up points. Application has also been made to revise the timetable for this service, and the days of operation during 1980 will be May-5/28/30, June-8/18/25/29, July-2/8/13/15/20/21/23/24/27/29/30/31, August-3-8/10-14/17-21/24/25/28, Sept-1/3/9/16.
- 191 (Harlow, Potter Street, White Horse P.H. - Walton-on-Naze, Coach Park) : to revise timetable, and to revise route in Harlow; days of operation during 1980 to be Saturdays from 24.5.80 to 20.9.80, and also May-18/25/26/29, June-1/11/15/22/29, July-every Sunday and 1/3/9/17/22/23/24/25/28/29/30/31, August-Daily until 21st and then 24/25/26/27/31, September-2/4/7/11/14/18.

Unusual Workings

Following from the information published in NS194 recent observations of Chelmsford

(CF) vehicles operating on temporary loan from other depots have been as follows :-

May 29th : 1509 at SE, 1516 at MN, 1700 at BN, 1702 at BN, 1705 at SD, 1730 at HH, 1832 at BE, 1860 at MN, 2851 at CN, 2926 at SD and 3033 at CN. 1850 was at Great Dunmow (outstation) whilst 1718 was at Central Works and 1827 was at Prittlewell Works on this date.

June 15th : 1509 at SE, 1516 at MN, 1701 at CN, 1705 at SD, 1730 at HH, 1811 at MN, 1832 at BE, 2926 at SD, 3002 at HH and 3033 at CN. 1841 was at Great Dunmow (outstation) and 1718 was at Central Works on this date.

Clacton (CN) vehicles which worked on temporary loan from Harwich (DT) during May were as follows :- 1.5-1520, 1781 and 2842 replacing 1522, 1781 and 3000 respectively (note the use of an FLF6G at DT again); 2.5-3031 replacing 3027; 5.5-1526 replacing 1521; 7.5-1768 replacing 1920, 3003 replacing 3031 which returned to CN; 13.5-1102 CR replacing 1783 which failed at CR, 1210 replacing 1208, 3003 replacing 3000; 16.5-1523 replacing 1520 which returned to CN, and 1792 replacing 1901; 17.5-1213 DT arrived from CN for summer coach work at DT, 1768 replacing 1783; 19.5-2384 D/L to CN for pre-PSV inspection and checks prior to attending the Epsom Derby; 20.5-1858 replacing 1761; 23.5-1532 replacing 1523 CN; 24.5-1208 to CN for attention and not replaced; 30.5-1792 replacing 1920.

Other details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

25.5-1215 CR noted on private hire work at King's Lynn.

28.5-1535 BD noted on service 251.

29.5-1215 CR noted on service 53.

31.5-1207 CR noted on express service 181.

-1503 CR crew operated on service 75C.

-1538 BN observed at Oxford Street, London (route/journey unknown).

1.6-1511 BD noted with crew operation on service 251.

2.6-1516 CF working for MN on service 36.

3.6-1927 MN (Leyland National 2) observed on service 36.

-2300/1/3 SD parked overnight at CF in preparation for private hire work to the Epsom Derby on the following day.

-3021 BD noted on service 351.

4.6-2926 CF noted on service 3.

5.6-3075 WG (but operating without depot allocation plates at this time) noted on service 400.

11.6-a dual-purpose VRT (possibly 3068 BN) noted on the 1708 hrs. (Mon-Fri) service 153 journey to Basildon - the first observation of a dual-purpose VRT in Grays. BN and SD VRTs are working more frequently to Grays at present following the recent re-allocation of FLFs away from these depots.

13.6-3006 SD working for MN on service 31.

16.6-2852 operating without depot allocation plates on service 313 - also noted on the following day - this vehicle is due for transfer to BE.

17.6-1705 CF noted on service 24 - by late afternoon this vehicle had returned to CF and was noted on service 43.

-3006 SD working for MN on service 31.

General

From Sunday, June 1st a new weekly or monthly bus ticket was introduced in the Chelmsford area. Called 'ChelmerCard', the scheme covers the whole of the Chelmsford Borough Council area, and entitles holders to travel on all bus services within the area, extending from Great Leighs in the north to Rettendon in the south and from Norton Heath in the west to Danbury and South Woodham in the east. Weekly tickets cost £3-50p and monthly tickets cost £14-00p, with tickets on sale at Chelmsford Bus Station.

Increased prices were introduced for the Southend & District 'TravelCard' from Sunday, June 15th. Weekly tickets now cost £4-50p and monthly tickets now cost £18-00p. Unlike the similar Chelmsford and Basildon schemes, 'TravelCards' are also available for use on all British Rail trains within the Southend & District area.

Bishop's Stortford town service 300 was introduced from Monday, June 2nd (see also under Service Revisions). The service operates between Station Road and Beldams

Lane (Dimsdale Crescent) via the Herts & Essex Hospital. This service previously operated until September 1979 but was withdrawn owing to poor patronage. The re-introduction of the service has been made possible by co-operation between Hertfordshire County Council, East Hertfordshire District Council and Eastern National. Three return journeys are provided on Mondays to Fridays with four return journeys on Saturdays, and pocket timetable cards containing full details are available from the Company's office at South Street, Bishop's Stortford.

Due to major road works in the Arbour Lane area of Chelmsford services 56 and 56A have been re-routed from Monday, June 2nd. All journeys from North Springfield to Chelmsford are at present operating via Springfield Green between Lawn Lane and Springfield Road, whilst journeys from Chelmsford to North Springfield continue to operate over the normal route.

Summer season bus services in the Clacton area were introduced from Sunday, June 15th. A complementary timetable booklet has been published by Essex County Council detailing the services and copies are available from the Company's local offices in the Colchester, Clacton and Harwich area. This year the peak summer timetable will operate from June 29th until September 7th, and amongst the most important changes are the re-introduction of open-top service 121, with a revised timetable and a daily requirement for two of the KSW5Gs, and the re-introduction of the special summer Sunday service on services 87/87A to Dedham and Manningtree in the 'Constable Country' with the addition of two return journeys. The additional summer Sunday journeys on service 105 to Colchester Zoo are also re-introduced again this year, which with the service 91 journeys, provides an hourly frequency to and from the Zoo.

A range of pocket timetable cards for East Anglian Express services have been published this year, with specific cards serving individual towns such as Braintree and Colchester. These cards contain full information on coach times, fares and connections and may also be obtained from Company offices.

Details of the Company's coach excursions during June-September have recently been announced and full details are contained in a series of attractively produced leaflets published for individual towns. A special leaflet is also available for excursions from Butlins Holiday Camp at Clacton.

Bristol LH6L 1100 (UVX 4S), allocated to Colchester (CR), was an unusual observation in Southend on May 14th, having worked a service 19 journey. It is believed that this was the first occasion that one of the LH6Ls had worked a stage service to Southend.

On June 6th Ford R1014 1004 (MAR779P) BS and Bristol VRTSL6G 3027 (NPU974M) DT were noted at Prittlewell Works (Yard), both of which were unusual visitors to Prittlewell. 3027 is receiving a repaint, and it is also understood that the other Harwich (DT) VRT, 3000 (CPU979G), is also due for early repainting. Amongst recent repaints at Prittlewell, Leyland National 1797 (TJN496R) BD was observed newly painted in Southend on June 14th.

An additional Leyland National with a SavaCentre 'polybus' advertisement is 1785 (PEV697R) BD (see also NS191). This vehicle differs from the other SavaCentre vehicles in that it has recently been repainted without the white waist band (see NS193), and is thus easily recognisable.

Southend Historic Transport Rally, Sunday, June 1st

The Southend Historic Transport Rally at Southchurch Park on Sunday, June 1st proved to be a very successful day with the weather remaining fine throughout. The official Company entrants were Leyland National 2 1932 (MHJ728V), open-top Bristol KSW5G 2382 (WNO 483), which has been recertified and reinstated this summer, the chassis from Bristol FLF6G 2755 (JWC 715), which is used for apprentice training at Central Works, and the regular rally entrant, Bristol FLF6G 2849 (NTW942C), which had been prepared for the rally by staff at Hadleigh depot (HH). 2382 and 2849 won 1st and 2nd prize respectively in the pre-1970 double decker class and maintaining the Company's tradition of immaculately prepared rally vehicles and which are a credit to the mechanical staff at the depots concerned.

Amongst other Eastern National or ex-Eastern National vehicles at the rally were Bristol RELH6G 1609 (GVW979H) from Colchester depot (CR), Gry Arab IV 373 WPU, Bristol MW6G 7017 HK, Bristol K5G AJN 825, Bristol L5G ONO 49 and Bristol KSW5G

WNO 478 from the Eastern National Preservation Group, together with the rally control vehicle, Bristol K6G GBE 846, once owned by Eastern National and now also owned by the Eastern National Preservation Group. Also present were Bristol FLF6G 80 TVX (ex 2700) now owned by Cedric, Wivenhoe, FLF6G E00 579 (ex 2737) now owned by Hedingham & District, FLF6B E00 590 (ex 2748) now owned by Ford, Althorne, FLF6B STW764D (ex 2876) now owned by Osbornes, Tollesbury and ex-Tillings Travel (NBC) Ltd. 9703 (750 DCD Leyland Leopard L2T/Harrington).

Colchester Transport entered open-top Leyland Atlantean 48 (YWC643F) and Leyland Atlantean 87 (MEV 87V) now carrying an overall advertisement livery for Broseley Homes, Broseley House, The Newlands, Witham, Essex. Also present was ex-Colchester Transport Leyland PD2A/30 44 (OVX144D) now sold to Lewington's Hire Services, Abridge but retaining Colchester livery with Lewington fleetnames (see also NS194).

Southend Transport entered Leyland PSU3E/4RT 205 (BTE205V), open-top Daimler Fleetline 370 (WJN370J) and the recently rebuilt recovery tender 596 on Trade Plates (552 PU).

The Premier Travel entry was new Leyland Leopard 282 (BVA784V), whilst Hedingham & District entered Bedford YMT L94 (GVW894T), Bedford YLQ L95 (JAR495V) and recently acquired ex-London Transport Daimler Fleetline L97 (MLK415L).

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks and this continues from the information published in NS194 :-

May : w/e 30.5.80-1808 at CW.

June : w/e 6.6.80-1101 at PL, 1827 at PL, 2860 at CW.

w/e 13.6.80-1731 at CW, 1788 at PL, 1795 at CW.

w/e 20.6.80-1797 at PL.

An additional vehicle repainted during January, and not previously recorded, was 1710 (w/e 1.2.80) at PL.

It is understood that no further manual gearbox Bristol FLFs are to be repainted and accordingly 2860 was probably the last vehicle from this once numerous class to be repainted.

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SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

The precise chassis designation of the new Leyland Leopards (205/6) is PSU3E/4RT. Their chassis and body numbers are still unknown, but will be published as soon as they become available. No further details regarding the other two vehicles from this batch (207/8) have been reported, and further information will also be published as soon as it becomes available. 205's first journey in revenue earning service was a private hire working to the Essex Show on June 14th, and it entered stage service on June 16th. The details of standing capacity published last month are also to be confirmed.

Rebuilt Vehicles

Two of the open-top Daimler Fleetlines have now entered service. 370 entered service on June 8th, and 371 entered service on June 15th. They have been rebuilt to O48/31D with one seat removed on the upper deck, and they are also fitted with tachographs. Their livery is blue on the lower deck, to the top of the windows, with cream on the upper deck.

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EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS (By kind courtesy of the P.S.V. Circle, continued from NS194)

- 2310 (SHK 518) - Withdrawn by Location Facilities, Feltham, ca. 1976 (corrects NS194).
- 2700 (80 TVX) - Cedric, Wivenhoe, 11/79, ex. Sutton, Clacton.
- 2721 (802 WWV) - Sanderson, Long Sutton, 10/79, ex. Oliver, Tydd St. Mary.
- 2741 (E00 583) - Parish, Hawarden, 1/79.
- 2866 (RVW392D) - Converted to SCOTMAP bus, 12/79, ex. Alexander (Midland), MRD196 (presumably for Alexander (Midland)).

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), W. Morrison (M131), R. Delahoy (M180), A. Kelleher (M225), S.D. Barham (M313), W. White (M320) and L. Thorington (M352). Notes and information for the July news sheet should be sent to the News Sheet Editor (address below) by Wednesday, July 23rd.

Published by the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group

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