

ESSEX BUS NEWS

FEBRUARY 1993

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

346



Chartercoach Sanos HIL 5681 is one of a number of similar vehicles operated by this operator during the early 1990s. It is the only one now still with them.
(D Arnold)

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MOORES OF KELVEDON TOUR SATURDAY 3RD APRIL 1993

A booking form for this tour giving further details is included with this months magazine. Seating is limited and early booking is recommended.

GROUP COACH TOUR TO EASTBOURNE & HASTINGS 24th APRIL 1993

Arrangements have now been finalised for a Group coach tour to Eastbourne and Hastings on Saturday 24th April 1993. Our coach will be a high specification vehicle from Harris Coaches of West Thurrock.

We shall be visiting the depots of Eastbourne Buses Ltd., Hastings Buses and Metrobus at Green Street Green. Time will also be allowed to visit the Southdown operations at Cavendish Place, Eastbourne.

Eastbourne Buses have also kindly agreed to make one of their preserved vehicles available for a short tour of Eastbourne.

Pick up points for this tour will be West Thurrock, Rayleigh, Wickford, Basildon, Shenfield, Brentwood, Romford, Newbury Park, Redbridge and Barking. The fare for this tour is £9.00.

A booking form is included with this magazine. Please return your completed booking slips, with your remittance and a SAE for confirmation of booking, to Andy Meadows at the address given on the form.

Members who were disappointed by the decision to cancel a similar tour last year can now take advantage of our decision to run the tour as part of this year's programme.

Bookings for this tour will close on 16th April 1993. We hope that you will join us.

GROUP PUBLICATIONS

THAMESWAY FLEETLIST 1993 50p+ A4 SAE

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEETLIST 1993 50p+ A4 SAE

Special Offer both copies 80p+ A4 SAE.

ENOC and the AEC Regal

A short history of the AEC Regal with Eastern National reprinted from Bus Times. 50p+ A4 SAE.

Simpsons of Leaden Roding

The history of an Essex busman. £1.25 includes P&P.

Westcliff on Sea in Focus Volume 2. Now only £3.80 includes P&P.

All the above publications are available from Peter Snell at the address on the front cover.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Members are reminded that if you wish to receive Essex County

Council timetables and copies of Bus Passenger News (published by Essex County Council) on a regular basis then you should join the Group's Timetable Subscription Service. For full details please send a SAE to Derek Stebbing at the address on the front cover.

ROCHFORD MEETING TUESDAY 9th MARCH

Due to business commitments our guest speaker Trevor Smallwood will not be able to attend our March meeting. He has agreed to attend our October meeting and sends his apologies for having to cancel. We are attempting to find another speaker from within the bus industry, but at the date of publication nothing has been confirmed. If all else fails a video/slide meeting will be held, so why not come along anyway and see what happens.

BOREHAM MEETING 30th MARCH 1993

A meeting will be held at the home of Colin Sigston at 62 Plantation Road, Boreham on the above date. It will take the form of an informal get together to discuss the group, local operators and other topics.

DESTINATION BLINDS

Members may be interested to know that County Bus are offering old Grays destination blinds for sale at £3 each including post and packing, with numerical blinds available at 25p each including post. Also available are Almex electronic machines (without motors) at £10 each and a number of manual six band machines in non-operable condition at £3 each. All these items are available from The Traffic Admin. Manager, Fourth Avenue, Harlow, Essex, CM20 1DU.

TWENTY EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT (Additional Item)

Events and Photographic Officers Report

Meetings have continued at The Freight House Rochford during the winter months, although we would like to see more members attending, we hopefully will continue through 1993 to 1994. Any member who would like to organise a Rochford meeting would be most welcome.

The Group stand attended various events throughout 1992 - LOTS, Canvey, Southend, North Weald, Barking etc. where sales show an improvement over 1991.

Photographic sales over the year have increased especially colour views which now exceed black and white prints by a ratio 2:1. However the Groups vast Black and White collection is available and enquiries for any particular prints- operators, chassis or bodywork are always welcome.

The ENOC 2954 column will always welcome articles from members who experienced the "old EN" before 1954.

PETER SNELL

THAMESWAY

Acquired Vehicles

516 F771 GNA Leyland Tiger TRCTL11/3ARZ Plaxton 3200 C53F
Ex Shearings 771, entered service early February in Citysaver livery without sign writing.

518 J46 SNY Leyland Tiger TRCL10/3ARZM Plaxton 321 C53F
Ex Bebbs of Llantwit Fardre entered service in white livery.

Chassis and Body numbers for 517-20 as follows:-

TA00766/767/816/878 (Chassis) 9012LCJ2320/2323/2324/2327 (Body)

These vehicles have Cummins engines and have Plaxton 321 bodys which is the old Duple 321 body.

Repaints

Noted repainted in fleet livery are 1404, 1419, 1420 and 1422.

Allocations

December 92 722 HH-PD-HH was only a temporary movement.

January 93 514/5/7-20 BN 1883 BN-Pool

February 93 516 BN

General

The new Mercedes at PD have a slightly different livery which includes the Badger motif and are automatic. Leyland Olympians from BD have been noted on services 350/1 recently. The rear registration plate on 4004 was moved when the vehicle was with Eastern National in Autotrader overall livery. Ford Transit van D853 SAR carries fleetnumber 108 and is used for publicity purposes and is based at BN. Taxi cab TLK 415M has been withdrawn and replaced with HYE 545W - being acquired early summer 92 and noted in Thamesway livery by 11/92 and based at PD.

Fares were increased on London Transport services from 3rd January 93.

Service Revisions

152-55 Commencing 8th February diverted to serve new Tesco Store at Wood Street Chelmsford during store opening hours. Minor Timetable changes.

350/1 Commencing 8th February extended from Romford Station to Roneo Corner, Tesco Store via South Street, and diverted via Wood Street Chelmsford Tesco Store. Minor Timetable changes.

251/551 Commencing 15th February rerouted from Gallows Corner via Upper Brentwood Road, Station Road, Balgores Lane, Heath Park Road, Victoria Road, South Street, Western Road and Mercury Gardens to Romford St Edwards Way. Certain journeys extended to Bishops Hall Estate. Revised Timetable.

Brentwood Town Services revisions commencing 15th February.

A1 Re-numbered 73-75, revised timetable and extended to Danes Way in

Bishop Hall Estate.

A3 Re-numbered 76, revised timetable and extended to Harold Wood Station and to Danes Way.

A5 Re-numbered 72 and revised timetable.

A6 Withdrawn

B Re-numbered 80 and minor timetable changes.

C1 Re-numbered 81, revised timetable and extended to Warley to replace most A services during Mon-Fri daytime and Saturdays.

C2 Re-numbered 82 and revisions as for C1

C3 Re-numbered 83 and revised timetable

C4 Withdrawn

77/78 New Commuter services between Bishop Hall Estate/Western Road Brentwood and Harold Park Station. 77 from Danes Way and 78 from Magnolia Way. Mon-Fri peak hours only.

222 Withdrawn

Also introduced is a new Saver card £6 inner zone and £8 outer zone and a Daysaver ticket for £2-50. Child and OAP rate available. All tickets available from the bus driver.

Publicity

Bus Times for Brentwood and Romford dated 15-2-93
Saver card leaflet dated 15-2-93

Unusual Workings

4-1-93 BD 227 noted on service 251.

Southend Transport

Vehicles:

VR 353 (GTX 740W) has finally entered service, after a long period in store regarding its future. It was noted on service 2 on 30/1/93.

LN 703 (UPE 204M), 708 (GHV 645N) are currently out of service.

LN 701/2/4 (TPD 194/5, UPE 199M) have been withdrawn and sold to Ludlow of Halsowen.

VR 308 (SNN 159R) has passed to Clynnog & Trefor, Caernarfon.

VR 311 (GBV 15S) has passed to Happy A1, s Birkenhead.

DAF 581 (B252 CVX) has passed to Keenan of Ayr, where it joins sister 582 now registered (YLJ 3053). It also joins former stablemates, Leopards 508/11/21 (BTE 208V, XGS 770X & ~~XXX~~ 193S).

Subsequent Disposals.:

FL 207 (JTD 387P) has passed to NPT, Bilsthorpe ex Wigley (dealer), Barnsley.

FL 213/4 (JTD 393/4P) have passed to R&I Buses from Capital Citybus.

FL 217 (JTD 397P) has passed to PVS Carlton (dealer), from Capital Citybus.

FL 380 (GHV 380L) has passed to Broadsell Hell Tappers, JazzBand.

ex Nottingham City Transport (9/91).

Repaints:

Fleetline 239 into latest livery. Remains dual door.

FL 240/41 have received blue around the upper deck windows.

TR 557 (B83 SWX) into all over advert livery for Choice Discount Stores, (black on white), with front in fleet livery.

Services:

5 (sats) Operates Southchurch (White horse) to Thames Drive, not Bournes Green.
correction to revisions 3/1/93, ~~BBB~~ 345.

Publicity:

Leaflets for £1 rover & London Coachlink fares & passes.

Pin Badges with "Southend Transport means BUSIness". (Blue on white.)

EASTERN NATIONAL

Subsequent disposals

436	(606 JPU)	Still extant, but not in use with Thomas, Upper Llandwrog, 8/92. (see also NS260)
1001	(MAR776P) (402 UHI)	Derelict, by 8/92. (presumably on premises of Cornane, Cahirciveen, Eire)
1307	(LLT342V)	Still with McCrosson, <u>Artigarvon</u> , Northern Ireland, 1/93. (note chane of spelling of name and more precise location - originally given as McCrossan, Strabane)
1600	(B457 WHJ)	Went to London Borough of Havering, 5/91. (additional information EBN335)
1732	(HWC 83N)	Beeston, Hadleigh, 11/92, ex Cowdrey, Gosport.
1749	(JNO198N)	Withdrawn by Solent Blue Line, 430, 10/92; thence to Weedon, Gosport, 10/92.
1754	(LJN662P)	Bowen, Bridgnorth, 9/92, ex A.J.S. (dealer), Carlton.
1788	(PEV700R)	P.V.S. (dealer), Carlton, by 10/92. (T)
1801	(TJN500R)	as 1788.
1826	(VNO728R)	as 1788.
1829	(VNO731S)	as 1754, numbered 731.
2817	(HEV995B)	Passed to Clown Jewels (N-PSV), <u>Invergordon</u> , by 10/86, used as a mobile box office and rest room. (clarification to EBN309)
2861	(RHK346D)	Now given as unknown owner, Northern Ireland (as caravan), -/90, ex McGurk, Worthing (as caravan). Reported still there 2/92. (see also EBN335 etc.)
3067	(KOO785V)	Was acquired by Western National in 2/91. (correction to EBN327)
3096	(UAR586W)	Was acquired by Western National in 4/92. (correction to EBN341) Subsequently re-numbered in 5/92 as originally given.
3097	(UAR587W)	Re-allocated to Port Talbot, 10/92, for service work, by Brewer, Port Talbot. (T) (see also EBN345 additional Brewer notes)
3098	(UAR588W)	as 3097.
3099	(UAR589W)	as 3096.
3100	(UAR590W)	Now reported as repainted into overall advertisement livery for 'John Nike Leisuresport Complex', by Western National, 12/92, and allocated to Plymouth. (T)
3104	(UAR594W)	Was acquired by Western National in 4/92. (correction to EBN341)
3107	(UAR597W)	as 3104.
3108	(UAR598W)	Repainted into new double deck livery by Brewer, Port Talbot, 10/92, red and white colour scheme with narrow yellow band and large Brewer fleetnames between decks.
3115	(XHK220X)	Western National Ltd., Truro, 1250, 8/92. Allocated to Penzance. (T)
3120	(XHK225X)	Was acquired by Western National in 2/92. (correction to EBN339)
3125	(XHK230X)	Was acquired by Western National in 8/92. (correction to EBN345)
3205	(OBD841P)	as 3104. Susequently withdrawn, 11/92, having never entered service. (T)
4500	(B688BPU)	Fitted with standard E.C.W. bus dome and front deck windows by Metrobus, Orpington, by 10/92.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET ALLOCATION FEBRUARY 1993

Chelmsford (CF)	601-20/22 0700-2/4 1110/19/21/28-30 1401/02/08/13/15/26-29 1831/33/34/41/44 1850/51/55/60/62/63/67/70/73/74/90/99 1901/10/16/17/24 3070/77/83/84/3106 4011/13 4510/11
Clacton (CN)	0203-24 1925/27/30-32/37-39 3064 3219-22
Colchester (CR)	1111/12/17/20 1926/29/33/35/36/40 3068 3069/71/78/91/93/95 3103/11/14 3218 4014/15/17/18/20/21 4501/03/12
Maldon (MN)	0703/5/20/21 1114/15 1403/14/16/25 1892 1921/23 3079/92/94 3112/27/28
Bishops Stortford (BS)	0708/09/11/12/19 1125/27 1843/61/65 1872/85/1909/14 4016
Braintree (BE)	0120 0200/2 621/23-30 0713/14/16-18
Dunmow (DW)	1407
Harwich (DT)	0750-54 1123 3072/6/3109 4007/8/12/19
Walton (WN)	Three Mercedes from CN depot.
Driver Training	9006 9012
Pool Vehicles	0706/07/10/15 1824/32 2383/84 3500/1
Delicensed Disposal	1741/50/66/68 1804-6/11/13/28/56 2201 3054/60/3204

Bishops Stortford and Dunmow are outstations of Chelmsford, Braintree is an outstation of Maldon, Harwich is an outstation of Colchester and Walton is an outstation of Clacton. The official EN allocation list only allocates vehicles to Chelmsford, Maldon, Colchester and Clacton. The above split is based on observations of the vehicles normally working from the depots shown.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET SUMMARY FEBRUARY 1993

	BE	BS	CF	CN	CR	DT	DW	MN	WN	POOL	DIS	TOT
PEUGOT	1											1
MERCEDES	11		21	19					3			54
TRANSIT	5	5	4			5		4		4		27
RE											1	1
TIGER (CO)			2									2
TIGER (DP)		2	4		4	1		2				13
LYNX			9				1	4				14
NATIONAL		7	22	8	6			3		2	12	60
VRT			5	5	11	3		6		2	3	35
ON (CO)			2		3							5
ON (DP)		1	2		6	4						13
KSW										2		2
TOTALS	17	15	71	32	30	13	1	19	3	10	16	227+2 Driver Training

EASTERN NATIONAL

Allocation Changes

12/92 None
1/93 None

With reference to the Bishops Stortford outstation allocation 1843 has always operated from here as it carried a unibus advert for John Whalley, Bishops Stortford until repaint in 11/92. 1909 the overall advert for Sears Windows is currently operating from Chelmsford.

Services

- 44 Revised route and timetable introduced from 8.2.93. with an extension to the new Tesco store at Wood Street.
- 46 The 1739 ex Chelmsford was extended to Ongar on Monday to Friday from 4.1.93.
- 47 Revised timetable introduced from 8.2.93.
- 53/B The 0705 and 0725 ex Colchester had revised running times introduced on Monday to Friday from 25.1.93.
- 87/A Revised timetable introduced from 1.3.93.
- 233 Relaced from 22.2.93. by service 309.
- 301 Slight timetable revisions introduced from 22.2.93.
- 333 Slight timetable revisions introduced from 22.2.93.
- 350/1 Extended to Roneo Corner, Romford with slight timetable revisions from 8.2.93.
- 433 Revised from 22.2.93. and no longer serves the Airport.

Services 44,152,153,154,350,351 were revised to serve the new Tesco store in Chelmsford from Tuesday 9th February.

General

As with CBT a 30p adult and 15p concession fare was available in Colchester on 28th December. The EN fare was only available within the town boundary. unlike CBTs which was available on all services.

Unusual Workings

1.2.93. CF 1833 on service 92 (MN operated).

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Services

To correct EBN 345, the fire at the factory at the junction of Straight Road and Shbub End Road was on 18.12.92. and affected services 1, 1C, and 15 that day and until almost mid-day on the 19th. The instructions to drivers were that buses on service 15 should be diverted via Ambrose Avenue and King Harold Road (north), resuming the normal route at Pettygate Road. Service 1C ran via King Harold Road, Ambrose Avenue, Straight Road and into

Westlands. Service 1 followed the same route, turning in Westlands. Service 1A drivers arriving at the Ambrose Avenue terminus were told to proceed to Westlands and turn there.

With regard to services operated on 28th December the note in EBN should have referred to service 3A not operating on this day. The 30p fare was available on all services including 7/7A, the normal single from West Bergholt- West Mersea being £2.50.

CBT ran a rail replacement service on Sundays from 10.1.93. to 14.2.93. involving 8 ONs, 8 ANs, 2 LXs, and 5 coaches. The coaches and coach seated Olympians ran non-stop between Witham and Ipswich; The buses ran between Witham and Colchester some non-stop and others stopping at Kelvedon and Marks Tey.

A further rail replacement service operated between Shenfield and Witham on 24.1.93. when the overhead lines were damaged. Coaches, Olympians and Atlanteans together with ST Fleetlines were noted by your (former) editor on the A12.

A service revision is being implemented on 8.3.93. Service 1C is being withdrawn. Service 1B will run hourly between Ambrose Avenue and Longridge Park via Leather Bottle. The combined service interval on the 1 group will remain 10 minutes. The evening service on service 1 will be withdrawn. Service 3A will be withdrawn and service 3 will operate in peak periods with the flow only. Service 4 will be extended in the evenings to Ambrose Avenue. Service 4A will be withdrawn in the evenings. Services 5/5A will be withdrawn between Five Ways and Tollgate, except for the first two journeys. The service 5A to Severalls Park will operate with the flow only. Service 8A is being renumbered 8. Service 9 will run hourly between Bus Station and Tollgate and will double run via Westlands. Service 9A will be reduced to hourly throughout the day. New service 19 will operate hourly in the evenings between Head Street and Greenstead Centurion as per EN/ECC service 79 and CBT service 4A.

HEDINGHAM

Services

131 Revised route and timetable introduced from 23.2.93.

General

The depot at Tendring closed during November, with operations being transferred to Gorse Lane Industrial Estate (the other end from Eastern Nationals depot). The Norfolks depot in Nayland is expected to close in August, with vehicles moving to the Chilton Industrial Estate in Sudbury.

The Alexander Dart allocated to Kelvedon is reported as performing well and the company are very pleased with it.

Fleet Allocation 1/93

Heddingham (HD) L84-89,95,96,98,103,105,133,135-37,140,151,156,159
L160,167,194,196,200. TOTAL 24

Kelvedon (KN) L112,126,139,141,149,154,161,189,198 TOTAL 9

Little Tey (CR) L100,113,116,122,124,138,155,166,193,195 TOTAL 10

Nayland (ND)	L81,115,121,178,180-88,190	TOTAL 14
Clacton (CN)	L94,152,153,162,169-75,191,192	TOTAL 13
Walton (WN)	L111,114,125,147/8,151,158,164/5,197,199	TOTAL 11
Burnham (BM)	L146,163	TOTAL 2
		FLEET TOTAL 85

COUNTY BUS

Services

- 262 NEW SERVICE. Kelvedon Hatch to Doddington via Tipps Cross.
One journey each way, Monday to Friday only from 22.3.93.
- 724 Revised timetable, with services extended to Stansted Airport from 3.4.93.

OTHER OPERATORS

A&D MINI COACHES, PITSEA Are operating C626 MEG a Ford Transit new to Cambus.

BEESTONS Further to EBN 345 the Colchester to Bury St Edmunds service is not restricted to peak periods. Whilst normally operated by Layland Nationals, other vehicles have been noted.

BORDABUS Registered service 21 between Rayleigh and Ilford via Wickford, Basildon, Billericay, Brentwood and Romford, with one journey in this direction on Saturdays and Sundays only from 6.2.93.

CAMBRIDGE COACH The pickup point in Bishops Stortford on service 38 was amended to The Causeway from 31.1.93.

CAMBUS The timetable on service 22 was revised from 25.1.93.

CEDRICS Further to EBN 345, the VRs are not restricted to peak hour duties on services 74X/78X and operate alongside coaches throughout the day.

CHARTERCOACH The operating centre is now Ferry Road, Parkeston Quay.

CUNNINGHAM Prize for the most unusual service in 1993 is taken for a Corringham-Debden service, with one journey in each direction commenced on 1.2.93.

ESSEX THAMESIDE The service between New Thundersley and Benfleet was withdrawn from 19.2.93. Another victim of the Thamesway/ST fares war.

GREEN ROVER This operator ceased operating after 10.1.93. and service 724 passed to County Bus, while service 725 was withdrawn

HARRIS A new vehicle is K95 GEV a DAF SB3000/Van Hool C49FT in Eurolines livery. Two vehicles re-registered are F97 MHJ now 8947 FH and E93 EVW now 504 FHV.

A timetable leaflet dated 1.2.93. is available which includes new service 399 which commenced on that day, linking Lakeside, Grays, Tilbury, Linford and Basildon, with three journey each way on Monday to Friday and changes to the route and timetable of service 372.

The shuttle service to the coach park at Lakeside ceased during January when the coach park closed. Coaches now use a car park adjacent to the shopping area.

JACKSONS Bova 8947 FH has been re-registered MJI 3376 with the original plate passing back to Harris.

KENTISH BUS Service 722 between Gravesend and Lakeside has been

withdrawn.

OSBORNES The third ex Parks, Hamilton vehicle is G85 RGG (additional to EBN 345). All three are C53F but can be converted to C49FT.

SM TRAVEL Further to EBN 344 service G34 commenced on 28.11.92.

STANS To correct EBN 345 the ex Fords vehicle is PJI 2457.

STEPHENSONS Have won the tender for this yaers Southend Sea front service 67. Operation is between June 26th and Sept 26th to the same route as last year, but retimed to run 30 minutes later. Operation of the Southend Transport tendeded journey on service 11A becomes a Stephensons commercial service from 28.3.93. The tender for ECC service 6 has been lost, last day of operation by Stephensons is 21.3.93.

Bristol RE LHT 166L has passed to Delta Coaches Stockton on Tees.

RAIL REPLACEMENT

To add to last months notes the rail replacement service between 18th-20th December was co-ordinated by Stephensons and the following operators were on hire to them Simien, Cooks, Brentwood Coaches, Supreme, Jacksons and Reliance, Benfleet.

SOUTHEND PIER RAILWAY

Although not bus related, members may like to know that former Pier Railway carriage 21 is to go on display in an extension to the Lynn Tait gallery in Leigh on Sea. It has been in a field in Llandudno for the past decade and is to be restored at its new home. The extension is expected to open before Easter.

NON PSVS IN ESSEX

Benders UOD 433J a Ford/Willowbrook was at Chelmsford Auctions on 31.1.93.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

The Evening Gazette has carried a number of reports in January that are of interest.

Heddinghams are being forced to leave their Nayland depot following the expiry of the lease on the main site at Perry Farm in Bear Street. Robert MacGregor said that the owner had won a legal battle to evict the bus company. It will take the owner six months to get an injunction, which gives some time for a new site to be found. (See Heddingham notes).

Essex County Council are to launch a bus service phone enquiry service in the new financial year. a budget of £15,000 has been agreed, which will release senior staff at County Hall to deal with policy matters rather than phone calls.

NEW

The details of 159 and 160 were transposed last month - correct details are :-

159 K888 TTT Leyland Olympian 20480 NCME (4337) H47/30F
160 K888 ELR " " 20481 " (4338) "
This batch(159-165) have the plastic seating as fitted to 181/2.

ON HIRE

West Midlands Travel 2281(KJW 281W) arrived on Sat Jan 23rd to replace 2419 (LOA 419X) . However it only stayed in Essex a short time as the two remaining WMT Metrobuses (2281/4) both returned to the Midlands on Jan 31st.

The names of the three Ipswich Boro Dennis Falcons noted last month are - 100 Buzzard, 101 Condor , 110 Osprey. As a general rule three or four Ipswich Falcons are on hire at any one time ,the exact ones varying for maintenance requirements. On 11 Jan the three were 108/9/11 and on Feb 9th 108/9/13. 111 is named Peregrine, and 113 is Sparrow Hawk.

The following bus was hired from Stevensons, Rochford, arriving by Jan 14th (used on the 246) and was returned on Sat Jan 23rd:
595 TNJ 995S Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB 3/760 ECW C043/27D(22395) 1977
Its short period of hire was because it was discovered to be of normal height instead of the low height required. It was replaced by TPE 155S which was first seen on Fri Jan 29th, and which is of low height. Details are :

--- TPE 155S Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB 3/1184 ECW H43/31F(22789) 1978
TNJ was new to Southdown Motor Services, passing to Brighton & Hove District in 1986, and it was still in B&Hove livery when used by Citybus. TPE was new to Alder Valley, passing to Berks Bucks Bus Co (The Bee-Line) in 1986. It remains on hire at the time of writing (Feb 10th) and is in Stevensons green and cream livery.

SERVICES

All the Romford-Hornchurch-Upminster area routes, LRT 165, 246 ,248, 252, 365 ,446, have been retained for a further two years. The existing contract is due to expire in September 1993.

REBUILT - to H46/31F (ex H46/27D) - 280, 287.

REPAINTED - yellow - 275/6 (FUT 39/36V) , 280/7 (F280MHJ) ,
298 (JWF 498W)

GENERAL

The company has decided to replace the remaining Bristol VR double deckers with single deckers during the year. 570(UMS 751T) has re-entered service, being first noted on the 323 on Thurs Jan 28th. The two ex-Southend Daimler Fleetlines are again out of use and stored in DM yard. The dp seats upstairs on Olympian 172 (C372 CAS) have been removed and replaced by normal bus seats due to constant vandalism- the downstairs seats remain dp. 107(G107 FJW) was unusually working on the 296 on Mon Jan 25th.



FRONTRUNNER

This (in)famous name makes a brief reappearance in our pages at the head of a Leyland Atlantean destination blind list. The numbers are the reference numbers printed on the rear (drivers) side of the blind : no list of numbers and destinations was pasted anywhere in the cab, the drivers being left to work out which was which by trial and error.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1- MANSFIELD | 23- WYATTS GREEN |
| 2- UPMINSTER STATION | 24- BLACKMORE |
| 3- UPMINSTER PARK ESTATE | 25- WARLEY |
| 4- CRANHAM | 26- BRENTWOOD |
| MOOR LANE | RAILWAY STATION |
| 5- ROMFORD MARKET | 27- ONGAR |
| 6- ROMFORD STATION | 28- ONGAR via BLACKMORE |
| 7- ROMFORD RONEO CORNER | 29- KELVEDON HATCH |
| 8- St. EDWARDS SCHOOL | 30- HUTTON |
| 9- HORNCHURCH | 31- SHENFIELD |
| TOWN CENTRE | RAILWAY STATION |
| 10- HORNCHURCH | 32- BRENTWOOD |
| STATION | SAWYERS HALL LANE |
| 11- HORNCHURCH | 33- WARLEY |
| ST.GEORGES HOSPITAL | 34- BECONTREE HEATH |
| 12- SOUTH HORNCHURCH | via ROMFORD |
| 13- COLLIER ROW | 35- EPPING |
| TURPIN AVENUE | 36- LOUGHTON STATION |
| 14- COLLIER ROW | 37- WALTHAM CROSS |
| 15- GIDEA PARK STATION | 38- WALTHAM ABBEY |
| 16- SORRY | 39- UPSHIRE |
| NOT IN SERVICE | 40- HERTFORD |
| 17- SCHOOL BUS | via HATFIELD |
| 18- PRIVATE CHARTER | 41- St. ALBANS |
| 19- FRONTRUNNER | via HATFIELD |
| 20- BRENTWOOD | 42- HATFIELD |
| ROBIN HOOD | 43- ENFIELD |
| 21- ROMFORD | 44- SORRY |
| 22- HOOK END | NOT IN SERVICE |

No. 1 (Mansfield) was included just in case it was necessary to put one on the X99 limited stop Ongar to Mansfield via the A1 and Nottingham service [!]. Nos. 2 to 15 were the displays required for Romford area LRT routes 248 and 252, now run by Capital Citybus, and displays 20 to 33/36 to 39 were the destinations used for Essex County Council contract routes 239/261/347 ect and 250/251, now run by County Bus. Numbers 34/35 and 40 to 43 are a slight mystery, presumably being for contracts that Frontrunner bid for but never got. 34 could be for an extension of 347 (Brentwood - Romford) to Becontree Heath, although quite what use this would be is debateable. 35 could well be for an extension of EssexCC 251 from Upshire to Epping which arrived a few years later as the present Wests Coaches 254, while 43 (Enfield) was presumably for an aborted extension of 250 or 251 from Waltham Cross. 40, 41 and 42 look as though the Company was hoping to get the 341 contract from HertsCC, which was later run by Eastern National and presently by Regs Coaches. These blinds have recently made a come back in Capital Citybuses hired West Midlands MCW Metrobuses.

THE E.N.O.C. LANCET

In 1932, Eastern National introduced a new chassis make to their fleet, namely the Dennis Lancet 1, when five were delivered. 3317-3321 MJ440/1/EV6054/5/61 fitted with Beadle B32R bodywork. This chassis was to become the standard saloon type for the next three years, 1933-1935.

In 1933, 3394-3432 AEV 764-793, arrived this time with Eastern Counties 36 seat saloon coachwork, to be followed later in the year by two 32 seat saloons from operators acquired by Eastern National, these were 3513 EW7802 from Scott of Ramsey and 3530 EV6784 from Pattens Wickford.

The next year, 1934, saw 3473-3492 AVW451-470 arrive these had dual purpose Eastern Counties 32 seat bodies and were primarily for express and limited stop routes. Eastern National obviously satisfied with the more luxurious vehicles had similar vehicles delivered in 1935, 3532-3555 BTW471-494, also in the same year two luxury coaches with Eastern Counties C32C. coachwork, 3584/5 CPU196/7.

In 1936, Eastern National turned to the Bristol family for their fleet replacements, however more Lancets appeared in the fleet from operators acquired by the Company, from Berry Colchester came 3694 AN0132 and 3695 APP272 with Duple and Dennis bodies respectively. Next to be taken into stock was 3799 MJ449 Duple B32R from Seamarks Westoning. The final acquisitions were in 1939 when from Goggin of Great Horkesley came 3816 GV2366 Duple C26F and from the United Counties Omnibus Co. 3816 BU3819 again with Duple bodywork.

Some of the Lancets eg. 3409 AEV779 3543/5/7/55 BTW482/4/6/94 were owned by the Eastern National subsidiary Borough Motor Services of Southend, these were later in 1940 transferred to the parent Company except 3547 which was changed in 1935.

During the Second World War experiments were made with buses running on gas and two Lancets 3532/42 BTW471/81 were converted at Maldon Depot. In the disastrous bombing of Chelmsford Depot in May 1943, no fewer than twelve Lancets were destroyed 3319/3404/6/11/4/7/77/3533/9/42/52.

EV6054/AEV774/6/81/4/7/AVW455/BTW472/8/81/91, and another saloon 3396 AEV766 was wrecked in another incident. To decrease the fleet further, four Lancets were taken over by the War Department 3398/9/3401/23 AEV768/9 AEV771/93, and 3532 BTW471 joined the American Army. When London Transport called for help in 1940, Eastern National sent together with other buses Lancet 3320 EV6055 where it was used at Addlestone garage on routes 436 437 456 461

462 from 10 40 to 7 41. and another saloon 3549 BTW488 became an ambulance. Of the acquired Lancets 3513 EW7802, 3530 VX6784 and 3816 GV2366, these were all withdrawn and scrapped in 1940/1.

The majority of the Lancet fleet was rebuilt by Beadle in 1942-4, and the two coaches 3584/5 received Beadle bus bodies. 3479 AVW457 received a 1938 ECWB30R body in 1949 from 2813 TM3889 Leyland PLSC3.

In September 1951, the Grays area services were transferred to the L.P.T.B. and the Lancets allocated to Argent Street garage, 3420/79/81/2/5 became London Transport property, however the Lancets do not appear to have been used and were returned to Eastern National in February 1952.

With the transfer of the Midland area of Eastern National to the United Counties Omnibus Co., in May 1952 a total of ten Lancets 3415/21/3/80/4/90/3545/8/55/84 AEV785 AEV791/3/AVW458/62/8/BTW484/7/94/CPU196 were in this area, only one however 3555 BTW494 was operated by United Counties although 3415/21/80/90/3545/8/55/84 were given UCOC fleet numbers 101-7/57 respectively.

The end came in 1952 when the Lancet 1 finally disappeared from the fleet, but some notable exceptions were 3549 BTW498 and 3819 BU7186 which became milk floats with Manness and Usher at Chelmsford and Halstead Co-op had 3424 AEV794 as a mobile shop.

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