EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

NEWS SHEET NUMBER 168 — March 1978

EDITORIAL

South Essex Coach Tour, Sunday April 23

A booking form for this tour is included with this news sheet. Please book seats as soon as possible. Both tours that we operated last year carried capacity loads and some latecomers could not be accommodated - so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Trip to Cobham Bus Museum Open Day, Sunday April 2

The Eastern National Preservation Group Braintree Branch Bristol KSW5G, VNO 859, will be attending the above event and members wishing to participate are asked to telephone Braintree 21585 for details. Departure times are Braintree (0830), Chelmsford (0900), Brentwood (0930), thence via London to Cobham.

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EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

The 23 Leyland Nationals which were additional to the 1978 programme were diverted from East Kent (14 vehicles) and from Maidstone & District (9 vehicles). (see also NS160/6/7)

Delivery of the first ten vehicles of the 1978 programme is expected shortly. 1847-71 are to be registered YEV305-29S.

Withdrawn Vehicles

2.78

1322 (1260 EV)
1336 (2726 VX)
1338 (2728 VX)
1339 (2729 VX)
1342 (2732 VX)
1343 (2733 VX)
1348 (208 YVX)
1350 (210 YVX)
1352 (212 YVX)
1353 (MOO 174)
1354 (MOO 175)
1357 (OWC 606)
1359 (OWC 608)
1406 (1254 EV)
1410 (2735 VX)
1412 (2737 VX)
1415 (2740 VX)
1416 (2741 VX)
1422 (201 YVX)
1424 (203 YVX)
1428 (MOO 973)
1437 (OO 9545)
1600 (BNO101B)
1601 (BNO102B)
1605 (BNO106B)
1607 (BNO108B)
1612 (AVX962B)
2716 (96 TVX)
2727 (174 XNO)
2728 (175 XNO)
2733 (180 XNO)
2737 (EOO 579)
2756 (JWC 717)
2758 (JWC 718)
2759 (RWC 600)
2760 (RWC 601)
2762 (RWC 603)
2765 (VWC 45)
2766 (VWC 46)
2780 (993 KOO)

Following these withdrawals the 1300 class is reduced to 8 vehicles, the 1400 class to 26 vehicles (3 D/L(D)) and the 1600 class to 3 vehicles.

2717 (97 TVX) recently acquired by the Eastern Counties Omnibus Co. Ltd. (see NS167) is to be converted to a driver training vehicle. It will be repainted in canary yellow livery, and the staircase may be removed.

(We are indebted to the Eastern Counties Omnibus Society for this information)

Re-built/Re-seated vehicles

It is intended to convert Bristol FLF6G 2937 (RWC 608) to open-top. However, it is anticipated that the present fleet of Bristol KSW5G open-toppers will operate for the 1978 season.

Service Vehicles

Withdrawn Vehicles

2.78

0538 (538 HVX)
0539 (539 HVX)
0882 (882 GVX)
0976 (976 DHK)

There are now no Bristol LD's in the driver training fleet.

Allocations & Transfers

3.78 1765-CY, 1838-BD, 1840-BD, 1841-CF, 1843-BN, 1844-BN, 1845-BD, 1846-BD, 2741-D/L(D), 2750-D/L(D), 2753-D/L(D), 2771-CF(CWDS), 2776-SD(PLDS), 2779-D/L(D), 2799-BE, 2803-D/L(D), 2833-SD, 2850-SD, 2885-CF, 2887-CF, 2932-D/L(D), 3041-BS.

The allocation of a Bristol VRT to Bishops Stortford should especially be noted. Brentwood no longer has any Bristol VRT's allocated.

Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

56/A/B To be extended in North Springfield from Pump Lane via New Nabbots to Golden Acres.

151 Revised terminal at Romford to be Weald Way. Revised route to be from London Road via Southern Way to Weald Way. Return via Weald Way and Jutsums Lane to London Road.

251 NEW SERVICE : WOOD GREEN (Eastern National Terminal) - BRENTWOOD (High Street) via existing service 251 route.

251 NEW SERVICE : BRENTWOOD (High Street) - SOUTHEND (Central Bus Station) via existing service 251 route.

The revisions to service 251 are necessitated due to the new E.E.C. regulations on driving hours which apply to licensed services of over 50 km. in length. Accordingly the licences for service 251 have been split at Brentwood into two shorter services, each of less than 50 km. in length.

Service 71 has now been discontinued, it last operated on 12 January 1978. The market in Coggeshall is still in operation and, as far as is known, so are the services operated by C & R Coaches and Kelvedon Coaches. (see also NS166)

Revised holiday arrangements for all Eastern National services have been applied for, these are as follows :

Holiday	Services normally operating on Sundays	Services not normally operating on Sundays
New Years Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day, Spring Holiday, Late Summer Holiday.	In accordance with traffic requirements	No service
Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve.	In accordance with traffic requirements	In accordance with traffic requirements
Christmas Day, Boxing Day, December 27.	No service	No service

In the Brentwood area service 40 (Brentwood - Grays) is to be re-numbered into the Brentwood series from 28 March, it will become service 269. (service number 40 is required for revisions in the Chelmsford area to be introduced later in the year) Also in Brentwood, service 266 is to be withdrawn and replaced by new service 46A (Ongar - Abbess Roding) and by service 260 projected beyond Stondon Massey (Tips Cross) to Ongar. In addition the spur working to Coxtie Green is to be replaced by through journeys operating via Coxtie Green. These revisions are expected to be introduced during April.

General

Bristol FLF6G 2755 (JWC 715) has had it body removed and the chassis is now in use by the Engineering Training School at Central Works, Chelmsford.

Bristol VRT 3053 (LJN648P), the Silver Jubilee vehicle, has been re-painted into overall advertising livery, again for Phillips. The livery consists of white (roof to base of the upper deck windows), a blue band (about 6" wide), beige (reminder of between decks) and white (remainder below). Some Phillips slogans have been added, but more are to be displayed later in the beige band. These were not available when the vehicle entered service on February 24. The vehicle is operating on service 400, and is performing the same duty as that when it was in Silver Jubliee livery.

Bristol FLF 2899 (WVX526F) caught fire when ascending Bread & Cheese Hill, Hadleigh on 2 March and was badly damaged. The vehicle is at present in Central Works, Chelmsford undergoing repair.

Leyland National 1846 (WJN566S) has a modified rear end. This is in connection with British Transport Advertising so that a rear advertisement may be carried. The registration plate (single line type) has been re-positioned to the waist band on the left hand side. The reversing plate is on the right hand side of the waistband with the fleetnumber and garage code over the ONE MAN OPERATED BUS sign in the centre of the waistband.

Leyland National 1841 (WJN561S) whilst operated at Canvey did not carry a fleetnumber or garage plate. The fleetnumber was painted on in black.

A Bristol FLF operated from Wood Green to Victoria and return on 9 March on National Express service 098 in place of a failed Eastern Counties vehicle.

Eastern National are expected to fully enter the Havering Multi Ride ticket experiment during April.

The farecard scheme to be introduced later in the year in the Basildon area is to be entitled "FairCard".

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

Vehicles on Order

It has been reported that 8 Leyland Atlanteans and 2 coaches are on order.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Withdrawn Vehicles

12.77	206 (2717 HJ)	207 (2718 HJ)	
1.78	336 (CJN436C)	339 (CJN439C)	344 (CJN444C)
3.78	315 (PHJ 954)		

It is reported that 316 (PHJ 955) is to be withdrawn at the end of March.

206/7 (2717/8 HJ) were still at Tickfield Road Works in March, with their fleetnames painted out. It is thought that these vehicles may pass to Lewington, Cranham.
315 (PHJ 954) was last used on 1.3.78 and is to go to the Eastern National Preservation Group.
336 (CJN436C) is being converted at the Works to a playbus, to replace Leyland PD2 10 ATO.
339 (CJN439C) is to go to the R.T.I.T.B. (Road Transport Industry Training Board) to be used as a driver training unit.
344 (CJN444C) is being cannibalised for spares.

General

338 (CJN438C) has been overhauled and returned to service. Albion Lowlander 328 (7092 HJ) has also been overhauled and prepared for service but has not yet been used.

Leyland Leopard 218 (MJN218F) has been equipped with brackets to hold "L" plates for driver training. Driver training willalso be performed with two of the 345-7 (MHJ345-7F) batch of Leyland PD3's.

Daimler Fleetline 386 (JTD386P) has had it front scroll box altered to a single sheet of glass but still retains the usual three piece display behind. It also has different heaters in the lower saloon.

The following former London Transport A.E.C. Swifts have recently been noted at Tickfield Road Works :

SMS 209, 360/74, 539/52/8-62/91/2 (EGN 209J etc.)

A.E.C. Merlin MB 338 (VLW338G) is still at Tickfield Road Works. (see also NS166)

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