

ESSEX BUS NEWS

June 1997

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

398



SOUTHEND TRANSPORT DENNIS DART SLF DSL62 P262FPK AT SOUTHEND BUS STN.

pjs

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ESSEX BUS NEWS

No. 398

EDITORIAL

398 Focus of the Month

398 474 BEV Bristol LS5G with ECW B45F purchased by Eastern National in 1954, renumbered in August 1964 to 1218. It remained in service until withdrawn in 1966 and sold to the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company - LM920.

Group Tour

July 12th Heddingham Depot Tour - still some seats left

Events

July 15th Visit to Southend Transport 7pm

Advert

D. Blumson 57 Caws Avenue, Seaview, Isle of Wight PO34 5JX has the following timetables for sale;

Western National Sept. '38 Cornwall Area (no map or front cover)
May '49 Cornwall area (complete)

Southern Vectis

Winter Issues	1936 1953 1959 1964 1966 1967 1968 1970 1972 1975 1976 1977 1993 1994 1995
Summer Issues	1947 1950 1952-1978 inclusive 1978 1979 1986 1993 1994 1995 1996

Best offer secures (individually or complete)

Information Required

Tillings Coach livery in the 1950s was cream with black window surrounds. In 1961 (with the new style MW coach body) a grey and maroon style livery was introduced. At this time, many cream and black vehicles had maroon waistbands added. Clarification of livery is required for the following Bristol MWs VY0 765-9 and 2/3 BXB also bedford SBs 6-8 BXB. From 1964 (19 Poo) the Eastern National livery was adopted. What was Tillings pre-war livery?

Send any information to Andy Meadows! - Thank You.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

The company is now managed as a part of County Bus.

CBT was responsible for a big railway replacement service over the bank holiday weekend. On 24.5.97 23 CBT buses, 6 Southend Transport, 12 Heddingham, 7 Stevensons, 3 Capital Citybus, and 1 Ipswich BT ran between Colchester and Ingatestone, and between Witham and Braintree. Heddinghams borrowed CBT's 69 when their L194 failed, and ST used 76 when one of their buses ran out of fuel.

On 25.5.97 25 CBT buses, 5 HOs, 2 Stevensons, 1 IBT, and 1 Capital Citybus were used between the same stations. And on 26.5.97 28 CBTs, 6 HOs, 3 Stevensons, and 2 STs were used.

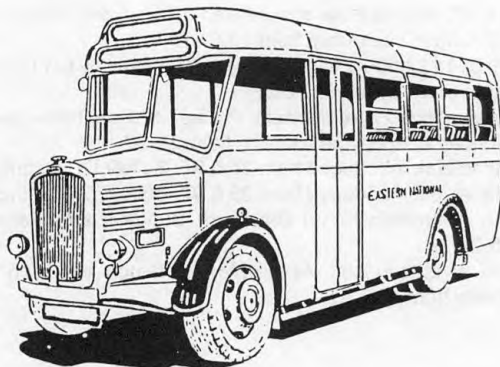
Other railway work in May included:

- 11.5.97: 43 and 48: Romford and Ilford (for Capital Citybus);
- 12.5.97: three single deckers on stand-by at Waterloo;
- 18.5.97: 47 and 48: Romford and Ilford (for Capital Citybus);
- 19.5.97: 103, 350 and 463 on stand-by at Waterloo;
- 29.5.97: 25 and 100: between Sudbury and Mark's Tey from 1200 to 1700.

The open-top tour has been advertised for several weeks. It is due to start on 23.6.97 and will operate daily at 1100 (not Sundays), 1330 and 1500. It will not run on 29.6.97 and will finish on 6.9.97.

86 was repaired at Ipswich BT from 13.5.97 to 21.5.97. Tiger 104 is being repainted in fleet livery, ex the former blue and white coach livery. 348 was at the Southend bus rally.

A current fleet list is available from the company at 38 Magdalen Street, CO1 1LD, on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope.



Eastern National

NEW VEHICLES

2701-08 P701-08 PWC Mercedes 810 Vario Plaxton B27F

These are the amongst the first of the new Mercedes/Plaxton minibuses in the country. They feature the new Mercedes 904 engine, which meets the latest EU Standards and also have air suspension. The body is the new Plaxton Beaver 2, which has a restyled front and rear. In addition they feature electronic route numbers, front, side and rear plus new style seating.

All entered service at Chelmsford in early June, replacing the last of the Mercedes 608's there. They are mainly to be found on services 41 and 51, but do appear on other routes as well.

Chassis numbers are 6703732N 063240/247/311/235/258/262/321/296 and body numbers are 97 7.8MWV6975-82.

Please ignore the note in EBN 396, there are of course 13 Lances due. The remaining vehicle is due to arrive in mid June, following delays at the bodybuilders.

VEHICLES ON ORDER

A further four Mercedes minibuses are due during the summer (currently expected to arrive in August), these will be a first for EN, in that they will have Marshall bodies.

Five Dennis Dart SLF are expected to arrive in late 97/early 98.

ALLOCATIONS

Period end 27.4.97. 1924 CN - CR (corrects EBN 397.)

Period end 25.5.97 None

SERVICES

5/6 From 29.6.97. revised route and timetable introduced, with no Sunday service.

7/8/A/9 Revised timetable introduced from 29.6.97.

31A Additional 0914 Danbury to Little Baddow on Monday to Friday from 27.5.97.

65/A Re-routed in Stanway from 27.5.97.

79 New service. Maldon to Hatfield Peveral Station, three journeys each way. Monday to Friday peaks only, from 2.6.97.

97/A Revised timetable introduced from 25.5.97. Suffolk CC contract.

98 Revised timetable introduced from 25.5.97. Suffolk CC contract.

111 Ipswich to Somersham via Bramford. Sundays and Bank Holidays only, from 25.5.97.

489 Ipswich to Wetheringsett via Henley, Pettaugh and Stonham Aspal. Sundays only from 25.5.97.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

In reply to a couple of recent letters, the Lances can appear on any big bus route at Colchester, the list published in EBN 395 being an indication of their main use.

GENERAL

Robin Orbell, Managing Director of Essex Buses, decided to leave the company in late April, as a result of the ongoing management reorganisation within First Bus. He has ensured the Group are kept fully up to date with news in the past and we wish him well for the future. Bill Hiron, currently MD at Eastern Counties has added Essex Buses to his portfolio in a new position. Alan Barrett, who was MD at Thamesway has moved to a similar position at Eastern Counties. We wish both Gentlemen well in their new positions.

Eastern National were joint runners up in the National Federation of Bus Users/Optare awards for South East and Central South England. This reflects such things as quality of service, publicity, timekeeping, vehicle appearance and staff helpfulness.

PUBLICITY

Timetable book for services in North Essex dated 25.5.97. to 1.11.97. This is the first of a new design, with a colour photo of Lance 1501 on the cover. It also includes times for Great Eastern Rail services in the area.

EASTERN NATIONAL ***(SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS)***

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Reg. No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
0703	C557 BHY	To Pickford, Chippenham from Badgerline, their Fleet No. 4557 ex Viles, Brynna	08/95
0706	B473 WTC	To Timms Travel, Queenborough from Badgerline, their Fleet No.4473 ex Lambkin, Queenborough.	12/96
1208	BNO 694T	Scrapped by Coombs Group, Weston & remains gone by.....	03/97
1308	ANA 92Y	To Goodwin, Eccles ex Little Red Bus, Smethwick.	02/97
1309	ANA 93Y	To Ashall, Manchester ex Little Red Bus, Smethwick.	02/97
1310	ANA 94Y	To Chester, Walkden ex Little Red Bus, Smetwick.	02/97
1546	SVW 274K	To Carter, East Bergholt ex Carter, Colchester, (change of entity).	?
1855	YEV 313S	To Beeston, Hadleigh ex Yeates, Loughborough & re-registered MIL 4682.	12/96

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

APT RAYLEIGH Volvo/Van Hool NSU 514, Bedford YNT/Plaxton HRO 2Y and Bristol VR BCL 213T have been sold. Bristol VR PTT 92R is being used for spares.

BACK OF BEYOND FRINTON Renault Master, G63 VVM is a recent acquisition.

BERNARDS COACHES HARLOW Have sold leopard/Duple OEH 930W to Blue Diamond of Harlow.

BISS STANSTED New here are P437/8 OVW, Mercedes Sprinter with Crystals conversions, lettered for Colchester/Stansted and Anglia Railways. They are used on the new service from Colchester North Station to the Airport. Acquired from West Midlands is E290 OMG a Mercedes/Reeve Burgess.

CEDRICS WIVENHOE To correct EBN 396, G97 VFP is re-registered MIL 2886.

CHELMSFORD CAB A further Omni has arrived, J110 LKO. Despite living in the town, your sub-editor sees little or no evidence of local services being operated, although a large number of vehicles carry hall and ride logos.

COLCHESTER COACHES Bova Futura G95 VFP has been acquired. It appears to have replaced E920 EAY a Volvo/Plaxton.

GLEW COLCHESTER Have vacated the former operating centre at the Hythe. Does anyone know where they are now?

GOLF EXECUTIVE BOREHAM Further to EBN 394, this operator has now applied for another licence. Currently here is DXI 5780 (A683 OBA) a Scania/Plaxton.

GRAHAMS KELVEDON Peugeot minibus M269 WVK has been added to the fleet.

LODGE HIGH EASTER Mercedes minibus F977 APW has been acquired from Grahams, Kelvedon

P&M WOODHAM FERRERS Have moved from Birkett Hall Stables to an unknown location.

PHILLIPS COACHES SHOTGATE Have acquired E958 KDP a Volvo/Plaxton.

RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS SHOTGATE Have added LDV 400/Crystals N878 ENK to the fleet.

STEPHENSONS ROCHFORD Are understood to have purchased the business of O'Brien t/a Simien. The services previously registered by O'Brien are now registered to Stephensons. Leyland Olympian/ECW GKE 441Y is now in Stephensons livery, while Leyland National DAR 122T has been in use in old EN colours! Open top service 67 has been re-introduced for the summer, weekends only 7.6 to 19.7 then daily to 7.9. and weekends only to 28.9.

STORT VALLEY BISHOPS STORTFORD Have moved to new premises at Start Hill, just east of the M11/A120 junction.

SUPREME SOUTHEND A Sherpa minibus, M953 UHK is now owned, for use on local pick ups etc. for the main tour programme.

WARD ARLESFORD Ford Transit J916 PEA is now owned, and is assumed to have replaced similar E253 CPU.

RAIL REPLACEMENT

As a result of work on the Great Eastern line, a large rail replacement service operated between Ingatestone and Colchester over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.

Vehicles noted over the period include:-

Stephensons GKE 441Y

Southend Transport 262 705 706

Hedingham L249 L252 L256 L257

Colchester BT 43 46 47 48 49 71 82 84 85 86 88

Citybus 155

Thamesway

Service Revisions

W13 The planned rerouting to Leytonstone Station (East Side) brought forward from 11th May to Sunday 26th April. Thus from Green Man via Gainsborough Road, Lenma Road, Kirkdale Road to the station, returning via Church Lane and High Road.

Updated information on Sunday revisions.

2A Operates as service 2 to Basildon Bus Station then via Hospital, Stanford-le-Hope, Rookery Corner, Socketts Heath (The Oak) to Lakeside. Combined 2 and 2A giving an hourly service between Southend and Basildon. Winter timetable operates from 5th October.

3/3A Operates to and from Canvey Newlands daytime as 3A. Evenings to Leigh Beck as 3, hourly service all day.

11A Thamesway gained this ECC contract from Stephenson's Coaches from late March numbered 33A, but continued to be operated by Stephenson's under contract to Thamesway until 18th May. Operates between Sutton Cemetery and Eastwood Kent Elms via previous ECC service 61. Operates 2 hourly.

20 Reduced timetable to hourly between Southend and Hullbridge with additional short working between Southend and Carlton Avenue for Hospital.

21 Operates between Sutton Cemetery and Southend via Invisible Man, Southchurch White Horse, Lifstan Way and Eastern Esplanade to Southend and normal routing to Canvey Leigh Beck hourly.

25A Operates two hourly between Sutton Cemetery and Eastwood Kent Elms under contract to ECC via previous ECC contract route 61 then extended commercially via Rayleigh and route 250 to Basildon Bus Station and Hospital. Combined routes 11A and 25A give an hourly service between Sutton Cemetery and Eastwood Kent Elms.

27 Operates via normal route to Canvey Eastern Esplanade.

The following service revisions are to be implemented from Saturday 29th June, not 14th June as stated last month. The revisions do not affect the Sunday timetable already recorded and implemented.

2 Will only operate between Southend and Basildon Mon-Sat.

3/A/B/C Timetable revised.

15/A/16 Revised timetable.

20/A/C Revised timetable and routing.

21/A/B/C/D Revised timetable.

24/A/B/C Revised timetable.

26/A Withdrawn.

- 27/A Revised timetable with all journeys operating to Canvey Eastern Esplanade as route 27.
- 28 Minor timetable revisions.
- 29B Revised timetable.
- 63 Revised timetable.
- 71/A/72 Revised timetable with some journeys extended to/from Ongar (Two Brewers)
- 73/74 Revised timetable with some journeys being extended to Basildon via Herongate and Laindon as route 75.
- 80 Revised timetable.
- 81-83 Revised timetable.
- 151 Route revised to operate Basildon to Romford every 30 mins. The Canvey to Basildon Hospital section will operate as route 22 every 30 minutes.
- 225 Service withdrawn and replaced by new routes 91 and 92 Brentwood to Lakeside direct and not servicing Warley, Upminster and Ockendon.
- 250 Revised timetable with route renumbered 25 with 25B and 25C being slight variations and 25A being the Sunday service.
- 251 Revised timetable and routing. Service to Billericay and Brentwood re-routed via route 2 serving Arterial Road, Gallows Corner and Main Road.
- 551 Revised timetable and re-routed via Billericay and Brentwood to replace 251.

These changes are subject to confirmation, and updates the advance information printed last month. New routes 552/553 are not to be introduced at this time.

- 391 Revised timetable from 1st June to account for rail timetable changes and route diverted to/from Lakeside Bus Station.

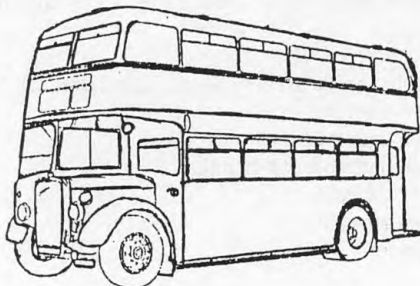
VEHICLES

Leyland Lynx D755 DLO is numbered 1430. It was prepared at Hadleigh and entered service in early June.

Allocations 25th May

1430 - HH, 1918 HH - D/L(d).

1918 is in store at Eastern National's Clacton garage.



1803 TJN 502R Leyland National 11351A/1R B49F 04479

1803 was delivered to Eastern National in June 1977 - exactly twenty years ago. 1803 entered service in July 1977 at Colchester working primarily routes 53 and 78 Three years later in July 1980, 1803 moved to Clacton where town routes and the Colchester routes would have been worked. In 1986 a number of changes took place and 1803 was involved. Eastern National won the contracts to operate a number of LRT bus routes in North-East London. In May 1986 therefore 1803 was transferred to the new garage at Walthamstow to take up work on LRT routes 20 and 167. The Clacton Leyland Nationals were replaced by Mercedes minibuses working a revised network of town services marketed as Coastline. In April 1986, 1803 was repainted in the yellow and green livery. On repaint, spaces were left for the Citybus and LRT logos that were applied before entering service at Walthamstow. Thamesway was formed in July 1990 and the entire Walthamstow allocation was transferred to the new company. 1803 was an early recipient of Thamesway livery being repainted in November 1990. The LRT contracts ended in 1992 and in March 1803 was transferred to Hadleigh where it remains today. Hadleigh 'Nationals' have worked most routes except for a few min bus only routes like the 24. Work has reduced with the introduction of new Dennis Darts. In December 1996, 1803 was repainted in the latest Thamesway livery. There are just eleven Leyland Nationals left in the Thamesway fleet all of which were new between 1977 and 1979. It is anticipated that 1803 will be making a guest appearance at Showbus in September..



1803 at Clacton Bus Station in April 1986. 1803 only had a few weeks left at Clacton being transferred to Walthamstow in May. (Andy Meadows)

Southend Transport

Vehicles;

Disposals

VR 304 (DWY 146T) to ??? May 97.
VR 307 (WTU 473W) to London & Country, Croydon. (13/5/97)
LN 716 (GGE 156T) as 307.

Subsequent Disposals.

LD 214 (XGS 770X) Scrapped by Keenan of Ayr.
FL 314 (GHV 29N) to S&M Hadleigh, ex Horsham Buses.
FL 320 (TGX 820M) Scrapped by S&M, Hadleigh.

Awaiting Disposal.

FL 208/11/16 (JTD 388/91/96P) LN 711(JBO 349N)
LN 714(NPK 241R) LN 718(GGE 161T) LN 719(GGE 162T) LN 723(GGE 172T)

All stored at London Road Garage.

Repaints;

ON 259 (B183 BLG) into all over advert for
Peter Newman(Factory Shops) Pitsea Market.
Front in new fleet livery.

Fleet Summary at June 1997.

FL 212/221-230/231-242/250-254
ON 256-260/262-265/281-284/705-709/902-906/909
DSL 56-67
MM 478/481/482
TR 546-549/551/553/557-559/563
VL 565-568 569-572
LN 745
LSL 001-004

Total; 90

Non PCV 334/594

COUNTY BUS & COACH

FLEET

Repaints

LP 5/6		to Leaside Travel livery
STL 10	BAZ 7384	to Leaside Travel livery
VPL 501	L501 MOO	to Leaside Travel livery
VPL 503	H903 AHS	to Leaside Travel livery
TPL 518	E118 Kfv	to Leaside Travel livery
BOV 594/6	HDZ 8354	to Leaside Travel livery
BOV 596	JTW 3696	to Leaside Travel livery

Allocation Changes to June 1997

M 467	DTG 367V	Grey Green to Awaiting Allocation
M 472	DTG 372V	Grey Green to Grays
(not M367 and M472 as in EBN 397)		

DI 929 (J929 CYL) has gone to fellow Cowie company, South London to operate a tender from London Transport.

COWIE GROUP NEWS

In March the Monopolies and Mergers Commission published their report into the purchase last year of British Bus, and the takeover was given the go-ahead with no action being taken.



HARRIS bus

HARRIS BUS THURROCK Leyland Atlantean OCO 118S and Talbot E563 MAC have been sold for scrap, both having donated parts to other vehicles in the fleet. The remaining Volvo/N Counties WRJ 448X has been sold, together with Transit F849 LHS, passing through ADT Auctions, Manchester.

On the positive side, the first double deckers for London services have arrived. They are P335-337 ROO, they are DAF DB250/N Counties seating H43/25D. All are in red livery having been used as demonstrators in London in the past couple of years. Further vehicles due are P338-49 ROO Volvo Olympians/East Lancs with dual doorways and single doorway sisters P350-59 ROO.

Mercedes minibus J583 WVX is an overall advert for Gala Bingo Clubs.

Services from Chadwell St Mary, Aveley and Corringham to the new bingo club at Lakeside were registered from 5.6.97.

HARRIS COACHES THURROCK New coaches in Eurolines livery are P701-3 NHJ, all are DAF SB3000/Ikarus seating C49FT.

LDV minibus N316 VNT is in use with the bus company as a staff shuttle to Stratford.

MEDIA MONITOR

May 14th: Colchester High Street will be closed on Sunday between 0900 and 1800 for road resurfacing. *Buses were allowed access and negotiated their way around the contractors, often with great difficulty.* Little Clacton Parish Council ordered a bus shelter at a cost of £1,400 but when workmen arrived to erect it found they could not because of underground cables. The Council has had to pay for the shelter and £160 for the men to take it away!

May 22nd: Tendring District Council are to investigate a road train for the sea front. It would run on the highway at a speed of 10 mph and cars would just have to wait said a council official.

May 24th: The Eastern Traffic Commissioner cut from three vehicles to two the O-licence of Walkers Car Hire & Taxi Service (Corringham) Ltd after their failure to notify changes in their operating centre and transport manager. Adshell has won a 15 year contract to renew 17 council and 24 non-advertising bus shelters in Castle Point.

June 4th: Passengers were left with a long wait after a driver accidentally missed out a run on Service 90 from Witham to Maldon and then got behind. Passengers including pensioners had to wait more than two hours. Robert MacGregor apologised saying it was not good enough and would not happen again. The first day of Sunday services on the Manningtree to Harwich rail line in two years were described as very heartening by Great Eastern. Hundreds of people had travelled on the service which for the first two Sundays was a free service. A new venture north of the border was less successful with Eastern Counties new SuperRoute 88 between Ipswich and Stowmarket running into problems when vandals super glued the bus lanes electronic bollards into the upright position.

June 11th: FirstBus plc has announced pre-tax profits of £51m, a 132% increase on the previous year. This included £10m of restructuring costs and £1.7m income from property disposal. In the first three months of ownership Great Eastern Railways made an operating profit of £1.8m but this was on a margin of 5.3% against a margin of 15% from the bus operations. The bus operations in the Midlands and South East Division returned an operating profit of £16.6m, a 14.5% increase. The company is looking to expand not only in the UK but on the continent as publicly owned operations are privatised.

All news originally appeared in Colchester Evening Gazette, East Anglian Daily Times, Essex County Standard or Coach & Bus Week

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