

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

NEWS SHEET NUMBER 257

August 1985

EDITORIAL

North Midlands Weekend Coach Tour

Bookings for this tour have now closed, thank you for your support.

Autumn Excursion - Saturday, October 5th.

A booking form for this excursion is enclosed with this news sheet. Since there are picking up points across Essex it is hoped that these will be within easy reach of many members. Please book seats as early as possible.

Future Group Tours

Plans for a tour tracing the history of the open-top routes in Southend, as previously announced at various meetings, have had to be postponed until Spring 1986 due to vehicle availability problems. However, it is hoped to organise an event to mark the 5th birthday of Southend Transport's X1 service on Sunday, October 6th. Full details will be announced next month.

Rochford Meeting - Tuesday, September 3rd.

The next meeting at the Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd commencing at 1930 hrs. (for 2000 hrs.). This meeting will feature the Group's annual 'Bus Mastermind Quiz', this year between teams representing the Committee and Eastern National. All members are urged to come to what should prove to be a highly entertaining and informative evening.

New Publication

The second supplement (Supplement No. 2) to Group publication E.P.35 (Eastern National Route Working Index) has now been published. Dated August 1985, it is available free of charge, and members should send a stamped addressed envelope to the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 19. Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, Essex. SS3 9NX) for a copy. This supplement lists all coach workings in the Summer peak period.

Venturer Travel - Coach Excursions to Transport Events and Other Places of Interest

Brief details of forthcoming Venturer Travel coach excursions were published in the May news sheet (NS254). Two further excursions have recently been announced, to the Severn Valley Railway (September 28th) and to Calais and St. Omer (October 5th). Full details can be obtained from Venturer Travel at 184. Maplin Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex. SS1 3ND. (Tel. Southend (0702) 585419 - between 1900 hrs. and 2100 hrs.).

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EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

The remaining two Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. vehicles for stage services (4005/6) were delivered during late-July. Full details of these vehicles were published in last month's news sheet, and the actual delivery dates were as follows :-

4005 - July 26th.

4006 - July 25th.

The vehicles are identical to similar vehicles 4003/4, and are painted in green fleet livery. They were delivered with their original booked registration numbers (B700/1BPU), which were subsequently changed to their new registrations (C711/2GEV). Both vehicles entered service during early-August at Brentwood (BD) depot, and they are being used on service 251. The first recorded observation was of 4006 on this service on August 6th, although it has also been reported that one vehicle was used initially by Southend (SD) depot for a short period.

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Re-built Vehicles

Work has now been completed on the conversion of Leyland National 2202 (WNO559L) into a disabled persons' vehicle, and this vehicle has now entered service at Clacton (CN), rather than at Colchester (CR) as originally anticipated. Conversion work has now commenced on Bristol RELL6G coach 2203 (X00878L), and this vehicle remains delicensed (D/L) at Central Works. It seems likely that this vehicle will be allocated to Colchester (CR) when conversion work is completed.

Vehicles On Order

Please note that the heading of this section of last month's news sheet should have been Vehicles On Order, and not Vehicles On Hire as incorrectly printed.

There is no further news to report this month regarding the anticipated order for a number of Mercedes-Benz mini-bus vehicles. Conversion work on this type of vehicle is at present being undertaken by PMT Engineering, the engineering subsidiary of The Potteries Motor Traction Co. Ltd., Stoke-on-Trent, and this company has recently announced orders for 64 Mercedes-Benz mini-buses from various National Bus Company subsidiaries. Members may also be interested to know that production of the Ford Transit will cease in the U.K. during November, pending the introduction of a new model in mid-1986. In the meantime, Ford Transit vehicles will be imported from abroad.

Allocations & Transfers

8.85 1539 D/L (D)-D/L (P), 1540 CR-PL (P), 1545 D/L (D)-D/L (P), 1549 D/L (D)-D/L (P), 2202 D/L-CN, 3000 D/L (D)-D/L (P), 3004 D/L (D)-MN, 3024 DT-D/L (P), 3027 DT-BD, 3050 BD-DT, 3055 CF-SE, 3060 SD-SE, 3061 BD-DT, 3066 BD-CR, 3082 SE-CF, 3091 CR-CF, 3102 SE-SD, 3124 CF-CR.

A full fleet allocation is published on page 11 of this news sheet, and the next full allocation will be published in the December news sheet.

Leyland National 1890 (BNO680T) now carries Great Dunmow (DW) depot allocation plates; these were fitted during mid-August, although recent observations have indicated that this vehicle will continue to be used on Chelmsford area services in addition to its duties from Great Dunmow (DW). For example, it was noted on service 351 on August 14th, and it is not proposed to record such workings as Unusual Workings.

Leyland National's 1789, 1800 and 1834 did not carry Walton-on-Naze (WN) depot allocation plates at the time of writing, although it is understood that these will be fitted in due course.

Service Vehicles

Bristol VRTLL6G driver training vehicle 9016 (LFS2821), which suffered roof damage on July 12th, has now been repaired and it has re-entered service on driver training duties. Bristol VRTSL6G 3002 (CPU981G) continued to be used on such duties until at least mid-August, and this vehicle remains licensed at Chelmsford (CF).

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 NS256:-

June w/e 1.6.85 - 3031 at CN (confirmation of date, see NS254/6).
 July w/e 20.7.85 - 1784 at CW.
 w/e 27.7.85 - 1811 at CW, 1877 at CW (signwriting completed - overall advertisement livery for Rates of Grays - see also NS256),
 2202 at CW (dual-purpose livery).
 August w/e 3.8.85 - 1737 at CW.
 w/e 10.8.85 - No vehicles repainted.
 w/e 17.8.85 - 1746 at CW, 1865 at CN, 3092 at CW (overall advertisement livery for Grange Motors (Brentwood) Ltd.).

Leyland National 1877 (BNO667T) has now entered service at Basildon (BN) in its overall advertisement livery for Rates of Grays (Ford car dealers). At the time of writing, Bristol VRTSL6G 3092 (STW 36W) remained at Central Works awaiting its entry into service in overall advertisement livery for Grange Motors (Brentwood) Ltd., Brentwood. The livery of this vehicle is basically white, with black signwriting.

The next vehicle to be repainted in an overall advertisement livery will be Bristol

VRTSL6G 3068 (K00786V), which will carry an advertisement for Basildon Development Corporation featuring the new Eastgate Shopping Centre at Basildon. This vehicle is currently in the paintshops at Central Works, and the basic livery will be black, yellow and white, including a yellow and black pattern of squares on the lower deck panels.

It is also understood that a further overall advertisement contract due shortly will be for County Motor Works (Chelmsford) Ltd., Chelmsford, probably for a Leyland National.

At the time of writing, Bristol VRTSL6G's 3071 (K00789V) and 3074 (K00792V) both remained in City 400 livery (see also NS256).

A partial lower deck repaint has recently been completed on Bristol VRTSL6G 3086 (STW 30W), although the actual date remains to be confirmed. Similarly, the repaint date for 3090 (STW 34W) is still awaiting confirmation (see also NS256).

Leyland Olympian 4505 (B693BPU) was in the paintshops at Central Works at the time of writing to receive minor repainting work following the completion of accident damage repairs (see also NS255/6).

Bristol REL6G 1546 (SWW274K), which was sold to Essex County Council during July, has been repainted in E.C.C. yellow livery at Central Works, and this vehicle was noted awaiting collection on August 15th.

General

There have been further press reports during recent weeks suggesting that passenger loadings on the Saturday 'Countrycar' service from Fingringhoe to Colchester have exceeded the capacity of the Peugeot cars (0120/1). It is also understood that a bus has duplicated the Countrycar on a number of occasions.

Leyland Olympian 4003 (B698BPU) has again been noted in service without its Transign electronic destination display equipment (see also NS255). This has been replaced by a vinyl simply displaying 'Service', and it should be noted that such vinyls were used earlier rather than conventional number and destination blinds (correction to NS255).

Leyland Tiger coaches 1128/9 (B696/7WAR) are both fitted to Continental Tempo 100 specification, which includes an up-rated braking system and front seat belts.

Leyland National 2202 (WN0559L), which has recently been converted into a disabled persons' vehicle, differs slightly from similar vehicles 2200/1 by having an offside luggage compartment at the front of the vehicle. This vehicle was fitted with a tachograph by Trimoco Trucks (A12) Ltd., Chelmsford on July 22nd.

Four Leyland National vehicles currently carry extensive off-side advertisements for Cold Seal Windows, Maldon. The vehicles are from Basildon (BN), Braintree (BE), Chelmsford (CF) and Maldon (MN) depots, and those observed at the time of writing were 1734 CF, 1794 BE and 1806 MN.

A number of vehicles from other operators have received attention at Eastern National Engineering's Central Works during recent weeks. These have included Ambassador Travel LL754 (MCL936P), Cambus Bristol VRTSL6G's 601 (TMB213H) and 715 (WPW200S), Heddingham & District's former Eastern National Bristol VRTLL6G L104 (LFS292F) and Wealden Omnibuses ADG332K, a 1972 Bristol RELH6G with Plaxton C47F coachwork originally owned by National Travel (South West) Ltd. and more recently with Durford Travel, Burford.

Members may be interested in the following list of Colchester Borough Transport, Eastern National and Southend & District Co-ordination Area services which have been provisionally accepted for grant aid by Essex County Council during 1985/86. The services have been listed in Essex County Council's latest Public Transport Plan (for 1986/87) and are as follows :-

Colchester Borough Transport : 1/1A, 2/2A/2B, 3/3A, 4/4A, 5/5A/5B, 6/6A, 7/7A/7C/7X, 8, 9/9A, 10, 11, 14/14A, 19/19A and 74A (and these services are also supported by Colchester Borough Council).

Eastern National : 6/6A, 7/7A/7C/7X, 31A/B, 32/32A, 33, 35, 36/36A/36B, 38/38A, 42, 43, 44, 46, 48/48A/48B/48C, 49/49A/49B, 52/52A, 54/54A, 55/55A, 56/56A/56B, 57/57A, 58/58A/58B, 59/59B, 70 (part of route only), 75, 79, 82, 87/87A, 88/88A, 89/89A, 90, 93/93A, 94/94A,

95, 96, 97, 101, 102, 105, 106, 107, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 120, 121, 122, 123, 126, 155, 156, 224, 226, 229, 230, 234, 235, 236, 237, 239, 255, 256, 257, 260, 261, 262, 265, 266, 270, 271, 301, 303, 304, 307, 316, 317, 318, 319, 321, 325, 329, 330, 331, 332, 335, 337, 338, 339, 340, 345, 346, 373, 507 and the 5XX group of Basildon Town services.

'Countrycar' services : Braintree area; Colchester area.

Southend & District Co-ordination Area : 4/4A/4B, 7A/7B/7C, 9/9A/9B, 10/10A/10B, 12, 13, 18, 20/20A, 24/24A, 65 and 66.

It is understood that the Wayfarer ticket machines being used by the Company on LRT services 193 and W9 have been supplied by London Regional Transport.

Temporary Loans

Once again, there have been a large number of temporary loans recorded by members during recent weeks. At Harwich (DT), 1123, 1302, 1650, 1816 and 3066 (all CR) and 1112, 1307 and 1554 (all CN) operated on loan between mid-June and late-July for varying periods of time. 1117, 1653, 1920 and 3061 (all DT) were loaned to Colchester (CR) during the same period, whilst 1126 DT operated on loan to Clacton (CN) from July 19th to July 23rd. Harwich (DT) vehicles continued to be used extensively on National Express, Highwayman, private hire and excursion work throughout July. Some of the more interesting workings involved the use of Bristol VRT's on private hire work from Warners Holiday Camp at Dovercourt. 3024 operated the shuttle service between Dovercourt Railway Station and the camp on July 13th, and this service was also operated by 1554 CN (July 20th), 1920 (June 22nd), and 3027 (June 29th/July 6th). Excursions from Warners Holiday Camp saw the regular use of 3024 (July 15th), 3027 (June 20th/24th/27th and July 8th), 3058 (June 20th/24th and July 1st/8th/11th/15th/18th) and 3061 (June 27th and July 1st). 3058 was very unusually operated on National Express service 080 from Harwich to London on July 20th; on the previous day, this vehicle had operated a shuttle service between Colchester Railway Station and a pop concert at East Mersea.

Leyland Tiger's 1117 and 1126 have been used most frequently on National Express, Highwayman and private hire work. Highwayman services 813 and 816 are being operated by Harwich (DT) depot this Summer, and these services have been worked almost entirely by 1117 and 1126; the only other vehicle noted on these services during July was 1112 CN on service 816 on July 21st. Similarly, 1117 and 1126 have been used regularly on National Express services 080 and 084 during July, and the only other vehicles noted on service 080 have been 1123 CR (July 14th) and 3058 (July 20th - see above). Finally, two other interesting workings recorded during recent weeks involved the use of Bristol RELL6G 1541 on a rail replacement service between Harwich and Manningtree on June 25th, and the use of Leyland Tiger 1117 on a National Holidays feeder service from Chelmsford to Walton-on-Naze on July 1st.

At Silver End (SE), temporary loans have included 1120 BE (from July 22nd to July 24th) and 4501 BN (from July 31st to August 3rd). 1120 was noted in use on services 325 and 335 on July 23rd, and on Seaside Special service 72E on July 24th. 4501 operated commuter service 194 on July 31st, August 1st and August 2nd. On August 3rd, it operated a National Express service from London to Bournemouth/Poole, and was then exchanged at Chelmsford with 3059 BE before returning to Basildon (BN).

Bristol VRTSL6G 3032 CR was operating on temporary loan to Brentwood (BD) during mid-August. It was noted in use on service 251 (August 8th/13th), whilst on August 9th it was noted at Rayleigh (High Street) having failed whilst operating a service 251 journey to Southend; it was replaced on this working by 3097 HH.

Service Developments

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

- 3 - Daily : revised late evening timetable (and introduced from July 28th).
- 9B - Schooldays : all journeys operating to/from Sutton (Schools) to be withdrawn, and revised terminals for this service to be Southend (Central Bus Station) and Sutton (Purdeys Way) with minor route revision.
- 31 - Mondays and Wednesdays : additional journey to be introduced from Chelmsford to Maldon at 0845 hrs.

- 36 - Saturdays : additional journey to be introduced from Danbury (Eves Corner) to South Woodham (Town Centre) at 0747 hrs.
- 38 - Mondays to Fridays : additional journey to be introduced from Maldon to Chelmsford at 1635 hrs.
- 75 - Tuesdays and Thursdays (during the School Summer holidays) : to introduce additional journeys from Fingringhoe to Colchester at 0920 hrs. and from Colchester to Fingringhoe at 1315 hrs.
- 83 - Wednesdays and Fridays (during the School Summer holidays) : to introduce additional journeys from Colchester (circular) via Great Tey at 0910 hrs. and 1315 hrs.
- 102 - Revised route between St. Osyth and Great Bentley via Clay Lane, Highburch Road, Bentley Road, Wick Road, Weeley Road and Plough Road, and revised timetable.

Various applications have been made for revisions to the commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. In general, these relate to the extensive service revisions introduced as long ago as February 25th (see NS251 for full details). Supplementary information now available is as follows :-

- 190/4/5/7/8 - All journeys from Braintree (Bus Park) to London are routed via Victoria Street, Fairfield Road, Market Place, Great Square, High Street, Grenville Road, A120, Rayne, A120, Great Dunmow, A120, Takeley, Start Hill and the M11 motorway. Service 194 journeys from London operate via Coggeshall Road, Marlborough Road, Mountbatten Road, Coggeshall Road (A120) and then via Skitts Hill to White Courts Estate.

The Company has also applied to withdraw references to National Express services from the licences for express services 081/3/4/5/7, subject to the grant of new licences to be applied for by National Express. Effectively this means that future licences for these National Express services will be held by National Express Ltd., and that the Eastern National licences will now cover commuter services 190/1/3, which have been previously incorporated with the express service licences.

Essex County Council has recently invited competitive tenders from operators for three London Country services in the Harlow area. The services concerned are 392 (Harlow-Hoddesdon), 393 (Harlow-Hoddesdon/Waltham Cross) and 501 (Harlow-Romford). Further details regarding the future operation of these services will be published as soon as they become available.

From August 12th, for a period of approximately eight weeks, services 303 and 304 are being diverted in Stansted via High Lane and Lower Street due to road works at Chapel Hill. Passengers for Chapel Hill are being picked up and set down at the Bell and Feathers P.H..

Amongst the forthcoming events within the Company's area, bus travel facilities (services 1, 3, 5A, 24, 400 and 402) to the Hadleigh Castle Fayre (August 26th) are currently being advertised

The Company is also currently promoting the Southend & District low cost Family Ticket. This is available after 1800 hrs. on Mondays to Fridays, all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays and throughout the month of August, and is priced at £2.75 for one adult and up to two children and £3.45 for two adults and up to two children.

Publicity News

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

Timetable leaflets - a leaflet with details of the revised late evening timetable for service 3 (dated July 28th).

Essex County Council leaflets - a timetable revision leaflet (No. 1) for the Braintree/Dunmow/Witham/Halstead area book, dated July 1985.

'Seaside Special' services - the 1985 Summer timetable has been reprinted, incorporating previous revisions to services 53E (see NS255) and 71E (see NS256). The revised leaflet was published during early-August.

Leisure Break Holidays - a leaflet with details of the Leisure Break Holidays for the forthcoming Christmas/New Year holiday period - to Lytham St. Annes (LB531) and Edinburgh (LB532).

Unusual Workings

Two corrections are necessary to last month's notes on Unusual Workings, as follows :-
 28.6-3094 BD was not a failure on service 251; it was on temporary loan to Hadleigh (HH) to provide an additional vehicle fitted with a tachograph.
 29.6-Southend Transport 333 operated National Express service 718.

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

- 19.6-3047 left Harwich (DT) on Trade Plates, and was moved to Basildon (BN) prior to its sale to South Midland Ltd. 1541 arrived at Harwich (DT) on Trade Plates from Southend (see also NS256/6).
- 13.7-Southend Transport 218 (on hire to Thorn's Coaches, Rayleigh) operated a private hire journey from Southend to Margate, whilst 213 and 330 operated the Miracle Bus contract service from Aldgate to Southend; 330 replaced 213 for the afternoon journey due to a fault.
- 14.7-3002 CF noted at Braintree (Bus Park) showing service 70; 4003 CR noted on service 119; Southend Transport 238 operated the morning Miracle Bus contract, whilst 236 operated the afternoon journey which operated from Gatwick Airport.
- 15.7-1118 HH noted on service 1; 1785 BD noted on service 251 (and again on 16.7).
- 17.7-Southend Transport 307 noted on a private hire working at Tilbury Town Station.
- 18.7-3002 CF observed on service 152 at Billericay; 4503 SE noted on service 53.
- 19.7-3078 SD observed on service 402 at Southend; Southend Transport 253 noted on service X41.
- 20.7-1819 CF noted on a MN service 38 working; 3031 CN observed on service 119; 3108 CF noted on service 251; Southend Transport 339 operated the Miracle Bus contract service.
- 21.7-3111 CR noted on service 119; London Country Leyland Olympian LR 75 (B275LPH) (HA) noted at Southend on service 945 from Harlow; Southend Transport 213 (on hire to Ensign Bus Co.) operated a private hire journey from Southend to Chappel and Wakes Colne (for Venturer Travel); other Southend Transport vehicles noted were 214 on a private hire working to Brighton, 339 on a duplicate Miracle Bus contract and 357 on hire to London Pride Sightseeing.
- 23.7-1058 BS and 3114 BS both noted at Silver End (SE) depot; Southend Transport 252 operated a private hire working to Oxford via Dartford and South London (returning on 24.7); Southend Transport 341 noted on service 795 at Orpington.
- 24.7-3024 DT (but still carrying SD depot allocation plates) noted in Harwich on private hire work; 3118 BE noted on service 325 at Tumblers Green.
- 25.7-1802 CF noted on service 53; 3035 CF also noted on service 53; 3038 MN noted on an ASDA working at Rayleigh.
- 26.7-1870 CF noted on a SE service 53 working; 3055 CF operated a private hire journey from London to Gosfield.
- 27.7-1821 IH operated a duplicate Highwayman service 809 journey from Basildon to Clacton, returning private; 1858 CN operated Highwayman service 821 (Clacton-Ramsgate) as far as Basildon, where it was replaced by 1309 BE, which had operated Highwayman service 820 from Halstead - 1858 CN then operated a duplicate National Express service 109 journey to Victoria Coach Station and return, before returning to Clacton on the return working of service 821 from Basildon; 4502 BS noted in Torquay operating National Express service 699 (London-South Devon); Southend Transport 218 operated the Miracle Bus contract, whilst 326 and 333 were noted on private hire work at Stepney.
- 28.7-Southend Transport 233 operated the Miracle Bus contract.
- 29.7-1877 EN noted on service 152, having been recently outshopped in Rates of Grays advertising livery; Southend Transport 250 (on hire to London Buses Ltd.) operated from Park Lane to the National Exhibition Centre, together with a number of coaches on hire from Reliance of Gravesend.
- 30.7-1125 SD noted on service 62 - this vehicle is currently being used on bus duties at Southend (SD) during Mondays to Fridays - it was also noted on services 2 and 62 on 31.7; 3004 MN noted on a private hire working at Hockley; 3036 SD noted on private hire work at Rayleigh; 3120 IN observed on service 400; Maidstone & District 5867 (FKM367V) was noted at Southend (SL) depot.
- 1.8-2201 CF noted at Southend on private hire work; 3022 BS (service 70E) and 3100 BD (service 53E) both noted at Clacton.
- 2.8-1734 CF observed on a MN service 38 working; London Country (Green Line) TPL 82 (B282KPF) noted at Southend on service 945; Southend Transport 242 was used on

- transfer work between Egham and Copthall Stadium and Crystal Palace (and also on 3.8) - this work was undertaken on hire to London Crusader, and also involved many London Country vehicles and also two Brighton Borough Transport vehicles.
- 3.8-1055 ED noted on LRT service W9 - this was the first recorded working of this service by a vehicle other than 1051-4/7 - 1055 displayed route number 9, and did not appear to have any external LRT signs; 1542 BE noted on service 337; 1747 SE observed on service 331; 1767 BN operated a duplicate National Express service 109 journey from Basildon to Victoria Coach Station; 3059 BE operated National Express service 135 from South Ockendon to Yarmouth as far as Basildon, where it was replaced by 4508 DN - this service is normally operated by 1124 DN; 3067 BE noted on service 88; 3108 CF observed on service 251; 3123 SE noted on service 311; Southend Transport 330 and 332 were hired to Travel Data for transfer work between Dover and London, whilst 337 operated a private hire working from London to Harwich (on hire to London Pride Sightseeing) and 338 operated the Miracle Bus contract service.
- 4.8-3111 CR noted on service 119; 4004 CR noted at Chelmsford returning to Colchester on a private hire working; Southend Transport 236 failed at Dagenham whilst operating the morning Miracle Bus contract from London - it was replaced by Ensign Bus Co. DF 1628 (THM628M) (painted in LT 1933 livery) for the remainder of the day; Southend Transport 253 was used on transfer work (for London Crusader) between Egham and Heathrow.
- 6.8-1553 BS noted at Chelmsford on service 58.
- 7.8-1540 PL (P) observed at Colchester (CR) depot; 3123 SE noted on service 72E to Felixstowe.
- 8.8-1118 HI noted on a private hire working in North London.
- 9.8-Southend Transport 209 was involved in an accident whilst operating an evening service X1 journey near Grays.
- 10.8-2384 was entered in the Southend Carnival, and was decorated as a shoe from the nursery rhyme 'The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe'; 3071 SD noted on service 11A; Southend Transport workings included 250, 253 and 334 on private hire work and 330 on the Miracle Bus contract.
- 11.8-1122 ED and 1127 BS both noted at Southend Airport; Southend Transport 238 noted on the Miracle Bus contract.
- 14.8-Southend Transport 233 noted on service X31 (Canvey Island).
- 15.8-1118 HI noted on a private hire working at Maldon.

Members are reminded that Group publication E.P.33 (with Supplements Nos. 1 and 2) (Eastern National Route Working Index) should be used to provide clarification on Unusual Workings; this publication contains details of Eastern National's regular bus and coach workings.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

Vehicles On Order

The two Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. vehicles that are currently on order were noted at Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft on July 20th in the early stages of construction. Body numbers noted on the vehicles were 26243 and 26244.

General

The revised livery now carried by Leyland Atlantean 90 (RVW 90W) (see NS255 for full details) is reported to be the new Colchester Borough Transport standard livery. It is expected that the two Leyland Olympian's (see above) will be painted in this livery. Leyland Atlantean 60 (JHK500N) has also been recently repainted in this new livery style. It was first noted in service on services 2/2A on August 7th, before returning to its normal working on services 6/6A on the following day. It is reported that this is the only vehicle in the fleet to be fitted with a reversing alarm, and that it operates on services 6/6A because of the need to reverse at Rowhedge.

During the School Summer holidays, the peak vehicle requirement on Mondays to Fridays is reduced to 37 (morning peak) and 36 (evening peak) (see also NS256).

Vehicles on services 19 and 19A do not pass the Colchester Borough Transport offices where crew changes for all other services normally take place. Relief drivers for services 19 and 19A use an empty vehicle to transfer to North Station, where crew changes take place; the vehicle normally used for this duty is that which

operates morning peak journeys on services 5/5A/5B, and this vehicle also operates mid-day journeys on services 4, 7 and 10.

A fire at the East Gates level crossing at the height of the evening rush hour on July 25th caused disruption to services, whilst a bomb scare at a High Street bank during the afternoon of August 9th led to the road being closed for 90 minutes.

Other vehicle news is that, with the exception of 22 (OWC722M), all the Bristol REEL6L's are currently in use. 21 (OWC721M) was noted back in service on August 5th, whilst 23 (OWC723M) was back in service by August 12th. 28 (SWC 28K) was noted on services 1/1A and 3 on July 24th and July 29th, and again on services 1/1A on August 8th when it replaced a defective Leyland Atlantean. The current pattern of operation of Bristol REEL6L's on Mondays to Fridays is four vehicles on services 9/9A and 19/19A, and two vehicles on services 2/2A, together with additional peak hour vehicles.

Leyland Atlantean 49 (YWC649F) is still in use on services 2/2A or 5A, although it was noted on service 8 on August 10th. Similar vehicle 50 (AVX 50G) remains out of service at the Magdalen Street depot, together with other Leyland Atlantean's 63 (NNO 63P) (since July 15th), 65 (NKO 65P) (since early July), 72 (TPU 72R) (since about July 19th) and Leyland Leopard coach 101 (DHK101T) (which was last noted in service on June 20th). Leyland Atlantean 62 (NNO 62P) was back in regular service by July 19th, and similar vehicle 76 (TPU 76R) had re-entered service by August 3rd (see also NS256/11).

Leyland Atlantean 90 (RVW 90W), which was the first vehicle to carry the new standard livery (see above), now has rear and off-side advertisements; the off-side advertisement is a T-shape design for the Essex County Standard. It has been reported that both 89 (RVW 89W) and 90 (RVW 90W) operated duplicate National Express journeys from Colchester to London following a pop concert at East Mersea on July 19th.

Former Tyne & Wear PTE Leyland Atlantean 53 (MVK548R) was an unusual visitor to services 4/4A (August 13th) and 5/5A (July 17th), whilst similar vehicle 52 (MVK546R) was also noted on services 4/4A on July 19th.

At the time of writing, Leyland Atlantean 63 (NNO 63P) was being painted with a wrap-round advertisement for Millers Motors.

Colchester Borough Transport has recently applied for the following service revisions :-

- 2A - Schooldays : additional journey to be introduced at 1505 hrs. from Highwoods (Gilberd School) to Head Street via Ipswich Road.
- 5 - Schooldays : 0816 hrs. journey from Five Ways to be extended to Highwoods (Gilberd School) arriving at 0851 hrs.
- 5A - Schooldays : 1501 hrs. journey from Five Ways to be extended to Highwoods (Gilberd School) arriving at 1536 hrs, with the 1541 hrs. journey from Myland Hospital to now start from Highwoods (Gilberd School) at 1537 hrs. Route for service 5/5A journeys to/from Highwoods (Gilberd School) to be via Mill Road, Severalls Lane and Brinkley Lane.

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

General

Members will be aware that Rochford District Council operates two vehicles, 555 (WJN348J) and 556 (BXG525K), on free services to/from various leisure facilities in the Council's area. A new timetable leaflet has recently been published, and this includes details of the increased frequency of services (requiring two vehicles) being operated from Tuesdays to Saturdays during the School Summer holidays from July 20th to August 31st.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles On Order

Delivery of the first of the two Van Hool Astromega double-deck coaches that are currently on order is expected to occur shortly; this will be numbered 256 (C256FHJ). The likely delivery date for the second vehicle (257) has yet to be confirmed.

As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, it should be noted that the chassis of Leyland Leopard CHA425K (which will be numbered 254) has not yet been sent to Berkhof's factory to receive its new coach body. Instead, it passed initially to Ensign Bus Co. for certification procedures in order to obtain a C-prefix registration for the vehicle. This work is expected to be completed shortly, after which it will then pass to Berkhof's factory at Valkenswaard, Netherlands. Work is continuing on the refurbishment of the chassis of Leyland Leopard 212 (CHA443K) (to be numbered 255).

Withdrawn Vehicles

7.85

385 (GHJ385L)

This vehicle was withdrawn from service on July 31st, and it has since been sold to A.J. & J. Millman, Buckfastleigh, being collected on August 6th. It has also been reported that two similar vehicles from this batch are expected to be sold to the same operator.

It can now be confirmed that Daimler Fleetline's 378 (GHJ378L) and 380 (GHJ380L), which were sold to City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd. during May, also carry fleet numbers 378/80 respectively with City of Oxford. As far as is known, neither is yet in service.

Volvo B10M-61 300 (B300BTW), which was withdrawn from service on June 30th, passed from Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet to London Country Bus Services Ltd. during early July, being seen initially at Grays (GY) and then at Reigate (RG). It is understood that the coach is on lease from Ensign Bus Co. and that it is destined to enter service at Hemel Hempstead (HH). When seen at Reigate, it remained in yellow and blue livery.

Although not officially withdrawn from service, Bristol RELL6G's 301 (NLJ828G) and 302 (NLJ829G) have now been placed in store to form a reserve fleet, with effect from July 17th, although they last ran in service on June 21st (301) and July 8th (302).

Re-built Vehicles

Leyland Leopard coach 208 (DTE208V) has also been fitted with a farebox, so that the list of coaches available for local services is now 201/2/5/6/8 and 327.

Leyland Leopard coach 329 (FDF265T) has been fitted with a reconditioned engine by Avon Diesels.

Daimler Fleetline 316 (GHV 8N) has had its rear route number box panelled over.

Bristol RELL6L 303 (JEH179K) has recently been out of service with engine defects, but is expected to return to service shortly.

Vehicles On Hire

Further to the report in last month's news sheet, the hire of Leyland Tiger coach 215 (A215PEV) to Beacon Motor Services, Chatham ended on July 22nd. It had been used on a Trathens commuter service, and the date quoted in last month's news sheet (July 8th) was for the start of the hire, and not necessarily the service. 215 was also used on a contract at Heathrow.

Valedene Coaches, Sutton Valence have recently hired two Southend Transport coaches. From July 19th until July 28th, Leyland Leopard 340 (YHB 20T) was on hire, and it was used for a continental day trip during this period. It is thought that this is the first time that a vehicle owned by Southend Transport has worked outside the U.K. Southend Transport only have a national operator's licence themselves, but 340 was running on Valedene's O licence for its continental work. Since July 16th, Leyland Leopard 336 (CTM406T) has also been on hire to Valedene Coaches, and, at the time of writing, this coach was still with Valedene. Certain maintenance work has been carried out on these two coaches by Maidstone Borough Council.

Former Wallace Arnold Tours (Devon) Ltd. Leyland Leopard coach EW203T, which was on hire to Southend Transport in February (see NS251 for full details), and which carried temporary fleet number 363, has now been acquired by South Midland Ltd., Witney. It is now numbered 97 in the South Midland fleet, and it was recently noted on service 190 from Oxford to Carterton.

General

The main news this month is that a special meeting of the new Passenger Transport

Executive committee was held on August 14th. Full details were not available at the time of writing, although it has been reported that Southend Transport is now considering withdrawing from operation of service 795 (Southend-Brighton) during September. From August 12th, a new wages structure was introduced for duties on the X services. A number of duties have become spreadovers, with no change to the duty content but with the effect that stand time in London during the mid-day period is not being paid.

As noted in last month's news sheet, change is now being given on OMO vehicles on sea front services 67 and 68 (with effect from Sunday, July 21st). These services are now using Setright machines, instead of the Almex machines used on all other OMO work, and from July 21st all sea front duties were converted to OMO. Previously, only the morning and evening journeys had been OMO.

Southend Transport has recently considered the purchase of a large quantity of second-hand Setright machines, of the type which include an insert slot, for use on the X services. This would enable weekly tickets to be issued by the drivers, but it is now understood that this plan has been shelved.

From July 29th, service 18 has been curtailed at the Landwick police control point due to a weak bridge on Foulness Island. The Ministry of Defence is providing a service across the island to connect with service 18 at Landwick.

As reported in last month's news sheet, two new services (X10 and X30) were introduced from Monday, July 22nd. These service numbers are being used for certain X11 and X31 journeys which now operate via the new section of the A13 between Corringham and Purfleet, and full details are as follows :-

X10 journeys from Southend at 0620 hrs., 0650 hrs. and 0720 hrs. - formerly numbered X11.
X30 journeys from Canvey Island at 0610 hrs., 0640 hrs. and 0710 hrs. - formerly numbered X31.

Vehicles operating these X10 and X30 journeys show 'Not Via Grays' window stickers, as this section of route is already being covered by duplicate workings starting at Stanford-le-Hope or Socketts Heath.

Coaches recently repainted into coach livery have been 343 (XWX193S) - July 12th, 344 (XWX161S) - August 6th, 345 (CWW191T) - July 22nd, and 351 (KAD351V) - July 26th. Leyland Leopard 326 (XHU 326) is currently in the paintshops, and this leaves only 327 (HRN 97N) (in hybrid Fylde/Southend colours) and 335/6 (WRO435S, CTM406T) (white) not in fleet or overall advertisement livery.

Standard repaints are continuing in the 1979 batch of Leyland Fleetline's (221-30), but one unusual move has seen the painted nearside between decks advertisement for Hoagys ('the thinking persons' cafe') from withdrawn Daimler Fleetline 381 (GHJ381L) being transferred to Leyland Fleetline 223 (XTE223V) by physically transferring the panels, and of course these two vehicles have differing styles of Northern Counties bodywork!

'Wraparound' between decks advertisements have recently been added to more vehicles, and the complete list of these now reads as follows :-

242 (MRJ242W) - Harmony Windows (white base).
307 (Q476MEV) - Rain discotheque (white).
308 (Q554MEV) - Just Amazing Bathroom and Kitchen centre (yellow).
310 (Q552MEV) is to carry an advertisement for Snooker Sports.
394 (JTD394P) - Ravens menswear (white).

A large number of Leyland Fleetline's carry painted side advertisements using the entire between decks area, together with the staircase panel on offside advertisements, but it is not proposed to list these individually. Open-top Daimler Fleetline's 370-3 (WJN370J etc.) now carry standard Burger King side advertisements.

Former Southend Transport Daimler Fleetline 354 (WJN354J), which is now used as a playbus in the Colchester area, has recently been repainted yellow and red by Southend Transport.

Beacon Motor Services, Chatham, have recently hired a Southend Daimler Fleetline, usually 318 (TGX322M), for various periods, but full details are not yet available.

The Miracle Bus contract service from London (Aldgate) to Southend Airport continues. Some weekend journeys have been operated by Fleetline's, assisted by a luggage van provided by Ensign Bus Co. On some Weekdays, additional flights have been operated, with Southend Transport using coaches and Fleetline's in addition to the Van Hool Astronoga's. Coaches from other operators, including Channel Coachways, have also been used.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET ALLOCATION - AUGUST 1985Basildon & Thurrock District

Basildon (BN) : 1124 1704/11-7/21/3/32/6/8/40-2/4/6/8/63/7/72/6/86/95
 1808/18/20/2/30/43/4/7-9/52-4/74/7-80/3/4/6/7/9/91/6/8
 1904/6-9/18/9/22/34 2200 3068/74/6 3116/7/20 4501/7-9 (72)

Braintree & Uttlesford District

Braintree (BE) : 1119/20 1303/6/8/9 1542 1652 1794 1863/82 1902/24
 1926/9/30/2 3026/9/48/56/9/63/7 3115/8/28 (27)
 Bishop's Stortford (BS) : 1050/6/8 1127 1553 1739/49/59 1914/6 3022/41 3114
 4502 (14)
 Silver End (SE) : 1310 1659 1745/7/83 1812/3/61/2 3039/55/60 3123
 4500/3 (15)

Brentwood & Havering District

Brentwood (BD) : 1055 1122/8 1700/19/22/54/60/85/96/7 1809/10/23/37-40
 1845/6/59/76/81 1903/12/3/33 3027/80/1/92-4 3100
 4005/6 (36)
 Enfield (ED) : 1051-4/7 (5)

Chelmsford & Maldon District

Chelmsford (CF) : 1121/9 1300/1/5 1654/6/7 1701/7/30/4/52/62/71/4/5/8
 1801/2/4/5/11/5/9/24/7/32/3/42/50/1/5/6/60/6/7/70/3/85/97/9
 1905/15/7/39 2201 3021/33/5/69/77/82/3/91/5 3106/8/10/2
 3113/25/6 (63)
 Great Dunmow (DW) : 1890 (1)
 Maldon (MN) : 1059 1708/28/55/64 1806/29/31/41 1921/3/7/31 3004/18
 3038/40/9/51/70/9 (21)
 South Woodham Ferrers (WF) - Not yet operational.

Colchester & Tendring District

Colchester (CR) : 0120/1 1123 1302 1541 1650/8 1718/26/82/90/3 1816/28
 1872/5/88/92 1910/25/35/6 3020/3/30/2/66 3111/24/7
 4003/4 (32)
 Clacton (CN) : 1110/2/3 1307 1547/54 1602/3 1651/5 1751/6/61/8/9/79
 1780/91/2 1803/25/6/58/65 1911 2202 3003/31 (29)
 Harwich (DT) : 1117/26 1536/52 1653 1750 1901/20 3050/8/61 (11)
 Walton-on-Naze (WN) : 1789 1800/34 (3)

Southend & District

Southend (SD) : 1111/4-6/25 1304 1600/1 1702/24/9/66/70/3/87/8/98/9
 1807/14/36/68/93-5 1937/8 3025/8/34/6/7/52-4/7/62/4/5
 3071-3/5/8/84/6-90/6/8 3101/2/4/5/19/21/2/9 4000-2
 4504-6 (66)
 Hadleigh (HH) : 1118 1703/9/20/5/7/31/3/5/7/43/53/7/8/65/77/81/4
 1817/21/35/57/64/9/71 1900/28 3085/97/9 3103/7/9 (33)

Delicensed For Maintenance (D/L) : 2203 (1)

Delicensed For Disposal (D/L (D)) : 3014/45 (2)

Licensed Pool Vehicle (PL (P)) : 1540 (1)

Delicensed Pool Vehicles (D/L (P)) : 1539/45/9 3000/1/24 (6)

Licensed Open-Top Vehicle (L) : 2383 (1)

Licensed As Private Vehicle (LP) : 2384 (1)

Survey Vehicle (SV) : 1548 (1)

Driver Training Vehicles : 3002 9016/8/21 (allocated to Chelmsford (CF)) (4)

Notes - 1110-5 and 4500 are at present attached to the Coaching Department.

1110/2/3 carry National Express livery.

1128/9, 1300/1/7, 1603 carry National Holidays livery.

1111/4/5 carry Highwayman livery.

1051-4/7 carry W9 'W-Niner' livery.

3071-6 carry City 400 livery, and 4500-9 carry City Commuter livery.

2200-3 are Disabled Persons' vehicles.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALSInitial Disposals

1546 (SVW274K) - Sold to Essex County Council (Education Department), Chelmsford, 7/85. (additional information to NS256).

Subsequent Disposals

- 1348 (208 YVX) - Noted with dealer, Sherburn, 5/85. Last reported as passing to dealer, Sherburn, 2/78 (NS175) - details of subsequent owner(s) would be welcomed.
- 1404 (VHK177L) - Allocated to Weston-Super-Mare depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2079 (new registration number 929 CVJ).
- 1406 (XVW631L) - Allocated to Bristol (Marlborough Street) depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2080 (new registration number CSV 253).
- 1407 (XVW632L) - Allocated to Bristol (Marlborough Street) depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2081 (new registration number CSV 219).
- 1411 (X00830L) - Allocated to Bath depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2082 (new registration number CSV 231).
- 1412 (X00881L) - Allocated to Bath depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2083 (new registration number CSV 303).
- 1417 (GJD196N) - Allocated to Weston-Super-Mare depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2086 (new registration number CSV 992).
- 1418 (GJD194N) - Allocated to Weston-Super-Mare depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2084 (new registration number CSV 524).
- 1419 (GJD195N) - Allocated to Bath depot by Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 2085 (new registration number CSV 618).
- 1512 (FVX614H) - Has also been reported as Wilder, Feltham, 4/85, ex. dealer, Purfleet. Details in NS252 are correct - position is that operations of Wilder, Feltham were taken over by Telling, Byfleet in 12/84, and 1512 (FVX614H) is one of four ex-NBC Bristol RELL6G's being used on former Wilder (Golden Miller) stage services in the Staines area; they are based at the former Wilder depot in Feltham.
- 1528 (LVX116J) - Ulsterbus Ltd., Belfast, 788, 6/85, ex. Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 788. Entered service on June 17th on Londonderry City services, in Ulsterbus livery, and licensed as B53F + 22 standing.
- 1532 (MHK914J) - Ulsterbus Ltd., Belfast, 789, 6/85, ex. Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 789. Entered service on June 17th on Londonderry City services, in Ulsterbus livery, and licensed as B53F + 22 standing.
- 2476 (508 HTW) - Noted parked in Klimstrasse, Gaumberg, Linz, Austria, 8/85, opposite premises of Binder-Brot. Fitted with rear platform door, lower deck seating removed, appears to have been used as a mobile bread shop. Has Binder-Brot name on nearside, still basically in E.N. livery with additional white band and mudguards. Last reported (NS176) as exported to Austria, 5/78.
- 2700 (AHJ142A) - Still with dealer, London, W.10, 7/85. (see also NS251/2/5).
- 2812 (GNO788B) - Still with Michelmersh Brick Company Ltd., Romsey (N-PSV), 7/85. (see also NS244/8/52).
- 2875 (STW763D) - Named "Rush", fleet number 19, with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5 (N-PSV). (additional information to NS240/52).
- 2898 (WVX525F) - Still with Fowler, Holbeach Drove, 5/85. (see also NS228/50).
- 2929 (AVW398F) - Still with Fowler, Holbeach Drove, 5/85. (see also NS228).
- 2931 (AVX973G) - Still with dealer, London, W.10, 7/85. (see also NS249/52/5).
- 2946 (AVX975G) - Still with dealer, Purfleet, 7/85. (see also NS252).
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News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), P.J. Snell (M32), R.H. Palmer (M105), V.J. Cooper (M128), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), S.D.M. Tarrant (M246), S.D. Barham (M313), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), I. Ransom (M421), J. Ruge (M443), G.G. Toon (M452), C.M.J. Paynter (M515), C.D. Sigston (M523), C. Pretty (M524), R.A. Dennis (M535), F.G. Spence (M545), D.A. Coulson (M568), I. Harden (M572), R.W. Searle (M584), G. Huggins (AM1) and the P.S.V. Circle. The deadline for the September news sheet is Wednesday, September 18th.