

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The Monthly Magazine Of The ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

MARCH 1991

(Formerly the EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP)

ISSUE No. 323



Hedinghams first new double decker, Alexander bodied Olympian L160 (H160 HJN) is seen at the British Bus Day held at the Royal Norfolk Showground on 9th September 1991.

(G Toon)

EDITOR: Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0XU

SUB EDITORS: Southend Transport and South Essex independents
Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road, Southend, SS1 3TT
Thamesway

Paul Harvey, 19 Watkins, Shoeburyness, Essex, SS3 9NX
Other Independents

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, CM9 7NR

PUBLICATIONS: Andy Meadows, 10 Harvard Court, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 9ST

PHOTO ORDERS: Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 4LH

MEMBERSHIP: Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Barkingside, Essex, IG2 7NQ

SUB EDITOR VACANCY

At the time of writing no applications have been received for the position advertised last month. If we are to produce a magazine that includes notes from Southend Transport and independents in the area it is essential that someone fills this post. Please write to the magazine editor if you feel able to fill this position.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

The next two meetings at the Freight House, Rochford have been arranged. The April meeting takes place on the 9th of the month and will be a video evening. Then on the 14th of May Robin Wheatcroft of Essex County Council will be speaking on the role of the council in providing bus services in the county. Members are urged to attend this meeting which will give an interesting insight into providing services in the county. Who knows you may even be able to give ideas for new or improved services yourself. The Freight House is adjacent to Rochford Station and also has a large car park.

EASTERN NATIONAL

New Vehicles

Eight Mercedes minibuses identical to the recent Thamesway batch but with automatic gearboxes are due for delivery in mid March. They are to enter service at Chelmsford and will allow the transfer of 0707-9/11/12/15/19 to Bishops Stortford for conversion of service 309 to minibus. The new vehicles will be numbered 500-507. These are the first of a batch of 30 for Eastern National, although the others will have manual gearboxes. It is understood that 500-07 will pass to Thamesway for operation of LRT service 193 later in the year.

Allocation Changes

2/91 1740 Pool-D/L(D); 3063 CR-D/L(D); 3091 CF-CR

Further to EBN 322, 1921 had been at BE while 1924 (in Quest Motors livery) was used at MN. 1924 is loaned to MN at frequent intervals and hence does not appear as an allocation change on the official company allocation list.

In response to a members query 3069 and 3070 were exchanged between CF & MN as 3070 has a tacograph, 3069 does not.

Repaints

2/91 None

Vehicle Notes

CF 1917 was involved in an accident in early February and has gained the front panel from 1740 which is being used for spares

at Chelmsford. 1917 is now back in service still in its overall Honda advert but with a white front panel.
CR 4014 has lost its electronic destination equipment in favour of blinds in the style fitted to series 3 VRTs. On the subject of blinds CR 4501 now has a "service" vinyl stuck over its destination display while the destination equipment on 4503 has not worked for some weeks. This is presumed to be a result of cold weather damaging the computer software.
To correct EBN 320, 3204 is a series 3 VR and hence no series 2 closed top VRs remain in service.

Services

To correct last month the revisions to services 1,1A,2,3,4,12,13 and 14 should be dated 10.2.91.
The reference to services 74 and 78 should read evening and Sunday services.

- 12 The 1230 ex Halstead was advanced by 30 minutes from 5.3.91.
 - 32 Further to EBN 322 the 1900 ex Ongar continues to operate and is a commercial operation.
 - 33/A Revised timetable introduced from 17.3.91.
 - 99/X The 2120 ex Maldon and 2224 ex Bradwell will be withdrawn after 30.3.91.
 - 301 Further to EBN 321, Birchanger Lane reopened 12.2.91.
 - 306 From 18.3.91. the morning journey was rerouted to serve Berden and Little London.
 - 330 Renumbered 30 from 18.3.91. and revised timetable introduced, assumed to be converted to minibus.
 - 433 NEW SERVICE. Thorley to Stansted Airport. Half hourly Monday to Saturday between 0630 and 1900.
- Services 33,33A,34,49,58,133,233,301,311,333,349,354,356, & 370 were revised from 18.3.91. These include rerouting to serve the new terminal at Stansted on certain services.

Unusual Workings

- 28.1.91 BS 1931 on service 41A (CF/DW operated)
- 29.1.91 BS 1931 on service 33 (CF operated)
- 7.2.91 BE 4021 on service 353 (normally LN operated)
- 9.2.91 BE 3084 & 4017 on service 353 (see above)
- 11.2.91 BS 1940 on service 59 (series one LN normally)
- 13.2.91 BE 1120 on service 353 & again on 16.2 (see above)
- 14.2.91 CR 1923 on service 353 (BE operated service)
- 18.2.91 BE 1125 on service 353 (see above)
- 18.2.91 CR 4014 on service 55 (CF operated service)

CF 1308 & 4511 plus BE 1309 were noted on bus work from their home depots during early February no doubt a result of the severe weather. Chelmsford depot is undertaking work on vehicles from other EN depots and this has led to an increase in unusual workings at this depot.

Pool vehicle 1754 has been in use from BE.

General

As a result of the roadworks mentioned under the CBT notes last month, EN services 78/78A were revised to operate via Mile End Road and Mill Road to the General Hospital. Peak hour journeys from Brightlinsea terminated at and started from North Station. Drivers from Chelmsford and Maldon are working for Thamesway at Southend owing to a shortage of trained drivers.

Initial Disposals

3033 (NPU 980M), 3041 (PWC 516M), 3048 (JNO 189N), 3049 (JNO 190N)
3050 (JNO 191N), 3051 (JNO 192N), 3056 (LJN 651P), 3057 (LJN 652P)
3200 (JRP 801L), 3202 (HBD 163N), 3203 (HRP 671N)

All sold to Greyhound International (dealer), Bexleyheath, 2/91.
It is thought that 3061 (LJN 656P) may have passed to the same dealer. The vehicles are thought to be at a yard in the Croydon area.

3201 (RNV 810M) Essex Police, 1/91, for use as mobile information and incident room.

9000 (CPU 979G) Sold for preservation, 2/91.

9001 (CPU 980G) Essex Fire and Rescue Service, 1/91.

3062 (LJN 657P) Has been removed from the company fleetlist. This vehicle was largely derelict at Clacton and may have been sold for scrap.

Subsequent Disposals

350	(573 UVX)	Is with Shevlin & Miligan, Dorking (for preservation). (Additional to EBN 294).
428	(LWC 979J) (SCT 330) (ARU 199A)	Was NOT withdrawn by Miller, Horsham, by 11/90 (corrects EBN 322). Was reregistered MWV 61J by Miller, 9/90, being used for spares, 10/90.
1057	(TJN 980W)	Now reported as Fallon, Dunbar, by 10/90, via Martin (dealer), Middlewich, 7/90, ex. Davies, Ebbw Vale. (EBN 322 also refers).
1208	(BNO 694T)	Numbered 45 by Coombs, Weston-Super-Mare.
1357	(OWC 606)	Jordan, -?-, autumn/90, (as mobile caravan), ex Young, Nottingham (for preservation). Subsequently badly damaged in accident.
1401	(PWC 345K)	Sold by Moreton Hall School, (N-PSV), Harpenden, 10/90.
1406	(XVW 631L) (CSV 253) (VBY 546L) (ARU 99A)	Reseated to C39FT by 5/90 (additional to EBN 314).
1411	(XOO 880L) (CSV 231) (WEU 73L)	Still with Harty, Cosham, 1/91.
1650	(LMO 225L)	Wigley (dealer), Carlton, 7/90, ex. East Midlands, 530.
1716	(WNO 565L)	Withdrawn by Solent Blue Line, 425, following an accident. Noted at Barton Park, 11/90, awaiting disposal.

1735 (HWC 86N) As per 1650, fleetnumber 536.
 1736 (HWC 87N) Reported to be in Wreake Valley livery, by
 1/91. (Additional to EBN 314).
 2886 (WNO 974F) Spence (dealer), Thorpe Bay, -/90, then to
 PVS (breaker), Carlton, -/90, ex. London
 Torah Centre (N-PSV), London, N15.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET ALLOCATION 1.3.1991

Bishops Stortford (BS)	1111/27 1501/2 1741/69/92/1843/44/1930 1931/32/40 4510
Braintree (BE)	0120 0710/13/14/16-18 1309/10 1120/25 1778/82/1812/13/28/61/62/72/1909/10/14 1916/23/24 3072/76/84/3128 4016/17/20/21
Chelmsford (CF)	0700-09/11/12/15/19 0750-4 1112/19/21/28 1129/30 1308 1401/02/13-15/26-29 1804/05 1811/19/24/27/32/42/50/51/55/56/60/67/70 1873/90/99/1901/17 2201/03 3070/77/83/92 3093/3106/11/12 4005/13 4511/12
Clacton (CN)	0200/02-19 1110/17 1768/1831/34/41 1927/37-39 2202 3109 3220-22
Colchester (CR)	1793/1816/65/1925/26/29/33/35/36 3052/64/66/68/71/78/91/95/3103/14/27 3204/18 4003/04/14/15 4501/03/09 1408
Gt. Dunmow (DW)	1123 1500 1766/90/1885 3219 4006-8
Harwich (DT)	1114/15 1403/07/16/25 1764/1806/29
Maldon (MN)	1833/63/74/92/1921 3053/58/60/69/79/94
Walton-on-Naze (WN)	0220-24
Pool Vehicles	1750/54 2383/84 3054 3500/1
Delicensed Disposal	1740/51 1928 3038/59/63

0121,1737,3062 no longer appear on the official company
 allocation list and may have been sold.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET SUMMARY 1.3.1991

	BE	BS	CF	CN	CR	DT	DW	MN	WN	POOL	DIS	TOT
PEUGOT	1											1
MERCEDES				19					5			24
TRANSIT	6		19									25
RE			1									1
TIGER (CO)			3									3
LEOPARD	2		1									3
TIGER (DP)	2	2	3	2		1		2				12
LYNX			9				1	4				14
NATIONAL	14	11	21	9	9	4		8		2	3	81
VRT	4		8	4	13	1		6		3	3	42
ON (CO)		1	2		3							6
ON (DP)	4		1		2	2						9
ON (BUS)			1		2	1						4
KSW										2		2
TOTALS	33	14	69	34	29	9	1	20	5	7	6	227

THAMESWAY LTD

These notes are correct to 10th March

New Vehicles

It is understood that another batch of Mercedes Benz Minibuses, with Reeve Burgess Beaver bodywork are on order, for Basildon area and also for LT 193 conversion to bigger Minibuses.

Minibus 322 is registered H329 LJN, omitted from last months mag.

Vehicles on Loan

B444 WTC, C491/2/507/8/10/11 BFB Ford Transits with Dormobile B16F from Badgerline Ltd. Fleetnumbers are 4444/91/2/4507/8/10/11. C510/11 BFB were noted in Basildon Depot on 21-02-91, B444 WTC also noted at Basildon on 26-02-91 and C492/507 BFB noted at Southend on 24-02-91. All vehicles are in Badgerline Minilink livery with Thamesway fleetnames and yellow painted bonnets. Thamesway fleetnumbers appear to be 711-717 and are all based at Southend for service 6.

Noted in use are two Midland Red West Iveco Robin Hood bodywork minibuses E922/23 KEU on Driver Training duties and are normally parked at Hadleigh Depot.

During January Transit 707 was on loan to Eastern National at Clacton while Mercedes 0207 was being used by Thamesway for Driver Training, based at Hadleigh.

Eastern National LN 1850 was noted in Southend Depot on 24-02-91.

Noted in Southend depot on 10th March was Midland Red West Iveco E952 LAE still in Red Admiral colours. Its use is unknown.

Repaints

Noted during February repainted in new livery was LN 1908. LN 1821 is now overall advert for Kenbro Carpets and Tiles.

Vehicle Disposals

Leyland Tigers 1113/18/22 are now with South Wales Subsidiary Brewers. Two Leyland Olympians are now with South Wales Transport at Swansea, being 4502 and 4508.

It is also believed that 10 Bristol VRT's have been sold to Badgerline Ltd for service at Bath, these include 3065/73/82.

LN 1738 is still operating from Hadleigh while 1757 & 1758 are still being used at Southend. LN 1755 is also now operating from Southend while 1744 is being used at Basildon.

Bristol VR's 3067 and 3113 are parked at Southend out of use at present.

Service Revisions

6 New Service Southend to Golden Cross & Ashingdon via Rochford every 10 minutes with loaned minibuses from Badgerline Ltd commencing Wednesday 6th March 91.

28 Since 21st January the 14-46 journey from Southchurch serves Castlevew

School on schooldays and operates via High Street, Point Road, Leigh Beck (double run) then Seaview Road to Eastern Esplanade Canvey.

Thamesway have been successful in retaining London Transport Contract 193 (Romford to County Park) for a further 3 years.
ECC contract for weekday evening 23/23A has been lost to Essex Thameside Minicoaches after 27th April, and ECC contract for service 6 (Southend to Eastwood) weekday evening will be withdrawn after 30th March.

Publicity

11/19 dated 20-1-91

6 dated 6-03-91

90p Special Return in Basildon area dated 18-02-91.

ECC timetable South Essex dated 3-3-91.

General

The new service 6 is another attempt to compete against Southend Transport, affecting their routes 7/7A/8/8A. Unconfirmed reports are that Thamesway intend extending minibus 24/A from Southend to Temple Sutton via ST 63 route and also extending either minibus routes 15 or 24/A from Rayleigh to Hockley via ST 7/8 route.

A special 90p return has been introduced in the Basildon area from Monday 18th February to Friday 15th March between 10 am and 3 pm Monday to Friday. Minibuses are not allowed to operate into Basildon Bus Station except for using Bay A (ECC contract services) and the Coach Island. Service 15 and evening 250 (for Southend) depart from shelter 6 on the Coach Island. Noted on Sunday 24-02-91 service 2 was operated by Minibuses instead of big bus and used the normal bays in Basildon Bus Station. Minibus have been noted on services 2 and 250 at certain times during the weekday.

The bad weather during February caused problems for Thamesway, with vehicles freezing up due to the cold and snow. For the peak of bad weather, shuttle services were operated, when the weather began to improve, full timetables were re-introduced to the best of the companies ability, with vehicle and staff problems to consider.

It is understood that Thamesway are to stop selling or accepting ECC Sunday Savers on services 2, 3 and 20 from the end of March. However they will still be accepted and issued on ECC contract services operated by Thamesway at present this being 152 and 153.

What the Papers say

Stolen mini-bus goes to town

A THAMESWAY mini-bus made an unscheduled journey across South East Essex yesterday and ended up in London after a thief got behind the wheel.

Puzzled motorists spotted the maroon and yellow vehicle at various locations in the morning after it was stolen overnight from the Fairfax Drive, Leigh, bus garage.

It was involved in a crash at the junction of Southbourne Grove and Cavendish Gardens in Leigh when it jumped a red light and smashed into a car, speeding off without stopping. The driver of the car was uninjured.

At 8.20am it was seen in the Belton Gardens south car park with its lights on. But by the time a member of the public had fetched police to the scene it had gone.

It was found abandoned and relatively undamaged in a street in Kentish Town last night — but the driver had fled.

Southend Transport

These notes are correct to March 4.

Vehicles

ACQUIRED:

716	GGE 156T	Leyland National	10351A/1R	B41F
717	GGE 158T	"	"	"
718	GGE 161T	"	"	"
719	GGE 162T	"	"	"
720	GGE 164T	"	"	"
721	GGE 165T	"	"	"
722	GGE 166T	"	"	"
723	GGE 167T	"	"	"
724	GGE 170T	"	"	"
725	GGE 172T	"	"	"
726	GGE 174T	"	"	"

These further 11 LN's bring ST's fleet of 10.3m Nationals to the staggering total of 33! The latest acquisitions have come from Blackpool Transport (156-74) but were originally Strathclyde PTE LN1/3/6/7/9-12/5/7/9. None had entered service at press date but some will be needed for the new services to be introduced on March 25.

Of the other acquisitions, RM 118 was not expected from Southampton until mid March and should enter service about March 25.

The identity of acquired Olympians 257/8 can now be confirmed as B185 BLG and B189 BLG, ex Crosville Wales DOG185/9 respectively. Both should enter service during March modified to ST standard like 259/60.

WITHDRAWN: Leopard 521 was still busy in service on March 1 but should be withdrawn this month (if I keep on saying this each month, one day it will come true!!).

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

342 YWW 359S Is reported reregistered 406 AOT by Princess Summerbee, Southampton.

531/2 BHK 209/10X The PSV Circle report the new owner as Bell, Spennymoor: we have it as Shaws Coaches, County Durham. Are these in fact the same operator, or have 531/2 been resold?

603 JEV 244Y Now reported with Cooper, Gilesgate Moor (North East Traffic Area) by 8/90. We had it previously with Apex (K Line) of London E10.

DMS's with Ensign: we would like to clarify the position with the DMS's once operated by ST - can anyone help? We think SMU 926N (Ensign 237) and GHV 15N (Ensign 205 - recently renumbered from 255) were still with Ensign at the time of the sale to the Hong Kong CNT Group, and can thus be recorded as a transfer from Ensign to Frontrunner South East Ltd. What is the position regarding the others at one time in the Ensign LRT fleet (Ensign numbers 206 [GHV 106N], 208 [GHV 8N], 231 [MLK 620L], 236 [MLH 476L])?

Services

More new services will be introduced from Monday March 25, and others enhanced, in a further escalation of the war between Thamesway and ST:

2 Saturday service increased to half hourly, similar to M-F times.

3 Sunday service to start earlier, now late afternoon, due to the reported unreliability of the Thamesway service at that time.

22 Improved from M-F peaks to M-S daytimes, every 30 mins, CBS to Rayleigh Station: with new 250/251, gives a combined 15 minute service from Southend to Rayleigh via Kent Elms, and an overall frequency of 6 ST buses/hour via Eastwood Road on 9A/22/250/251.

250 NEW SERVICE: Southend CBS to Basildon Bus Station via Thamesway service 250 route. Every hour, M-S days.

251 NEW SERVICE: Southend CBS to Wickford High Street via TY 251; every hour, M-S days. Combines with 250 to give half hourly service Southend to Wickford.

X2 M-F peak shorts between Southend and Basildon withdrawn and included into service 2.

Other service changes will see the loss of various ECC contracts, viz:

23/23C - Sunday service lost after March 24, to a new bus operator, Essex Thameside Minincoaches (of Canvey - no other details known yet re fleet, etc). This operator has also won the 2 bus M-S evening workings (at present with Thamesway and Clintona) from April 30.

24 - Sunday service withdrawn without replacement after March 24. The District Bus M-S evening service also comes off after Sat March 30.

795 Finally, the return working of the Saturday Southend to Brighton service moves to its summer time of 1700 (ex 1500), from March 30.

General

The latest fleet additions and new services represent a further escalation in the battle between ST and Thamesway, and follow TY's introduction of a service every 10 minutes over ST 7/8 between CBS and Golden Cross. Interestingly, the TY service will turn using the Lascelles Gardens loop at Golden Cross which ST had to abandon in the face of a major protest by the local residents. Will TY's Transits be any more acceptable than Fleetlines, we wonder?

What is clear from the bus war now being fought in south east Essex is that there are far too many buses chasing too few passengers and that the present frequencies cannot be sustained by both operators in the long run. The sub editor will refrain from further comments about the war, and will leave readers to decide who they cast in the role of Saddam Hussein and who as George Bush! Is a Routemaster a scud or a patriot?! At least one Routemaster has been noted flying a Union Jack on its bonnet, which may be a clue as to the answer!

Returning to more mundane matters, we can now confirm the arrangements for 121 (alias RCL 2256) to visit Cobham on Sunday April 7:

Depart CBS 0630 as a duplicate X1, calling all stops to Aldgate; depart Aldgate 0830 non stop to Addlestone.

Used 1010 - 1800 on the Cobham open day free services.

Depart Addlestone 1800 non stop to Aldgate; continue as a duplicate to the 1915 X1 back to Southend.

Fare £5 return, £3-50 single, from any point. Pre booking is not necessary and space will be available first come, first served. Any parties planning to travel are asked to pre advise ST on 0702 355711. Ironically, having set up the operation, the sub editor now finds he will be away on holiday in the Lake District and can't go to Cobham!

OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

Stephensons Coaches, Rochford: more service changes will see an short term Southend Borough Council contract introduced from March 25, Southend Clifftown Road to Kent Elms via the present Sunday service 6 route (and effectively replacing the withdrawn TY 4, which had provided the M-S daytime service). To be numbered 222, the new route will run approx hourly M-F days until early afternoon. Consequential changes to the present 22 will follow. Further news is that ECC Sunday contracts for the 11 and 251 have been retained on renewal, and will now run for 2 years from April.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO THE MAGAZINE QUESTIONNAIRE.

	Not	Some	Very	No Response
Interest in Vehicles				
Eastern National	1	17	100	1
Thamesway	1	17	100	1
Southend Transport	1	36	82	0
Colchester BT	4	53	60	2
Other PSY (With ser.)	6	52	56	5
Other PSV (No serv.)	27	58	26	8
Ex PSV with bands etc.	31	61	21	6
Ex PSV in yards etc.	36	50	26	7

Interest in Services

Eastern National	3	40	70	6
Thamesway	5	33	76	5
Southend Transport	9	40	65	5
Colchester BT	19	51	43	6
Other PSV Ops.	14	50	48	7

Which features interest you?

Service Changes	7	37	73	2
Major t/t changes	15	29	71	4
Minor t/t changes	33	43	37	6
Minor route changes	28	45	40	6
Unusual Workings	26	47	51	5
Publicity	28	53	32	6
Repaints	34	46	31	8
Disposals	20	49	46	4
Historical Articles	12	54	50	3

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Vehicles

The new Lynx are registered H28/29 MJN (corrects EBN 322) and both entered service on 13.2.91. Both entered service in allover white with CBT vinyls, but will be painted in overall adverts for Foulkes and Colchester Mortgage Centre, completing the contracts on Metroriders 12 and 13.

The departure of the Metroriders was delayed by the weather and they were still in service on 15.2.91. departing for Glasgow the following day.

The new Olympians are to be 47 to 49 (H47 MJN etc) and these vehicles should have arrived by the time these notes are read.

A coach has been acquired for driver training. It is ABN 771V, a Ford R1114 BCRSWE317940, Plaxton Supreme C53F which was new in 1979. It was acquired from Ipswich Travel in February 1991 and has been numbered 93.

Atlanteans 62 and 64 have been numbered 29 and 30 by Eastbourne. Similar vehicle 66 is expected to pass to Boons, Boreham when the new Olympians arrive.

Open top 55 has returned to the Magdalen Street depot from winter storage.

Services

From 8.4.91. an additional Monday to Friday journey will be operated on service 7 from Osborne Street to West Bergholt at 0605 and from West Bergholt to Monkwick at 0623. From the same date the 1848 ex West Bergholt (Monday to Saturday) will be retarded by 5 minutes as will the 1830 ex Horkesley Heath on service 8A and the 1909 ex Monkwick on service 8.

The railway replacement work on 10.2.91 and 17.2.91 was cancelled as a result of the weather.

With the completion of a new car park in Osborne Street, a new bus stop layout has been introduced. This includes a designated set down stop, situated between the entrance and exit road from the car park (is this safe?) and two new layover bays in Stanwell Street, which will also be used for CBT excursions.

Roadworks in Crouch Street on the evening of 4/2 resulted in services being diverted via Head Street, North Hill and Balcerne Hill. A number of security alerts in recent weeks have led to diversions and long delays in the town centre.

To correct or add to EBN 321, the 0913 ex Tollgate on service 5 runs to Osborne Street and reinstates a journey withdrawn in October 1990. The 0831 ex Fiveways (5A) departs at 0826 to allow 5 minutes extra running time along Lexden Road. Service 9 the 0853 ex Highwoods is allowed 5 minutes extra to Osborne Street. The 1705 ex Head Street on service 39 was in fact a reinstated journey following complaints when it was withdrawn on 29.10.90.

HEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES

Services

- 19 Withdrawn between Hedingham and Steeple Bumpstead withdrawn from 2.4.91.
59 From 18.3.91 the 0817 ex Haverhill was advanced by 5 minutes
90 The 1245 ex Maldon and 1335 ex Witham were extended to and from Ebenezer Close from 4.3.91.
93A Withdrawn after 28.3.91.
94A Withdrawn after 28.3.91.
124 The Hedingham operated journey was withdrawn with effect from 15.3.91.

OTHER OPERATORS

APT COACHES Have acquired two Plaxton bodied DAFs E334/7 EVH. They have replaced 827 APT a Bova Futura and D101 XRY a Tiger/Jonckheere which have passed to Stuart Johnson (dealer).

BONNERS Service A1 (EBN 320) was withdrawn after operation on 2.3.91. Service 381 operated by Golden Boy on a short term tender since December, has been won and commences on 2.4.91.

BOONS Noted in the yard in early February were A738 ADT a Bedford/Reeve Burgess lettered Dial a Bus, B145 ACK a Tiger/Duple Caribbean new to Ribble and later with Amberline, Liverpool and D101 VRM a ?/Plaxton. None of these are in service yet or is Boon now acting as a dealer?

CARTERS Sunday service 135 between Colchester and Ipswich was revised from 27.1.91 and extended to Stowmarket. A timetable leaflet dated 27.1.91 to 12.5.91 and from 22.9.91. is available.

CLINTONA The 0840 ex Leigh and 1611 ex Southchurch operated under contract to ECC since 21.1.91. will be withdrawn after 26.4.91. These being service 21 journeys.

COUNTY BUS Further to EBN 321 service 377 does not serve Lakeside Bus Station but at the Lancaster Mercedes Commercial Garage and from there continues to Lakeside. The dealers is of some interest in that Thamesway and London Buses vehicles can be seen here undergoing repair.

Services to Lakeside withdrawn are 551 from 22.12.90. and 554 from 1.3.91.

Revised timetables and routing in the Lakeside area were introduced on services 370, 373, 378 and 383 from 23.3.91. The 1735 ex Grays and 1940 ex Victoria on services 723/33 were withdrawn from the same date.

The ex Welwyn Hatfield Optares are now at Harlow these vehicles being E996- 999UYG and E510-20 PWR. Four of these are sub allocated to the former Sampsons base at Hoddesdon. Other allocation changes are SNB, 227 GY-HA; MB115,700,701 HA-GY, vehicles from Hoddesdon are MB 47,48,154 and TL 18,20,24 to GY with MB 49,50,51,352 to HA. Vehicles to Hoddesdon are MB 52,53,54 ex HA and TP 61,70,71 ex GY. AN 190 has been returned to passenger service at GY ex driver trainer. MB 795,796,901,912-15,920-23 have passed to Sovereign in exchange for the Optares. SNB 201 has been reinstated at GY.

DISTRICT BUS A new service is being operated between The Bryn

and Basildon numbered 111, departing at 0950 and returning at 1215. Certain days are operated under tender to ECC.

ENSIGNS As mentioned in EBN 321 the bus operations of Ensignbus were sold to CNT on 29.12.90. A new fleetname Ensign Citybus is in use. The sale does not include the dealership or the London Pride sightseeing business. Leon Daniels is Managing Director of the new company which operates in the main from Dagenham but with some operations from Purfleet.

FORDS COACHES Have acquired ex Thamesway VR 3207 (RRP 857R)

HARRIS BUS Have sold RWC 651W a Bedford YMQS. NEV 773V is out of use and is advertised for sale.

HARRIS COACHES UHK 203W a DAF/Plaxton and D92 SHJ a Bova Futura have been sold. C91 LVX has been repainted allover white ex Eurolines, E93 EVW is now in Eurolines livery ex Transline and F97 MHJ is now allover white ex Transline.

KENTISH BUS Service 426 between Dartford and Lakeside has been withdrawn.

LONDON BUSES Services to Lakeside have been withdrawn. The 723X from Stratford on 2.3.91. and 750 from Plumstead on 30.3.91.

PRIORY Seen outside the Laindon yard on 25.1.91. was D527 NDA a Freight Rover/Carlyle new to West Midlands as 527 then Yorkshire Rider 1927. It is still in Yorkshire Rider livery without vinyls.

RIDGEONS COACHES Stanford le Hope. Thought to be a new operator with one vehicle HBP 331X one of the well known rebodied Leyland PSU3B/4R with Plaxton bodywork. Last reported with Chartercoach.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS Revised timetable introduced from 4.3.91. on services 10 and 12. A new service between Gt Wakering and Rochford Hospital was introduced from the same date. 1357 ex Gt Wakering returning at 1615.

Two ex Eastern Counties minibuses are in the area A991 LVG with Hailstone Travel, Basildon and A993 LVG with Hilldene Coaches, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford (a new operator?). Both vehicles are Ford Transit/Dormobile-Mellor B16F.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

One subject dominates the papers in the Southend area, this being the Thamesway service revisions of 20th January.

Readers letters state:- Why have Thamesway withdrawn the 400; As a governor of William Read school in Long Road, Canvey I object to the attitude of Thamesway in withdrawing the school bus; a resident of Carlton Avenue, Westcliff objecting to the loss of service 6A; Letters from local councillors express support for affected passengers as well as blaming deregulation for making bus companies view profits before passengers. Letters of support state that Thamesway should be thanked for improving services while others urge people to use the buses instead of complaining about them. There are of course the expected letters from people complaining about the dangers of buses, the noise, the smell etc. One assumes that cars are quite, driven with the utmost care at 30mph. and do not pollute when driven by these small minded people.

A number of articles have also appeared one article attacks Thamesway for withdrawing service 4 without replacement under the

heading Bus route switch leaves OAPs stranded. It appears that a number of people used this service to get from their homes to the General Hospital now have to change buses. Other articles feature Urmond Road, Canvey; Seamore Avenue, Benfleet and Burgess Road, Thorpe Bay where residents are objecting to noise, fumes, safety etc.

Southend Transport are praised for providing extra services with Routemasters or for providing services where Thamesway have pulled out. With a number of articles concluding with "No one at Thamesway was available for comment", it looks as if ST have the lead in the publicity battle in the town.

A couple of letters thanking Eastern National for providing a service despite heavy snow appeared in Chelmsford local papers. A picture of 3201 together with a small article regarding its conversion to a mobile incident room appeared in the Evening Echo on 22.1.91.

ON TELEVISION

Lovejoy on BBC1 on 10.2.91 featured shots of EN minibus 0752 and Chambers Bedford/Duple C668 WRT.

PASSPORT TO MALDON

I always treasured the EN staff 'Holiday Privilege Ticket'. This gave the lucky recipient freedom of the whole EN stage carriage network, unlike the normal privilege card which allowed free travel to work plus half fare travel at other times.

As a junior clerk earding a princely wage of five guineas per week free travel was particularly valued for long 'depot bashing' trips.

With my first ever 'white', signed personally by the then Traffic Manager, Mr R. Hanley I set off for Maldon in the summer of 1967. A start was made by boarding the 0927 Romford - Canvey service 26 at Hornchurch for the 40 minute run to Basildon Bus Station. The BN FLF arrived late but still in good time to connect with the 1031 service 94 to Maldon. At that time this was a through service via Wickford and South Woodham operated by MN Bristol MW5Gs.

On arrival at Maldon armed with my depot pass I photographed the line of withdrawn Bristol K types waiting to be taken away for scrap or resale.

A moving sight, there were some treasures amongst them 2253 DHJ 610 (former no. 1325) a rare for EN K6B and K5Gs 2247 ONO 52 (former no. 1319), 2237 CJN 324 (former no. 1309) both whom had operated for LT at Catford and Leyton sheds respectively before being returned to EN.

After seeing off the 1209 service 19 to Southend (1005 off Clacton) in the hands of LD5G 975 DHK, no. 2440 I headed off for Osbornes terminus.

I was not disappointed, on the stand in Victoria Road was Osbornes Superbly lined out RT3671 MXX186 waiting to work the lunchtime Tollesbury service. I could not resist the trip (privilege ticket not valid).

Article by E Cecil to be continued.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS MONTHS MAGAZINE WERE RECEIVED FROM:-
M Allen, P Ashton, M Castiguone, S Coates, R Dennis, P Ford,
M Gilbey, P Halls, J Lidstone, I Mayoh, A Meadows, D Stebbing,
A Osborne, C Sigston, G Toon, M Weyell, B White, PSV Circle,
Eastern National, Essex County Council, Grey Green Enthusiasts
Club, LOTS and Southend Transport.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE APRIL MAGAZINE SHOULD REACH THE EDITORS BY
5.4.91.

This magazine is published by the EBEG and may not be duplicated
for resale.

T & J SANGSTER



COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REFINISHERS

UNIT 14, MAYFAIR IND. EST.
MALDON ROAD, LATCHINGDON,
ESSEX CM3 6LF

TELEPHONE: Tom Sangster
0621 741464