

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

OCTOBER 1987

(Formerly the **EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP**) **ISSUE No. 283**



Colchester B.T. Bristol RE 25 at its home depot. (D.Arnold)

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

This month's meeting at the Freight House (next to the rail station) will commence at 8pm on 10th November.

The topic will be a slide show of buses in Australia given by Martin Weyell.

The Christmas meeting will be at the same location on December 8th.

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MAGAZINE TYPIST REQUIRED

Anyone who is willing to fill this role, which involves a few hours work per month to copy type from the editor's prepared script and send to the printers, is asked to contact Mr. A.G. Osborne at 7 Farley Drive, Seven Kings, Ilford IG3 8LT.

The typewriter will be provided and no great skill is involved, just final accuracy. The Southend area notes are fully prepared by Richard Delahoy and will not need typing. This post must be filled so please volunteer if you can. Thank you.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDALLOCATIONS & TRANSFERS

AUGUST - 0602/3 BD-D/L(D); 1050/2/8 BD(P)-PD(P); 1130 CN-BE; 1651/7 CF-D/L(D); 1655 BN-CF; 1702 D/L(D)-CF; 1713 BN-HH; 1718 BE-CF; 1719 BD-D/L(D); 1727/8 HH-D/L(D); 1730 CF-D/L(D); 1747 SE-CF; 3018 Pool(Dr T)-D/L(D); 3035 CF-D/L(D); 3206 PD(P)-WW(P).

SEPTEMBER - 1050/2/8 PD(P)-BD(P); 1128 HH-CF; 1305 CF-D/L(D); 1307 DT-D/L(D); 1655 CF-BS; 1715 Pool-BN; 1750 DT-CN; 1865 CR-CN; 1866 SD-CF; 1868 CF-SD; 1871 HH-BE; 1872 CN-BE; 1892 BE-CR; 3024 DT-D/L(D); 3031 CN-DT; 3084 CF-HH; 3091 SD-CF; 3097 HH-SD; 3500 CN-CN(L); 3501 CN-CN(L).

OCTOBER - 1300 BE-D/L(D); 1301 SE-D/L(D); 1865 CN-HH; 1866 CF-MN; 1870 MN-CF; 1872 BE-CN; 3078 CR-SD; 3084 HH-CR; 3097 SD-HH.

1132 shown as BE in the August edition allocation list is in fact CN. 1910 is on loan from CR to CN.

ON LOAN

Ford Transit 0754 was loaned to East Kent at their Canterbury Depot for driver training use only for 6 weeks from late July.

ON HIRE

D764 KWT appeared on Coastline services between 21/8 and 25/8 after its appearance at New Writtle Street. (See 282/2).

Central Scottish C12 (C112 JCS), a Leyland Tiger/Duple in Citylink livery, was at Chelmsford depot on 5/10 having replaced a Metroliner (either 1600 or 1601) which failed whilst on tour in Scotland a few days previously.

REPAIRS

w/e 5.9 3114 at CN.
w/e 19.9 1894 and 1902 at ENE.
w/e 3.10 1833 at MN, 3064 at ENE.
w/e 10.10 1785 at ENE.
w/e 17.10 3093 at ENE.

Of the above 1833 was the Bates advert bus and 3064 the National Travelworld advert. 1877, 1880, 1908 & 1909 are all in new livery and were probably done at BN although dates are unknown. 1877 was the Rates advert. Advert buses 1742 (Allen) and 1830 (SMAC) have received revised signwriting, again probably at BN and dates unknown. 1917 went to Clacton on 24/9 to receive overall advert for Springfield Motors (a Lada car dealer). 1930 was repainted at Clacton not ENE as shown last month. Finally, vehicles needing new doors are receiving yellow ones only as green are no longer available.

GENERAL

Sewer works in Chelmsford are causing long term diversions for some services. In Colchester the Sunday service on route 4 was diverted via Drury Rd, Wavell Ave and Gladwin Rd due to work at junction Layer Rd/Butts Rd on 27/9 & 4/10. Roadworks in Chigwell Rd resulted in the LRT 206 being diverted on Southbound trips via Chigwell Rd

(northbound), Hainault Rd & Manor Rd to regain normal route at Woodford Bridge. Back in Chelmsford the 48 was diverted from the end of Springfield Park Lane to Sandford Rd & Springfield Rd due to work on the old A12 on 10/10.

An American Football Extravaganza was held at the County Showground, Gt. Leighs on 27/9 and extra services were provided under contract to Essex C.C. using one CF vehicle. Essex Sunday Savers are still available and at the old prices.

Hurricane conditions on the morning of 16/10 led to major disruption and most bus and coach routes were cancelled until about lunchtime although some did not resume (32 Chelmsford - Ongar) and some were not cancelled (SBT's London service).

Finally vehicles are still being parked in the Coal Yard next to Bps.Stortford station at nights and weekends.

VOYAGE NATIONAL

This small NBC subsidiary set up 2 years ago has been sold to Gurna Ltd., EN's holding company. Voyage National operate from Lille, France and has a fleet of 7 French registered left-hand drive coaches which are a mixture of Setra Imperial 'deckers and Volvo/Jonckhree saloons. Drivers are provided for other operator's continental work.

SERVICES

- 11A Revised Mon-Fri early morning trips from 21/9.
- 12 NEW SERVICE -Clacton Bus Stn - Jaywick Meadow Way via Alton Park and Tudor Estates introduced from 12/10.
- 22A/22B Revised timetable from 8/9. Further revised timetable and route from 12/10.
- 31 22:35 Sunday Chelmsford - Mayland terminates Maldon from 1/11.
- 33 ECC contract journeys withdrawn after 31/10. Part replaced by
- 43 Additional trip 21:30 Chelmsford-Broomfield Hospital and return at 21:45 from 2/11.
- 44C 08:19 from Chelmsford to start from Moulsham Lodge at 08:04 with effect from 1/11.
- 48A Extra trip Mon-Fri 06:55 Chelmer Village-Chelmsford from 2/11.
- 48 Sunday service withdrawn and replaced by 56C from 1/11.
- 53A Revised route and timetable from 1/11.
- 56C NEW SERVICE Chelmsford-Chelmer Village via Nth.Springfield introduced from 1/11 on Sundays only.
- 57 Withdrawn after operation on 25/10.
- 61 Sunday service withdrawn after 25/10.
- 61A 17:05 from Access House still runs. (Shown as withdrawn 282/3)
- 70, 88, 101, 102 & 129 Sunday services introduced from 1/11.
- 74B Revised Sunday timetable from 25/10.
- 100/200 Open top services withdrawn for the winter after 30/9
- 103/4 Revised school trips from 8/9. Extra journey 09:40 Harwich-Colchester Sats only from 7/11.
- 119 Revised Mon-Sat late evening trips from 2/11.
- 120 Revised school journeys from 8/9.
- 133 NEW SERVICE Clacton Bus Station-Tendring Heath Hospital. Sundays only from 30/8 replacing former Barnes service.
- 151 18:05 ex-Canvey extended from Basildon to Brentwood from 17/8.
- 152/3/4 ECC Mon-Sat services revised from 2/11
- 220/1/2 Revised timetables from 17/8.
- 222/6 (Basildon) ECC contract passed to NIBS from 29/6.
- 245 7 Withdrawn after operation on 26/6. Replaced by NIBS from
- 255 29/6.
- 302 Extra school trip from 8/9.
- 311 Minor timetable revisions from 2/11.
- 316 Withdrawn after operation on 30/10.
- 321 Sunday morning service introduced from 1/11.
- 341 Herts C.C.contract. Route & timetable revised from 5/9.

351/451 ECC Mon-Sun services revised from 1/11.
 353/370 ECC Mon-Sat services revised from 2/11.
 373 Withdrawn after operation on 30/10.
 452 21:49 Ongar-Halstead will terminate at Braintree from 1/11
 550/1 Revised route and timetables from 17/8.
 601/7/10/31 All withdrawn after operation on 27/9.
 795 Winter timetable introduced from 21/9.
 802/3/5/6/8/9/10/20/22/24/25/26/27 All withdrawn after 26/9.
 828 Withdrawn after 27/9. Hence ALL Highwayman routes withdrawn.
 A1/A2/B Revised timetables from 17/8.
 C1/C2 Revised route and timetables from 17/8.
 X41 Slight alteration to Saturday service from 5/9.
 Country Car - Additional journeys from Sudbury to Middleton from 17/9.

As a result of the above changes EN have taken over all Coastal Red Sunday ECC contracts.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

1/8 CF 2203 noted on M25 at Redhill; CF 3084 on M3 near Fleet.
 24/8 DT 4008 on a Clacton 74 duty.
 26/8 DT 0200 on Bexford contract (CN duty).
 27/8 SE 3059 on 337, and again on 29/8.
 28/8 SE 3055 on 337, and again on 26/9.
 1/9 BS 1500 towed into Clacton by 0103
 6/9 CN 1865 on 300
 8/9 BD 1122 on 251
 10/9 CR 1925 on 7A
 11/9 BD 0237 in driver training yard, Chelmsford; HH 1777 on 20.
 12/9 BS 4512 on Clacton open-top service 300 as a result of:-
 12/9 2383, 3500 & 3501 all at Frinton & Walton Fair, and on 13/9.
 14/9 BS 1739 on 330.
 15/9 PD 3066 noted in Chelmsford.
 17/9 WW 3116 at Clacton for PSV test.
 19/9 UC 207, UC 209, XC 258 & XC 262 - all Tiger coaches of National Welsh noted in Chelmsford carrying Cardiff ice hockey supporters
 20/9 CR 3203 on Colchester town service 4.
 21/9 CF 3057 on 11A; BN 3117 on 400; MN 3200 on 29C; SD 4504 on 250.
 22/9 BD 0241 on 200.
 22/9 CN 3500 on 3, and on the next three days.
 24/9 0756(Pool) on 42; WW 1780 on a BD 350 duty; BE 1782 on X70.
 3/10 2384 used from Chelmsford in connection with sponsored jailbreak
 4/10 BD 1876 on 251.
 5/10 BE 1932 on X70.
 7/10 BN 2200 & CN 2202 on private hire in Chelmsford.
 9/10 CF 1905 on LRT 206; CF 1899 on 59 (CF to Hatfield Heath only).
 15/10 BN 3117 on 400; SD 4010 on 400.

DISPOSALS

Eastern National Limited - Initial Disposals

0600 (C600 NPU) Mr. Blockwell, Abbess Roding, nr. Ongar, Essex, 9/87.
 0602 (C602 NPU) Mr. Crawford, Kirkintilloch, nr. Glasgow, 9/87.
 1059 (TJN 982W) Remains removed from Brentwood depot by unknown local scrap dealer, c5/87.
 1300 (XHK 213X) & 1301 (XHK 214X) Hills, Tredeager, 10/87.
 1302 (LLT 343V) & 1303 (LLT 344V) Returned to Arlington, dealer, Enfield, 8/87, lease expired.

All the following to Martins, Middlewich (dealer), 9/87:-

1651, 1657, 1700, 1705, 1719, 1723, 1727, 1728, 1730, 1731, 3018, 3021, 3023, 3035 and 9004.

Eastern National Limited - Subsequent Disposals

1657 (KCG 614L) }
 3035 (NPU 982M) } Goodwin, Carlton, 10/87, for scrap.
 9004 (CPU 983G) }

None of these were collected by Martins, all three being towed from Chelmsford depot by Godwins.

Eastern National Omnibus Company - Subsequent Disposals

193 (ONO 89) Still with Twell (breaker), Ingam, 10/87, & derilict at Twells scrapyard in Cammeringham.
 408 (YHK 725F) Was withdrawn by Thomas, Upper Llanwrog in 5/83, (see also NS260/4).
 413 (YTW 537F) Scrapped by Twell (breaker), Ingam, by 10/87. Last reported as derilict at Twells in 1/85. (See also NS254)
 428 (LWC 979J-now SCT 330) Still with Wing, Sleaford, No.65, 10/87.
 429 (LWC 980J-now Q659 OVL) Still with Wing, Sleaford, No.66, 10/87.
 432 (PWC 339K) & 433 (PWC 340K) Withdrawn by Cleverly, Cwmbran, 2/87, re-instated 7/87.
 502 (BNO 111B) Twell (breaker), Ingam, c.-/83, ex-Hall Farm, Glentworth. (See also NS 222).
 508 (BPU 21B) Scrapped by Twell (breaker), Ingam, by 10/87. Last reported as being at Twells yard 8/82. (See NS 222).
 1411 (WEU 73L) Bennett, Uxbridge, 7/87, ex-Badgerline, No.2082.
 (XOO 880L) Presumably re-registered before sale from CSV 231.
 1419 (CSV 618) (GJD 195N) Romney Coaches, Hounslow, 7/87, ex-Badgerline No.2085.
 1534 (MHK 916J) Being repaired 9/87 by Citybus, Belfast (No.793), following an engine fire.
 1536 (OHK 226K) Both delicensed 8/87 by Citybus, Belfast and placed
 1542 (RPU 882K) in reserve fleet.
 2835 (LWC 661C) Still at Drussilas Zoo, nr.Eastbourne, 8/87 and in use as a static childrens teaching room.
 2878 (SVX 277D) Delete reference to Oxford Bus Museum.
 3019 (SMS 45H) Reallocated to Burnley by Ribble (No.2042). Noted 9/87 in NBC red still carrying "serving Lancaster & Morecambe" legend. Used mainly on schools services.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflet for 337 dated 24.8.87.
 Timetable leaflet for 26 dated 6.9.87.
 Timetable leaflets for 1/1A/2/3/4/5/5A; 8/8A/9/10/10A/10B; 13/14; X19/109/118/119/106; all dated 13.9.87. And for 33 dated 2/11.
 Duplicated leaflet for 11A showing revised early morning journeys.
 Duplicated leaflets for 220/1/2; 550/1; and Brentwood minibus routes A/B/C; all dated 17.8.87.
 Handbill showing changes to 3/27/28/28A dated 6.9.87.

EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERING has seen the following recently:-

THE BEE LINE 291 (TPE 167S)
 Ex-GRAMPIAN NRG 174M & NRG 176M.
 HEDINGHAM L101 (MVX 878C), L117 (DRB 309H).
 LUTON BUS 904 (CBD 904T), 833 (HPR 673N) & NNH 147P.
 MAIDSTONE & DISTRICT 5303 (FKM 303V), 3903 (SKN 903R), 5873 (FKM 873V)
 OSBORNES 53 (FNM 860V).
 SOUTHEND TRANSPORT 248 (A248 SVV).
 TELLYN HAX 331W, SPP 609W, DHY 479W, A62 DJH & A169 OHJ.
 And parked in the yard LONDON BUSES RML 2543 & V60.

OTHER NEWS

DRIVER TRAINING VEHICLE Bristol VR 9002 (CPU 981G) has been withdrawn which leaves 9000/1/3 in full time use together with 1711.
 The Austin Taxi STAFF TRANSFER VEHICLE aquired last month is PYW 509R and not as reported last month.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Withdrawn RE19 (OWC 719M) was removed from Magdalen Street on 18/9. Following the accident on 16/8 mentioned last month on Hern Bay By-pass, Tiger 103 was repaired by Kirbys, Sheffield, being returned on 17/9. Southend Transport's 203 was sent back on 18/9. It had been mainly used on Tesco contracts, but was on the 4A on Sats 5/9 & 12/9.

After the emergency rail services last month, planned replacements featured in September. The lines from Colchester to Clacton & Walton were closed on Sats/Suns from 5/9 to 4/10. 14 CBT buses (12 'deckers & 2 Tigers) plus 5 EN were used on Sats and 17 CBT 'deckers on Suns. The Saturday requirement stretched resources and as a result there were several unusual workings:- Service 25 journeys from Colchester at 12:10 and from Ipswich at 13:10 were contracted out to Ipswich Buses which used its Atlanteans 36, 33, 30 & 20 on 12/9, 19/9, 26/9 & 3/10 respectively, and Dominator 82 on 5/9. The Leopards 101 & 102 were used on Service 4A. The normal practice of using 3 different vehicles on service 74A to aid timekeeping was changed to using just one: a Lynx for the first 3 weeks, but an Atlantean for the last 2 when no Lynx were available.

CBT is to operate rail replacements between Colchester & Shenfield on Sunday mornings 11/10 to 15/5/88, EN having lost the contract. As well as service 82A, CBT also now operate two buses on service 16, both at the same time. The afternoon service 13 journey is 5 mins later than shown in the ECC timetable.

On 5/10 East Street was closed in the evening peak causing very extensive traffic congestion - some services were up to an hour late and many were cancelled. Probably as a result of this bus 52 was on service 74A - a very unusual occurrence.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to October 11.

Vehicles

NEW & ON ORDER:

Optare City Pacers 401 - 3 have chassis numbers 29HH000857, 29HH012375 and 29HH012371 respectively and body numbers J250-2. We do not yet have news of the exact delivery dates of 404 - 6, due shortly.

MODIFIED:

To clarify and update earlier reports, the following are the Fleetlines fitted with Gardner engines:

6LXB engine: 221/33, 305/6/11/7/20/89; 6LX engine: 393/4/7

Berkhof rebody 255 was first registered in its new guise on June 1st, 1987.

ON HIRE:

The hire of (Wealden Omnibuses owned) Fleetline RFN 972G from Venturer Travel ended on 3/10.

Colchester Borough Transport returned 203 to STL on 18/9.

Further to last month's report, we now have more details of the hire of DMS's from Ensign Bus Services: as well as the four buses noted, two others were used by STL:

A103 THM 720M Daimler CRL6 MCW H45/32F (blue/silver)

G109 OJD 219R " " H45/29F (blue/silver)

Of the six vehicles, 5 were used on local services on 4/9 and at least two on 8/9.

Last month's prediction about the fate of the Berkhof rebodied Leopards 254/5 was proved wrong almost at it was written! Both have been returned off hire (to Metrobus and Trident respectively), 254 has had its STL rietnames reinstated. We await confirmation of their dates of entry to service with STL. They are often used on local bus work. 255 currently carries the chassis' original registration, CHA 443K, but forms have been submitted to transfer XHU 326 from 326 to 255. 326 will then receive a 'new' Chelmsford LVLO 'N' registration prior to its sale (see below).

239 was noted on hire to Nelson, Wickford on 1/10.

WITHDRAWALS:

Upon entry to service of Optares 404-6, coaches 201/2, 326 will be withdrawn. It is understood that Busways Travel, Newcastle are to purchase all three. 201/2 were Southend's first coaches: delivered on February 21st, 1976, they have each covered around three quarters of a million miles.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

341 (CJN 441C) Sold 10/87 by Hagarty & Beesley (preservationists) to Spence, Thorpe Bay (dealer) and then to Lincoln City Transport for driver training work. It has been repainted white by STL.

368 (WJN 368J) Sold 10/87 by City of Oxford to Spence, Thorpe Bay (dealer); currently awaiting collection from Oxford.

Services

1 **N&P** records an additional Sundays only journey from 20/9, 2355 Southend to Hadleigh Victoria House & return. This provides part cover for EN's withdrawal of the last 3 on Sundays, and ran free on 13/9.

3A An additional journey on Saturdays at 2340 from Southend to Hadleigh Victoria House (and return) has been registered from 19/10. For the 6 preceeding Saturdays it has operated free and was publicised as a 'boozers special', to help combat drinking and driving!

614 The amended Culturebus timetable was deferred and now takes effect from 8/11 until 31/3/88; the M-F service is reduced to 5 jnys running hourly ex Piccadilly Circus @ 1000 to 1400; S/Su to 6 jnys (1000-1500).

Essex CC contracts: not previously reported is a solitary schooldays only journey commencing 7/9 on 23, 1535 West Leigh Schools to Belgrave Road. The contract for 25 commenced on 6/9 and is daily, ex Southend at 2015/2115/2215 and return from Leigh Church at 2036/2136. The 7C to Rochford Station will lose its first journey after 30/10. Forthcoming changes to 10B (withdrawn) and 18 (new) were noted last month. Note however that the schooldays only 10C from Stambridge (0809) to King Edmund School (return at 1609) continues with STL.

General

To clarify last month's notes, the standard substitutes for Optare City Pacers on all routes (except 65) are single deck coaches; 304 can also be seen, eg on the 29, 4/10. An additional City Pacer duty is the first journey on the 1 on Sundays. City Pacer 403 is featured in Optare's latest advertising.

A considerable amount of outside work continues to be undertaken by ST Engineering for other operators, including:

For Lincoln City Transport: repaint/retrim (and testing on some vehicles) of 6 Tiger/Duple coaches acquired from Grey Green - five being PYE 838/41-3Y and A844 SYE; repaint of ex Southend PD3

QFN 440, acquired for training work ex Spence, Thorpe Bay.

For Ensign Bus: re issue 281/10, only 16 ex West Midlands Fleetlines are receiving attention, not 20 as expected. 6 were listed in 281/10; the last 2 are ROK 456/9M; the identity of the other 8 is not known.

Other work has been undertaken for: Boro'Line, Maidstone (LHS/ECW QFN 561N); Bordoncoach (Reliance/Duple YPL 96T); Stephensons Coaches (Leopard/Marshall CCN 911D); Bender School of Motoring (PD3/NCME HCD 347E); Frosts Coaches (Leopard coaches GWC 3iT & EWW 207T) and 'Mainly!' preserved Routemaster RM 87.

The ST Engineering works has received authority to conduct MOT tests on light vehicles and is now marketing various services for car and van owners; this was featured in the *Evening Echo* on 9/10.

Work is currently being undertaken at the London Road garage to extend the open parking ground, on land acquired from Nazareth House.

Unusual Workings

8/10 - 363 on 69 (minibus duty).

Publicity News

Five items this month - all individual service leaflets (in the 110x160mm corporate style) which merely reflect slight timetable or fares revisions:

four dated 3/8/87: X1/10/11 (issue 27); X21 (9); X30/1 (8) & X41 (6); one dated 18/9/87 for the 19 (incorporating the former 14 & X19).

News about Southend Transport should be sent directly to the Sub Editor, Richard Delahoy at 272 Shoebury Road, Southend, SS1 3TT.

OTHER OPERATORS - Southend area

CLINTONA, Brentwood: re last month's issue, the 4B last ran on 24/7 (we think) with the start of the school holidays. It has not been resumed as the Education Authority are now covering this schools need.

S & M COACHES, Benfleet: has acquired Fleetline/PRV RFN 963G from Wealden (dealer), ex East Kent, with RFN 960G to follow, replacing the Newport Atlanteans (MDW 388/92G). 963G is in silver grey/green. A double decker is sometimes seen on contract 23's - eg TOE 438N on 3/10. Contract route 5A (Su mornings) will be withdrawn after 25/10, but the W/Su 404 has been renewed for a further period.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS: a further M-S contract commenced 7/9 (until 29/10/88) to replace the withdrawn STL evening service on 12 - ex Rochford at 2122 to Canewdon and at 2322 to Canewdon (continuing to Paglesham on demand); ex Canewdon at 2137, all via Stambridge. From 2/11 the main Rochford 10B/12A/65A contract will be revised: 65A (Sth Fambridge) is withdrawn; 10B/12A are rerouted via Stambridge rather than Larks Hill (except for one jny). The old STL contract is also incorporated (except for schools only 10C) and overall the timetable is reduced.

STEPHENSONS COACHES, Southend: as well as Ford A series NVD 429P, this operator has a Moseley Fargo bodied minicoach, XVA 923T (chassis type not known) for the South Woodham contract services. Southend Sunday contract routes 23/23A are operated by CCN 911D as well as TUB 1M - minibuses (as used by STL commercially on M-S) would be far more suitable!

THAMES WEALD: the two Southend routes did not operate in w/c 5/10 due to the owner's holidays! A route from Southend to London Victoria via the former EN 402 is planned for Saturdays.

NON PSV's IN SOUTH ESSEX: to continue from the last issue:-

BENDER SCHOOL OF MOTORING, Laindon: VR OCD 763G is being repainted cream with a red band, and is half finished as this is written. This bus continues to be based at the STL garage.

VEHICLES PARKED UP OR IM-MOBILE:

EHT 858C Bristol FLF/ECW ex Bristol OC. Stored in a boatyard adjacent to Leigh Station, painted white. Had been bought by a church/charity for a planned trip carrying grain to the Sudan.

OCH 264L Daimler CRG6/Roe ex Derby City. Parked (engineless) at Darlington Grove School, Leigh (in Derby livery) as a playbus.

MOBILE PLAYBUSES:

CJN 436C Leyland PD3/Massey ex Southend Tpt. 'Lulu' is stored at the STL works and is believed to be used in the Eastwood area. It has recently been repainted base white by STL.

TGX 841M Daimler CRL6/PRV ex DMS 841. Basildon area, orange livery - more details required.

Reports of this and other playbuses please, to sub-editor.

SCOUT GROUPS/MAJORETTES/SUNDRIES:

MLK 582L Daimler CRG6/PRV ex DMS 582. Hadleigh Marching Militare band, red/white/blue. Kept in Tyre Services yard on A13 east of Hadleigh Church; visible from the road.

JGF 303K Daimler CRG6/PRV ex DMS 303. Wickford Youth Band and Majorettes, red/white. Location unknown.

DLC 692J Reliance/Plaxton C--F, ex Kirbys Coaches, Rayleigh. RADS (Rayleigh & District Swimming Club), silver grey/blue. Parked at Freight House, Rochford (adjacent to the station).

VDB 953 Leopard/Alexander DP49F, originally NWRCC. Basildon Sea Scouts, location unknown. (Incidentally, this coach is fourteenth-hand!:- NWRCC; North Western (SELNEC Division) RCC; SELNEC Cheshire Bus Co; SELNEC PTE; GMT; Ensign; S & M, Benfleet; Ensign; Black Prince, Leeds; Ensign; Western SMT; Ensign; Swanette Majorettes, Basildon, and now the sea scouts). EWS 168D Reliance/Alexander, originally Eastern Scottish. Tilbury Majorettes, location unknown.

TJN 471R Bedford/?? ex Southend Health Authority. Southend, 312 Sea Cadet Corp, kept in Milton Road, Westcliff.

KUC 923P Daimler FE30LR/MCW, ex DMS 1923. Urban Leisure, Billericay; converted to half open top and in promotional livery for the Hollywood night club, Romford.

Does anyone have full details of the vehicles used by the various health authorities for staff transport - eg Basildon's UJN 850W (R1114/Dominant B--F); Basildon & Thurrock BUR 400T and BBC 985X and (ex?) Southend A393 NNK. The sub editor would appreciate details (registration/chassis/body/owning authority/base hospital) for any local health authority vehicles which are psv-based.

AND FINALLY...Southend area members interested in following service revisions might like to know that Southend Central Library has now sent off a subscription to the fortnightly *Notices & Proceedings* of the Eastern Traffic Commissioners. It will be available for inspection at the information desk, once the copies actually start to arrive!

OTHER OPERATORS - Rest of Essex

ASSOCIATED COACHWAYS - The 12:05 & 16:15 Templefields to Latton Bush and 12:35 return on service T14 will be withdrawn after 30/10.

CARTERS COACHES - commenced operation of an Ardleigh, Harts Lane to Manningtree school service 96 on 14/9.

EAST MIDLANDS - Alterations to service 239 from 8/9 were as follows:- 08:03 Warley to Ongar operates 5 mins earlier, 15:00 Ongar to Brentwood starts from Ongar Comp.School at 14:57 and the 15:47 from the school starts from the Four Wantz at 15:50.

EASTERN COUNTIES - are to introduce a new service, 190, from Ipswich to Colchester on 31/10. Operating via Copdock and East Bergholt, journeys will run Sats only from Ipswich (Tower Ramparts) at 08:20, 10:00, 13:00, 15:00 & 17:00 returning from Colchester at 09:05, 11:05, 14:05, 16:05 and 17:45. Service 694 was withdrawn after 27/9.

Service 199 in Colchester has seen OT3, an open-top VR, away from the sun, sea and sand(?) of Felixstow on 12/9. It proved popular in the morning but in the afternoon's heavy rain it looked rather empty. It rained all day on 19/9 and OT3 was in use again. On 26/9 dual purpose VR287 was in use and an LH on the next Saturday, 3/10.

HALLEN COACHES - have taken over the operation of the Corringham Commuter Service from Williams Travel departing Corringham at 06:15 & 06:45, returning from Hanover Square at 17:00 & 17:30.

HARIS BUS - 16:00 ex-Brentwood on service 265 runs 20 mins earlier from 21/9. Services 383 & 10 operate to revised timetables from 2/11 and service 14 from 4/11. New services not reported are the 15C/15D introduced on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 30/6 between Aveley and Basildon via Stifford Clays, Orsett, Bulphan and Horndon.

HEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES - It is reported that six former South Wales Transport Bedford YMQS' with Duple bus bodywork have been acquired. FCY 288W was seen in Witham in SWT livery whilst the following is in service in fleet livery:-

L143 FCY 291W Bedford YMQ-S Duple B43F

Service 339 replacing the former EN operation commenced on 28/9, the same date that the EN school trips on the 311 between Panfield Lane and Four Reelet in Braintree were taken over. The commercial services at 19:30 & 21:30 from Halstead and return from Colchester at 20:30 & 22:30 will be withdrawn on Sats after 31/10. It is not yet known if ECC will put them out to tender. Both trips on 324/5 from Braintree at 15:35 run 20 mins earlier from 28/9. ECC contract journeys on 82, 84, 312 and 320 will be withdrawn at the end of October.

LONDON BUSES - have won the ECC contract for the Sunday 500 service (Harlow - Romford) commencing 1/11. This is perhaps the biggest surprise since East Midlands arrived in the Brentwood area.

LONDON COUNTRY NORTH EAST - Service 724 between Pitsea and London Victoria was withdrawn after operation on 9/10; however those of you who remember the previous 724 will be pleased to see it return in a slightly different form of Stansted Airport to Heathrow Central via Much Hadham or Harlow, then Hertford, Hatfield, Watford and Denham from 31/10. Service 524 which itself had slight timetable changes from 5/9 will be withdrawn except for Harlow-Hertford shorts after 30/10. Changes in Harlow are on the 09:20 Bus Stn-Old Harlow service T2 which now starts from Town Station and the 08:00 Harlow circular T3 which now continues to Town Stn arriving at 08:56, both on Mondays to Fridays only.

NATIONAL EXPRESS - Winter timetables commenced on all routes in the area from 1/11, as did a New Service, 405, between Southend and Stansted - perhaps to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of Eastern National's Highwayman services.

NELSONS - Service 08 will be withdrawn after operation on 23/10 whilst services 242 & 243 will be withdrawn after operation on 30/10 with journeys being covered by the 245 and 549.

SAMPSONS - Services T7 & T8 will be withdrawn after service on 30/10.

WESTS - New Service 204 from Buckhurst Hill to Debden via Loughton commenced on 17/8 for which another 3 Leyland Nationals have been acquired. Service 201 had a revised timetable from 5/10.

ALSO of interest, and further to last months notes, is that THAMES WEALD's Thursday 08:30 from Sevenoaks operates to Cambridge via Romford and Epping returning at 16:20. During school holidays a Tuesday service runs from Romford at 09:00 to Maidstone, Ashford and Folkestone.

Finally LOTS report that Golden Boy will replace London Country North East on the Sunday T2, T3 & T4 from 25/10 although this may turn out to be 1/11 as LCNE's contract runs until 31/10.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

DESTINATION BLINDS - Part 1

Introduction

(These notes are believed correct as at 11/10/87.)

Over the next few issues of the magazine we will be giving listings of various Southend Transport blinds, when space permits. First, however, we should set the scene with an explanation of the STL displays.

DOUBLE DECK BUSES:

All Fleetlines (except 305/11/2) have a three panel display at the front, consisting of numbers, ultimate destination and intermediate points. On 221-30, 313-20, 371-3/87-97 there are three separate glass panels; on 231-42, 306-10/86 there is only a single glass panel but with three separate displays behind. The exceptions are DMS's 305/11/2: 305 has a small central number blind and a separate destination below; 311/2 have the standard LT screens modified to a wide top aperture which is masked down to take a central number blind, with a separate destination below. Incidentally, the other DMS's utilise the standard LT three panel display, but with winding gear modified so that all blinds can be changed from the lower deck. All Fleetlines (again except 305/11/2) have rear number blinds; no vehicles have side displays.

Number blinds are single track on 221-30, 305/11-20/71-3/86-97 (see listing later in article) whereas the newer bodies on 231-42 and 306-10 have three track number scrolls (not listed here).

SINGLE DECK BUSES:

Fleetline 304 has a single track number blind and a destination, at the front only. 401-3 have three track numbers and a destination at the front only.

SINGLE DECK COACHES:

A mixed bag here, reflecting the varied origins of the coach fleet. The following have three track number blinds and a destination at the front: 201-10/3-5/8/20, 246-55, 324/5/8-31/34/8-42/6/51-4/7 (except that 325 has a non standard single track number blind). 321/2/6/32/48 have destination but no number blinds. Most displays are above the windscreen ('Bristol' or 'SBG' domes) except for 201/2, 321/2/5/6/48 which are below. Coaches not listed above (212/9, 333/5-7/43-5/7) have no destination gear at all and use yellow slip boards instead.

DOUBLE DECK COACHES:

Cardiff Olympians 363-5/7-9 have a three track number and destination blind at the front. The Astromegas have two styles: 244/5 of the original batch have a single large aperture at the front; 243/56-8 have a three track number display and destination blind at the front.

General points

Blinds are numbered: the current series appear to be N20 (single track numbers), T16 (general destination), CT15 (coach destination) and P7 (intermediate). Blinds from earlier series are still in use on some vehicles, and will be included in the listings as space permits.

No new blind listings have been produced since deregulation, hence many displays not applicable to current STL operations are included; a number of displays are included for rail replacement work. Not all relevant displays are included on all blinds, so that stickers or slip boards are used for certain displays - the main ones being: various styles for London X services; X2 - Maidstone; Canvey Newlands; 225 - Brock Hill; ECC service - Southend Transport Tickets Not Valid.

Destination blinds are produced in a number of widths to suit different body styles, so that some displays may be abbreviated or shown on two lines - eg 221 would show EASTWOOD BELGRAVE ROAD whereas on 231 this would appear as EASTWOOD BELGRAVE. On the intermediate blinds generally three lines can be displayed at once (except on DMS's, which show 4) but some entries are closed up to show 4 lines - eg for seafarmer route 67. Displays on intermediate blinds are roughly in service number order. As a final comment, there is no official manual showing correct displays, so that imaginative drivers can sometimes come up with unusual displays on occasions!

Coach destination blind CT15, per 214, 28.6.87 & 244, 10.10.87:-

This blind is used for all single deck coaches (except for 201/2 - bus blind T14) and in 243/56-8.

[yellow or white blank]	LONDON	Above line
PRIVATE HIRE SERVICE	CANVEY	displays
GATWICK AIRPORT	SOUTHEND	are black
CRAWLEY VIA GATWICK	GREAT WAKERING	on yellow
BRIGHTON VIA GATWICK	LITTLE WAKERING	
LONDON HEATHROW	PRITTLEWELL	
SOUTHEND VIA BASILDON	ROCHFORD	
LONDON GREEN PARK	ASHINGDON	
SOUTHEND DIRECT	RAYLEIGH	
BASILDON	PAGLESHAM	
STANFORD LE HOPE	CANEWDON	
GRAYS SOCKETTS HEATH	WALLASEA ISLAND	
SHOEBURYNESSE	CHALKWELL	
HAMMERSMITH	EASTWOOD	Below line
<u>LONDON ALDGATE</u>	LEIGH	displays
PRIVATE	HULLBRIDGE	are white
SOUTHEND AIRPORT	[white blank]	on black

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 1- 6th November