

ESSEX BUS NEWS

APRIL 1992

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

336



Carters XPW 877X a Leyland Leopard/ECW is seen in Colchester on service 247 on 26.11.91.

(D Arnold)

EDITOR:

Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0XU

SUB EDITORS:

Southend Transport:

Edward Cecil, 59 Abbs Cross Lane, Hornchurch, RM12 4XW

Thamesway:

Paul Harvey, 19 Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, SS3 9NX

South Essex Independents:

Mark Lloyd, 4 New Cottages, Wakes Colne, Colchester, CO6 2BY

Other Independents:

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

PUBLICATIONS:

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

PHOTO ORDERS:

Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, SS7 4LB

MEMBERSHIP:

Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Ilford, IG2 7NQ

SOUTHEND MEETING 12th MAY 1992

The May 'Rochford Meeting' will be held at the Southend Transport garage. Please meet in London Road in the area adjacent to the bus stop and exit from the garage at 1945. For safety reasons do not attempt to enter the garage as a large number of vehicle movements take place at this time of day.

COACH TOUR TO AVON AND SOMERSET

A booking form for this tour is enclosed with this months magazine. This is expected to be a popular tour so please book early to avoid disappointment.

BLUE TRIANGLE EXCURSION PROGRAMME

Excursions by RT or RM to Cobham, Brighton, Southsea, Carlton Colville, Amberley and Woburn from Romford, Barking and London. For further details please contact: Blue Triangle, 25 Lovell Walk, RAINHAM, Essex, RM13 7ND.

CAN YOU HELP

A request has been received for any help that can be given in respect of Eastern National/Thamesway services in Waltham Forest, from inception to the present day. If you can help please write to:- K J Barber, 25 Newconien Road, Leytonstone, E11 3PU.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Extensive collection of timetables (1936-1973) covering Eastern National (including Midland area services), Westcliff-on-Sea, Southend & District, plus other items such as Buses Annuals and books etc. If you are interested please contact:
R. E. Stevens, "Glan Dwr", Crawia Briade, Llanrug, CAERNARFON, Gwyned, LL55 4BP.

RAILWAY REPLACEMENT SERVICE

On 1.4.92. a car left the A12 near Hatfield Peverel and came to a halt on the main London to Colchester line where it was struck by the 1330 Liverpool Street to Norwich service. As a result a number of trains were trapped behind including freight trains and for this reason it was not possible to provide a service between Shenfield and Witham until about 1700. As a result vehicles of Capital Citybus, Cedrics, Colchester BT, Eastern National and Southend Transport were used to provide cover. This was complicated by traffic jams on the A12. The driver and passenger in the car escaped serious injury. This is not an April Fools joke as some members may think!

EASTERN NATIONAL

Allocation Changes

3/92 703/5 POOL-MN; 720/1 ACQD-MN; 1120 MN-CR; 1805 POOL-D/L(D)
1833 MN-POOL; 3127 CR-MN

The increased minibus allocation at Maldon is for new service 97A/B and also covers a number of journeys on services 95/6.

Unusual Workings

29.3.92. MN 1114 on service 53A (CR operated).

General

The company is advertising for Agents in towns and villages to sell tickets and display publicity material. This will bring back memories to some members of the days when the company had some 60 parcels agents in the area.

Services

53 From 6.4.92. the 1635 ex Colchester was revised to operate 5 minutes later throughout.
95/6 Extended to the new Tesco store from 29.3.92.

Initial Disposals

1500	(PJT 255R)	Brewers, Maesteg, 3/92.
1501	(PJT 256R)	As 1500.
1502	(PJT 257R)	As 1500.
3053	(LJN 648P)	United Welsh Coaches, Gorseinon, 3/92. Still in EN livery and used on school contracts.
3066	(UVX 3S)	Stripped for spares and remains sold for scrap, 3/92.

Subsequent Disposals

1113	(HHJ 374Y)	Numbered B374 by Brewer, Maesteg. (T)
1118	(HHJ 379Y)	As 1113, numbered B379. (T)
1122	(A691 OHJ)	As 1113, numbered B391. (T)
1715	(WNO 564L)	Tame Valley ceased operations, -?-, vehicles passed to West Midlands Travel.
1726	(NEV 683M)	Appears as part of current fleet of Solent Blue Line. It appears this vehicle is leased to Southampton City Transport. Further to EBN 333.
1745	(JNO 194N)	Wigley (dealer), Carlton, by 1/92. Also reported as going to PVS, Barnsley. (T)
1747	(JNO 196N)	As 1745 (T)
1749	(JNO 198N)	As 1726.
1771	(MAR 793P)	Ripley (dealer), Carlton, by 1/92. Also reported as going to PVS, Barnsley. (T)
1773	(MAR 795P)	As 1771. (T)

1774	(MAR 796P)	Passed to Rhondda Buses Ltd, 2/92, ex National Welsh N660. Operating from Porth depot on a Tellings Golden Miller disc until Rhondda Buses receives its own number.
1775	(MAR 797P)	Withdrawn 2/92 by National Welsh, N661.
1777	(PEV 689R)	As 1771 (T)
1794	(PEV 706R)	Wilts & Dorset, 3762, transferred to reserve fleet in 3/92.
1798	(TJN 497R)	As 1745. (T)
1808	(TJN 507R)	As 1771. (T)
1825	(VAR 902S)	As 1771. (T)
1827	(VNO 729S)	As 1113, numbered B827.
1838	(WJN 558S)	Numbered LN 658 by Sovereign Bus. (T)
3033	(NPU 980M)	Ripley (dealer), Carlton, by 1/92, ex Greyhound International (dealer), Bexleyheath. As 3033.
3048	(JNO 189N)	Western National Ltd., Truro, 2/92. (T)
3088	(STW 32W)	Numbered U587 by United Welsh Coaches. (T)
3097	(UAR 587W)	Repainted into fleet livery and numbered U588 by United Welsh Coaches, 3/92. (T)
3098	(UAR 588W)	
3129	(XHK 234X)	As 3097 but numbered U234. (T)

(T) denotes via Thamesway.

The numbers allocated by Brewer and United Welsh appear to be paper only as they are not carried on the vehicles concerned.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles

Yet more Bristol VRs have been acquired these include GTX 740/51W which are ex National Welsh and CBV 17S ex Ribble. GTX 751W has dual purpose seating. Further details will be given next month. Additional information to EBN 335 regarding the acquired Leyland Nationals is now available 720 (LPB 206P) had not entered service in early April, while LPB 201P has been allocated fleet number 787 but remains dumped at the works.

Further to last months notes regarding 114 it has been repainted, but not all vehicles are in the new livery yet. Your editor misunderstood an item of information and apologies to those misled.

Open top Fleetlines 904/5 are being repainted with a variation of last years livery being used and are to be renumbered 914/5. As in 1991 they will be used on other services before commencing the ECC seafront service.

Services

20 Rayleigh Station to Shoeburyness (Blackgate Road) on Monday to Saturday. Every 20 minutes until about 1900. This service will operate via the Sea Front, Maplin Way and Church Road leaving Thamesway to serve Burges Road. This service commences from 20.4.92.

X1 group Slight timetable revisions for the summer period commencing 19.4.92.

Thamesway Ltd

Allocations

Feb 2nd 3089 PD-D/L(D)

March 253-56/58-60 WW-PD 717 HH-BN 800-04 WW-PD 1776 Pool-D/L(D) 1779 BD-D/L(D) 1787 HH-D/L(D) 1789 BN-D/L(D) 1803 WW-HH 1820 WW-D/L(D) 1823 WW-BD 1882 WW-BN 1894 WW-BD 1902 BD-D/L(D) 1911 WW-BD 1920 WW-BN

April 1801 WW-HH 1822 WW-HH 1836 WW-HH 1847 BD-HH 1853 Pool-HH 1905 WW-HH 1810 WW-D/Sch

The remaining WW vehicles have been noted as follows:-

Bristol VR's are parked at BD(3101/10/13) and BN(3105/8/15/18/25 and 3216) National 1826 and Bristol VR's 3116/19/20/22/26 are unknown.

The additional Nationals allocated to HH from 5th April are to compete against Southend Transport between Southend and Canvey and also to defend service 20 when ST commence their service 20 on 21st April.

Vehicles

Transit 719 has now been acquired by the company ex loan from Cityline. Minibus 371 and 718 have been noted with "Badgerline Group and Symbol" on front bonnets. Withdrawn vehicles parked at BN are 1779, 1801 and 3088. Withdrawn Bristol VR 3117 is currently parked at Eastern National Clacton Depot. Transits 72 and 72 have been transferred to Eastern National.

Disposals

National 1902 has passed to Wigley Dealers.

Repaints

Noted repainted in fleet livery 245, 258, 801 and 804.

Service Revisions

222 ECC contract service (evening service only between Southend and Brentwood) withdrawn after 28th March.

251/551 Minor timetable adjustments commencing 23rd March.

Publicity

Brentwood Buses dated 23-3-92

251/551 dated 23-3-92

24/A 29A/B/C dated 16-2-92

Essex Ranger 92 Undated

Basilidon Weekly Ten undated

The company are introducing a new improved Essex Ranger from 5th April with new low prices. The tickets will now be available direct from the driver for same day travel. Rangers will be valid on both Thamesway and Eastern National. Also introduced Basilidon Thamesway Ten single journeys valid for seven consecutive days. Single Fares were increased in the BN/BD/Grays area also from 5th April.

Spotlight on Brentwood Update

Following service revisions of 23-3-92 town services now require 10 minibuses during weekday morning and evening peak, reducing to 9 weekday off peak and Saturdays.

Leyland National journeys on town services are as follows:-

Services A1/3/5 at 06-51, 07-20, 07-30, 07-59, 08-16 and 08-28 ex Bishop Hall Estate and 16-13, 16-55 and 18-08 ex Warley Eagle Way.

Service 221 at 07-15 ex Blackmore.

Service B at 15-35 ex St Martins School and service 239 at 17-45 ex Brentwood High Street.

The above workings also include associated workings.

Usually Workings

11-3-92 EN CF1831 noted on Service 11 in place of HH1875 due to breakdown.

18-3-92 HH755 noted on ECC Service 222

19-3-92 BN1884 noted so services 15 and 250.



Former West Riding Bristol VR YNW 401S entered service with Southend Transport in WR livery. It then gained a blue and white front, before being repainted in full ST livery. It is seen on service 3B during February 1992.

(P Snell)

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Vehicles

Leyland Lynx 31 to 37 are now fitted with green DiPTAC handrails and certain other features.

Services

9/9A Slight timetable revisions introduced from 21.4.92.

The free services operated on behalf of Tesco's, Highwoods were withdrawn after operation on 3.4.92. To replace one of the routes CBT are to operate a service 12 between Wivenhoe and Highwoods on Wednesday and Fridays from 8.4.92.

For the record services operated for Tesco's were:-

T2 Monday and Tuesdays from Clacton with two journeys each way.
T3/A Wednesday and Thursday from Dovercourt two journeys each way.

T4 Tuesday and Wednesday from Sudbury with two journeys each way.

T5 Tuesday and Thursday from Wivenhoe with seven journeys each way.

CBT Coachways continue to expand destinations for excursions with Cheltenham, Matlock and the Isle of Wight now on offer. Excursions are also being operated to Amberley, Bressingham and Crich for the enthusiast market.

HEDINGHAM

Vehicles

A further Leyland Lynx has been acquired in the shape of H48 NDU a Volvo engined Mark2. This is a former Volvo/Leyland demonstrator and is numbered L196.

On order is a Dennis Dart/Alexander Dash which will enter service in August in Norfolk's livery for service 84 (Nayland-Colchester). Former Kemps Bova L177 (F258 NUT) has been sold to Cooks, Southend. This was the last vehicle in Kemps livery.

Services

90/A Revised from 6.4.92. to serve the new Tesco, Maldon store and timetable changes introduced from 20.4.92.

General

Burnham depot is being leased to Peterborough PVS to store and dismantle Bristol VRs and Leyland Nationals.

OTHER OPERATORS

APT RAYLEIGH A number of vehicles have been reregistered since EBN 335. E334 EVH is now A10 APT, DAF/Plaxton APT 42S is now A12 APT, Toyota Caetano A12 APT (new as E741 JAY) is now E992 JOO.

A Neoplan Cityliner has been acquired and is now APT 42S. Bedford UVW 761R, ex 24 FLC and new as TUR 140R now carries JXI 9143 which is believed to have been carried by the Neoplan when acquired. Is that clear?

CEDRICS Have sold KIW 7812 a Volvo/Jonckhree to Ridgeon, Stanford le Hope.

CHARTERCOACH DAF/Caetano E178 KNH has been reregistered HIL 5682.

CLINTONA The recently acquired Transit G731 PGA has Dormobile B16F bodywork.

DISTRICT BUS Sherpa D873 LWR has been numbered 30. The existing fleet has been renumbered by adding 20 to the previous fleetnumber.

GREEN LINE A new service to Stansted commenced on 12.4.92. Service 747 operates via Bishops Stortford, Stevenage, Hitchin, Luton and Watford to Heathrow.

HARRIS Have acquired a further Bristol VR/Alexander from Northampton and this is VVV 65S. Also acquired is B95 PLU a Bedford VAS/Plaxton. The coach fleet has seen DAF/Berkhof D401 SHJ sold in part exchange for Setra S215HD J92 YAR in Eurolines livery. Leyland Swift E308 HPU has been repainted blue and white and DAF/Van Hool F97 MHJ is now in Eurolines livery.

MILLERS As a result of this company becoming part of Cambus, services 103/44 were withdrawn from 30.3.92. These were operated in competition with Cambus 22 which is unchanged.

NATIONAL EXPRESS Summer services were introduced on all services from 26.4.92.

NELSONS Former GM Buses Dodge C808 CBU has been reregistered BIL 4710 previously carried by a Ford/Plaxton. Has this vehicle been reregistered or withdrawn?

P&M WICKFORD Have acquired 342 FRH a Volvo/Duple from Horseshoe Coaches London.

PRIORY Further to EBN 335 CXI 8635 has a Bedford YMT chassis.

RELANCE BENFLEET Have acquired D131 ACX a DAF/Plaxton.

ROUTEMASTERS Have registered two new services. Service H29 operates between Hatfield Heath and Trafalgar Square on Friday/Saturday nights with one journey each way. Service 847 operates on Easter Monday only between Harlow and Epping via Blake Hall. This is not an April Fool!

SIMIEN Have acquired RWK 317W a Ford/Duple from C&M Laindon.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS To expand on EBN 333 the former services 10 and 12 were replaced by an experimental subsidised shared taxi service operated by Andrews Taxis, Rochford from 6.1.92.

TOWNLINK Slight timetable revisions to services 239 and 261 from 4.4.92.

UPSON AND HOPES D248 ABV a Mercedes 609D has been sold.

GREY GREEN COMMUTER SERVICES

The following services are provided to London on Monday to Fridays, all services serve Wanstead, Stratford, Aldgate, Charing Cross, Victoria and Millbank :-

190 Witham Station (0557) via Hatfield Peveral, Chelmer Village and Chelmsford to Millbank(0815) returns at 1735.

195 Braintree, White Courts(0610) via Braintree, Rayne and Great Dunmow to Millbank (0838) returns at 1655.
 197 Braintree, Coggeshall Road (0630) then as 195 to Millbank (0900) returns at 1645 but runs to Earls Colne.
 198 Earls Colne (0541) via Halstead, Bocking, Braintree then as 195 to Millbank (0808) returns at 1610 to Braintree, Coggeshall Road.
 199 Glomsford (0610) via Long Melford, Sudbury, Halstead, Rayne and Great Dunmow to Millbank (0920) returns at 1730.
 204 Kelvedon (0550) via Tiptree, Heybridge, Maldon, Danbury, Gt Baddow, Galleywood to Millbank (0835) returns at 1625 and is extended to Witham Station.
 204A Heybridge (0641) via 204 to Millbank (0910) returns at 1720

The current allocation for these services is:-

190	D878 FYL	Volvo/Duple 320
195	E893 KYW	Volvo/Duple 320
197am 198 pm	E891 KYW	Volvo/Duple 320
198am 197 pm	C876 CYX	Volvo/Plaxton 3200
199	C874 CYX	Volvo/Plaxton 3200
204	E894 KYW	Volvo/Duple 320
204A	E892 KYW	Volvo/Duple 320

These are of course replaced from time to time for maintenance etc.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The latest timetable for Central and North Essex has the section of route between Billericay and Chelmsford on page 268 missing. This section of route continues to operate unchanged from the previous edition.

Leaflets giving details of Easter Services were issued. In Grays Harris operated a commercial service on route 383 on Good Friday and Easter Monday. As a result a revised service 381 was operated by Thameside and service 382 commenced with the 1822 from Grays to Orsett.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

A number of articles of interest have appeared in the Evening Gazette in recent weeks.

North East Essex Community Health Council is to ask the County Council if it will fund a bus service to Severalls Hospital. Since the alterations to service 8 by CBT only the Boxted service of Heddinghams and CBT passes the hospital.

The car park above Colchester Bus Station was due to close on April 4th because of structural damage. It is not to be demolished until a redevelopment of the area with a commercial partner can be negotiated.

J C Decaux has won the contract to provide 110 bus shelters in Colchester. The present contractor Adshel has for the past 12 years provided 55 shelters most of which had been removed in mid March before the contract expired.

A Park and Ride scheme on weekdays between Mile End and the Town Centre is planned and another site is being sought.

A member of the public expressed concern at a meeting of Heybridge Parish Council over ENs service 97A/B, stating that they serve roads where children are dropped off and collected from school. David Kershaw on behalf of EN stated that the vehicles used are no bigger than a delivery van and that there was no cause for concern.

Members of Feering and Kelvedon Parish Councils have met with Eastern National following complaints regarding the route of the 0705 from Witham. Diverted to serve Coggeshall following timetable changes to the 133 this service now leaves Coggeshall one minute behind the ECC tendered journey that replaced it, which is operated by Heddingham.

Leyland Tiger 1110 (HHJ 371Y) was involved in a collision in Witham during late March. The Tiger suffered slight accident damage as a result.

The Essex Chronicle reports that there may be strike action by Eastern National drivers as a result of new rotas due to be introduced in April, which it is claimed will mean extra hours in return for a four per cent pay offer. At the time of writing the dispute was going to ACAS.

THE ESSEX MODEL BUS SCENE- PETER OUGHTON

A large number of model buses are now available to collectors which represent or can be modified to portray real-life buses associated with the County of Essex. EBN 324 gave brief details of a Corgi toys Bedford OB under the ENOC 2954 section. Since then another Corgi model, although in a smaller scale, features a "Bedford Bus" normal control coach circa early 1930s in Eastern National cream and green livery and with gold block fleetnames. Although this livery was not carried on a real vehicle it is a similar vehicle to numerous small buses acquired from Independent operators by ENOC prior to the Second World War. It is part of the "Village Cameo Collection" and can be found at model shops such as Beatties have been released last year. The price at that time was 1.99.

Prior to the two Corgi Buses a number of models of London Buses have been on the market for a number of years and can be re-painted to become authentic liveried Essex models. The Seerol Routemaster in "OO" scale (on sale at a reasonable price in London Tourist Shops) can become a Southend Transport RM after a few coats of Humbrol paints French Blue and white colours plus red for the bands. A suitable ST fleetname is currently produced by Mabex Products of Eastbourne. In smaller "Matchbox" scale a Daimler Fleetline can still be bought second hand for a few pounds and be re-painted to become similar to the DMSs that Southend purchased from Ensign. Humbrol paints blue and light buff is a good match for this model in traditional Southend livery.

Although not strictly an Essex vehicle, Exclusive First Editions are to introduce a Leyland Leopard/Harrington Cavalier coach in Grey-Green colours. These handsome coaches were a familiar sight passing through Essex on their way to the Essex Coast in the

1960s and Southend Transport hired two from Ensigns in the late 1970s. This model is therefore another candidate for a re-paint into traditional Southend Colours.

A new manufacturer Concept Models (an offshoot of Model Road and Rail) are to introduce a Leyland Lynx onto the model scene in the not too distant future. Several operators currently have examples of this bus in Essex and if enough suggestions were made for an Eastern National model then Concept Models could be persuaded to produce one. The range of models are to be ready built in plastic, the initial Lynx is to be in London Buslines livery and an un-painted kit version may also be produced to allow the modeller to finish it in the colours of their choice.

Returning to Exclusive First Editions, this firm is planning to make a die cast model of a Bristol FLF in "OO" scale (all EFE models are to this scale), some time this year. One of the liveries already announced is for Bristol Omnibus and this could easily be altered to make an Eastern National model by replacing the fleetnames with Mabex Products Eastern National ones available in either Tilling or NBC style. Provincial Bus Promotions are one of the dealers supplying these models and again if enough suggestions were made to them to produce an Eastern National FLF then one may materialise. As ENOC had one of the largest fleets of these buses EFE would have a good seller with this model.

Further interesting future releases from Corgi will be a Highbride Utility Park Royal double decker in 1/50th scale (similar to the OB). The first type will have the Guy Arab chassis and future ones will have Daimler or Bristol chassis. Many possibilities of Essex types present themselves with this model and Corgi are asking for suggestions of authentic liveries for this bus. Both Southend and Colchester Corporations has buses of this type on Daimler and Bristol chassis respectively and these two Essex Municipal transport fleets would make fine additions to a model collection. The first liveries for this model are for London Transport and Southdown.

For bus enthusiasts who may have the time and patience required model bus kits form a useful source from which to construct models of Essex Buses and Coaches. A cheap plastic model by Tower Models of a 10.3m Leyland National is now available. To the same scale as a Seerol Routemaster a Southend Transport version can be made by painting in the livery already mentioned for the RM. Kit TB9 in green plastic has transfers for a London Country bus. Destination for route 329 Harlow are included. The Model Bus Company produce a large number of white-metal kits of buses/coaches either current types or now obsolete to the Essex Bus Scene. These in "OO" scale include Bristol RELL;FLF;SC bus and Leyland Tiger with ECW bodywork. These can be either glue (Epoxy glue being best suited) or solder assembled and can be bought from the Howes of Oxford Bus Match range. Addresses for model bus dealers and manufacturers can be obtained from Buses magazine or Model Collector.

It will now be readily apparent that the world of the model bus collector is every bit as lively as the real-life counterpart and for those unable to afford a preserved bus, you can at least have one in model form!

T & J SANGSTER

Commercial Vehicle Refinishers



Commercial vehicles, coaches, buses,
agricultural plant and machinery.

Complete and/or part body resprays – accident repairs and
refurbishments.



All enquiries welcome



Contact Tom Sangster

Unit 14 Mayfair Industrial Estate, Maldon Road, Latchingdon

Tel: (0621) 741464

LATE NEWS

EASTERN NATIONAL

Acquired Vehicles

The two Transits allocated to Maldon this month are:-

720 (B454 WTC) and 721 (B464WTC) which are ex Thamesway 721 and 722.

720 has been repainted in EN livery while 721 retains Thamesway livery for the present.

Such are the loadings on the new services that 706 has also been allocated to Maldon, so as to provide a duplicate vehicle on some journeys.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles

A further Bristol VR has been acquired from National Welsh and is VHB 672S.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MAY MAGAZINE IS 6.5.92.