

ESSEX BUS NEWS

JANUARY 1996

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

381



CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS CVE-OMNI H743 LHN used on routes to Springfield and Galleywood.

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It is with regret that I have to announce the death of Joe Long, 'Mr Castle Point Museum'. Joe was one of the leading members of the Museum and the Eastern National Preservation Group. The Group extends their deepest sympathy to his family.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS Freight House 8pm.

February 13th(correction to EBN380) Slide Show Members are invited to bring a selection of their slides.

March 12th Group A.G.M. followed by slide show by Alan Osborne.

April 9th Slide Show by Richard Delahoy '20 years ago'.

GENERAL.

On the 30th January, due to a burst water main at the top of Bread and Cheese Hill Benfleet, all bus services were diverted via Kents Hill Road North, Church Hill and Kenneth Rd, the sight of 'deckers climbing the hill was quite a sight.

Is Essex the only County where you can see an RT still working on regular stage carriage work?? Blue Triangle route 265. Your comments to the Editor please.

GROUP TOURS

1996 Tours are planned as follows.

May 18th Central and North Essex.

July 20th Cambridgeshire and South Lincolnshire.

Further details will be published in the coming months, but in meantime note the dates.

Acknowledgements

Essex Buses Ltd.. WM County Bus. Southend Transport. Essex C.C.P Harvey. P Ford
S Menzies. C Sigston. R Dennis. G Toon.

The Essex Bus Enthusiast Group will break new ground when on 1st February 1996 a new route hits the road or more accurately the information super-highway. Yes, the EBEG will have its very own Internet Home Page.

You will be able to find it at <http://www.geocities.com/TheTropics/1546>

Initially it will contain details of group membership, late news stories and possibly some photographs. Over the coming months many more features will be added as time permits.

ESSEX BUSES LIMITED

More information is now available, thanks to Grapevine the in house EN magazine. Essex Buses Limited will commence trading on 1.3.96. The existing operating companies EN and Thamesway, will be trading divisions of this company and vehicles will continue to operate in existing colours. A further company Gurna, who provide support facilities (eg payroll) for both companies, will become the Finance Department of Essex Buses. Legal lettering will need to be changed and therefore it is assumed a new operators licence will need to be obtained.

A number of changes will be made to staff within the head offices of the existing companies. Robin Orbell remains as MD of Eastern National and in addition is MD of Essex Buses. Following Bill Hiron's move to Eastern Counties, Alan Barrett has become MD of Thamesway. In addition Geoff Wilcox becomes Financial Director of Essex Buses and Gordon Cheek is Engineering Director.

Essex Buses are based at New Writtle Street, Chelmsford and Thamesway head office staff at Basildon have now moved there.

GENERAL

Mr Geoff Dodson, will be leaving the company at the end of January to take early retirement. He is well known to many in the group, for the help that he has given us over many years, in supplying items of news and publicity.

On behalf of the group, I would like to wish a long and happy retirement and having spoken to him before Christmas, I know it will be a busy one.

David Kershaw, who has also been of great help to the group has also left the company to take up a position with Essex County Council. Our best wishes to him in his new position.

Our sincere thanks go to both gentlemen, for all their help in the past.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflets for services 103/4 dated 30.10.95; 79/A dated 4.12.95; 166/167/168 dated 10.12.95; 757 dated 10.12.95.

Summary timetable Chelmsford - Broomfield Hospital dated 30.10.95.

Leaflet for travel opportunities to Broomfield Hospital from Writtle undated.

Save with a Season Ticket leaflet dated 12/95.

Leaflet for Commuter Services to London from Ongar undated.

Booklet for Christmas and New Year services.

REPAINTS

Vehicles repainted since November are 3103 and 3127.

Ford Transit training vehicle 9013 has been repainted in new overall green livery, without any yellow stripes.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- 24.12. Normal Sunday service
- 25.12. No Services
- 26.12. No services
- 27.12. Saturday service, except on 21,30,31A, 37,58/A,65/A,82/A,87/A where special services operated.
- 28.12. As 27.12.
- 29.12. As 27.12.
- 30.12. Normal Saturday service
- 31.12. As 24.12.
- 1.1. No service

In general services that operate once a week (eg 315 on Thursday) ran as normal on that day of the week.

Due to the slow progress of Thamesway repaints of Darts located at Ponders End depot a further Eastern National Dart has gone to that depot, (Fleet No.821, Registration No. L821 OPU) and in its place another Thamesway Dart has been allocated to Clacton Depot, (Fleet No.940, Registration No. M940 TEV). There are now three Thamesway Darts working out of Clacton Depot.

All Eastern National vehicles with three digit Fleet No.'s have been prefixed with a 2 for computer fuelling purposes, (e.g.:-Fleet No.822 becomes Fleet No.2822).

Legal lettering on Eastern National vehicles is gradually being changed to read Essex Buses Ltd., trading as Eastern National.

Leyland National Fleet No.1935, Registration No. MHJ 731V and Alexander Tigers Fleet No.'s 1120, 1121 and 1125, Registration No.'s HHJ 381Y, HHJ 382Y and A694 OHJ respectively are being despatched to Eastern Counties from Clacton Depot.

A setback for KSW WNO 480, (Fleet No.2384), is that the person who was obtaining a replacement Gardner engine for the vehicle has sadly died and the vehicle will now have to wait even longer for a replacement engine to be found. In the meantime its condition continues to deteriorate in the current winter weather!

EASTERN NATIONAL (DISPOSALS INITIAL)

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
0220	C220 HJN	Withdrawn	10/95
0222	C222 HJN	Withdrawn by Yorkshire Rider their Fleet No.2012.	05/95
0223	C223 HJN	Withdrawn	10/95
0249	C231 HCV	Withdrawn	10/95
0706	B473 WTC	To Lambkin, Queenborough	05/95
1121	HHJ 382Y	Withdrawn	10/95
1759	MAR 781P	From Maidstone & District, Fleet No.3506, to North Western.	09/95

THAMESWAY

Essex Buses Ltd is the new FirstBus holding company with two operating subsidiaries Eastern National and Thamesway. The only outward changes will be to the Legal Lettering and a number of Eastern National vehicles have been 4enumbered to avoid clashing with Thamesway. All administration is now carried out at Chelmsford.

VEHICLES

New

611-819	N611-619 APU	Volvo B10M-60, Plaxton Premier C53F
959-972	N959-972 CPU	Dennis Dart 9.8SDL, Plaxton Pointer B37F

The above were delivered during December. 611-619 are in City Saver livery and complete the fleet replacement programme. 959-972 have seats with deeper cushions and slightly higher backs. 959/62/63/66/69-72 have signwriting for Premier 100. On the purple area above the windows appears Lakeside Grays Basildon Billericay Chelmsford and below the windows is Premier 100 underlined. Premier 100 is the relaunched 152 and the new vehicles offer a higher standard of passenger comfort, a passenger charter has also been laid down for the service.

Allocations 11th December

241 BD-BN, 354 BD-BN, 355 BD-BN, 356 BD-BN, 353 BN-BD, 388 BD-BN, 389 BD-BN, 390 BD-BN, 391 BD-BN, 392 BD-BN, 393 BD-BN, 941 BD-HH, 942 BD-HH, 943 BD-HH, 944 PD-HH, 945 PD-HH, 959 NEW-BN, 960 NEW-BN, 961 NEW-BN, 962 NEW-BN, 963 NEW-BN, 964 NEW-BN, 965 NEW-BN, 966 NEW-BN, 967 NEW-BN, 968 NEW-BN, 969 NEW-BN, 970 NEW-BN, 971 NEW-BN, 972 NEW-BN, 1001 PD-Pool, 1002 PD-Pool, 1003 PD-Pool, 1004 PD-Pool, 1839 BD-D/L(D), 1845 BD-BN, 1846 BD-D/L(D), 1847 HH-D/L(D), 1876 BD-D/L(D), 1878 HH-D/L(D), 1894 BD-D/L(D), 1898 BD-D/L(D), 1903 BD-D/L(D), 1906 HH-D/L(D), 1908 BD-D/L(D), 1912 BD-D/L(D), 1913 BD-D/L(D), 1919 BD-D/L(D), 1920 BD-D/L(D), 3110 BD-BN, 3113 BD-BN, 4000 PD-Pool, 4001 PD-Pool, 4002 PD-Pool, 4003 PD-BN, 4005 PD-BN, 4009 PD-BN.

Brentwood garage closed after service on 9th December - the forecourt remains in use to house 10 minibuses outstationed there and to store withdrawn vehicles. There are just 13 Leyland Nationals left in service, the oldest of which is 1803 which is nearly nineteen years old.

1st January

511 BN-D/L(D), 514 BN-D/L(D), 515 BN-D/L(D), 516 BN-D/L(D), 517 BN-D/L(D), 518 BN-D/L(D), 519 BN-D/L(D), 520 BN-D/L(D), 611 NEW-BN, 612 NEW-BN, 613 NEW-BN, 614 NEW-BN, 615 NEW-BN, 616 NEW-BN, 617 NEW-BN, 618 NEW-BN, 619 NEW-BN.

521 and 522 do not appear on the allocation list!
BN302 and 393 are on temporary loan to Ponders End.

Thamesway 940 is at Clacton whilst Eastern National 2821 is at Ponders End.

Repaints

36/7 have not been repainted - they retain City Line livery with Thamesway fleet names.

323/5, 902 and 904 are in the new livery.

Disposals

708 C508 BFB 7.95 Morgan, Nantyglo
712 C491 BFB 7.95 Morgan, Nantyglo
720 C470 BHY 7.95 Morgan, Nantyglo
9014 MHS 25P Loaned to Yorkshire Rider at Huddersfield

A large number of withdrawn vehicles are in store at present.

OPERATIONS

London Transport

The proposed new London Transport contract route 362A has been renumbered 396. Operation of routes 191, 389 and 399 are due to commence in April with new 'midi' buses required for the 191.

Brentwood

Following the closure of Brentwood garage on the 9th December, everything is now worked from Basildon except:-

Town services are operated by the minibuses outstationed at Brentwood (9 M-f, 8 Sat)

225 One minibus required on Saturdays.

ECC 261/501 one minibus required evenings.

251/551 evening journeys from 1825 are operated by Brentwood minibuses excepting the 2040 ex Brentwood which is a BN vehicle.

Double deck vehicles make regular daytime appearances on these routes.

73/80 BN Dennis Darts work some peak journeys.

71A The 1727 ex Brentwood Station is worked by PD the bus going on to work ECC 201.

Publicity

30 dates 13.11.95
80 dated 11.12.95
81/82 dated 11.12.95
100 dated 11.12.95
151 dated 11.12.95
251/551 dated 11.12.95

AT THE TOP

Managing Director Bill Hiron has now taken over as MD of Eastern Counties at Norwich. Alan Barrett, formerly Director of Southend and London, is now Managing Director at Thamesway. We wish both Mr Hiron and Mr Barrett every success in their new positions.

THAMESWAY (DISPOSALS INITIAL)

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
0202	C696 ECV	Stripped for spares at Basildon Depot.	06/95
0207	C699 ECV	Stripped for spares at Basildon Depot.	06/95
0501	D588 WVR	To Kirby, Anston.	09/95
0502	D590 WVR	To Kirby, Anston.	09/95
0503	D592 WVR	To Kirby, Anston.	09/95
0504	D596 WVR	To Kirby, Anston.	09/95
0505	D597 WVR	To Kirby, Anston.	09/95
0506	D598 WVR	To Kirby, Anston.	09/95
0507	D601 WVR	To Kirby, Anston.	09/95
0706	C484 BFB	To Morgan, Nantyglo.	07/95
0712	C491 BFB	To Morgan, Nantyglo.	07/95
0722	C470 BHY	To Morgan, Nantyglo.	07/95

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

BOON BOREHAM Both J75 VTG and J76 VTG have returned to dealers ex loan.

COACH STOP SOUTHEND New is Dennis Javelin/Marco Polo N743 NAY. See December Buses page 19.

DAVES COACH HIRE COLCHESTER Tiger/Duple ODM 534Y has been re-registered MIB 513.

ELMHURST HIRE THORNWOOD Have sold KOT 707P a Bedford YMT/Plaxton.

GOING PLACES CRAYS HILL Transit F761 VPR, has been replaced by FR Sherpa E216 WKW.

HARRIS BUS From 2.1.96. the 1730 ,service 372 ex Orsett has been extended to Lakeside. The Nottingham Atlanteans ARC 637T, BTV 652/7T returned home on 7.1.96. ex loan.

HARRIS COACHES Two additions are N601 EEV a Neoplan Jetliner and N602 EEV a Neoplan Cityliner. They are in a revised livery, with a light blue front and dark blue rear and carry Harris Holiday fleetnames. They are thought to have been on the Neoplan stand at 95 Coach and Bus Show. Coaches FHV 504 and J91 WWC have not yet been sold, this corrects last months notes.

OCTOPUS TRAVEL CHELMSFORD A recent addition is C130 GHS a MAN/Reeve Burgess.

P&M COACHES SOUTH WOODHAM Have acquired KIW 7812 (ex A339 YDT) a Volvo/Jonckhree.

PRIORY STANFORD LE HOPE M322 VET is a Scania/Van Hool in Cosmos livery, M323 VET is a Scania/Irizar in all white. An earlier report of M332 VET is an error.

SJH TRAVEL Are now operating from the former Simien depot at Rawreth.

TOWN TRAVEL SAFFRON WALDEN Services 11, 29, 34, 59, 62, 122 and 313 that are currently operated by Stort Valley Travel (Viceroy Coaches), will be operated to revised timetables as a commercial operation from late January.

MEDIA MONITOR

December 2nd: Coach and Bus Week report that Biss Bros are to move from Spellbrook to Stanstead Airport. A new dark blue livery will be applied rto the vehicles.

December 20th: The Evening Gazette carries a photo of the CBT drivers in fancy dress fo their annual collection for the Childrens Ward at Colchester District Hospital. They are on the top deck of open topper 55 showing a 14A School Service destination - see last months CBT notes.

January 6th: CBW reveals that British Bus is replace around 10% of its fleet at a cost of £35m. David Powell, Group Engineering Director, said that the current fleet age of 9.3 years will be significantly reduced. Two standardised interior trims were to be introduced but he emphasised that for the foreseeable future each company would retain its livery. There was no intention for any operating company to lose its identity. It was also reported the CNT Group had sold all but a small part of its investment in Capital Citybus to the management. Fleet livery will remain unchanged apart from the removal of the Chinese character

Southend Transport

Vehicles:

The Dennis Lance SLF,s are now normally allocated to services

6 & 21 (3). Odd SLF duties cover most other S.T routes.

On Sunday,s the SLF,s operate on various journeys on 5A,7,8,62A & 65.

(No longer on route 13.)

Christmas & New Year Services. 1995/1996. (As Operated) Update to EBN 380.

24/12 (Sun) Normal Sunday Services but revised to finish by about 20:00.

25/12 (Mon) Only X2 08:30 Southend - London Victoria.

11:00 London Victoria - Southend.

26/12 (Tue) Special Services on 1,3A,4A,5A,7,29,63,X2/X3.

From Approx 08:30 to 19:00.

27,28,29/12 (Wed,Thurs,Fri) Coaches. Monday to Friday Timetable, except for.. X10 06:00,06:20. X11 06:24 Southend to London.

X10 10:15,16:55,17:25,18:00 London to Southend. (Did not operate.)

Buses. Saturday Timetable, plus 3A,06:11 Southend - Canvey.

3A, 06:00 & 07:00 Canvey - Southend. 3C, 05:29 Southend - Benfleet Stn.

23, 07:12,07:37,08:11 Eastwood - Leigh Stn.

23A,06:28 & 07:13 Eastwood - Leigh Stn.

23A,16:46,17:26,18:06,18:46 & 19:06 Leigh Stn. - Eastwood

30/12 (Sat) Normal Saturday Service.

31/12 (Sun) Normal Sunday Service.

1/1/96 (Mon) Normal Sunday Service.

2/1/96 (Tue) Normal Monday to Friday Timetables resume.

On Boxing Day Service 1 & 7 terminated at Rayleigh High Street.

Service 5A operated Southend - Hadleigh (Victoria House.)

Unusual Workings:

21/12/95 TR 551 on 19:35 29.

22/12/95 TR 546 on 10:00 5. and 14:30 X10 Embankment - Southend.

TR 551 on 15:30 X10 Embankment - Southend.

Publicity:

New Timetable leaflets for 6,61A,63,64,65,69. Dated 10/12/95.

62 / 62A. Dated 10/12/95.

Christmas Services leaflet, 24/12/95 to 1/1/96.

Other News:

S.T vehicles are starting to receive T.V screens/video equipment to show advertising videos to passengers. Speakers are also fitted to the ceilings.

Volvo 568 (H372 PHK) Operated the Christmas Day X2.

FLEET**Allocation Changes to 30 November 1995**

MB 43	E343 SWY	Renumbered MB 343
LP 556	WJM 816T	Delicensed to Grays
TDL 54	C254 SPC	Harlow to Ware
TDL 55	C255 SPC	Harlow to Ware

Note: DW 316 and MB 609 remain delicensed to Edmonton due to fire damage.

Vehicles on Hire

B781 AOC (M2781) West Midlands Travel Metrobus is still on hire and in regular service with WM Lea Valley at Ware.

Delicensed Vehicles

The following vehicles are currently delicensed:

AN 110 (MPJ 110L)	MB 47 (E347 SWY)	SN 277 (SPC 277R)
AN 190 (XPG 190T)	MB 50 (E350 SWY)	SN 306 (UPB 306S)
DW 316 (J316 XVX)	MB 56 (E356 NEG)	SN 319 (UPB 319S)
LP 550 (KUB 550V)	MB 702 (D129 DRV)	SN 338 (UPB 338S)
LP 551 (KUB 551V)	MD 609 (J609 WHJ)	TPL 510 (OIB 3510)

Cannibalised Vehicles

The following vehicles are currently undergoing cannibalisation:

LP 549 (PPM 889R)	VPL 530 (EHJ 74P)	TL 29 (FBZ 2514)
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SERVICES

20 November	657	Purton End - Saffron Walden (Schooldays only). Operation sub-contracted to Walden Travel
2 December	445	Barley - Saffron Walden (Schooldays only). Essex County Council contract extended to 3 August 1996
16 December	900's	Revision of mobility bus services, 900/1/3/6/7-10/20-5/7/9/47/8/66, which are all operated by WM Lea Valley from Edmonton
26 December Only	121	Turnpike Lane - Enfield Lock. Operation of Leaside Buses service using vehicles from Edmonton

QSI UPDATE

Results of London Transport's Quality of Services indicators (QSI) Survey Data for WM County Bus in period 7.

For scheduled mileage WM County Bus is joint 14th out of the 35 London Bus Operators for the % of scheduled mileage operated in London (WM County Bus was 17th in the previous period).

The best performance routes were the 900 series Mobility Bus routes (Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Newham and Waltham Forest) followed by the 545 (Rainham - Wennington), 500 (Stansted Airport - Romford) and 66 (Leytonstone - Romford).

The worst performing routes were the 311 (Hoddesdon - Enfield), 310 (Hertford - Enfield), W14 (Leytonstone - Claybury Hospital) and 256 (Harold Hill - Hornchurch). The lost mileage on routes 310 and 311 was unacceptable and attracted a formal warning from London Transport Buses.

WM County Bus is 5th in the league for not operating journeys early - and well above the average for LBT operators but are below the LBT average for the number of journeys departing on time.

GENERAL

If any members have any other information about WM County Bus; unusual workings, repaints, subsequent disposals, railway replacement services etc that you would like to let the rest of the group know about, then please write to me to get your information included in this column. The name and address is shown on the front cover.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Firstly, there are a couple of corrections to last month's notes. The remains of 79 were removed on 29.11.95, and buses 55 (open-top) and 62 have not been, and will not be, fitted with TOPPS video screens.

Olympian 43 was returned to service on 30.11.95 to DPTAC specification and with Brightech equipment. Similar work was started on 41 on 1.1.96. Coach 103 now has Dayglo blinds.

Southend Transport's 557 was used by CBT from 28.11.95 to 12.12.95. ST's 551 and 567 were borrowed for a private hire on 1.12.95, with National 21 going to ST. The vehicles were returned home the following day. Two Nationals were de-licensed on 1.1.96: 21 because of engine failure, and 10 following a road traffic accident. ST's 305 was still at Magdalen Street at the turn of the year, waiting for spare parts.

A railway replacement service was operated between Mark's Tey and Sudbury on 11.12.95. On 7.1.96 and the following three Sundays a service was provided between Colchester and Witham.

Fares were increased on 8.1.96: a rise of 5p on all singles except 35p.

Because Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve were both Sundays, and CBT does not operate on that day, there were no special timetables this year. Normal schedules were operated on 27 to 30.12.95 and from 2.1.96

A ticket promotion for MacDonalds started on 27.11.95.

CBT is still expecting a Greenway from elsewhere in British Bus. A vehicle is being brought up to DPTAC specification at Crawley.

LOOKING BACK

1966 A new EN timetable appeared on December 12th 1965, price was still 1/6d but carried a new style front cover. Services operated in the area by Eastern Counties and certain independents were included for the first time. Silver End outstation closed operationally on December 12th but was being retained for storage.

1976 Bristol MW5G 1343 (2733VX) based at Bishops Stortford was converted to enable it to be used as a towing vehicle if the need arose. This included clips for flashing amber lights and a towing plate and the fitting of an additional horn. Southend Transport leased 204 (432FXX) Leyland L2/Harrington C41F and 205 (VDB915) Leyland PSU3/1 R/Alexander DP49F from Ensign during December. They were expected to be used for school contracts.

1986 • The two outstanding minibuses 0201/17 were delivered during December and all but 0200/12/22 were in store at Prittwell. Open top KSWG5G 2383 (WNO479) was fitted with a new engine, it appeared on November 5th in the Harwich Guy Carnival as an Indian take-away. 2384 (WNO480) was reported operating Witham town services on December 23rd. From January 1st Eastern National Engineering Ltd., became a separate company. Planning application by Hedingham to use the former Kelvedon EN depot was refused on the grounds that the premises had not been in continual use as a bus depot since 1979. EN fares in Colchester not raised in December increased from January 5th when CBT increased theirs. Colchester Borough Council's Transportation Committee agreed to purchase two Leyland ON's at a cost of £70,459 each plus £750 for each radio set. This deviated from the agreed replacement plan which called for four buses in financial years 1986/7 - 89/90 then six each year 90/1 - 95/6.

XX

HEDINGHAM

SERVICES

16 Tiptree to Braintree service, withdrawn after 24.1.96.

84 Minor timetable change from 29.1.96.

90/A The 0615 Gt Totham to Witham, will be withdrawn after 26.1.96.

Hedingham have demonstrator M262KWK Volvo B6 Alexander on Colchester Park and Ride, first noted December 20th.

BUSES I REMEMBER - PJS

I attended school in Southend and when the days final bell went off at 4 o/c, I would leave the school in Prittlewell Chase and proceed to Fairfax Drive to board a Southend trolleybus to Victoria Station. On alighting, standing in the forecourt where the Eastern National services - 11 to Chelmsford 19.19A to Clacton and the 70 to Grays, was the H.32 to Grays.

Now the 4.32 always had a duplicate which travelled as far as Pitsea. The through bus was a double decker, the Southend depot at this time 1948-1951 had various Bristol GO and K double deckers and a selection of JO and L saloons, plus other saloons at various periods Dennis Ace, Bedford OB etc. The '4.32 dup' would be anything left in the garage at the time, so as you could imagine, it always produced something different.

The favourite decker was 3639 DEV 475 Bristol GO5G with Brush bodywork, a really "slow old plodder", but it always reached Tarpots Corner on time. The roar of the Gardner engine, the squeaks and groans of the bodywork still go through my mind.

The other Bristol GO's allocated to Southend 3634/40/4/54 DEV 470/6/80 EN0932 had all been rebodied around this time, but 3639 retained the Brush bodywork throughout its life - with Eastern National.

If any member has the full allocation for Southend during this period I would be pleased to hear about it.



THE 'OLD GIRL HERSELF' at Grays after working through from Southend on service 70

L.T.B.P.S.