

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

DECEMBER 1987

(Formerly the **EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP**) **ISSUE No. 285**



Leyland Lynx demonstrator D634 BEV spent its second week with the company operating from Hadleigh. It is seen here at Southend Central prior to operating the 0930 service 27 to Canvey on 29/10/87.

(Ian Ransom)

ROCHFORD MEETING

The next meeting at the Freight House will take place on 12th January and will include a slide show by Richard Delahoy on the first year of deregulation in the Southend area.

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Annual General Meeting - Saturday February 20th, 1968.

The groups twenty-third Annual General Meeting will be held on the above date at Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford. The meeting will be held in the Carriage Room and the doors open at 1300 hrs. Tea and biscuits will be provided and the AGM will commence at 1400hrs. The groups sales stand will be at the meeting with a full range of sales items. A large car park is available and for those arriving by public transport, Freight House is adjacent to the B R station and SPT routes 7, 8 and 12 stop close to the station. PLEASE NOTE: Members only may attend the AGM and proof of membership will be required.

Subscription Renewals For 1988.

If you have not yet renewed your subscription for 1988, then please do as soon as possible using the renewal form enclosed with last months magazine.

Magazine Typist.

This months magazine has been typed by the news sheet editors fiancée, this is a temporary arrangement and if no offer from the membership is forthcoming, the committee will have one of three options; either to have the magazine typed by a commercial organisation which would add about £1 a year to subscriptions; hand write the magazine or not publish a magazine at all.

I would like to thank Andy Book on behalf of the membership for the time he has given up to type the magazine and extend my thanks as he has offered to continue duplicating the magazine and passing it to Kithead for publication.

New Books.

The following are now available from Andy Meadows:-

Essex CC timetables

Harlow Area 5 and Loughton, Epping, Ongar Area 6 priced at 60p each or 75p for both including post and packing.

The Motor Bus in Potters Bar Before 1939.

Written by M. Lynch and published by Potters Bar Historical Society, this book includes a short piece on National Services in the area. Priced at £1.50 including post and packing.

Eastern National Limited.Allocations and Transfers.

November :-

1704 EN-POOL; 1862BE-SE; 1865SE-BE; 1866EN-SD; 1868SD-CF; 1874CF-EN; 3061CR-DT; 3078 SD-CR; 3084DT-SD

Metroliners 1600/1/3 remained in use at Chelmsford until late November mainly on the 192 commuter service and private hire work but seem to be out of use in early December. Leopard 1309 is now back at Chelmsford and should be regarded as loaned to Braintree.

With regard to the one month allocation of 1874 to Chelmsford, this vehicle was in fact replaced by 1907.

Highwayman

Service 804 will operate between Southend and Norwich on 24/12, 28/12, 31/12 and 2/1/88.

On Hire

E101 V/A the Neopian SL 11 present ~~xxx~~ at the bus and coach show arrived on 4th December and entered service from Maldon depot on the 5th on service 31 being first noted on the 1250 to Chelmsford. Technical details are that the vehicle is fitted with a Gardner 6HLXCT engine at 242 bhp and coupled to an automatic ZF gearbox and seats 50 passengers.

Vehicle Repaints.

W/e 14.11. 87 1836 at HH
 W/e 21.11. 87 3127 at CN (overall advert for Debenhams, Colchester)
 W/e 28.11. 87 1122 at ENE (dp livery); 1755 at MN
 W/e 5. 12. 87 1761 at HH

Yet more Basildon vehicles in the new livery but no dates reported are 1654, 1889, 1907 and 1922. Vehicles not published before are 1502 w/e 14. 3. 87 and 3095 w/e 21. 3. 87 both are now in new livery, 3095 having been the ^{Neep} all over advert boyh being painted by ENE.

General

As noted under STL last month Victoria Bus Station was last used on 26/10 and demolition of the garage should be completed in early December. A new permanent layby is being constructed off Queensway to the east of the former garage site.

Diversions due to closure of part of Tylers Avenue, Southend for sewer works, have meant that service 6 ex Southend operates via Chichester Road, Queensway, Princes Street and Hamlet Road to rejoin normal route; inbound journeys are not affected. Service 24 to Southend is diverted via Clifftown Road to terminate in Clarence Road (CBS not served); returning via Alexandra St, Alexandra Road, Runwell terr and Cambridge Road.

A new weekly ticket the C C Rider was introduced on 30/11/87 and is valid on services 74/78A/109/119 and X19 between the following points Colchester-Alresford or Frating £5.75; Colchester- Brightlingsea/ St Osyth/ Weeley Heath £8.75 or Colchester- Clacton £9.25

With regard to the notes in Buses magazine regarding the sale of Braintree garage , we are still awaiting official confirmation from the company that the redevelopment will go ahead, although it seems very likely at the time of writing. It can be confirmed that the yard at the rear of Maldon depot has been sold for redevelopment.

Services

3/4(Clacton) Minor route revisions to be introduced 14/12
 3/4(Southend) Minor revisions to timetable introduced from 13/12
 6/64 Services combined to operate half hourly between Newington Avenue and Kent Elms Corner (journeys toward Eastwood will double run via Central Bus Station) with additional journeys between Newington Ave and Central Bus Station(numbered 64) to give a 15 minute headway introduced from 14/12
 20 Additional journey Mondays to Fridays at 0747 from Shoeburyness Osprey to Eastwood Kent Elm to be introduced from 14/12
 28/28A Revised timetable introduced from 13/12
 83 Additional journey Monday, Wednesday and Friday only at 1305 from Wakes Colne to Colchester. On these days the 1315 from Colchester departs at 1230. To be introduced from 21/12
 127 Revised route to be introduced from 22/11
 233/234 Mondays to Fridays early morning journeys revised. Sunday service withdrawn and replaced by Harris Bus operating under contract to Essex County Council. Changes introduced from 22/11
 237 Service withdrawn and replaced by Jacksons Mini Coaches operating under contract to Essex County Council from 23/11
 Country Car Revised Colchester area services introduced from 23/11

EASTERN NATIONAL LTD. - FLEET ALLOCATION : DECEMBER 1987

Basildon (BN) : 1124, 1714-7/32/6/40-2/4/6/8/63/7/72
 1776/86/95, 1808/18/20/2/30/43/4/7-9
 1852-4/74/7-80/3/4/6/7/9/91/6/8,
 1904/6-9/18/9/22/34, 2200, 3052/68,
 3117/20, 4500/1/7-9
 Bishop's Stortford (BS) : 1111/3/9/26/7, 1500-3, 1739/49/68/9/92,
 1914/6, 4510
 Braintree (BE) : 0120, 1114/20/30, 1308/10, 1658,
 1726/45/82, 1812/28/63/5, 1924/9/30/2,
 3048/63/7, 3128, 4016/7, 4511/2
 Brentwood (BD) : 0201/25-44, 1122, 1754/60/85/96,
 1839/40/5/6/59/76/81, 1902/3/12/3/33,
 3092, 4012/8/9
 Chelmsford (CF) : 0750-3, 1112/21/8/9, 1309, 1602,
 1654/6, 1702/7/18/22/34/47/52/62/71/4
 1775/8, 1804/5/11/9/24/7/32/42/50/1/5
 1856/60/7/8/73/85/99, 1905/17/39,
 2201/3, 3033/54/7/69/77/82/3/91/3,
 3106/11/2, 4005/6
 Clacton (CN) : 0202-19, 1110/7/32, 1750/1/6, 1834/72,
 2202, 3025/30, 3201
 Colchester (CR) : 0121, 1115/23, 1650, 1790/3, 1816/88/92,
 1910/1/25/35/6, 3029/32/9/50/78/95,
 3114/27, 3202/3, 4003/4
 Great Dunmow (DW) : 1890
 Hadleigh (HH) : 1118, 1703/9/13/20/1/5/33/5/7/8/43/53
 1757/8/61/5/70/7/81/4, 1817/21/35/57
 1864/9/71/95/7, 1900/28, 3085/97/9,
 3103
 Harwich (DT) : 0200, 1133, 1901/20, 3031/61, 4007/8
 Maldon (MN) : 1708/55/64, 1806/29/31/3/41/70,
 1921/3/6/7, 3038/40/9/51/79/94, 3200
 Ponders End (PD) : 1051/3-7, 3053/6/62/6/71/2/4-6/80/1,
 3205/7-17
 Silver End (SE) : 1653/9, 1813/61/2/75, 3041/55/9,
 4013-5
 South Woodham Ferrers (SW) : 1931, 3070
 Southend (SD) : 1116/25/31, 1724/9/66/73/87/8/98/9,
 1807/9/14/23/36-8/66/93/4, 1937/8,
 3028/34/6/7/58/60/4/5/73/84/6-90/8,
 3108/13/22/9, 3204/18, 4000-2/9-11,
 4020/1, 4502-6
 Walthamstow (WW) : 1779/80/9/91/7, 1800-3/10/25/6/58/82,
 1915, 3096, 3100-2/4/5/7/9/10/5/6/8
 3119/21/3-6
 Walton-on-Naze (WN) : 0220-4
 Licensed Open-Top Vehicles : 2383 (CN), 2384 (BN), 3500/1 (both CN)
 Licensed Pool Vehicles : 0754-6 (unallocated), 1050/2/8 (all BD),
 1655 (unallocated), 1701/4/12 (all
 unallocated), 3022 (CF - Driver
 Training), 3206 (WW)
 Driver Training Vehicles : 9000 (MN), 9001/3 (both CF), 9011 (MN)
 Delicensed For Disposal : 0601/3 (both BD), 1304-7, 1600/1/3 (all
 CF), 3020, 9021 (ENE)

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SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to November 29.

Vehicles**NEW, ACQUIRED & ON ORDER:**

New: 404 E404 BHK Volkswagen LT55 Optare City Pacer J406 B25F + 5
405/6 will be E405/6 BHK and should be delivered in w/c 30/11.
Chassis numbers and body numbers for 405/6 will be published next month.

Acquired: 216/7 FEH 778/80Y Leyland Tiger 245 Plaxton 3200 C57F
Ex Potteries 72/3, these two Tigers have not yet been delivered. NOT
Originally registered ERF 72/3Y, they were later 4327 PL & 8636 PL resp.

On order: 259/60 DAF MB230 Duple 320 C57F, expected 4/88, and to be fitted with
276 bhp engines and ZF 5HP500 automatic gearboxes.

MODIFIED:

255 was reregistered XHU 326 (ex CHA 443K) with effect from 3/11; 326 has been allocated new registration KTW 438N (issue 283/7 refers).

WITHDRAWN:

201/2 (LBN 201/2P) were apparently still on fleet strength as we went to press, but can be expected to be withdrawn very shortly.

304 (UNH 7L) was withdrawn 21/10 with accident damage (284/6 refers); it is being cannibalised for spares.

321/2 (CMJ 447/50T) will be withdrawn and returned to Arlington (dealer) on 16/1/88, ex long term loan.

326 (KTW 438N, ex XHU 326) was withdrawn 10/87. Currently in store at Venturer Coachways yard, Rochford, pending sale to Busways Travel, Newcastle (with 201/2).

348 (CDU 798T) withdrawn 4/11, then hired to Stephenson's Coaches from 4/11 to 11/11, then returned to Ensign Bus ex long term hire.

354 (UDW 140S) withdrawn 11/87; disposal not yet known.

In addition 325/53 are due for early withdrawal and 328/47 may also go soon.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSAL:

368 (WJM 368J) Spence, Thorpe Bay (dealer) to S & M Coaches, Benfleet, 11/87; in service with S&M but due to come off road for annual test in December; expected to be re-acquired by Spence in summer 1988 for preservation.

ON HIRE:

To Ensign Bus Services: we can now clarify and expand on last month's notes:-

311 (MLH 476L) was hired from 3/11 to 23/11, numbered 232 by Ensign; 312 (MLK 620L) was hired from 3/11 to 18/11 and again on 23 & 24/11, as Ensign 231 (both being the former Ensign numbers of these DNS's); 317 (SMU 926W) replaced 312 between 18/11 and 23/11 and was also numbered 231. All three were used on LRT services.

From London Buses Ltd (Tours & Charter fleet):

VLT 307 (RM 307) and VLT 450 (RM 450), both AEC Routemaster, PRV H36/28R. Delivered to Southend 24/11, entered service on 25/11. These RM's, in the 'Original London

Sightseeing Tour' livery, are covering for a vehicle shortage; fitted with STL blinds at the front, they have been used on the (crew operated) 1 and associated workings on 16. It is not known how long the hire will last, but if it persists, we understand that the vehicles will be changed for other OLST RM's at 2 week intervals.

Services

8 We understand that the request for a Traffic Regulation Order (see issue 282/8) which would ban all psv's from the four roads in Hockley (Lascelles Gdns, Harewood Ave, Gt Eastern Rd & Station Rd) that the 8 was re-routed along from 14/6 has been refused by the Traffic Commissioner; thus the 8 will continue as before.

18 It has not previously been reported that from the take-over of this ECC contract on 2/11, the first journey M-S ex Southend (0650) and the last ex Foulness on Sats (2355) were withdrawn.

23A/23B From Weds 2/12 23A will be revised so that in the off-peak, alternate journeys will start from or terminate at Leigh Church instead of the Station, and 23B will be re-routed via the 23A from Leigh to Coombes Corner, thus leaving Eastwood Road unserved except by 23 in the peaks M-F and one late journey M-S.

X1 Revisions are due in December which will reduce the number of journeys going through to Heathrow and will slightly curtail the peak service M-F.

Christmas: we anticipate that on 25/12 one journey on X1 will operate, and on 26/12 sers 1, 3A (extended to Canvey Leigh Beck), 4A, 7 (Shoebury - Hockley), 29, 63 & X1.

General

To correct issue 284/6, London Buses Walworth garage, used to park STL coaches M-F, is operational, being used temporarily by the Red Arrow fleet. STL driver trainers have also been noted at Walworth.

Engineering work undertaken for other operators has included a number of DMS's of Len Wright's London Buslines fleet, including GHN 882N, noted on 31/10.

Following the note in 283/8, the new open air parking ground adjacent to the garage (on land bought from Nazareth House) will be brought into use on 30/11, and thus parking on the London Road and the car park for the doctor's surgery next to the garage should cease. The use of the Texas Homecare yard some months ago for night parking was shortlived.

As well as the Routemasters, STL had planned to hire two ex Devon General Bristol VR's from Wealden Omnibuses, but they were not delivered.

Operations Director Derek Giles will be retiring early in 1988 and adverts have appeared for his replacement at a salary of £18,000 pa.

The Bender School of Motoring Bristol VR trainer (OCD 763G) has not been noted in the STL garage since the end of October; however an ex West Midlands Fleetline/PRV, GOG 593N, apparently in use as a trainer, was noted at the garage on 14/11. It is believed that it is owned by Anglian Industrial Training, but we do not know if it was training STL drivers (Anglian also train psv drivers for North Thames Gas).

Unusual Workings

9/11: Bedford CF2 crew bus 590 noted on a solitary journey on 65, due to non availability of the scheduled City Pacer. No fares were charged.

27/11 310 operated from Southminster to Wickford for BR.

Publicity News

White leaflet in corporate style dated 2/12 for 23/23A/23B.

A new timetable book and X1 leaflet are due to be issued effective from 20/12, in a radically different style to previous versions. Copies can be ordered now from the sub-editor (SAE please - stamped at least 20p (2nd) or 26p (1st)).

Other publicity items recently produced include mugs, pens and pencils - sorry, the group does *not* have stocks of these!!

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

JACKSONS, Bicknacre: from 1/11 (we think) the Su 10/12 have had a reduced running time and now leave Southend at xx30 (odd hours only); also one return journey was withdrawn.

S & M COACHES, Benfleet: a major change of policy here - from mid December all ECC local service contracts are being surrendered (routes 23, 257, 374, 404) and the Canvey - Benfleet Station services (operation of which is already less than that registered) will cease, leaving S&M to concentrate on schools, private hires and recovery services. This makes the entry in the latest N&P showing extensions to the Canvey services rather superfluous! The acquisition of WJN 368J is noted above, and the second ex East Kent Fleetline, RFN 960G has also arrived. This and RFN 963G are being given cherished registrations - details please. At least 2 of the ex Leicester PD3's are expected to pass to Spence, Thorpe Bay in a dealer capacity.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS: the service noted last month duly commenced on 26/11 but had run free earlier in that week. The full route is (we think!) Rayleigh Stn & High Street - then via STL 7 to Prittlewell (Bell) thence via 65 via Southend Hospital to Fairfax Drive, then 29 to Deeping; return as above to Hospital then via EW 6 or 20 to Kent Elms, and 22 back to Rayleigh. Operated as a circular with three 'buses' on each circle; stand time is taken in Deeping. We have noted 7 vehicles so far, all eight seaters in white with red 'Circle Shuttle' and 'Taxi Bus' lettering; Leyland/Freight Rover Sherpa's UHJ 348, 400, 474Y & B553 AMK; high roof VW LT31 A819 VKW and two high roof VW LT31's with jackknife doors (Devon Conversions), B438 FJB and B102 GCF. As with TVT's shuttle, details of exact times and route are sketchy and there has already been evidence of (illegal) off route operation and of drivers touting for business. The registered 20 minute headway is optimistic with only 3 buses each way (big bus running time would be 76 minutes for the full circle). Fares appeared to be similar to or *higher* than STL/RN (eg Rayleigh - Southend £2).

Further to 283/8, the consequences of the Nov 2nd changes to the Rochford ECC contract routes are: services to Vallasea now go via Paglesham and do not serve Canewdon (except 2 evening jnys) and are numbered 10B; 12 is only used for early and late jnys to or via Canewdon. The 2 jnys to Warners Bridge are withdrawn.

STEPHENSONS COACHES: STL's 348 (CDU 798T) was hired from 4/11 to 11/11 for the 403 after the failure of CCM 911D. TUB 1M is now on this service. The Moseley bodied minibus XVA 923T is a Ford A series; this and NVD 429P now operate the Su contract 23/23A - somebody obviously took the hint in news-sheet 283/8!

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANS:ORT

Fares were increased on 30.11.87. as follows: 16p to 18p, 24p to 27p, 30p to 34p, 36p to 40p, 42p to 45p, 46p to 50p, 50p to 55p, 54p to 60p, 58p to 65p and 62p to 70p. Travelcard prices remain unchanged, and the inner borough area is extended to include the University.

Service changes are to be made on 4.1.88. The Lexcen terminus of services 9/9A is being changed to Straight Road / Chaucer Way. Service 31 is being withdrawn between General Hospital and the town centre, but the frequency over the remainder of the route is being doubled to half hourly. Services X4 and 25 are being withdrawn. A special service will be operated on 28.12.87 between about 0800 and 1900. There will be no buses on services 2B, 3, X4, 5, 9, 9A, 10, 11, 14, 15, 31 or 74A and half hourly services on 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 4, 4A, 5A (to North Station only), 6A and 8. There will be a half hourly service on service 6 for a short midday period. Services 7/7C will operate between West Bergholt and West Mersea, with an additional hourly service to Blackheath.

RE 21 has been extensively damaged in a collision. Lynx 32 has been back in service but is now out of use again. Olympian 42 received roof damage at the beginning of November and is not yet back in service. Atlantean 70 is still awaiting spares. 82 caught fire on railway replacement work on 15.11.87 and is now awaiting a new engine.

Five more Lynxes have been ordered and two Olympians. It is expected that the first two Lynxes will arrive early in 1988.

OTHER OPERATORS- Rest of Essex

Many thanks to Mr. R. MacGregor of Heddingham Omnibuses for providing the following information on the Heddingham fleet.

Allocations 11/87

Heddingham : 76, 77, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 89, 94, 97, 98, 103, 118, 119, 120, 125, 126, 128, 131, 133, 135, 136, 137.

Little Tey: 74, 78, 96, 100, 115, 116, 121, 122, 124, 127, 134, 138.

Kelvedon : 79, 88, 95, 101, 102, 104, 105, 111, 112, 113, 114, 117, 139, 140, 143.

The four remaining Bedfords that have been acquired from South Wales will be numbered L141/2/4/5 and will be allocated to Heddingham where they will replace older Bedfords on stage services. Recent repaints include 139, 140 and 143 into fleet livery before entering service and 87 into fleet livery ex May travel agents advert livery.

Next month

I would like to apologise for the lack of many of our normal items this month, which is a result of pressure of work plus the need to send the magazine to the printers so as it can be distributed before Christmas. In order to bring all members up to date a bumper size magazine will appear in January. Finally, my apologies to those of you who sent contributions for this month's issue and have not seen them published this month, please keep sending items to me as we depend on your notes for much of what's going on in Essex.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

CONTRIBUTIONS to this month's magazine were received from:-

M. Bullock, J. Cooper, R. Dennis, P. Harvey, J. Lidstone, F. Spence, D. Stebbing

ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE TO REACH THE NEWS SHEET EDITOR BY 8/1/88

Late news

E 101 VWA left on 8/12 being collected by Carlton who are demonstrating the vehicle. All 4 Metroliners left CF on 8/12 in convoy. Where to?.. Observations please!