

EDITORIAL

North Midlands Weekend Coach Tour - Friday, August 23rd to Monday, August 26th.

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. Sufficient bookings have now been received to ensure that this tour will run, but we would still like a few more. Due to a late arranged holiday by the Tours Organiser the deadline for the cheaper fare (£75 - all inclusive) has been extended until August 4th, so you still have time to book at this bargain rate.

Autumn Excursion - Saturday, October 5th.

Arrangements for this excursion, which will use a preserved former Eastern National Bristol MW and which will visit London Country at Stevenage, Sworders of Walkern, Wiffens of Finchingfield and Heddingham & District, are almost complete. A booking form will be sent with next month's news sheet.

Rochford Meetings

There will not be a Rochford meeting during August, but you may wish to note the following dates in your diary now for forthcoming meetings :-

September 3rd - Bus Mastermind Quiz.

October 8th - Photo Competition.

November 5th - Programme to be arranged.

December 3rd - Programme to be arranged.

Full details of these meetings and the Autumn/Winter programme of other local meetings will be published in due course.

New Publications

The first supplement (Supplement No. 1) to Group publication E.P.33 (Eastern National Route Working Index) has now been published. Dated May 1985, it is available free of charge, and members should send a stamped addressed envelope to the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 19, Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, Essex. SS3 9HX) for a copy.

Members are further reminded that the 1985 edition of the Eastern National Fleet List Booklet (E.F.E.) is now available; the price is £0.05 (including postage).

Essex County Council Publications

A new timetable booklet for the Brentwood/Chelmsford/South Woodham Ferrers/Maldon area (Area 4) has recently been published by Essex County Council. Copies are available from the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq. - address above) at £0.73 each, inclusive of postage and packing.

News Sheet Illustrations

For the first time, this month's news sheet includes a page of photographs - Photo-News. This new feature has been included as an experiment, and members' views on this matter are welcomed. Photo-News is being co-ordinated by the Group's Publications Officer (A.W. Meadows Esq., 52, Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex. SS6 9NW), and any members with good quality black and white photographs suitable for publication are asked to contact him. Two minor corrections are necessary to the text accompanying this month's Photo-News; the fleet number of the Leyland Olympian is of course 4003, whilst the registration number of Southend Transport 253 is B253CVX. The Committee will be giving further consideration to the future inclusion of Photo-News in the news sheet at its next meeting - it could be included on a bi-monthly or quarterly basis, but it would necessitate an increase in Group subscriptions. Your views on this matter are requested.

News Sheet Envelopes

During the next few months, the size of the news sheet envelopes will be increased to the larger C5 size, as used for the first time this month. This change is being introduced because the size of the news sheet has been progressively increasing during recent months, reflecting the increased volume of news and also the experimental inclusion of Photo-News this month.

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The new depot at Enfield at present covers the operation of London Regional Transport service W9, and this depot became operational from July 13th. The depot has its own depot code (ED), and these depot code plates are carried by the vehicles (1051-4/7)

PHOTO-NEWS

Eastern National has two new Leyland Olympian's with ECW bus bodywork. Both vehicles are allocated to Colchester (CR), where 4033 (B698BPU) is seen en route for 'BPS STORTFORD' !

(Andy Meadows)



Southend Transport has recently taken delivery of two DAF MB200 coaches with Duple Laser 2 57 seat coachwork. 253(B253CXV) is seen in Sutton Road on 28th May before entering service

(Richard Delahoy)

Former Eastern National Bristol RELL6G 1511 (FVX613H) is now in service with Nightingale Budleigh Salterton. It is seen in this view at Exeter Bus Station on stage service to its home town.

(Derek Stebbing collection)



Allocations & Transfers continued

concerned. It can now be confirmed that the location of this depot is at the London Borough of Enfield transport depot at Carterhatch Lane, Enfield. Routine work will be undertaken on the Bedford YMQS vehicles at Enfield (ED), with major mechanical and bodywork repairs being carried out at Brentwood (BD).

The two previous outstations at Great Dunmow (DW) and Walton-on-Naze (WN) are also now classified as operational depots, each with an allocation of vehicles (see below). At the time of writing, the vehicles continued to carry Chelmsford (CF) and Clacton (CH) depot allocation plates respectively, but it is the Company's intention that these vehicles will carry DW and WN code plates within the near future.

Members will also note that a new depot code has been allocated to South Woodham Ferrers (WF). It is understood that it is the Company's intention to allocate a number of vehicles to South Woodham Ferrers in the near future, in line with the service revisions recently introduced in that area. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that four vehicles may be involved, drawn from Chelmsford (CF) and Maldon (MI) depots, but at the time of writing it should be emphasised that this depot is not yet operational.

The vehicle allocations and transfers for July are as follows :-

7.85 1051 BD-ED, 1052 BD-ED, 1053 BD-ED, 1054 BD-ED, 1057 BD-ED, 1536 CR-DT, 1540 MN-CR, 1541 DT-CR, 1789 CN-WN, 1800 CN-WN, 1834 CN-WN, 1890 CF-DW, 2202 D/L, 2203 D/L, 3002 D/L (P)-CF (for driver training work), 3022 CR-BS, 3024 PL (P)-DT, 3050 CR-BD, 3055 SE-CF, 3060 SE-SD, 3061 DT-BD, 3064 CF-SD, 3066 CR-BD, 3082 CF-SE, 3091 CF-CR, 3095 CR-CF, 3102 SD-SE, 3111 SD-CF-CR, 3124 CR-CF.

Service Vehicles

Bristol VRTSL6G driver training vehicle 9016 (LFS282F) suffered extensive roof damage when it collided with the Duke Street railway bridge in Chelmsford on July 12th. This vehicle is now being repaired at Central Works, and Bristol VRTSL6G 3002 (CPU981G) is currently being used on driver training duties as a temporary replacement.

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks, and this continues from the information published in NS255 :-

June-w/e 29.6.85 - 1053 at CW, 1057 at CW, 1752 at CW, 1899 at CF (partial repaint only - lower deck).

July-w/e 6.7.85 - 1721 at CW, 1877 at CW (white/grey base livery for Rates of Grays - see also below).

w/e 13.7.85 - 3034 at CW.

w/e 20.7.85 - 3114 at CW ('UniBus' advertisement for N. & P. Windows (Window World), Bishop's Stortford.

Bedford YMQS vehicles 1051-4/7 have now all been repainted in the special green and cream 'W-Miner' livery; the external signwriting and vinyls were applied to these vehicles on July 1st (1057), July 2nd (1053), July 3rd (1051), July 4th (1052) and July 5th (1054).

Leyland National 1877 (BN0667T) was painted in a white and grey base livery during early-July as part of its overall advertisement for Rates of Grays (Ford car dealers). Signwriting commenced during the week ending July 20th, and at the time of writing the vehicle remained in the paintshops at Central Works.

Bristol VRTSL6G 3034 (NPU981M) has now been repainted in green fleet livery, and no longer carries a 'UniBus' advertisement for Home County Insulation, Southend-on-Sea.

Bristol VRTSL6G 3114 (XHK219X) has been repainted with a 'UniBus' advertisement for N. & P. Windows (Window World), Bishop's Stortford, which is basically yellow in colour. This vehicle has now entered service, but a further rear vinyl is to be added.

The next vehicle to be repainted in an overall advertisement livery will be Bristol VRTSL6G 3092 (STW 36W), which will carry an advertisement for Grange Motors (Brentwood) Ltd., Brentwood, and this vehicle has now entered Central Works for body docking and repaint.

At the time of writing, Bristol VRTSL6G's 3068/71/4 (K00 786V etc.) all remained

in City 400 livery, although these vehicles are no longer classified as City 400 vehicles.

A partial lower deck repaint has recently been completed on Bristol VMTSL6G 3090 (STW 34W), although the actual date remains to be confirmed. Similarly, the repaint date for 3031 (NPU978M) is still awaiting confirmation (see also NS254).

General

The main news this month is that the Company has recently appointed the six new District Managers, who will take up their appointments on August 1st (see also NS255). The six District Managers are as follows :-

- Brentwood and Hevering District - Mr. Martin Lewis (who will be joining the Company from North Devon Ltd. (Red Bus)).
- Basildon and Thurrock District - Mr. Gerry Nevill (formerly Area Traffic Superintendent).
- Southend and District - Mr. Maurice Jordan (who will be joining the Company from United Automobile Services Ltd.).
- Chelmsford and Maldon District - Mr. David Kershaw (formerly Assistant Traffic Manager).
- Braintree and Uttlesford District - Mr. Geoffrey Dodson (formerly Coaching Manager).
- Colchester and Tendring District - Mr. Michael Holden (who will be joining the Company from Ribble Motor Services Ltd.).

The Group takes this opportunity to congratulate the new District Managers on their appointments. The six operating districts are each based on local authority district boundaries, and they also coincide with local authority education areas. This is likely to be of importance as the current Transport Bill proposes closer co-operation in transport between education and local bus services. In the initial period after August 1st, operations and planning by the District Managers will be co-ordinated by the Company's Traffic Manager, Mr. Robin Orbell, who will also be directly responsible for the Company's travel offices, coaching department and publicity and printing units.

Following the recent award of the National Bus Company Chairman's 1984 Award for Innovation to the Company, for the recent development of a hydracyclic gearbox test rig, the first production model has now been sold to East Midland Motor Services Ltd. for use at Chesterfield. It is also understood that the test rig has recently been inspected by London Buses Ltd. and West Yorkshire Road Car Co. Ltd.

Operation of London Regional Transport services 193 and W9 commenced as planned on Saturday, July 13th. Service 193 is being operated by two Bristol VMT vehicles from Brentwood (ED) depot, which are fitted with Wayfarer ticket equipment. They remain in green fleet livery, but carry clip-on panels for LRT roundels (on either side the front destination blinds) and other LRT information. The vehicles also now have larger destination blinds, which use the full depth of the destination unit, and which now show passing points in addition to the service destination. These larger blinds have also been noted in use on service 251 (Southend-Walthamstow). Vehicles known to be fitted with these enlarged destination displays are 3030/1/92-4 and 3100.

Members may be interested to know that London Regional Transport has recently invited tenders for operation of a further ten routes in the Greater London area. These include services 125 (Winchmore Hill-North Finchley), 145 (Dagenham-Ilford/Chingford), 179 (Barking-Chingford), 269 (Golders Green-Finchley Road Station) and 275 (Walthamstow-Barkingside). It is understood that tenders will also be invited in Spring 1986 for two other batches of routes.

Leyland Olympian 4505 (B693BPU) is still under repair at Central Works following recent accident damage (see also NS255).

Maldon District Council recently invited tenders for the operation of its two 'Malbus' services for a five year period from July 26th. It is understood that Eastern National will cease operation of services 2/2A (Maldon-Great Braxted) from this date, with operation passing to Graham's Coaches, Kelvedon.

A report in the Essex County Standard on July 5th has indicated that passenger loadings on the Saturday 'Countrycar' service from Fingringhoe to Colchester required the use of both Peugeot cars (0120/1) on June 29th. It is understood that if the number of passengers travelling from Fingringhoe on Saturdays continues to be higher than anticipated then the Company may provide a bus.

Temporary Loans

There have been a large number of temporary loans recorded by members during recent weeks. At Harwich (DT), 3020 and 3023 (both CR) operated on loan during mid-June, whilst 3027 DT was at Colchester (CR) from June 7th to June 17th. Bristol REL6G 1541 was first noted in use at Harwich during late-June, and this particular vehicle had previously been noted being prepared for service at Southend (SD) depot on June 18th/19th. Leyland Tiger's 1117 and 1126 have continued to be used extensively on National Express, Highwayman and excursion work from Harwich (DT). For example, 1117 operated excursions to Felixstowe (June 4th), Cromer (June 5th) and Aldeburgh (June 13th), whilst 1126 operated Highwayman service to Hunstanton on June 8th and June 15th. Bristol VRT's 3027/58/61 were used regularly on private hire work from Warners Holiday Camp at Dovercourt during June. On June 6th, all three vehicles operated to Walton; on June 10th, 3058 operated to Colchester Zoo, whilst 3023 CR and 3061 operated local tours; on June 12th, 3058/61 operated to Ipswich; on June 13th, 3058 operated to Walton; and on June 17th, 3027 operated a local tour, whilst 3058 again operated to Colchester Zoo.

At Silver End (SE), temporary loans have included 1542 BE (until July 4th - see also NS255), with this vehicle being noted on services 53 (June 25th and July 3rd) and 337 (June 29th), together with 1794 BE (from June 25th to July 2nd), 1897 CF (on June 26th/27th) and 3115 BE (from June 24th to June 28th). 1794 was noted on service 335 on July 1st, whilst 1897 was observed on this service on June 27th and 3115 was noted on service 53 on June 28th. The temporary loan of 1897 followed the failure of 1659 SE at Braintree, where it was replaced initially by 1882 BE and which also failed later, to be replaced by 1897 from Chelmsford (CR).

Leyland National 1851 CF was noted on loan to Hadleigh (HH) during late-June, being observed on services 5 (June 24th) and 27 (June 21st).

Finally, at Southend (SD), two other Chelmsford (CR) vehicles, 1707 and 3091, were noted on loan during late-June (3091) and early-July (1707), with 1707 being noted on service 62 on July 11th.

Service Developments

As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, it should be noted that the final service 73A journey from Colchester to Tolleshunt Knights on June 15th was operated by Leyland National 1888 CR (and not 1892 as stated).

The Company has applied for a large number of service revisions during recent weeks, and brief details of these changes are as follows :-

- 31 - Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays : 0855 hrs. journey from Chelmsford to be withdrawn (and introduced from June 24th).
- 36/A/B - Services have been extended to serve new housing developments in South Woodham Ferrers. Additional late evening service 36A journey operates from Chelmsford at 2205 hrs. on Mondays to Fridays (from June 24th) (additional information to NS255).
- 38X - Service withdrawn from June 24th.
- 42 - Saturdays : 0725 hrs. journey from Chelmsford (Rail Station) to be withdrawn (and introduced from June 29th).
- 43 - Saturdays : two additional journeys to be introduced at 0642 hrs. from Chelmsford (Bus Station) and at 0705 hrs. from Broomfield Hospital (and introduced from June 29th).
- 43A - Mondays to Fridays : 1728 hrs. journey from Chelmsford (High Street, Debenhams) is extended to Pleshey (as from June 24th) (additional information to NS255).
- 44A - Mondays to Fridays : 0601 hrs. journey from Chelmsford (Bus Station) to be advanced to 0546 hrs., 0623 hrs. journey from Chelmsford (Bus Station) to start from Heath Drive at 0605 hrs., 0620 hrs. journey from Heath Drive to start from Chelmsford (Bus Station) at 0633 hrs. (and these revisions were introduced from June 24th).
- 48B - Mondays to Fridays : additional journey introduced from Chelmsford (Bus Station) at 0610 hrs. (as from June 24th).
- 48C - Revised route for 0626 hrs. journey from Chelmer Village (Mondays to Fridays) via Pump Lane, Sidmouth Road, Helston Road, Bodmin Road, Lawn Lane, Church Lane, Arbour Lane, Springfield

- Road and Victoria Road (and introduced from June 24th).
- 52 - Mondays to Fridays : 1740 hrs. journey from Chelmsford has been re-numbered 43A, and re-timed to 1728 hrs. from Chelmsford (High Street, Debenhams) (see above, and additional information to NS255).
 - 54 - Mondays to Fridays : 0615 hrs. journey from Chelmsford (Bus Station) now operates at 0609 hrs. (as from June 24th).
 - 56 - Mondays to Fridays : 0611 hrs. journey from Chelmsford (Bus Station) has been withdrawn (as from June 24th).
 - 56A - Mondays to Fridays : previous references to Victoria Road school journeys (Schooldays) should now be deleted.
 - 57/57A - Weekdays : services to be re-routed via Blocks Corner in Hatfield Broad Oak, with minor timetable alterations (and introduced from June 24th).
 - 58B - Weekdays : service to be re-routed via Blocks Corner in Hatfield Broad Oak, with minor timetable alterations (and introduced from June 24th).
 - 59B - Weekdays : service to be re-routed via Blocks Corner in Hatfield Broad Oak, with minor timetable alterations (and introduced from June 24th).
 - 71E - Service has been withdrawn on Sundays, and will now only run on Tuesdays and Thursdays (July 23rd-August 29th).
 - 93 - Revised timetable and route introduced from June 27th (see NS253).
 - 93A - Service introduced from June 29th (see also NS253).
 - 109 - Weekdays : the six return journeys listed in NS254 have been extended to/from Jaywick Sands (Meadow Way) from July 22nd until August 31st.
 - 113 - Sundays : Summer Sunday service introduced from July 21st (see also NS254).
 - 152 - Mondays to Fridays : 0634 hrs. journey from Basildon (Bus Station) introduced from June 24th (see also NS254).
 - 153 - Weekdays : 1800 hrs. journey from Grays (Bus Station) introduced from June 24th (see also NS254).
 - 155 - Revised timetable introduced from June 24th, with certain journeys re-numbered and re-timed.
 - 156 - Mondays to Fridays : 0715 hrs. journey from Basildon (Bus Station) and 1803 hrs. journey from Stanford-le-Hope (Victoria Road) withdrawn from June 24th.
 - 157 - Wednesdays only - service also now additionally serves Corringham (Social Club) and Fobbing (and introduced from June 26th).
 - 158 - Revised timetable introduced from June 24th, with certain journeys re-numbered and re-timed.
 - 230 - Mondays to Fridays : 1007 hrs. journey from Basildon Hospital withdrawn from June 24th.
Weekdays : additional journeys introduced from Basildon (Bus Station) to Wickford (Rail Station) at 0845 hrs. and 1045 hrs., from Wickford (Rail Station) (circular, via Beauchamps School) at 0933 hrs. and from Wickford (Rail Station) to Basildon (Bus Station) at 1148 hrs. with effect from June 24th.
 - 234 - Minor timetable alterations introduced from June 24th.
 - 235 - Minor timetable alterations introduced from June 24th.
 - 237 - The revised routes in Basildon for special Christmas period journeys are via Great Oaks, Link Road, Broadmayne, A1321, Ghyllgrove, Whitmore Way, East Mayne, A132, A129 and A132, with certain journeys operating via A132 and The Chase to Runwell Hospital or from Wickford (Broadway) via Station Avenue and Station Approach to Wickford (Rail Station), with revised timetables (additional information to NS255).
 - 251 - Sundays : additional Summer Sunday journeys will operate from July 7th until August 25th (and also on Late Summer Bank Holiday Monday, August 26th), with departures from Walthamstow at 0852 hrs., 0952 hrs., 1052 hrs. and 1855 hrs. (to Brentwood), from Southend at 0750 hrs., 1650 hrs. and 1750 hrs. and from Brentwood at 0810 hrs. (to Walthamstow).
 - 304 - Mondays to Fridays : 0820 hrs. journey from Bishop's Stortford

- to The Hall Caravan Park will run via Stansted Airport (Passenger Terminal) (and introduced from July 15th).
- 311 - Mondays to Fridays : 0630 hrs. journey from Chelmsford will operate via Broomfield Hospital (and introduced from July 15th).
 - 328 - Weekdays : revised timetable.
 - 402 - Minor route revision in Dartford, to serve Stone (as from July 21st).
 - 437 - Service withdrawn after operation on June 19th (additional information to NS255).
 - 494 - Service operates on Mondays and Wednesdays only (correction to NS253), and was introduced from June 24th. The return journey on Wednesdays is extended to/from Pitsea (Broadway). Service observes all stops between Maldon and Wickford and then operates non-stop to Basildon/Pitsea.
 - 722 - Revised terminals to be Corringham (Social Club) and London (Victoria, Eccleston Bridge). Minor route revisions in Stifford Clays and Victoria, and additional picking-up point to be introduced at Stifford Clays (Long Lane/Blackshots Lane).
 - 821 - Service is operating this Summer on Saturdays only from May 18th to September 14th from Clacton (Bus Station) to Westwood (East Kent Bus Garage) (see also NS252/3).
 - 822 - Service is operating this Summer on Saturdays only from May 18th to September 14th from Bishop's Stortford (Station Approach) to Dover (Eastern Docks) (see also NS252/3).

Other service revisions introduced during recent weeks have concerned services 90 (revised timetable introduced from June 24th - see NS254 for details); 347 (Mondays to Fridays : 1324 hrs. journey from Brentwood operates 15 minutes earlier at 1309 hrs., and 1412 hrs. journey from Romford operates five minutes earlier at 1407 hrs. - and introduced from July 15th); and 402 (1830 hrs. journey from Southend and 2131 hrs. journey from London (Victoria) will both run Daily from July 21st to August 30th).

The service revisions introduced from June 23rd in the Chelmsford area have been designed to provide better evening connections with train services at Chelmsford (Rail Station), and also to increase the frequency of services on Weekdays to/from Broomfield Hospital. Services in the North Springfield area have been improved in the New Nabbotts Way and New Bowers Way areas with a new evening and Sunday service.

The Company has surrendered its licences for services 34/34A (Ongar-Abbess Roding), 73/73A (Colchester-Tolleshunt Knights), 300 (Bishop's Stortford-Beldhams (circular)) and Highwayman service 816 (Clacton-Cambridge) (licence not renewed, and replaced by new service 816 - see NS252).

Short-term licences have been granted for 'Seaside Special' service 72E (Silver End-Felixstowe) (July 24th-January 23rd, 1986 - Wednesdays only) and for the Colchester area 'Countrycar' services (June 17th-December 16th - Weekdays).

The Company has also applied for a number of revisions to the commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd., and brief details are as follows :-

- 193 and 204 - To add a condition that passengers may be carried locally in the Greater London area between Romford and Victoria, with picking-up points at Victoria, Aldgate, Stratford and Ilford, and setting down points at Stratford, Ilford, Gants Hill and Romford.
- 194-199 - Additional picking-up point to be introduced at M11 (Junction 7 - M11/A414), with minor route and timetable revisions.

An application has also been made to operate a revised timetable on National Express service 085, with the period of operation this Summer to be Saturdays only from May 25th to September 21st (additional information to NS255). All references to joint operation of National Express services 080-9 with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. and Norfolk Motor Services Ltd. should now be deleted (see also NS252).

Finally, Heddingham Omnibuses Ltd. has been granted short-term licences for services from Lindsell to Braintree (formerly part of Eastern National service 315) and from Finchingfield to Great Dunmow, with the licences effective from May 25th to November 24th (see NS254 for full details).

Publicity News

New publicity material published during recent weeks has been as follows :-

- Timetable leaflets - a leaflet with details of revised services in the South Woodham Ferrers area (services 36/A/B, 94/A, 237 and 494) (dated June 24th).
- a pocket timetable card with details of services (303, 304 and 318) to/from Stansted Airport (dated July 1985).
- London Regional Transport leaflets - LRT has published timetable leaflets for services 193 and W9 (W Niner), which are now being operated by Eastern National on behalf of LRT. Both leaflets are dated July 13th.
- London Country (Green Line) leaflets - a new Green Line timetable leaflet (dated June 29th) is available for services 797/8/9, and which includes details of Eastern National commuter service 712.
- Express services - National Express timetable leaflet for service 083 (London-Bury St. Edmunds) (dated June 30th).
- Clacton area services - a route map (dated May 1985) has been published with details of Clacton Town Services, and other services in the area between Jaywick Sands and Walton-on-Naze.
- General leaflets - a leaflet summarising the services (53E, 151, 251, 261, 350, 351, 400 and 451) serving the Harold Hill area.
- the Company also promoted bus services to/from the Basildon Hospital Summer Fete on July 6th (leaflets were not published).

Unusual Workings

Details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

- 8.6-1920 DT operated a feeder service between Harwich Town station and Dovercourt (Warners Holiday Camp) during the day, and 1552 DT operated on this service on 15.6.
- 10.6-1056 was re-allocated from DT to BS on this date (see NS255/2).
- 14.6-1126 DT operated two return rail replacement journeys between Harwich Town station and Parkeston Quay, whilst 3061 DT operated a similar service from Harwich Town to Manningtree.
- 15.6-1920 DT noted on an excursion from Harwich to the Essex Show at Great Leighs.
- 16.6-Southend Transport 240 was the vehicle used on the Miracle Bus contract (see NS255/12).
- 17.6-1117 DT operated a rail replacement service from Harwich Town to Manningtree.
- 18.6-National Travel (East) Leyland Tiger THL292Y operated the return half of an excursion from Harwich to Felixstowe, after 1117 DT had failed; 3038 MN noted on an ASDA working at Rayleigh.
- 21.6-3122 SD failed at Wickford whilst operating service 251, being replaced by 3080 BD; Southend Transport 372 operated a private hire working from Fenchurch Street to Kensington.
- 22.6-1124 DN failed at Southend Airport, and was noted being towed by recovery vehicle 0104 HH; the return Highwayman service 810 from Skegness was noted arriving at Southend with Cambus 158 (GCL349N), presumably having replaced a failed Southend (SD) vehicle; ex-Northern General Routemaster 2095 (RCN 695) was noted parked overnight at Southend (SD) depot; 1302 CR noted at Wickford on Highwayman service 823.
- 23.6-Southend Transport 214 operated a private hire working to Leeds Castle, whilst 237 was noted on the Miracle Bus contract service.
- 24.6-3085 HH noted on a service 5A schools contract journey at Rayleigh.
- 25.6-3003 CN noted on service 74 at Essex University.
- 26.6-3117 LN noted on a Tesco contract working at Wickford; Southend Transport 248 was noted on hire to Highways Coaches, Leigh-on-Sea for a schools contract; Southend Transport 309 noted on an X11 relief journey, whilst 352 was noted at Orpington on service 795.
- 27.6-1119 DE noted on commuter service 193, with 1120 EE being noted on this service on 3.7; 3024 FL (P) noted on service 119.
- 28.6-1861 SE observed on service 311; 3091 CF (on temporary loan to SD) noted on service 11, and on service 11A on 5.7; 3097 HH replaced 3094 BD which had failed on service 251 - 3094 BD was later noted at Hadleigh (HH) depot, and on service 24 on 29.6, whilst 3097 HH was again noted on service 251 on 29.6.

- 29.6-1310 SE noted on Highwayman service 805; 1554 CN observed on service 119; 3072 SD noted on service 11A; 3074 BN noted on service 400; 4500 SE noted on a private hire working at Chingford; 4503 SE operated National Express service 720 from London to Poole, and this vehicle was again noted on this service at Bournemouth on 13.7; 4509 BN noted on a private hire working at Danbury Park; Southend Transport 213 noted on Highwayman service 809, whilst 333 was noted operating National Express service 818 from London to Swanage.
- 30.6-Southern Vectis 302 (XDL122L) operated the 0845 hrs. National Express service 109 journey from Southend, replacing a failed Rapide coach. Vehicles noted during National Holidays tour 720 (Assmannshausen) included National Travel (East) THL297Y, UCY 629, UTC 872 and former Eastern National Bristol FLH6G STW763D, now owned by Top Deck Travel Ltd., in Heidelberg, West Germany. 1122 BD and 1127 DS were both noted on Global Holidays work at Southend Airport; Southend Transport 239 was noted on the Miracle Bus contract service, whilst 248 failed at Aldgate on service X1 and open-top Daimler Fleetline 372 operated private hire sightseeing tours of London.
- 1.7-1536 CR observed on service 82; 1937 SD noted on a service 251 short working to Rawroth (Carpenters Arms P.H.).
- 2.7-2383 L noted heading south through Billericay; 3067 BE observed on service 53.
- 3.7-3039 SE noted on a private hire working at Silver End.
- 4.7-3113 CF observed on service 11.
- 5.7-1762 CF and 3087 SD both noted on private hire workings at Broomfield; 1925 CR observed on services 31 and 38; 3018 MN noted on a private hire journey at Hatfield Peverel; 3111 SD observed on service 22A; Southend Transport 232 and 253 operated a private hire journey from South Woodham Ferrers to Great Yarmouth.
- 6.7-1310 SE noted on Highwayman service 805; 1603 CN observed on National Express service 084; 1748 BN noted on service 2; 3024 DT noted on service 114; 3076 BN observed on service 402; Southend Transport 251 operated the Miracle Bus contract service, but failed at London (Aldgate) in the evening; a Southend Transport DAF MB200 (252 or 253) was noted on National Express service 037 (London-Hastings); open-top Daimler Fleetline's 370 and 371 were hired to British Aerospace for use in connection with an air display at Hatfield.
- 7.7-1115 SD noted on Highwayman service 809; 1117 DT noted on Highwayman service 816; 1702 SD observed on service 400; 3124 CR noted on service 119; Colchester Borough Transport 87 noted on a private hire working at Clacton; Southend Transport 232 operated the morning Miracle Bus contract service which was diverted to Gatwick; 339 operated the afternoon journey; Leyland Fleetline 240 was noted on a private hire working at Lower Thames Street, London.
- 8.7-Southend Transport 386 noted on driver training duties at Stock.
- 9.7-1726 CR noted at Clacton on service 127; 1922 BN noted at Westcliff-on-Sea on service 400; Southend Transport 240 operated a private hire journey to the Colne Valley Railway.
- 11.7-1601 SD observed on National Holidays tour 087 at Portree, Isle of Skye (see also NS255/8); 1650 CR noted on service 106; 3058 DT and 4004 CR noted on private hire workings at Walton-on-Naze; 3073 SD observed on service 11; Southend Transport 237 operated a rail replacement service from Woodham Ferrers to Wickford.
- 12.7-1792 CN noted having failed at Kirby-le-Soken whilst operating service 108, and replaced by 1554 CN.
- 13.7-3080 DD operated the first Eastern National journey on LRT service 193, at 0634 hrs. from Romford, with the second journey at 0704 hrs. being operated by 3081 DD; 1111 SD noted at Bournemouth on Highwayman service 827; 1849 BN noted on service 2; Southend Transport 227 operated a rail replacement service from Southminster to Wickford.

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COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

General

The main news this month is that the first steps have now been taken towards the establishment of Colchester Borough Transport as a private company, in line with the requirements of the Government's current Transport Bill. Mr. Michael Roots, Chairman of Colchester Borough Council's Transportation Committee and Mr. John Hutton, Borough Engineer, have been appointed as directors of the company which will have the registered name Colchester Borough Transport Ltd. It is expected that other directors will be appointed in due course.

At a recent meeting of Colchester Borough Council's Transportation Committee it was reported that revenue during the financial year 1984/5 was some £67,000 higher than previously anticipated. However, the number of passenger journeys declined by over 4%, being offset by a higher subsidy from the Borough Council, the subsidy now being over 10%.

Leyland Atlantean's 62 (NNO 62P) and 76 (TPU 76R) have both received mechanical attention at Eastern National's Central Works in Chelmsford during recent weeks, and it is anticipated that other vehicles will follow in due course.

News of the Bristol BELL6L's is that 22 (OWC722M) was last noted in service on March 1st; it is currently parked in the Magdalen Street depot yard without its front windscreen. Also currently out of use are 21 (OWC721M) and 28 (SWC 28K). 16 (YWC 16L) and 25 (SWC 25K) do not see regular service; 25 has some nearside accident damage, but was an unusual visitor to services 1/1A on July 15th. 23 (OWC723M) had returned to service by July 11th, and the vehicles that have been in regular service during recent weeks have been 18-20, 24 and 26. Their usual allocation on Mondays to Fridays is one each on services 9A and 19A, two on services 2/2A and one on peak hour service 5/5B journeys. On Saturdays, there are normally three in service on services 9/9A and 19/19A.

Open-top Leyland Atlantean 48 (YWC648F) was used regularly on morning service 16 schools journeys from June 17th for about two weeks. It was again noted on a schools journey on July 15th, but is normally now in regular use on the Colchester Sightseeing Tour which commenced this year on June 16th.

Other news of the Leyland Atlantean's is that 50 (AVX 50G) is currently receiving mechanical attention at the Magdalen Street depot; it has been out of service since early-June with a faulty gearbox. Former Tyne & Wear PTE Atlantean's 51-3 remain in regular use on service 8, although 53 was noted on schools journeys on the morning of July 15th. Of the batch 55-60 (JHK495N etc.), 55 and 57 have both received mechanical attention during recent weeks, 58 was a rare visitor to services 1/1A (July 11th) and 74A (June 29th) and 60 is at present receiving a repaint. It is now the usual practice to allocate two of this batch to services 9/19 and another two to service 5A.

Other Leyland Atlantean's which have received mechanical attention recently have been 64 (NNO 64P) (during early-July) and 65 (NNO 65P) (which was last noted in service on July 5th). Similar vehicles 89 (RVW 89W) and 90 (RVW 90W) have seen frequent use on private hire workings during June and July, whilst 87 (MEV 87V) took a party of handicapped children from Maldon, Witham and Braintree to the Pleasureworld Fun Park, near Lowestoft on June 25th, on a trip organised by the Essex Police.

Leyland Leopard coach 101 (DHK101T) was regularly used on evening peak hour service 5/5B journeys prior to June 14th, but has not been noted in service since that date. Similar vehicle 102 (DHK102T) operated some schools journeys on July 15th, together with a private hire working later that day.

Colchester Borough Council's Transportation Committee has recently agreed to spend in the region of £60,000 on the development of some new offices at the Bus Station for the Borough Transport Department. Additional finance for this project will also be derived from operational economies. The site of the existing Transport Department offices at Osborne Street is now earmarked for redevelopment.

Various timetable changes were introduced from June 16th, involving slight running time changes to services 7/7A and 8, minor timetable changes to some early evening journeys on services 5/5A and the revision of services 9 and 19 to operate on a circular basis, together with reductions of these services and services 9A/19A on Saturdays (see also NS253). The additional service 7 journey listed under Eastern National Service Developments in last month's news sheet (NS255/5) is being operated by Colchester Borough Transport and replaces a previously unadvertised duplicate journey at 1703 hrs.

The current daily vehicle requirement following these service revisions is as follows :-

- Mondays to Fridays (a.m. peak) - 41.
- Mondays to Fridays (off-peak) - 30, plus Sightseeing Tour (1).
- Mondays to Fridays (evenings) - 8.
- Saturdays - 29 (a.m.); 30 (p.m.).
- Saturdays (evenings) - 7.

Sundays - 5 (a.m.); 7 plus Sightseeing Tour (1) (p.m.).

Sundays (evenings) - 6.

In more detail the Mondays to Fridays off-peak allocation to routes is now as follows :-
 services 1/1A/3 - 6 vehicles; services 2/2A - 4 vehicles; services 4/4A - 5 vehicles;
 service 5A - 3 vehicles; services 6/6A - 2 vehicles; service 8 - 3 vehicles; and one
 vehicle each to services 7, 7A, 9, 9A, 19, 19A and 74A.

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SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

Full chassis and body details are now available regarding the two DAF MB200/Duple Laser 2 C57F coaches (252/3), and these are as follows :-

252	B252CVX	DAF MB200DKFL600	239197	Duple Laser 2	C57F	8430/0562	New 6/85
253	B253CVX	DAF MB200DKFL600	239287	Duple Laser 2	C57F	8430/0563	New 5/85

Actual dates of delivery were published in last month's news sheet.

Withdrawn Vehicles

6.85	300 (B300BTW)	- withdrawn on June 30th.
	384 (GHJ384L)	- withdrawn on June 29th.

300 has been withdrawn due to certain financial difficulties, see under General news below, and the vehicle was returned initially to Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet. This coach had been on long-term evaluation from Ensign Bus Co., and it is understood that it has now passed to London Country Bus Services Ltd.

It can now be confirmed that Daimler Fleetline's 378 (GHJ378L) and 380 (GHJ380L) have been sold to City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd. (see also NS254). Details of their City of Oxford fleet numbers are still awaited.

Vehicles On Order

Registration numbers have now been booked for the two Van Hool Astromega's which are currently on order. They will carry fleet numbers 256/7 and registration numbers C256/7THJ, and delivery of 256 is currently expected during late-July. It will not enter service until full certification procedures have been completed, and one of these vehicles is also likely to be exhibited at the first International Bus and Coach Exhibition at Earls Court, London from September 11th to September 14th.

Work has now been completed on rebuilding the chassis of Leyland Leopard CHA425K (which will be numbered 254), and the chassis has now been sent to Berkhof's factory at Valkenswaard, Netherlands to receive its new coach body. Work has now started on the refurbishment of the chassis of Leyland Leopard 212 (CHA443K) (to be numbered 255).

Re-built Vehicles

Leyland Leopard 219 (SPN669X) finally re-entered service on July 10th with its new Volvo TD100H engine and ZF automatic gearbox. This vehicle had been with Ensign Bus Co. at Purfleet since early-November.

Leyland Leopard coaches 205/6 (BTE205/6V) have been refitted with fareboxes, with the work being carried out on June 8th, and these vehicles are now being used on local services as well as the X routes.

Vehicles On Hire

Leyland Tiger coach 215 (A215PEV) is at present operating on loan to Deacon Motor Services, Chatham, and is being used on a commuter service from the Isle of Grain to London. This service started on July 8th, and initially Leyland Leopard coach 352 (DAX452V) was operated on loan being replaced shortly afterwards by 215.

Acquired Vehicles

It can now be confirmed that Southend Transport will not be acquiring any of the 1974 Bristol RELM6L's with E.C.W. DP49F bodywork from the City of Oxford fleet (see NS254). Vehicles examined had included 82/6/8 (RDW 82M etc.), and those vehicles still remaining at Southend will be returned to City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd. in the near future.

General

The main news this month is that following the recent local government elections, Southend Transport now comes under the control of a committee entitled the 'Passenger Transport Executive' rather than the former Transportation Committee. The PTE recently noted that action was being taken to register the name Southend Transport Ltd. in preparation for the changes necessary under the Government's Transport Bill, and it also noted that the Co-ordination Committee (the joint ST/E.N.O.C. committee which administers the 1955 Co-ordination Agreement) is seeking legal advice on the status of the Co-ordination Agreement after the Transport Bill takes effect.

There has recently been a considerable amount of press comment in local newspapers, much of it ill-informed and inaccurate, about the financial situation of Southend Transport, suggesting a loss in the current year of £100,000, and with the X services being under threat of withdrawal. A special PTE meeting was held, and it is thought that cost cutting measures, including revised pay terms are being discussed. Further details will be given when accurate information is available. In the meantime, do not believe all that you may read in the press!

From Sunday, July 21st, change will be given on sea front services 67 and 68, and this represents a reversal of the recent policy.

From Monday, July 22nd, two new services (X10 and X30) will be introduced. These route numbers will be given to certain existing X service journeys which operate non-stop via the A13 dual-carriageway between Vange and Purfleet.

Leyland Leopard coach 212 (ex 358) (LAK304W) re-entered service in coach livery during late-June. This was followed by 332 (XWX189S), which was completed on June 28th, and 343 (XWX193S) is currently in the paintshops. Standard repaints have seen all the 1976 Daimler Fleetline's (386-97) repainted, and work has now started on the 1979 batch of Leyland Fleetline's (221-30).

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EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALSInitial Disposals

- 1546 (SVW274K) - Sold to Essex County Council, Chelmsford, 7/85.
- 3019 (SMS 45H) - Sold to South Midland Ltd., Witney, 7/85.
- 3047 (OCS576H) - Sold to South Midland Ltd., Witney, 7/85.

Subsequent Disposals

- 356 (10 DLY) - Still with dealer, Middlewich, 6/85. (see also NS250).
- 420 (GVW982H) - Caravan, Willington, by 2/85, ex. caravan, Middlesbrough.
- 429 (LWC980J) - In process of refurbishment by Wing, Sleaford, 7/85. (additional information to NS254).
- (453) (RPU860M) - Gath, Dewsbury, by 4/85, ex. dealer, Harthill.
- (454) (RPU869M) - Dealer, Harthill, 4/85, ex. Ambassador Travel (Eastern Counties) Ltd., Norwich, RE849. (correction/additional information to NS253/4). Subsequently to Gath, Dewsbury, 4/85, ex. dealer, Harthill.
- 1210 (BNO696T) - Still with Brice, Four Marks, 7/85. (see also NS243/5).
- 1403 (VHK176L) - Still with Clacton Swimming Club, Clacton, 6/85. (see also NS252).
- 1405 (VHK178L) - Liverpool Community Transport (N-PSV), ca. 3/85, ex. Gwent Probation & After Care Service, Pontypool.
- 1410 (X00879L) - Glennon, Crosby, by 12/84, ex. dealer, Middlewich. (correction to NS252).
- 1413 (X00832L) - Still with dealer, Middlewich, 5/85. (see also NS251).
- 1414 (GJD197N) - Still with dealer, Middlewich, 5/85. (see also NS251).
- 2904 (WVX531F) - Still with dealer, Sherburn, 4/85. (see also NS250).

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News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), R.H. Palmer (M105), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), S.D.M. Tarrant (M246), S.D. Barham (M313), L. Thorington (M352), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), G.G. Toon (M452), C.M.J. Paynter (M515), C.D. Sigston (M523), C. Pretty (M524), R.A. Dennis (M535), F.G. Spence (M545), I. Harden (M572), J.D. Skinner (M578), G. Huggins (AM1) and the P.S.V. Circle. The deadline for the August news sheet is Wednesday, August 14th.