

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

SEPTEMBER 1987

(Formerly the **EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP**) ISSUE No. 282



The oldest Eastern National vehicle in the new fleet livery 3022 is seen at Clacton Bus Station on 28th May. (I.Ransom)

ROCHFORD MEETING

This month's meeting at the Freight House (adjacent to Rochford station) will be held on October 18th at 20:00.

The topic this month will be "Hampshire before and after deregulation" and a slide show will be given by new member John Zebedee. All members and friends are invited.

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NEW BOOKS

Available from Andy Meadows (address on cover) are:-

CAPITAL TRANSPORT:-

Welsh Bus Handbook - includes all major operators plus a few independents and costs £5.95 + 50p p&p.

Eastern England Major Operators - covers all large fleets between Essex and Lincolnshire @ £4.95 + 50p p&p.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - New area timetables as follows:-

Area 1 Bishops Stortford & Saffron Walden July 1987

Area 2 Braintree, Halstead and Witham July 1987

Area 3 Colchester August 1987

All cost 30p each plus 20p p&p for one, 35p for two or 50p for all three.

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP TROPHY

This trophy, which is awarded for the "Best Vehicle from an Independent Essex Operator", was to have been presented at the Southend Bus Rally; however, owing to a change in the judging procedure this was not possible. Accordingly the trophy was presented at the North Weald rally to D301 PEV a Plaxton bodied Volvo B10M saloon of Harris Bus, Grays. Our congratulations to the winners.

My apologies for the following alterations to the July and August magazines:-

280/5 1536 was sold on 2/86.

281/4 420 is GVW 982H, 2384 should read 2834, 2943 is AVW 402F, 3047 details should read 9/86.

281/5 SVW 275K was 1547.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDALLOCATIONS & TRANSFERS

Owing to holidays at EN Head Office, it is not possible to publish full details until next month, however if you can't wait, then an SAE to the Editor marked "transfers" will provide the information. The following have been noted by group members:-

1718 BE-CF; 1747 SE-CF; 1651 & 1730 are out of use and may be D/L(D); 1702 at CF & 1731 at SD are both in use despite being D/L(D), as is 0601 at CN.

ON HIRE

A Robin Hood bodied Mercedes minibus D764 KWT was inspected at New Whittle Street on the 19th and 20th August. "Buses" magazine reports it as a Robin Hood demonstrator although it is in United livery with their fleet number 2600.

VEHICLE REPAIRS

w/e 1.8.87	3078 at ENE.	w/e 22.8.87	1930 at ENE.
w/e 8.8.87	1050 at ENE; 1722 at ?	w/e 29.8.87	3106 at ENE;
w/e 15.8.87	1054 at ENE; 1805 at ENE.	...	1895 at HH.

Of the above 3078 was a former all-over advert for Field and Trek, whilst 3106 was all-over R.G. Francis advert.

STAFF TRANSFER VEHICLE

The third Austin FX4 taxi is registered PYR 509R and it has been repainted into green. It will be used in connection with Citybus operations.

GENERAL

The price of Colchester Travel Cards were increased, sorry revised, as from 16th August:-

	Inner Zone	Outer Zone
Weekly	3.75	7.50
Monthly	15.00	30.00
Quarterly	41.00	82.00

A Harwich weekly ticket has been introduced from 12th July at £1.80 adults and £1.00 Children/OAP's.

Minibus 0200 has had its Coastline vinyls removed and standard yellow EN lettering applied. It is used on the services advertised as 26 and 26A although it runs as "126 DOVERCOURT" throughout.

The "Battle of the Buses" continues in Clacton. Posters in St. Osyth point out to travellers that EN serve the village 497 times a 7-day week from early morning to late evening whereas Coastal Red provide only 48 a week with none on Sundays. EN have placed notices on stops they no longer serve but Coastal Red have been removing or altering them. EN claims they are Company property and legal action is being considered. Coastal Red claim EN is being childish.

From 30/8 the former Barnes service to Tendring Heath Hospital is being worked by Eastern National.

The Evening Gazette has reported that withdrawal of evening and Sunday journeys on some Coastline services from 13/9 was due to low level of usage. Area manager Michael Holden said there would be no loss of jobs but some staff may have to transfer to other depots. While more people were carried in the summer than the winter meant some services were still under threat. The paper also mentions two new routes to be introduced in October but no further details are given. Services 3 & 4 are to serve the Oxford Road superstore, Service 5 is to be extended to Jaywick Lane and Blue House Ave., and a service is to be re-introduced to Tudor Estate and Alton Park.

SERVICES

- 1/1A, 2, 13, 14 (Clacton) - Revised timetables from 13.9.87.
- 3,4,5,5A,8,9,10 (Clacton) - Revised routes and timetables from 13.9.87.
- 24A - 20:15 Southend to Hadleigh withdrawn after 25.7.87
- 26 - Extended from Thundersley to Rayleigh Station and revised timetable introduced from 7.9.87 operating Mon-Fri only.
- 26A/26C - Withdrawn after operation on 5.9.87.
- 29A/B/C - NEW SERVICES. Southend Central to Southend Central via Prittlewell, East Woodbury, Belfairs, Firfax Drive from 11.9.87.
- 3,6,9,11A,20,22,24,27,28,28A (Southend) - Revised timetables from 7.9.87.
- 29B - Withdrawn after operation on 10.9.87 and replaced by new 29 group.
- 61A, 62 - Withdrawn after operation on 4.9.87 (61A) or 5.9.87 (62).
- X26/106 - Revised timetable from 1.9.87. X26 withdrawn after 12.9.87.
- X19/109/118/119 - Revised timetables introduced from 14.9.87.
- 311 - 15:50 Tabor High Sch. to Four Reelet (Sch.days only) is withdrawn.
- 795 - Revised timetable introduced from 7.9.87.
- 801/804 - Withdrawn after operation on 26.9.87.
- 834, X15 - Withdrawn after operation on 5.9.87.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

- 5.8.87 CF 3033 on service 11A.
- 11.8.87 CN 3022 on minibus routes 1 & 2. It may have turned short at Meadow Way owing to low cables at Tower Camp.
- 15.8.87 BS 1768 on 70 (BE duty); CN 3022 on minibus 14; CN 3201 on 200 replacing 3500 which was in the carnival.
- 17.8.87 SD 4505 on 795.
- 26.8.87 DT 1750 on C1 (Bexfords contract) usually a CR bus.
- 29.8.87 DT 0200 on 1 & 2; CF 4006 noted in Clacton on National Express service 084; and BN 4508 on 250.
- 2.9.87 HH 3097 on 250.
- 4.9.87 CN 1872 on 353.

In addition 0755 was in use from Chelmsford during late August/early September and during the Colchester Cricket Week Chelmsford's 3111 (in Essex County Cricket Club overall livery) was loaned to CR in exchange for CR 3127.

Finally the morning Highwayman service 834 to Clacton was being operated by an Iveco/Caetano midicoach of Dons Luxury Travel, Chingford, on 12.8.87. It is not known if this was a one off or a regular working.

DISPOSALS

Eastern National Limited - Initial Disposal

716 (NWN 716M) Sold to Banyard, Latchingdon, 8/87 for scrap.

Eastern National Omnibus Company - Subsequent Disposals

- 1401 (PWC 345K) Moreton End School, Harpenden (N-PSV), 6/87, via dealer, Purfleet. Originally St.Johns School, Epping (N-PSV).
- 1406 (XVW 631L) (CSV 253) Withdrawn by Bagerline (No.2080), 5/87.
- 1407 (XVW 632L) (CSV 219) Withdrawn by Bagerline (No.2081), 4/87.
- 1408 (XOO 877L) West Sussex County Council, Chichester (No.XR68) (N-PSV) 2/87, ex-dealer, Purfleet.
- 1411 (XOO 880L) (CSV 231) Withdrawn by Bagerline (No.2082), 5/87. Registration transferred to another vehicle, 6/87, and it is believed that vehicle may be re-registered.
- 1412 (XOO 881L) (CSV 303) (No.2083) Details as 1411.
- 1417 (GJD 196N) (CSV 992) Withdrawn by Bagerline (No.2086), 5/87. Noted in withdrawn condition at Weston-S-Mare garage, 8/87.
- 1418 (GJD 194L) (CSV 524) (No.2084) Details as 1417.
- 1419 (GJD 195N) (CSV 618) Withdrawn by Bagerline (No.2085), 4/87.
- 1504 (CVW 858G) Named "Mercury" by Felixstowe Omnibuses, Ipswich.
- 1527 (LPU 452J) Withdrawn by Lincolnshire Road Car (No.1214), 10/86.
- 2201 (JVV 430) P.K.Historic Omnibuses, Hunmanby (for preservation), by 11/86, ex-dealer, Chepstow, 7/86.
- 2453 (1838 F) Breaker, Carlton, 5/87, ex-scrapyard, Wymeswold. (Addl. to mag.275).
- 2717 (97 TVX) Now reported as withdrawn by Eastern Counties (No.X67), 5/87. (Previously reported as withdrawn in 10/86). To dealer, Sherburn 5/87.
- 2780 (933 KOO) Still with Double Two, Wakefield (N-PSV), 4/87.
- 2837 (LWC 663C) Noted in Nuneaton, 3/87, bearing legend "This is a craft bus". Last reported as dealer, Chepstow, c.5/87, ex-Tiverton Adventure Playbus Assoc.(N-PSV).
- 2946 (AVX 975G) Still with Ensign, Purfleet, 8/87. (addl.to mag.274).
- 3016 (SMS 42H) Noted in yard at Deptford, S.E.London, 8/87. Owner unknown. Ex-Ensign, Purfleet.(addl.to mag.277).

News from Crosville Wales is that former Eastern National VRT's 3005 (SMS 31H), 3009 (SMS 35H), 3011 (SMS 37H) & 3046 (NAG 586G) now DVG 552, 556, 558 & 563 have been on loan at Rhyl during the summer. These buses now have BWS GWYNEDD red fronts.

PUBLICITY

Rayleigh Bus Times - booklet dated 6.9.87 showing all EN services there.
The Eastwood Link - leaflet dated 6.9.87 detailing services 29A/B/C.
Timetable leaflet for 11A dated 6.9.87.
Timetable leaflet for 152/3/4/5 dated 16.8.87.

EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERING has seen the following during August:-

Berks & Bucks (The Bee Line) 1115 (GGM 75W).
Luton Bus 868 (NNN 147P), 837 (LBD 837P).
Nelsons POD 826H.
Osborne's 55 (DCK 968Y), 66 (WPU 124S).
Tellyn's XGS 734S, SPP 609W, HAX 331W, A169 OHJ and HGA 637T.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Rail replacements feature this month. A leopard has been noted at Manningtree station at around 22:00 several times in August, presumably for the Harwich branch in connection with repairs to the landslip at Wrabness. On 12.8.87 EMU 313 063 on the 13:05 ex-Thorpe-le-Soken decided to take a look at the sea but got no further than the gents toilet at Walton. CBT's 21, 31, 32 and an RE together with Kemps JKV 414V & VPF 322S provided the replacement. The deluge on 22.8.87 resulted in many landslips on the railways and replacement buses operated on Colchester-Manningtree-Ipswich; Colchester-Ipswich; and Ipswich-Manningtree-Harwich, and later Shenfield-Colchester. At least one train was replaced right through to Norwich by buses. 18 CBT vehicles were in use on the 23rd (a Sunday) and at least 7 plus Ipswich Buses were needed until the 27th. The last Sudbury train on 26.8.87 was also a bus.

A day trip from Copford to Margate was involved in an accident on 16/8 which resulted in 8 passengers requiring hospital treatment. The rescue coach was delayed in traffic and the party did not reach home until 3am. The coach, which was badly damaged, was stationary in an hold-up when it was hit from behind by another coach and shunted into a lorry. As 103 is missing it is assumed that it was the one involved.

The summer day excursions are very well supported with 2 coaches often needed. Southend Transport 203 arrived on hire as a replacement for 103 on 18th August but has not been seen on the day trips. It was noted on the Sudbury Tesco contract on the 24th August.

New destination and passing point blinds are being introduced with the ultimate destination blind now also containing "vias" so that buses without passing point blinds do not continue the confusion of only showing the final destination, eg; service 9 previously showing "LEXDEN" now shows "LEXDEN via SHRUB END". The school service blind is replaced by the return of individual displays for each school. Displays out of town such as "IPSWICH" & "HARWICH" are also included, perhaps in anticipation of gaining ECC contracts - the passing point blind has Essex County Council Local Bus Service

Contract

included, thus disposing with windscreen stickers.

A new competitor commenced on 1st September when Colchester's first taxibus service was introduced between Highwoods(Tesco) and Greenstead (Hawthorn Ave) via Dilbridge Rd., and Harwich Rd. A ½-hourly service Mon-Fri at a flat £1.00 fare and the taxi diverts up to ½ mile off route on request. Passengers can call the taxi on its car phone. The service is operated by Highwood Taxis, a one-man business run by the Rev.Paul Mulvey of the Mount Zion Free Church.

The new Colchester Area ECC timetable shows schooldays 82A Fordham Heath - Stanway School and return passing to CBT, and that the Hedingham journeys on the 82 not operating via Sainsbury's at Stanway.

FLEET LISTS - UpdateHEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES - Amendments

101 is MVX 878C; 115 is a PSU3E/4R; and 134 is KAD 347V.

G.W.OSBORNE & SONS - Amendments

32 & 53 are TRCTL11/3R; 54 is LUA 289V; 66 is C53F; 67 is C45F; and 2 & 3 have MCW bodywork.

Acquired:- No.31 (5367 RU) Leyland Royal Tiger/Roe Doyen C47Ft.

Disposed:- No.31 (LWC 445V) sold to Arlington, Enfield (dealer) 8/87.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to September 6.

Vehicles**NEW & ON ORDER:**

401 - 403 Registrations are E401-3 BHK. See under *General* below for further information on livery, operations, etc.
No news is yet to hand about the expected delivery date for the further three Optare City Pacers on order.

MODIFIED:

231 has been fitted with a steel front bumper.

325 has had its front rebuilt to the later Duple style (similar to 219), retaining the destination blind and single track number below the windscreen.

388 the Dansk Design overall advert, appeared 8/87 in a revised advert livery for the same company. It is now predominately white with a black skirt and lettering.

Other advert news is that 226 has an overall rear advert in white/red for Foster Cars, and 236 has a blue/white wrap-around and all over rear advert for Asdadrive/Hyundai.

598 the Bedford CF breakdown truck was repainted in 7/87 into coach livery (yellow/blue).

ON HIRE:

To/from **Plymouth CityBus**: Volvo Citybus 175 and Astromega 257 were returned to their respective owners on 11/8, not as reported last month.

To/from **Ensign Bus Services**: noted in STL's garage on 5/9 were four DMS's which had been on hire to STL, viz:

A104	KUC 941P	Daimler CRL6	MCW H45/32F	(blue/silver)
A206	JGF 325K	" "	PRV H44/24D	(Trocadero overall advert)
G221	JGF 353K	" "	" "	" "
B226	KUC 166P	" "	" H45/28D	(blue/silver)

It is not known exactly what services these had operated (other than A104 - 3A); it is believed that STL were short of vehicles due to delays at the Chelmsford test centre affecting vehicles due for annual testing.

On the opposite side of the coin, *Ensign Bus Services Enthusiast News* records that Ensign hire STL coaches to operate summer weekend services 600 (ex Elephant & Castle) and 645 (ex Barking) when those services operate to Blackpool.

Berkhof rebodied Leopards: 254 (Q856 MEV) continues on long term hire to Metrobus, Orpington and is in Southend coach livery but with Metrobus fleetnames; 255 (CHA 443K) remains with Trident Passenger Ltd (note correct operator's name, per their operator's licence) and is in full STL coach livery complete with Southend fleetnames.

It is thought that both these coaches will be sold to their hirers in due course, without operating again (254) or at all (255) for STL.

To **Colchester Borough Transport Ltd**: 203 (UTD 203T) was hired from 18/8 to replace accident damaged Colchester 103.

To **Sampson Coaches/Travel Ltd**: LOTS report that 238 (MRJ 238W) was hired to Sampsons for operation on LRT contract route 217B in late

July/early August. The sub-editor would appreciate exact dates (and details of other similar hires) and photos of 238 on the 217B.

DISPOSALS:

263 (GLX 913) - which was advertised for sale by its preservationist owners, has been sold to R Branchley of Canvey (Treasurer of the ENPG) for continued preservation and has been moved to the Canvey museum.

348 (WJN 348J) - the full name of the owner is Pardes House School, East Finchley (issue 280/7 refers).

Services

Another package of revisions was effective from September 6 or 7, as appropriate:

3A Evening & Sunday service withdrawn

12 Late evening service (2 journeys) withdrawn.

14 Renumbered 19 and former X19 incorporated (qv).

23 Reduced to M-F peaks only (except for 2 jnys Sats & 1 late evening M-S jny); off peak service reduced to hourly and rerouted as 23B (qv). Sunday service withdrawn.

23A Revised M-S timetable, increasing frequency (combined with 23B) over Leigh - North Leigh section to every 20 minutes. Sunday service withdrawn - the 23 & 23A on this day being replaced by an Essex County Council contract - see under Stephensons Coaches.

23B NEW SERVICE replacing part of 23: Leigh Station - Church - Elms - London Road - Eastwood Road - Blenheim Chase - Elmsleigh Drive - Coombes Cnr, thence as 29 to Eastwood, Belgrave Road. M-S hourly, off peak (limited service M-F evening peak); minibus operation.

65 Revised to operate: Southend CBS - Victoria Circus - London Road - North Road - West Road - Westborough Road - Inverness Ave - Fairfax Drive - Highfield Crescent - Prittlewell Chase (double run to Hospital) - Hobblythick Lane - Rochford Road - Eastwoodbury Crescent - Southend Airport. M-F off peak, hourly; minibus operation.

3B, 7B, 25, 61A withdrawn: 25 (which consisted of evening service only) largely replaced by ECC contract, operated by STL; 61A replaced by new EN 29A/29C.

Minor timetable revisions affected 1, 3 (one am jny withdrawn), 7, 9A, 29 (one Sunday jny wdrn), 63 and 64 (both - one Sat jny wdrn).

Further revisions due shortly are:

67 To be withdrawn for the winter after 12/9.

X19 From 18/9 to be renumbered 19 and to call at all bus stops.

614 Timetable revision due from 28/9 - this *could* be a reduction to hourly or complete withdrawal for the winter.

X1 From 1/11 the 0841 ex Hammersmith (M-F) and the 2310 ex Heathrow (daily) will start from Green Park and the 2030 ex Southend daily will terminate at Green Park. One revision already effective (from 31/8) on all London X services is that the stop at Poplar has been moved to All Saints DLR station, instead of the Blackwall Tunnel.

10B This ECC contract will last operate on 31/10 after which it will transfer to another operator (Southend Radio Cars?) with a 7 seater.

18 To be taken over (under contract to ECC) from 2/11 following expiry of Clintona's contract; minibus operation.

General

City Pacers: 401-3 were delivered in blue (a slightly different shade to normal) with a broad white area below the windows; immediately before general entry into service on 6/9 two red bands, fleetnames/crests and the brand name - *Sprite* - were added on the white. They have 25 bus seats, parcels rack and luggage pen, opening windows and are fitted with fully automatic gearboxes and with tachographs.

401 was the first to be licenced and was used from 15/8 for driver assessment/training; it unexpectedly entered service on Monday 24/8 on the X19 from South Woodham (due to all available double deckers being diverted to a rail emergency) but was not then used again until all three entered service on 6/9; on 5/9 403 was used for promotional work in central Southend. The vehicles were featured extensively in the local press prior to entering service.

Routes to be operated by the City Pacers are:

Mon - Fri/Sat (as appropriate):-

very early morning 4A, 8, 9A, 29

all day 4B, 12, 18 (from 2/11), 23/A/B, 65, 69

late evening 4A, 7, 9A, 16, 63

Sundays: 4A, 9A, 29 (2 cars), 63, 64

These duties are based on 6 minibuses being available; until 404-6 are delivered buses or coaches will be used instead (eg on 6/9 coaches were on 4A [213] & 29 [205, 341] - previously double deck routes). Due to the narrow roads used, 65 should always be minibus operated.

Some more news is to hand on the London RSL applications for routes 614/5/74 (see issue 279/10): the application for 674 (Baker St - Zoo) has been granted to STL but it is thought that it is not being operated. We have not yet seen any notification of the transfer of licences for 614/5. Culturebus 614 has local fares throughout its route, being mainly the standard LRT 35/50p one zone fares, except for longer journeys (up to £1-50).

The 8 continues to observe its revised route in Hawkwell/Hockley (see issue 280/10) but is disrupted by residents from time to time; the County Council has now bowed to pressure from car owning residents and has applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a 'Traffic Regulation Order' which would ban all psv's from all 4 roads involved in the rerouting.

Work undertaken at the STL works for other operators recently has included:

For Shamrock & Rambler: repaint of ex Yorkshire Rider Sherpa/Optare minibuses D705/6 HUA;

For Wealden Omnibuses (dealer): repaints and or repairs to DFS 811S (Seddon Pennine/Plaxton C49F, ex Kelvin Scottish), PGE 348P (Fleetline/Alexander H-/-F) and GJG 750D (Regent V/PRV);

For Bordacoach: repair/repaint of TUB 2M (Leopard/Plaxton coach);

For Frosts, Leigh: gearbox repair on EWW 207T (Leopard/Plaxton);

For Colchester Borough Tpt: accident repairs to 60 (JHK 500N);

and finally, repaint of the Southend playbus, CJN 436C.

Preserved ex Southend PD3 CJN 435C made its first rally appearance at Showbus on 6/9, where it won the award for the 'Best Preserved Double Decker - Modern Section' (the World Wide trophy) and had been featured, along with its owner, EBEG member Frank Spence, in the *Evening Echo* on

1/9. On the occasion of the open day at the Canvey Museum on 11/10, 335 will operate a free service numbered X91 to the open day, picking up only as follows:

Southend CBS 0900, STL garage, Plough, Chalkwell Park, Elms, Thames Drive (0917), Hadleigh Church, Victoria House, Benfleet Station (0930) & Canvey Village to Labworth Car Park and the Museum. 335, along with preserved 244 and 341, are expected to operate a free service linking the car park and museum.

Unusual Workings

Two major rail emergencies feature this month. On Saturday 22/8 flooding and landslips affected the line between Shenfield and Ipswich. Ten STL Fleetlines operated over the Colchester - Shenfield section, along with up to 7 Ensign DMS's. As noted under the Colchester notes, CBT were also heavily involved. On Monday 24/8 many double deckers were used to provide links between Liverpool St line stations and the LTS line after a cable fire at Bethnal Green. As a result a number of unusual workings were seen in Southend, viz: 401 - X19; 324 - 1 & 3A; 371 - 3A; 373 - 8; 208 - 63. A further rail working was on 25/8 when 233 operated on the Southminster branch.

Coaches on seafront route 67 - 206 (12/6), 351 (10/8) & 201 (21/8).

One or two comments should also be made on changes to scheduled workings: services 9A & 16 now have isolated crew duties which interwork with 1 or 3A; X3 seems to have reverted to coach operation on Saturdays; Sunday 64's had generally been coach operated prior to minibus conversion.

Publicity News

4 new items this month - all available from the Sub-Editor (SAE please):
 New timetable book, listing all commercial services, dated 6/9;
 single slip leaflet (100mm x 210mm) introducing Sprite;
 folded leaflet (100mm x 210mm) for service 65, featuring Sprite;
 as above format/size (in white/blue) for the X2.

Other publicity appears in issue 9 of the travel magazine *On The Move*, with STL inviting people to 'go topless in Southend' (!!!), as well as promoting the less controversial idea of a ride on Culturebus!

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

Firstly, thanks to various members for the excellent response to the appeal for information; thanks are also due this month to the County Planner for clarifying certain queries by the sub-editor.

CLINTONA, Brentwood: not previously recorded was that from 27/4 the 6 was retimed (M-S evenings) to leave Southend at xx00 and Kent Elms at xx40. M&P records that the 4B (a solitary 0840 Schooldays only ex Southend) is to be withdrawn after 8/9 - why? From 3/8 the 18 was retimed to be 5 minutes later ex Foulness (so that it runs behind EN's 4, not alongside); Clintona have lost the 18 contract after 31/10 when it goes over to STL. An interesting point on the 21/21A contract is that as well as specifying minimum seating (a standard condition) it also stipulates a maximum wheelbase (4.5 metres) and ~~max~~ seating - 30. Clintona's Sherpas now display neat and clear destination blinds - this operator sets high standards for destination displays on minibuses.

JACKSONS, Bicknacre: bodywork on Mercedes C678 KFW is advised as Coachcraft. Another coach seen on the 6 is OHO 197T, Ford R1114/Plaxton C53F. Crew changes from Bicknacre to Southend are done using Honda van B42 A00, neatly finished in Jacksons' colours.

M & E COACHES, Southend: ex UMBH Bedford NMJ 391P has been repainted into M&E's white/green colours. Fleetline/ECW TGM 229J is now in service on the free Rochford Leisure Bus contract service.

S & M COACHES, Benfleet: Bristol VRT TOE 438N has been repainted, unusually into coach colours of silver grey/green (buses are usually red/cream). ECC contract service 5A is still running to its original 3 journey timetable and will do so until 31/10, despite 2 journeys being duplicated by EN 27A since 29 March.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS: ECC contract 65A (Fambridge) will be withdrawn after 30/10. Contract 10B was slightly revised from 7/6 with the extension of the first and last journeys to Warners Bridge; at the same time the 12A at 1935 from Rochford was diverted via Ballards Gore rather than Ashington (renumbered 12??). We are informed that the Tuesday Rochford shopping services 66/69 (see issue 280/11) are a COMMERCIAL operation!, and that the 69 has been renumbered 66A.

STEPHENSONS COACHES, Southend: Ford A series NVD 429P is advised as having a Tricentrol body; it is now in an overall advert livery for Mr Gees newsagents, South Woodham Ferrers. A further ECC contract obtained from 6/9 is for Sunday services on the 23/23A, replacing STL on this day. In use on the first day was TUB 1M, Leopard/Plaxton C-F (orig. Wallace Arnold), repainted (by STL) into white with two olive bands and two orange bands, but with no fleetnames (except for Lidgey's Coaches - a former owner - on the rear!). This coach has destination gear below the windscreen, and makes occasional appearances on Southend XI.

THAMES WEALD: two commercial services to Southend started in July - Sevenoaks (dep 0830, arr 1930), Igtham, Borough Green, Wrotham, Maidstone, Rochester, Strood, Gravesend, Dartford, Aveley, Hornchurch, Romford, A127 (stops Laindon/Basildon/Rayleigh/Prittlewell) to Southend CBS (arr 1205, dep 1605); Wed & Fri from 8/7, and West Kingsdown (0830/1910), Wrotham, Borough Green, Maidstone, Rochester, Strood, Gravesend, Dartford, Socketts Heath, Basildon B/S (1057/1643), A127 (stops North Benfleet/Rayleigh/Prittlewell) to Southend CBS (1135/1605); Sats only from 25/7. Both operated by PKR 399W, a Dodge 50 with B27F body, usually to be found on layover in the former Victoria Bus Station. The services were prompted by the

withdrawal of EN's 402 and have fulfilled a 20 year old ambition on the part of the operator, frustrated in 1967 by the extension of the old ENOC 2 via the tunnel to Dartford.

VENTURER TRAVEL, Southend: the identity of this operator changed on 12/8 with the transfer of the operator's licence to a limited company, Venturer Coachways Ltd. LMA 59P, now repainted cream/regal red and fitted with destination gear by STL, has been transferred to the company, which continues to hire RFN 972G from Wealden Omnibuses, for hire on to STL.

NON PSV's IN SOUTH ESSEX: following the excellent members' response, we can start this month to list some of the non-psv's in the area:

BENDER SCHOOL OF MOTORING, Laindon: mainly white livery (except OCD - green); yard on Wrexham Road, Laindon (NOT accessible for photos). Fleet:

PHG 162E	Leyland	PD2A/27	East Lancs	H-/-F	Orig.	Burnley 262
HCD 347E	"	PD3/4	NCME	FH-/-F	"	Southdown 347
OCD 763G	Bristol	VRTSL6G	ECW	H-/-F	"	" 763
CHY 418C	"	FLF6G	"	"	"	Bristol 7200

LESNEY TOYS (Matchbox), Rochford: white livery with orange and red bands upswept at rear; factory on Ashingdon Rd, Rochford (NOT accessible at all!). FLF's used for staff bus work across south Essex; one Dodge is a standby vehicle and another is an im-mobile store-room. GPW 442D, HPW 450D, JPW 454D, KAH 463D, KAH 468D, KNG 471D - all Bristol FLF6G, ECW H38/32F, ex Eastern Counties FLF 442, etc. The Dodges are in the batch OMK 819-22R (823 already sold) and are Dodge Commando/Rootes Maidstone B41F.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, Foulness: a fleet of 10 vehicles are used for staff transport for the AWRE (Atomic Weapons Research Establishment)/P & EE (Proof & Experimental Establishment) - very definitely NOT accessible to anyone!! but are sometimes seen on public roads, eg around Shoebury.

MBL 941L	Bedford	YRQ	Willowbrook	B42D	Blue/grey
MBL 942L	"	"	"	"	"
MBL 943L	"	"	"	"	"
MBL 944L	"	"	"	"	"
ODU 253P	"	YLQ	Duple	C45F	Green/cream
DAU 970T	"	"	Plaxton	"	Green/red stripe
NRO 263V	"	YMQ	Duple	"	Red/white/black
FAK 322V	"	VAS5	Plaxton	C29F	White/blue/black
FAK 324V	"	YLQ	"	C45F	"
D726 SHK	"	CF2	Dormobile	12	Grey

To be continued next month.

FINALLY, to all those still waiting for an Essex County Council timetable for the Southend area, I quote an extract from a letter from the County Planner dated August 17:

"...(because of many changes due in September/October) and the fact that a considerable amount of staff time has already been spent in assembling copy, only to have the exercise aborted on 3 consecutive occasions, it has been decided that it will not be practicable for the County Council to proceed with production in the near future, and I regret that publication is therefore suspended indefinitely." (our emphasis).

OTHER OPERATORS - Rest of Essex

HEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES have been awarded the ECC contract to replace the withdrawn EN commercial journeys on the 79 with the same timetable commencing 27.7.87. Heddingham's own commercial part remains unaltered.

G.W.OSBORNE: The 06:55 service 1 from Tollesbury will be withdrawn on Saturdays along with the 08:00 Colchester to Layer after 26.9.87. The 18:20 Witham to Tollesbury service 3 will be withdrawn after 4.10.87.

WEBBS have aquired a former Lincoln City Transport Alexander V-type bodied Bristol RE bus, UVL 873M, for use on ECC contracts. The two ex-GMPTE Leyland Nationals appear to have been sold.

Further to Mr.David Stewarts letter last month, vehicles observed in use include West's E515 MME a 23 seat Reeve Burgess bodied Dodge on the 252/3/4, whilst another National, HHA 138L, has been bought for the 201/4. Cullinan are using two former Southdown Bristol RESL/Marshall's on the 249 under the fleet name OUT OF TOWN BUS. It is reported that Davian are using an ex-LT DMS on the Sunday T1/T5 contract in Harlow.

CHARTERCOACH & COASTAL RED FLEET LIST SEPT.87

OGT 329P	Leyland PSU5A/4R	Plaxton	C51F
GCJ 341X	Bova EL26/581	Bova	C53F
KNO 223V	DAF SB2300	Berkhof	C53F
ADV 159V	Volvo B10M-61	Padane	C49Ft
B44 EHR	MAN SR280	MAN	C53F
B915 CMR	MAN SR280	MAN	C53F
B571 AVW	Volvo B10MT	Berkhof	CH53/11F
C276 GVX	Scania K112TR	Berkhof	?
C589 KTW	Scania K112TR	Berkhof	?

The Scania 'deckers seat C76F but the split is not known. All the above are in the Chartercoach fleet, the following are all Coastal Red:-

CRU 141L	7	Bristol REL6G	ECW	B47D
EOF 246L		Daimler CRG6LX	Park Royal	H44/33F
EOF 275L		Daimler CRG6LX	Park Royal	H43/33F
NOB 331M		Daimler CRG6LX	Park Royal	H43/33F
ORP 462M		Leyland National 1151/1R		B49F
KNH 503N		Leyland National 11351/1R		B49F
GVV 888N		Leyland National 11351/1R		B49F
HNU 118N		Leyland PSU3B/4R	Duple	C47F
GOG 558N		Daimler CRG6LX	Park Royal	H43/33F
GOG 632N		Bristol VRT/SL2/6G	MCW	H43/33F
JOV 700P	}	Bristol VRT/SL2/6G	MCW	H43/33F
JOV 703P				
JOV 720P				
OEX 795W	1	Leyland PSU3E/4R	Willowbrook	C51F
JCL 812V	2			
JCL 813V	3			
JCL 807V	4			
OEX 800W	5	Leyland PSU3E/4R	Willowbrook	C51F
OEX 797W	6			

Apart from 1-7 no fleet numbers appear to be used.

Service news from Coastal Red is that revised timetables will apply on services 10, 40, 50A/B, 70, 70A & 80 from 8.9.87.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT MAGAZINE
TO REACH THE EDITOR OR SUB-EDITORS
BY OCTOBER 9th**