

ESSEX BUS NEWS

JULY 1996

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

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SOUTHEND TRANSPORT 902 F572SMG LEYLAND OLYMPIAN/ALEXANDER EX
LONDON AND COUNTRY AT SOUTHEND BUS STATION D Arnold.

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Editorial

MEADOWHALL 12th October.

A booking form is enclosed with issue EBN. Book early as demand for seats is high.

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The following Group publications are available,

ENOC and the AEC Regal 50p

The Campbells have gone, the story of Campbells Pitsea 75p

Fact File City Coach Co 25p

Fact File Westcliff on Sea 75p

Eastern National AEC Regent 1929-32 25p

These are reprints of older Group publication.

Ordes to P J Snell 6 Mandeville Way Benfleet SS74LH enclosing 12"X8""envelope.

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PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION.

Details in next EBN.

Contributions for this edition of EBN received.

EssexBuses.Eastern National & Thamesway,Southend Transport. County Bus.G Toon.

R Dennis. C Sigston. Essex County C.C..D Coulson.

Contributions for the August EBN should be with Sub Editors by 5th August and Managing Editor by 7th August.

6-6

Southend Transport

Vehicles:

LN 745 (PJI 3745) has returned to service, after repair.

Withdrawn...

LN 710 (JBO 352N) & LN 718 (GGE 161T)

Olympians 903/4 are operating in Guildford and West Surrey livery.

Other News:

During the end of June, it was announced that the Cowie Group had put in a bid to buy British Bus plc.

A member of the Cowie Group management have had a meeting with S.T staff and union, and have said that there will be no changes at present.

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Incorporating the EASTERN NATIONAL² ENTHUSIASTS GROUP formed in 1962

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Atlantean 72 (RFR 421P) has been withdrawn.

National 12 emerged from the paint shop on 14.5.96, in fleet livery, ex overall advertisement.

Several CBT buses have been repaired by Ipswich Buses. H123WFM was returned on 9.5.96. 104 was away from 9 to 14.5.96, 70 from 16 to 20.5.96, 19 from 19 to 30.5.96, 83 from 3 to 4.6.96, 67 from 4 to 5.6.96, and 87 from 13.6.96. Olympian 43 went to Duffields for a new engine and gear box on 28.5.96.

Southend Transport's coach 546 was borrowed from 13 to 16.5.96, and National 25 was loaned in exchange. Open-top 55 was hired to Stevensons of Southend on 27.5.96. ST's low-floor LSL001 arrived in Colchester on 1.6.96 and was returned the following day; 55 was loaned to ST in exchange.

Railway replacement services were operated under sub-contract to Capital City Bus on Docklands Light Railway on 9.5.96 (Olympians 41 and 43), on the evening of 10.5.96 (43), and on 20.5.96. On 26.5.96 Olympians 41, 45, 48 and 49 were used between Redbridge and Ilford, also for Capital City Bus, and coaches 100 and 103 were run between Ingatestone and Liverpool Street. The following day 100 and 104 were used in the same way. 41, 45, 48 and 49 were used between Shenfield and Southend on 2.6.96 for Capital City Bus, and on 9.6.96 ANs 89 and 90 were on DLR duty (ONs 45, 48 and 49 were on a staff outing to Chessington).

As usual, 55 went to the Derby on 8.6.96. LNC463 was at Southchurch Park on 2.6.96.

A ticket promotion for McDonalds stated on 3.6.96.

A fleet list has been published; copies can be obtained from Raymond Giles, CBT Limited, 38 Magdalen Street, on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope.



Eastern National

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

1894 BNO 684T Leyland National 11351A/1R B49F
3101 UAR 591W Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB ECW H43/31F

Both were ex Thamesway in 5/96.

Chassis/body numbers are 1839 - 04938 (EBN 385 refers) and 1894 - 05753. Both are being used for spares at Clacton.

Chassis number of 3101 is VRT/SL-3-2934, Body number is 24840.

ALLOCATIONS

5/96 2819 CR - CN; 3101 ACQD - POOL

REPAINTS

5/96 2655 3222

6/96 2621 2627 2628 2629 2630

2655 now carries a colour bus advert for Westwood & Clark, Ford dealers. This vehicle previously carried an advert for Carlton Garage.

GENERAL

The new Maldon outstation, located at Station Road opened during mid May. Mercedes minibuses 2228 and Thamesway 228 are in use as driver shuttles from the new site. Walton outstation closed at the end of May, with all operations now based at Clacton.

SERVICES

84 The 1745 ex Colchester (Mon to Fri) re-numbered 84B and operates to Hadleigh.

Further to the note in EBN 386, a number of services are still operated for Suffolk CC. Please refer to page 10 of the same issue. My apologies to EN and Suffolk CC for the incorrect information, and no thanks to the individual who supplied incorrect information. In addition services 166/7/8 and 757 were revised and are now operated by EN, Eastern Counties and Wayland Minibus Services.

PUBLICITY

Booklet for Excursions '96 from July to December.

Leaflet for Bus Excursions from Chelmsford and for Summertime Bus Specials from Holland/Clacton/Gt Clacton/Frating/Elmstead Market and Colchester.

INITIAL DISPOSALS

50 (B37 AAF) Africa Link Southern, Romford, 5/96.
1844 (WJN 564S) Hardwick, Carlton, 5/96.
1860 (YEV 318S) As 1844.
2207 (C207 HJN) As 50.
2249 (C231 HCV) As 50.
2276 (C200 PCD) As 50.
2277 (C204 PCD) As 50.
9012 (Q328 MNO) As 50.

As it's name suggests Africa Link is involved with the export of buses to Africa, so find your passport, for the next group tour!

HEDINGHAM

SERVICES

31 Tender surrendered. Operation has passed to Eastern National.
84 Withdrawn after 4.8.96.
175 Withdrawn after 12.7.96.
X15 Chappel to Cambridge service, re-introduced on Fridays from 24.5.96. to 6.9.96.

VEHICLES

Leyland Nationals L183/4/5 (CFM 345/7S and LMA 413T) have been sold to Northern Bus, Anston for further service. Ford L220 (DNK 413T) has passed to Claireaux, Hadleigh for scrap. Similar L239 (BCJ 733V) is still in use, but is for sale. Bristol VR SGR 780V is numbered L245, while similar APT 813W has not yet entered service and is not numbered at present.
Further VRs are expected, to replace the ex Blackpool Atlanteans. While popular with staff, it has been decided to remove highbridge vehicles from the fleet.
L242 was altered to C53F by the dealer, before delivery.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

A&M COACHES BASILDON LDV Sherpa 400 M757 BEW is now in use.
BERNARDS HARLOW Have acquired Leopard/Plaxton WJX 477V and ?/Plaxton RNH 784V.
BISS STANSTED A new Bova Futura N210 FWA has entered service.
BLUE TRIANGLE Service 204 withdrawn after 26.7.96.
CATTON HARLOW Further Ford Transits are E208 WKN and E677 VKP
CROWN COACHES THUNDERSLEY Services 104/5 had a revised route and timetable introduced from 8.7.96.
FORDS COACHES ALTHORNE The service from South Woodham to Chelmsford Riverside Leisure Centre will operate on Mon., Wed., and Fri., from 22.7.96. to 23.8.96.

GODWARD RAMSDEN HEATH Have acquired FIW 5447 (B498 CBD) a DAF/Jonckhree. Former Thamesway FDZ 984 Tiger/Duple is now in use with Tours R Us lettering.

HARRIS BUS Service 40 passes to Nelsons with effect from 29.7.96. with a revised timetable. A revised timetable will be introduced on service 500 from 3.9.96. Dennis Dart/UVG demonstrator N804 GRV was here in mid June. FNJ 993V a Beford/Duple of Fargo, Rayne was on loan from mid June.

HARRIS COACHES Scania/Van Hool K151 NDU was on loan from Luckett, Fareham during week commencing 17.6.96. to assist with Ascot week hires.

LONDON CENTRAL Service 702X from Elephant & Castle to Lakeside, will operate on wednesdays from 24.7.96. to 28.8.96 and on Wednesday and saturday from 12.10.96 to 4.1.97.

MASTER TRAVEL HERONGATE A new operator with K640 HNW a Mercedes minicoach ex Gatwick Flyer.

RONDA COACHES ROCHFORD The operating centre is now Woking Yacht Club, Rochehaal Way.

SEYMOUR HARLOW Have acquired Mazda minibus G635 MYC.

SM TRAVEL HARLOW A new Iveco/Marshall has entered service N622 HBY.

S&P ROCHFORD Have moved to Purdeys Timber, Purdeys Way. Bedford/Plaxton JKV 423V has been acquired as has VEJ 561V a ?/Duple.

WATSON TILBURY A Setra has been acquired and is now registered LIL 2184. This registration was on the former C103 CYE a Scania/Plaxton

WHIPPET COACHES Are operating Suffolk CC service 640 from Newmarket to Clacton on Sundays from 26.5.96. to 29.9.96.

WHM LITTLE WALTHAM Have sold Fleetline ULS 674T to Avon, Romford.

WILKINSON RAMSDEN HEATH Former Thamesway Tiger B336 BGL is now reistered IAZ 6393.

ESSEX SUNDAY SAVER

Please note the following changes to the Essex CC timetable book:-

31 now operated by Eastern National.

33/X Sunday Saver and Rover are now valid and can be purchased on this service.

67 0930 ex Southend starts from Rochford at 0915, the 1757 ex Leigh continues to Rochford.

84 service withdrawn after 4.8.96.

166/7/8; 724 and 757 revised timetables introduced.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



Yes -----some interesting news on the City Coach Company, no it is not to run again between London and Southend, but a City double decker is still at work, In a town called Beaufort South Carolina USA is a tourist bus which is no less than LD14 NVX311. From a photo I have it is almost the same as it left Eastern National in 1965.

I hope to get more details on this as I have obtained an address to which I can correspond.

PAUL SPARKS CLACTON COLUMN

The ex Thameway Bristol VR Fleet No. 3101, Registration No. UAR 591W has now been sent away for total reburbishment. It will then be painted into the current Eastern National livery and enter normal service.

As reported last month Bristol VR Fleet No. 3076, Registration No. KOO 794V has also been sent away for refurbishment. It has been sent to Marshalls of Cambridge and is believed to be the first Eastern National to be placed there..

Three Leyland Nationals are now wearing the new Eastern National livery. These are Fleet No.'s 1850, 1899, and 1924, Registration No.'s YEV 308S, DAR121T and JHJ 150V respectively.

Expected out of the paint shop at Clacton very soon now is Bristol VR, Fleet No.3222, Registration No. BEP 963V.

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CARTERS COLCHESTER (ESSEXBUS) OPERATES THIS EX LONDON BRISTOL LH
OJD84R.IT IS SEEN IN THE REVAMPED COLCHESTER BUS STATION.

G TOON.

County Bus

FLEET

Cowie Group buys British Bus

On Tuesday 18th June Cowie Group bought British Bus for £282 million. This includes the operations of Colchester Transport and Southend Transport in Essex and the other British Bus companies around the country. This makes the Cowie Group the third largest bus company in the UK with a market share of about 16%, it still lags behind Stagecoach and FirstBus.

The Serious Fraud Office has been investigating dealings between the Bank of Boston and British Bus's chairman. The matter is not expected to be taken any further. British Bus always stressed that it was not under investigation but the adverse publicity cast doubts on the company's plans to float on the Stock Market.

Vehicles on Hire

M175 (BYX 175V) has joined M170, M474, M782 at Grays.
M509 and M746 remain at Ware. All the above are on hire from Cowie Leaside.

Allocation Changes to 21 June 1996

AN 238	KPJ 238W	Grays to Delicensed at Stamford Hill
AN 244	KPJ 244W	Grays to Delicensed at Stamford Hill
M 175	BYX 175V	Cowie Leaside to Grays
M 46	D46 OKH	Ware to Delicensed at Harlow

SERVICES

25 May	H1/H2	Hertford Town services. Fore Street re-opens. Services revert to previous timetable and route.
30 May	379/ 395/ 724/ 311 Suns	379 Hertford - Stevenage, 395 Hertford & Ware local services, 724 Harlow - Heathrow Airport, 311 (Sundays only) Hertford - Enfield. Westbound buses out of Hertford re-routed via St Andrew Street instead of Gascoyne Way due to new road layout at Parliament Square preventing long vehicles turning left out of Fore Street.
16 June	363	Hammond Street - Waltham Cross/Tottenham Hale. Experimental service to operate on Sundays and Bank Holidays until 29 September 1996 between Tottenham Hale Station and Lee Valley Leisure Complex.
5 July	363	Last day of operation of morning peak extra between Lee Valley Leisure Complex and Hammond Street
12 July	507	Debden - Lakeside (1 journey Mondays to Fridays only). Last day of operation.
3 August	654	Hoddesdon - Loughton (1 journey Schooldays only). Sampsons ECC contract ceases.
	656	Ongar - Debden (1 journey Schooldays only). County Bus ECC contract ceases.
31 August	395	Revised and improved timetable. New low floor Dennis Darts introduced subject to availability.

MEDIA MONITOR

May 18th: Coach & Bus Week reports that a Dennis Dorchester/Plaxton 3000 belonging to Bordacoach was written off after intruders at the depot in Shotgate drove into a wall. It was used on their Cheshunt to Southend service which was suspended until a replacement had been hired in.

May 23rd: Four passengers one of whom was detained in hospital, were injured after a EN Mercedes 709 was badly damaged after being involved in a collision with a lorry in Park Road, Rivenhall, the previous afternoon. The driver was lucky to escape with only a cut head as a photograph shows that the front off side of the bus has the roof pushed down and the lower body work upwards.

June 7th: New traffic restrictions in Colchester will mean than only buses will be able to cross Southway from Butt Road to Headgate and turn right from Southway into Headgate. The latter is unusual in that it is not on any timetabled route and used only a few buses running dead or during road closures.

June 17th: Sickness and holidays results in EN being unable to operate some services in Colchester. A pregnant woman claims after waiting 50 minutes for a bus, gave up and walked.

June 18th: Essex Friends of the Earth call for bus drivers to be given mobile phones after their transport test the previous Sunday to travail from Colchester to Dunmow by public transport was delayed by two hours. The bus broke down and the bus driver had to go and find a phone.

July 2nd: Alarm as bus firm axes routes heads an item that reveals that as CBT service 9 is losing £20,000 per year it is being withdrawn. Alterations to services 1B and 2B will take in those parts of the route not covered by other services. The last evening services disappear with the 1 group finishing at 7pm. Other alterations include the renumbering of the 5A to 5 with all buses running via Home Farm. CBT Director Steve Salmon said £20,000 was quite substantial against a 1995 pre-tax profit of £302,000. The county council will decide if the services will be put out to tender.

July 3rd: A campaign is to be started to save CBT service 9 and evening buses. Various comments from readers appear including someone claiming that they will have to walk home from the University to Parsons Heath if evening services are withdrawn. Your correspondent is at a loss to understand why she is not a user of EN service 79 which runs directly between the two points.

July 5th: The County Councillor for Parsons Heath has called for a revamp of bus routes. CBT Manager Ray Giles said this would be a enormous task but any demand for a service along Harwich Road to High Woods would be picked up by examining passenger numbers once Service 9 had stopped.

All Items unless otherwise stated appeared in the Colchester Evening Gazette or Essex County Standard

Thamesway

Allocations 30.6.96

201 BN-BD, 204 BN-BD, 225 BN-BD, 227 BD-D/L(D), 229 BD-D/L(D), 236 BN-D/L(D), 238 BN-BD, 239 BN-D/L(D), 241 BN-BD, 243 BN-D/L(D), 244 BN-D/L(D).

Bristol VR trainer 9401 (UAR 591W) has been transferred to Eastern National and is being prepared for service numbered 3101.
Withdrawn minibus 228 (D228 PPU) is being used by Eastern National on crew transfer duties.

Repaints

For the fourth time in six years a new style of fleetname is being introduced. The FirstBus style of fleetname and logo (as above) is being utilised. The first vehicles were Dennis Darts 973-987, 1409 has the new name as does advert liveried 939

801/3/6/7 360/2/76/85/86/96 are all in the new livery.

Initial Disposals

31	D220 SKD	5.96 Africa Link (dlr), Romford
36	D507 FAE	5.96 Eastern Counties
37	D511 FAE	5.96 Africa Link (dlr), Romford
1840	WJN 560S	5.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
1847	YEV 305S	5.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
1908	DAR 130T	5.96 Hardwick(dlr), Carlton
1911	DAR 133T	5.96 Hardwick(dlr), Carlton
1912	DAR 134T	Hardwick (dlr), Carlton

Service Revisions

32/A/B	Minor timetable changes from 1st and 22nd April.
33/34	Services 33A, 34A/C journeys rerouted in Laindon via Cromer Avenue and other minor timetable changes from 1st April.
100	Minor changes to Saturday timetable from 1st April.
391	Minor timetable changes MOF from 3rd June whilst Sunday service re-introduced from 30th June. This updates all previous information Saturday service resumed on 4th May.
W11/12	From 22nd June, W11 (Walthamstow-Chingford Hall Estate) increased MOS daytime frequency from x13 to x10. Route W12 (Higham Hill-Walthamstow) introduced also evenings and Sundays.

Bus services in the Romford area are to be revised in the Autumn in line with the beginning of the new school year in September affecting LTB contracts. Service 193 between Hornchurch and Romford, route withdrawn from Hornchurch drive and operate instead on a Hail and Ride basis via Grosvenor Drive, Osborne Road, Brentwood Road to the present route at South Street. Extended from Romford Market to Oldchurch Hospital. Introduced over the whole route on Sundays for an experimental period. The present short journeys M-S between Romford and Hadton Lane withdrawn but frequencies increased.

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GUILD

THE PREWAR BRISTOL K5G continued.

Frank Monck has sent some interesting notes on Bristol K5Gs in the early 40s.

There appeared to be only six of this type in the Eastern Area,

3733 FPU513 Colchester.

3739-42 FPU519-22 Chelmsford.

3812 GTW893 Chelmsford.

Another six appeared albeit temporarily to cover vehicles damaged in the Chelmsford depot air raid

3743/4/3814 FPU523/GNO688/GTW895 from Bedford.

3734/46/7 FPU514/GNO690/1 from Luton.

These soon returned with exception of 3747 GNO691. Later 3737 FPU517 was known to have operated from Southend, but for how long is not known.

3751 GNO694 previously a Hitchen bus was operated in the Eastern Area in 1950 after a lot of work had been done on the body.

On page 44 VOL2 of the Years Between shows 3736 FPU516 at Clacton on the Walton service.

GRAYS DEPOT ALLOCATION 40s-early 50s from Bill White.

2537 TM2700 Leyland PLSC3	3485 AVW463 Dennis Lancet	3880 JTW235 Guy Arab
2541 VW4747 " "	3488 AVW466 " "	3881 JTW236 " "
2796 TM3882 " "	3511 BHK741 Leyland TD2	3882 JTW237 " "
2797 TM3871 " "	3615 DEV451 Bristol JO5G	3883 JTW238 " "
2801 VW7786 " "	3621 DEV457 " "	3884 JTW239 " "
2803 VW7347 " "	3628 DEV464 " "	3894 KNO597 Bristol K
2804 VW7345 " "	3631 DEV467 " "	3897 KNO600 " L
2805 TM3884 " "	3632 DEV468 " "	3898 KNO601 " "
2810 VW7645 " "	3679 FNO957 " "	3905 KNO608 " "
2823 VW8149 " "	3721 FNO794 " "	3906 KNO609 " "
2828 VW8635 " "	3722 FNO795 " "	3907 KNO610 " "
3016 VX4672 Leyland TD1	3874 HHT459 Bristol L	3919 KNO622 " "
3059 TM8731 Leyland PLSC3	3875 JTW146 Guy Arab	3927 LPU617 Bedford OB
3420 AEV790 Dennis Lancet	3876 JTW147 " "	3929 LPU619 " "
3479 AVW457 " "	3877 JTW148 " "	3948 MPU9 Bristol K
3481 AVW459 " "	3878 JTW233 " "	4033 ONO54 " "
3482 AVW460 " "	3879 JTW234 " "	4050 ONO71 " "

The Guys arrived in wartime grey with the upper deck rear windows pannelled over. 3016/3511 were transferred from Southend.

3511 I was close by when the front nearside wheel went on ahead of the rest of the bus finishing up knocking on the door of the little grocers shop in Southend Road, no injuries, just a gouged patch in the road.

3897/8 First new saloons after the war, evaluated at Chelmsford as usual practice. (3896/3899 delivered to Bedford also). 3897/8 transferred to Grays later making their allocation six of these.

EASTERN



NATIONAL

&

Bristol & Greyhound

**EXPRESS
COACH
SERVICE**

**SUMMER
1967**

(21st May to 14th October)



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