EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

NEWS SHEET NUMBER 109 — April 1973

EDITORIAL

Production of news sheet

We are pleased to announce that this is the first completely Group produced news sheet. The stencils have been prepared by the Secretary (as indeed they have been since November 1972) and for the first time they have been duplicated on the Groups recently acquired duplicator. This new system of independent news sheet production should reduce costs and also speed up production allowing the news sheet to become even more current.

Group Membership

The Groups 200th member was enrolled recently. He is Mr. M. R. Bunn of Cambridge.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

1706	WN0555L	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00457	Leyland National	B50F*
1709	WN0558L	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00460	Leyland National	B50F*
1710	WN0559L	Leyland National	1151/1R/0401	00461	Leyland National	B50F*

Delivery dates: 1706 - 3.73, 1709 - 3.73, 1711 - 3.73

The Leyland Nationals do not display the fleet number over the fuel filler cap. Other new vehicles delivered in the N.B.C. livery such as the Bristol VRT's 3024-6 (WN0544-6L) have fleet numbers in this position in standard N.B.C. grey lettering.

The Leyland Nationals in service at Chelmsford are employed mainly on local services (particularly the 41 group) and also on certain country services such as the 351.

Delivery of 449-51 (XO0879-81L) is still awaited, production of Group publication E.P.1 is being withheld until these vehicles are delivered.

Withdrawn Vehicles

3.73 — 1248 (PHN 858), 2405 (XVX 28), 2406 (XVX 29), 2427 (561 CTW), 2429 (563 CTW), 2439 (974 DHK)

2405 (XVX 28) was the first double deck vehicle to be numbered in the new series commenced in 1954 when it carried the number 1436. The only vehicles now left in the fleet with Essex C.C. registrations in the original forward series are the open-top vehicles. (WNO ...)

Rebuilt Vehicles

4.73 — 2601 (186 XNO) to LD38/32FD and renumbered 2933.
2609 (KNO950C) to LD38/32FD and renumbered 2941.

2601 (186 XNO) is the vehicle depicted on the Groups headed notepaper.

Details are now to hand concerning the appearance of 2936 (RWC 607) which was completed last month. The vehicle is of course in N.B.C. livery, it retains the coach style ventilators in the windows and the rear upstairs window, the emergency exit, is still only half as deep as normal. (This window was of this design due to the high backed seats used on the dual purpose double deckers). The chrome lining out strips below the windows have been retained and left unpainted and hence the vehicles are easily recognised. Fleetnumbers are carried at present in the form of yellow transfers on maroon plates.

No more conversions of semi-automatic Bristol FLF's to O.M.O. have been completed

In future such conversions will not be performed at Central Works but will instead be carried out at the works of Marshalls of Cambridge.

Allocations & Transfers

4.73 410-CF, 425-BD, 428-CN, 429-CF, 432-SD, 433-SD, 1333-CR, 1334-SD, 1406-SD, 1531-BD, 1550-BN, 1551-BN, 1701-CF, 1703-CF, 1704-CF, 1705-CF, 1706-D/L, 1707-CF, 1708-D/L, 1709-D/L, 1710-D/L, 1711-CF, 2383-BD, 2433-D/L(D), 2434-D/L(D), 2435-D/L(D), 2438-D/L(D), 2442-D/L(D), 2443-D/L(D), 2446-D/L, 2447-SD, 2448-SD, 2454-D/L, 2456-D/L, 2479-D/L, 2600-D/L, 2708-SD, 2709-HH, 2805-HH, 2811-SD, 2898-CY, 2927-D/L, 2936-BN.

For the first time on record, Basildon (BN) had 100 vehicles allocated in April.

Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

3A To operate via Central Wall Road, Somnes Avenue, Link Road and Maple Way, Canvey.

5A To operate from Canvey (Leigh Beck) to Hadleigh (Church) only and to be diverted via Link Road, Canvey as service 27.

11A Service to be withdrawn.

15A To be re-routed in Basildon via Whitmore Way (not via Craylands and Broadmayne) and to be extended to the new Basildon Hospital. New Sunday service to be introduced between Eastwood (Eastwood Rise, Oakwood) and Basildon Hospital.

27 To be extended from South Benfleet (Tarpots Corner) to Hadleigh (Church) via High Road, Kents Hill Road, London Road, Kiln Road and London Road.

28 To operate as Canvey (Leigh Beck), Point Road, High Street, Knightswick Road, Central Wall Road, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Road, Ferry Road to South Benfleet (Rail Station).

106/121 Service to Little Clacton (Edward Terrace) on service 121 to be transferred to service 106.

152 Certain journeys to be extended on Sundays to the new Basildon Hospital.

234/5 To be extended to the new Basildon Hospital.

The revisions detailed above for services 15A, 152, 234/5 became effective on 1.4.73

The revisions to services 233, 254/5 (see NS108) came into operation on 25.2.73, other dates of introduction are 106A (see NS106) on 4.3.73 and the 75/76 group (see NS 106 & 107) and 87/A (see NS106) both on 1.4.73.

In addition, the Sunday service on service 85 which is operated exclusively by W. Norfolk & Sons was withdrawn from Sunday 4.3.73.

Some applications for revisions to services of other operators bordering the Eastern National area have recently been applied for and are of interest, these are as follows :

Maidstone & District Motor Services have applied to extend their express service E24 from Camber to Leyton (Bickley Road) from its present Leyton terminal to Wood Green (Eastern National Depot) via Lea Bridge Road, Upper Clapton, Stamford Hill (Grey Green Coach Station), Tottenham Hale, West Green Road, and Turnpike Lane (London Transport Bus Station).

London Country Bus Services Ltd. have applied to extend Green Line service 720 from its present terminal at Bishops Stortford to Stansted Airport.

General

The most significant item of news this month is that as from 1.4.73 the Eastern National Omnibus Co. Ltd. and Tillings Travel (N.B.C.) Ltd. become separate entities from one another. Eastern National will continue to operate from

Chelmsford bit Tillings Travel have been amalgamated with A. Timpson & Sons, Catford and with the Samuelson New Transport Co. Ltd., London to form the Central Activities Group of the National Bus Company. Although it is not known at present what the new Group will involve their will no longer be any administrative links between Tillings Travel and Eastern National, although it is anticipated that Tillings will rely on Eastern National for assistance with servicing etc. for some time in the future.

West Mersea outstation (WM) closed on 31.3.73, and as a result does not appear on the allocation sheet for 4.73. In order to operate the services to Mersea Island exclusively from Colchester garage revised services were introduced on the 75/76 group of services from 1.4.73. (q.v.)

In view of the popularity of the John Player Sunday Cricket League a number of excursions have been arranged by Eastern National for the coming season. These are detailed in a special leaflet which also gives a fixture list for Essex County Cricket Club.

The Bristol FLF's which were transferred to Alexander (Midland) in 1971 are in the process of having their destination blinds altered to the standard S.B.G. six-sided design. The first vehicle to be traated was observed in Larbert (Falkirk) workshops in early April, this was MRD 196 (RVW392D). Other Bristol FLF's acquired in exchange forBristol VRT's by the Scottish Bus Group from English Companies are also having their destination blinds altered in a similar way.

The Bristol open-top vehicles are currently in Prittlewell works in the process of being prepared for the coming season. Details of the new livery of these vehicles would be welcomed.

TILLINGS TRAVEL (N.B.C.) LTD.

Editorial Note - We will continue to cover Tillings Travel at present under their former title. When it is clear as to the new designation of the operator, a decision will be made as to whether coverage will be continued or terminated.

Vehicles on Loan

Full details of the vehicles on loan from Samuelsons are as follows :

SGF482L	Bristol RELH6L	4/326	Plaxton	713371	C51F
SGF483L	Bristol RELH6L	4/327	Plaxton	713372	C51F

Samuelsons have also acquired SGF484/5L (ex. 37/8 WTN) but these have not yey been loaned to Tillings.

Also on loan in 4.73 was :

WJ0480K	Ford Transit	BC05LL 50414	Strachan	C B16F	13978	(1972)

This vehicle arrived at Prittlewell in a gold and white livery and later appeared in full "National" coach livery with Tillings fleetnames in red and Tillings legal lettering. This vehicle is owned by Strachans and was previously loaned to City of Oxford (hence the Oxford registration) for a special dial-a-ride service. Presumably this vehicle will be used for small private hire operations or possibly for the proposed Victoria Rail Station - Victoria Coach Station shuttle service.

General

As recorded above under Eastern National notes, Tillings Travel have now become a separate entity from Eastern National from 1.4.73. It is not clear at present what the new set-up is to be or where the Head Office etc. is to be. Further details will be given as soon as they are available. In the meantime, please report any unusual event occurring at Prittlewell,

It has been reported that the new coaches at Prittlewell are equipped with coach destination blinds incorporating white lettering on a blue background as opposed to the green background employed previously.

It seems possible that the former Southdown coaches may not be transferred to Black

and White after all. Some of the vehicles were inspected at Cheltenham but they were subsequently returned, apparently due to the type of seats that were fitted. After having the seating moquette re-trimmed the vehicles were placed in store at Chelmsford and also at Timpsons garage at Crayford.

Subsequently on 19.4.73 four of the vehicles were collected by Grey-Green and they are at present operating on hire to that Company, since delivery of new Bedford YRQ's with Plaxton bodywork ordered by Grey Green has been delayed. The former Southdrawn vehicles are painted white and have "National" fleetnames including the double "N" symbols. They have Tillings legal lettering and Black & White fleetnames on the illuminated panels above the boot doors. 8740 CD has subsequently had Grey Green fleetnames applied to the rear illuminated panel and also to the front of the vehicle.

It is now possible to see a vehicle operating the East Anglian express service for Grey Green, which is painted white, has a National fleetname and also bearing the fleetname Black & White on the rear. A very mixed assortment of colours and names and all a little confusing to the intending coach passenger !

IPSWICH CORPORATION

Withdrawn Vehicles

12.72	2 (ADX 2)	
3.73	15 (CDX 515)	16 (CDX 516)

SOUTHEND CORPORATION

General

209 (GJN509D) has had its entrance and exit doors painted all cream as on the Daimler Fleetlines, previously its doors were painted cream above and blue below.

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4/73
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