

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the *EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP*)

MAY 1988

ISSUE No. 290



One of the three Setra S228DT Imperial double-deck coaches in the Voyage National fleet is 8922 NZ 59. New in 1985, it was photographed recently in London.
(DAVE ARNOLD)

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to Ian Ransom and his wife Sally, who were married on Saturday, 7th May. Ian will be returning to edit the June magazine, and all contributions (except for Southend area notes) should be sent to Ian (address below) to arrive by June 10th.

ROCHFORD MEETING

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14th at the Freight House, Rochford, which is adjacent to Rochford Station. Commencing at 7.30pm (for 8.00pm), this meeting will feature the Groups Annual Photographic Competition. All members and friends are invited to attend this meeting and full details of the competition were published in last months magazine. You are invited to submit your entries by post (with a SEA for return) to Peter Snell, or at the start of the meeting.

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It is nearly 18 months since I last edited the Group's news sheet and as 'caretaker' editor for this issue I hope that members will find the articles and news of interest. My apologies for the slight delay in your receipt of the magazine, due to business commitments. This month we include an analysis of Eastern National fleet allocations in April 1968, April 1978 and April 1988, prepared by Ian Ransom. It is remarkable to see the various changes that have occurred during the past twenty years, particularly with the reduction in the size of the double-deck fleet.

DEREK STEBBING

NEW BOOKS

London Bus Handbook - Part 1 (published by Capital Transport) - £5.95 + 50p postage.
 Docklands Light Railway Handbook (published by Capital Transport)

- £3.95 + 50p postage.

The Routemaster Outside London (published by Autobus Review Publications)

- £4.95 + 50p postage.

The above books are all available from Andy Meadows (address on front cover), and members are also reminded that the new books listed in last month's magazine continue to be available.

XVX 26 - THE CONTINUING STORY

Following last month's news item regarding the former Chelmsford playbus, ex Eastern National Bristol LD6B XVX 26, members may be interested to know that the bus was also scheduled to appear at the Europower Truck Festival, being held at North Weald Aerodrome on 21st/22nd May. The bus will be driven by American stunt driver, Mr Bobby Ore, who hopes to repeat his stunt of driving the bus on two wheels. This was achieved at Brands Hatch on April 10th, when Bobby Ore drove XVX 26 on two wheels for some 90 feet, to earn himself a place in the Guinness Book of Records. A superb photograph of this amazing feat was published in the Times on April 11th. It is understood that the vehicle is now scheduled to pass to Top Deck Travel later in the year, to join their growing collection of former E.N. vehicles.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Member Geoff Toon has a number of railway station name signs dating from the 1950's available for sale. These are for Witham, Marks Tey and Clacton stations, and if any member is interested could they write to him (enclosing a SAE) at 30 Wavell Avenue, Colchester, Essex. CO2 7HR.

POSTCODES

Membership renewal forms are enclosed with this month's magazine for all members whose subscription expires at the end of June. It would help complete our membership records if the following members could supply details of their Postcode when renewing their subscriptions :-

Membership Nos. 194, 298, 322, 324, 481 and 534.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDVehicle Re-allocations

5/88 1052 Pool - PD; 1054 PD - CR; 1119 BS - CF; 1655 Pool - D/L(D);
 1656 CF - D/L(D); 1704 WN - CR; 1712 Pool - MN; 1714 BN - BE - D/L(D);
 1790 CR - DT; 1862 SE - BE; 1865 BN - SE; 1866 CN - DT; 1872 BE - CN;
 1874 CF - BN; 1901 DT - CF; 3020 SE - Pool;
 3022 DT - Driver Training (and now numbered 9005); 3036 SD - Pool;
 3040 MN - SE; 3050 CR - WN; 3059 SD - BE; 3084 SE - SD; 4006 CF - SE;
 4013 SE - CF.

It has subsequently been reported that 1655 has not been delicensed for disposal, but is now in use at Walthamstow (WW) following accident damage to 1858.

Leyland National's 1656 and 1714 are currently stored at Chelmsford (CF), and one unconfirmed report has suggested that the vehicles may be sold to Hastings & District Transport Ltd. Leyland Olympian 4013 has been re-allocated to CF (in exchange for 4006) for use on commuter service 192. It has replaced 4511, which sustained accident damage recently and which is now under repair at Eastern National Engineering.

General

The main news this month is that Silver End depot is to close in August. Duties will be transferred to Braintree (BE) and Colchester (CR). The actual date of closure is not yet known. The management staff at Clacton have recently moved into the offices at the former Coastal Red depot at Telford Road in Clacton. The premises are now known as Coatline House, and the transfer took effect from April 12th. It is intended that the vehicles and other staff will be transferred from the Castle Road depot during the late summer, following the completion of conversion work.

The proposed development of a new depot at Braintree (BE) has been postponed for the time being. However, it is understood that the company is continuing to consider possible alternative sites for this depot as a longer term project.

The Essex Radio Bristol VRT 3084 was used by Hadleigh (HH) depot for a sponsored 'bus pull' on Sunday, May 1st between Shoebury common and Southend Pier. 3085 (HH) was also present as a back-up vehicle. With the exception of vehicles used on LRT services, Eastern National buses became a 'Smokeless Zone' from April 24th. As a double blow to smokers, some day return fares were increased on the same date. From March 1st, the company launched a scheme in the Clacton, Frinton and Walton areas where passengers could obtain stamps from 30 local shops for free bus travel. One stamp is obtained for every £5 worth of goods purchased from participating shops. A special service was operated between Chelmsford Bus Station and New Hall School, Boreham on April 14th - 16th in connection with an exhibition being held at the school. The vehicle used was a Ford Transit mini-bus.

Repaints

Official information regarding recent vehicle repaints is unfortunately still unavailable. However, the following additional vehicles have recently been noted at Basildon (BN) as being repainted, viz :- 1746, 1820, 1878, 1886, 1896, 1898 and 1906. The following vehicles (in order) have been repainted at Eastern National Engineering during recent weeks, but precise details of the dates are awaited, viz :- 1846 (advert removed), 1939, 1824, 1937, 1912, 4005 (overall advertisement livery for Essex County Cricket Club), 0231 (overall advertisement livery for Eddy Grimstead), 1924 (overall advertisement livery for Quest Motors), 3089, 1119 (dual-purpose livery), 1869 (grey base livery for forthcoming overall advertisement). A full list of vehicles in advertising liveries is published on page 7 of this magazine. As a correction to magazine No. 286, 4008 received a partial repaint only.

Service Developments

London Regional Transport have recently announced proposals for a revised network of services in the Walthamstow area, which will effect services 20, 167 and 206 currently being operated by Eastern National. Service 20 will be effected by various timetable revisions, whilst service 167 will operate between Debden Station and Ilford, with the section of route between Debden and Loughton Station being replaced by new local mini-bus services 204 and 205. Service 206 will be withdrawn, to be replaced by three new mini-bus services, W12 (Walthamstow-Wanstead), W13 (Woodford Wells-Leytonstone Station) and W14 (Claybury Hospital-Leytonstone Station). It is understood that the company will be tendering for these three new routes.

The company will be resuming operations of its Summer season Highwayman services from Saturday May 28th, and details of the routes to be operated are as follows :-

- 804 Southend-Norwich (Saturdays 28th May-24th September, Tuesdays and Fridays 5th July-16th September) (SD depot)
- 805 Southend-Great Yarmouth/Hemsby (Saturdays 28th May-24th September being extended to Hemsby from 28th May to 25th June and on 24th September) (CF depot)
- 806 Basildon-Hemsby (Saturdays 2nd July-17th September) (MN depot)
- 809 Basildon-Southend/Southend-Clacton/Harwich (Saturdays 2nd July-17th September) (BS depot)
- 814 Braintree-Basildon/824 Basildon-Hastings (Saturdays 28th May-24th September) (BE depot)
- 815 Southend-Basildon/825 Basildon-Bognor Regis/Southsea (Saturdays 28th May-24th September, being extended to Southsea from 28th May-25th June and on 24th September) (BN or HH depot)
- 816 Southend-Basildon via Rochford/826 Basildon-Southsea (Saturdays 2nd July-17th September) (BN or HH depot)
- 817 Clacton-Basildon/827 Basildon-Bournemouth (Saturdays 28th May-24th September) (CN and BE depots)
- 819 Bishops Stortford-Basildon (Saturdays 2nd July-17th September) (BS depot, and inter-worked with service 809)

The depots scheduled to operate these services are still subject to final confirmation.

Operation of services 220, 221 and 222 in the Brentwood area has mainly been taken over by mini-buses with effect from April 11th. Ford Transits/Dormobile vehicles 0754-6 have been allocated to Bentwood (BD) depot for these services.

The company has published details of its proposed open-top services in the Clacton area during the Summer months. The services will operate daily from Saturday 28th May to Saturday 10th September, with no operations on Wednesday, 1st June (Derby Day). Services 100 and 200 will operate between Highfields Holiday Park and St. Osyth Beach via Clacton on an hourly basis, whilst service 300 will operate between Highfields Holiday Park and Jaywick Sands (Meadoway) also on an hourly basis. Additional service 300 journeys will operate between Holland-on-Sea (The Haven) and Jaywick Sands from June 26th to September 10th. Service 300 will be operated by the Bristol KSW open-top vehicles, and both 2383 and 2384 will be certified for PSV operation this year to operate this service.

New service 500 commenced on Weekdays from April 11th. It operates between Basildon (Bus Station) and Laindon (Newlands End), and is being marketed as the 'Shoppa bus' service.

EASTERN NATIONAL ALLOCATIONS 1968/78/88

The following list details the size of the fleet reduction that has taken place over the past twenty years.

APRIL 1968				APRIL 1978				APRIL 1988					
DD	SD	CO	TOT	DD	SD	CO	TOT	DD	SD	CO	MINI	TOT	
BD	35	12	2	49	5	31	0	36	5	15	0	24	44
BE	26	7	2	35	12	11	0	23	7	15	3	0	25
BN	65	20	5	90	33	41	0	74	9	55	0	0	64
BS	8	11	2	21	4	8	0	12	1	17	0	0	18
CF	62	11	7	80	37	37	0	74	15	39	2	4	60
CN	22	20	6	48	13	20	2*	35	5	8	2	19	34
CR	32	9	3	44	12	23	0	35	13	14	0	0	27
CY	6	1	0	7	6	5	0	11	-	-	-	-	-
DT	-	-	-	-	3	7	0	10	4	4	1	0	9
DW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	0	1
HD	9	9	1	19	4	4	0	8	-	-	-	-	-
HH	37	0	0	37	20	12	0	32	4	32	0	0	36
KN	17	4	0	21	0	0	28*	28	-	-	-	-	-
MN	13	10	2	25	7	13	0	20	7	13	0	0	20
PD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	6	0	0	29
SD	84	9	11	104	50	23	12*	85	33	22	1	0	56
SE	-	-	-	-	5	8	0	13	6	7	0	0	13
SW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	0	2
WG	10	0	0	10	9	0	0	9	-	-	-	-	-
WN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	0	5	7
WW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	15	0	0	33
D/L(D)	-	-	-	-	5	3	0	8	0	0	0	1	1
POOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	0	0	8
D/L	21	4	40	65	7	1	0	8	-	-	-	-	-
447 127 81 655				232 247 42* 521				156 269 9 53 487					

* National Travel (South East) vehicles allocated to ENOC depots.

Notes

- A) 1968 totals include Harlow 5v. ex BS, Dunmow 1v. ex CF, West Mersea 4v. ex CR, Walton 4v. ex CN and Harwich 10v. ex Clacton.
 B) 1978 totals include Dunmow 1v. ex CF and Walton 5v. ex Clacton.
 C) 1978 totals for Central Works Docking Spares (10v.) included as CF., whilst Prittlewell Docking Spares (7v.) included as SD.
 D) Depots now closed are CY- Canvey, HD- Halstead, KN- Kelvedon, and WG- Wood Green.
 E) 1968 totals do not include the Tillings fleet, which consisted of 18 vehicles of which 3 were D/L.

VEHICLE ANALYSIS

1968

KSW/ECW	70	SB8/DUP	2
LD/ECW	137	SB13/DUP	6
LDLX/ECW	1	COM/YEA	1
FS/ECW	2	RE/DUPN	4
FLF/ECW	227	LS/ECW	3
GUY/NCME	2	MW/ECW	50
GUY/MASY	8	RE/ECW	15
	447		81
LS/ECW	26		
MW/ECW	97		
RE/ECW	4		

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COM= COMMER
 YEA= YEATES
 DUPN= DUPE NORTHERN

1978

FD/DUP	5
LH/ECW	4
MW/ECW	34
RE/ECW	58
L NAT	146
	247
KSW/ECW	4
FLF/ECW	161
VR/ECW	67
	232

1988

ON/ECW B	22	MERC	45
ON/ECW C	13	FORD	8
VR/ECW	119		53
KSW/ECW	2		
	156		
L NAT	240		
BED/WS	9		
TIG/ALEX	18		
FEUGOT	2		
	269		
TIG/PN	6		
LEP/ECW	3		
	9		

EASTERN NATIONAL/GREY GREEN COMMUTER SERVICES

Details of changes to 'commuter services on 4.1.88 which were never published are :-

- 190 Colchester to London withdrawn.
- 192 Cut back to Patching Hall Lane and rerouted to serve Chelmsford Bus Stn.
- 193 Cut back to Chelmer Village.
- 195 Revised to Start from Coggeshall Rd, Braintree but following complaints from Tye Green commuters this section of the route was reinstated.
- 197 Cut back to Halstead.
- 204 Later journey from and to Tiptree cut back to Heybridge.

As members will be aware the London services of Tellyn were taken over with effect from 1st February 1988 which led to a number of revisions being made to London commuter services.

- 190 NEW SERVICE. Witham - Colchester - London. 2 journeys both GG operated with one serving Ingatestone.
- 191 Revised to operate Colchester - London via Kelvedon and Witham but no longer serves Chelmsford. One journey GG operated.
- 192 Revised to start from Chelmer village in morning and extended to Witham in the evening. One journey with CF 4511 the normal vehicle.
- 193 Revised to start and finish Silver End and is once again EN operated, with SE 1123 the normal vehicle.
- 194 Unchanged with one journey GG operated and one EN operated by one of Braintrees Leopards.
- 195 Revised to start and finish at Tye Green using a Braintree Leopard.
- 194/5 Revised duty for BE 4512 which runs to London as a 195 returning as service 194 and extended from and to Silver End on both journeys.
- 196 Unchanged with the third Braintree Leopard being the normal vehicle.
- 197 Return journey converted to Grey Green double decker operation.
- 198 Morning journey converted to Grey Green double decker and rerouted via Mansion House.
- 199 Unchanged with Grey Green operating the one vehicle.
- 204 Last journey from London extended to Colchester and together with the 1645 ex London diverted to serve Wood St, Chelmsford. Three journeys all GG operated.
- 205 Unchanged with one GG operated journey.

The above gives a total vehicle requirement of 17 vehicles, 11 of which are GG and 6 Eastern National. All services now also call to Temple. Many thanks to the Grey Green Enthusiasts Club, whose notes were used in confirming the above details.

COASTAL RED - ACQUIRED VEHICLES

Following the recent take-over of Chartercoach's 'Coastal Reds' operations, a number of vehicles from the former Coastal Red fleet have recently been sold. On May 7th five vehicles (four double-deckers and a Leyland National) were noted on the A1 near Peterborough heading North. On the following day, the only vehicle still evident at Clacton (CN) depot was Daimler Fleetline EOF 246L, which had latterly been stored at Walton (WN) with similar vehicle NOB 331M. The remains of Bristol RESL OTF 360K were still present at the Telfords Road site on May 8th. On May 16th, the two vehicles latterly stored at Silver End (SE), Bristol VRT's JOV 703P and JOV 720P are also reported as being removed whilst similar vehicle GOG 632N which had been used as a driver-training vehicle was removed from the New Writtle Street yard by May 18th. Details of these withdrawals will be published as soon as they become available. It would appear that the double-deck vehicles noted on the A1 on May 7th comprised Daimler Fleetline's EOF 275L, NOB 331M and GOG 558N and Bristol VRT JOV 700P. Finally despite their demise, Coastal Red continue to make the local news headlines, as Chartercoach (Harwich) Ltd, were recently fined £750 with £20 costs by Clacton Magistrates for running a Coastal Red vehicle prior to the take-over with a defective rear offside tyre.

OVERALL ADVERTISEMENT LIVERIES

The following vehicles are currently painted in advertisement liveries.
A = All over advert, U = Unibus.

VEHICLE TYPE ADVERTISING

BD 0201	A	Debenhams, Romford
WN 0224	A	Motor World, Clacton
BD 0231	A	Eddy Grimstead
BS 1111	A	Service 333
BS 1739	U	John Whalley, Bishops Stortford
BN 1742	A	Allen of Romford
SD 1787	A	Vernon Collard, Rayleigh
BN 1830	A	SMAC Continental
SD 1837	A	Yettons, Battlesbridge
BD 1839	U	Laidlaws, Brentwood
CF 1860	A	Trimco, Chelmsford (new advertisement livery expected shortly)
BE 1863	A	Glasswells, Braintree
HH 1864	A	SMAC Group, Westcliffe
BN 1865	A	BBC Essex
CN 1866	A	BBC Essex
CF 1867	A	Riverside Leisure Centre
HH 1869	A	Fairfield of Leigh (advertisement now being removed)
MN 1873	A	Meridian Windows, Maldon
CF 1899	A	Mid Essex Health Authority
BD 1913	A	Lancaster Garages
BS 1914	U	Chantry Garages, Bishops Stortford
CF 1917	A	Springfield Motors, Chelmsford
CR 1923	A	Lancaster Garages, Colchester
BE 1924	A	Quest Motors, Braintree
CF 3082	A	Eastern National Engineering
CF 3083	A	Bolingbroke & Wenley
SE 3084	A	Essex Radio
CF 3112	A	Jones of Chelmsford
CR 3127	A	Debenhams, Colchester
CR 4003	A	Colchester Fuel Injectors
CF 4005	A	Essex County Cricket Club
SD 4011	A	Interlink

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

The sighting reported in April's edition of 3111 CF working an ASDA contract service in Wickford may not have been an unusual working, as Chelmsford (CF) depot now operate this contract on Fridays in the South Woodham to Stock direction, via Wickford and Billericay.

Details of recent unusual workings are as follows :-

- 4.4 SW 1931 on service 119.
- 11.4 CF 1775 on service 11A, BD 1859 on service 251.
- 16.4 HH 1713 on service 11A.
- 23.4 SD 4021 on service 400.
- 27.4 1122 (with no depot allocation plates) noted on service in Colchester.
- 2.5 BE 4017 on service 451.
- 4.5 Pool 1655 on services 6/6A in Colchester, CN 1756 on service 74A, a morning duty normally operated by a mini-bus.

Publicity

The following new publicity material has recently been published :-

- Excursion Leaflets - A leaflet with details of Early and Mid-Summer excursions from the Chelmsford and Maldon area.
- Highwayman Leaflets - Timetable leaflets for services 824 and 825 (both dated May 28th).
- Timetable Leaflets - Leaflets for services 9 (Southend area dated 7.9.88 but printed in February 1988), 12 (Clacton area) dated February 29th, 20/22 (showing the timetable between Rayleigh and Hullbridge, undated but published in April), 87/87A/101/102/103/104 (dated 28th February), 250 (dated 10th April), 251/551 (dated 11th April), 400 (dated 10th April), 500 (dated 11th April) and X41 (dated 5th April). A leaflet showing bus times between Benfleet and Canvey Island was also published in April.
- General - Revised Basildon Faircard leaflet (dated 21st February). Two leaflets with details of bus and coach hire from Chelmsford and Maldon.
- Essex County Council Leaflets - A timetable leaflet for service 312 between Braintree and Broomfield Hospital (operated by Fargo Coachlines) dated 2nd November 1987.

VISITORS TO EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERING - April 1988

Basildon District Council Playbus	TGX 841M
Chartercoach	WPH 133Y
East Midlands	UTU 979R (504)
Hampshire Bus	3362, 3387, 3444, 3623, 9084 (Q910 FRU)
London Country South West	C141 SPB (BTL 41)
Luton Bus	VVV 951W (951)
Metrobus	UWW 16X
Essex County Council	SVV 274K
Wests	HHA 138L, HVF 538L

ESSEX SUNDAY SAVER TICKETS

For members who may be interested in using the Essex Sunday Saver ticket, member John Rugg has supplied details of an itinerary that he followed on Sunday 24th commencing at Basildon).

Depart From	Service	Arrive At	Vehicle
08.39 Basildon Bus Station	152	09.25 Chelmsford Bus Stn.	EN 1898 (BN)
09.32 Chelmsford Bus Station	451	10.06 Braintree Bus Park	EN 1827 (CF)
10.15 Braintree Bus Park	631	11.46 Duxford	Heddingham GVV 894T
12.13 Duxford	631	12.37 Saffron Walden	Heddingham GVV 894T
13.05 Saffron Walden	601	14.55 Colchester	Colchester 101
15.05 Colchester	170	15.45 Braintree	EN 4007 (DT)
15.50 Braintree	622	16.18 Gt. Yeldham	*BT RT 2799
16.27 Gt. Yeldham	622	18.10 Harlow	*BT RT 2799
18.37 Harlow	500	19.31 Romford	London Buses LS 86
19.33 Romford	400	19.53 Laindon	EN 4020

*BT = Blue Triangle (Commercial service fare £1.70 single)

EASTERN NATIONAL - SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS

0600 (C600 NPU) CLARIFICATION : Blackwall, Abbess Roding, 9/87 (a PSV operator)

0603 (C603 NPU) Alpine, Llanwrst, 11/87

0604 (C604 NPU) Hoban, Workington, 12/87

1207 (BNC 693T) Went to Wilde, Clowns in 6/87 (correction to Mag. 287).

1300 (XHK 213X) Now now C49F with Hills, Tredegar

1301 (XHX 214X) " " " " " "

1419 (CSV 618) Disposal should read Frampton, Hillingdon (correction to Mag. 283)

1547 (SWV 275K) Withdrawn by Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 712, 1/88, maliciously destroyed.

1600	(B457 WHJ)	Numbered	1457	by Alder Valley	<u>South</u> , Aldershot.
1601	(B458 WHJ)	"	1458	" " " "	" "
1602	(B459 WHJ)	"	1459	" " " "	" "
1603	(B460 WHJ)	"	1460	" " " "	" "

1651 (KCG 608L) Amberley, Pudsey by 12/87 ex Martin (dealer), Middlewich

2804 (BVX 680B) Exported to USA 1/88, ex Ireland (dealer), Hull (addnl. to Mag. 288)

2920 (AEV 814F) Noted parked at rear of Bedford U.C.O.C. garage 3/88, still in Mirror Fun Bus livery.

3002 (CPU 981G) (dealer), Middlewich 9/87

3004 (CPU 983G) for disposal please see Mag. 283 recorded as 9004

3018 (SMS 44H) Boardman & Wilson, Eccles 11/87 ex Martin (dealer), Middlewich

3024 (WNO 544L) Lightfoot, Windsford by 10/87 ex Martin (dealer), Middlewich

3035 (NPU 982M) Jones, Bontnewydd, -?- ex Martin (dealer), Middlewich.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Two more minibuses were evaluated in April 1988. E567 ANE, a Dodge with a B25F Northern Counties body, was given fleet number D22 and used for a week, starting on 13.4.88. The following week it was the turn of E425 XKU, a Reeves Burgess Beaver B25F, which was numbered D23. The vehicles were both used on services 3, 13 and 31. RE 23 (OWC 723M) had its radio and tachograph removed at the beginning of April 1988 (it was the only CBT RE to have had a tachograph) and followed 18, 20, 25 and 26 to Newcastle Busways on 28.4.88, leaving only 16 and 22, both of which are expected to remain in use until the two Olympians on order arrive in the summer. The two REs and Lynx 32 were used to carry boat passengers between ferry and the terminal at Parkeston Quay on 3.5.88.

Lynx 33 was involved in a collision with an Eastern National Olympian from DT in Colchester Bus Station on 10.4.88 and was still out of use at the end of the month. 37 was damaged while on a railway replacement service at Harwich on 23.4.88, but was back on the road by 29.4.88.

After the accident in March 1988, Olympian 44 was off the road throughout April 1988. After three month's absence, Atlantean 79 was returned to service on 18.4.88, but 75 failed on the same date and was still out of use, along with 63, 71, 77, 78 and 81 at the end of the month.

Lynxes 35 and 36 were used on service 601 on 3.4.88 and 35 was also used on 2.5.88. Other unusual workings included Lynx 36 on service 1/1A on 18.4.88, Olympians 41 on 2/2A/2B on 18.4.88 and 43 on 6/6A on 14.4.88 and Atlantean 53 on 2/2A/2B on 5.4.88. The ex-Manchester Atlantean, number 54 (XJA 517L) is usually to be seen on the workings on services 2/2A/2B, 5A or 9/9A that are otherwise operated by the N registered Atlanteans 55 to 60, but it strayed onto services 1/1A on 21.4.88, 8 on 11.4.88 and 6/6A on 9, 18 and 19.4.88.

A new timetable leaflet for service 74A dated April 1988 has been published updating the information about EN services 74/78, although the CBT timings have not been changed since 27.10.86.

As mentioned last month, the Harwich branch railway line was closed at weekends from 9.4.88 to 1.5.88. CBT operated a replacement service between Harwich and Manningtree, using five buses on Saturdays and four on Sundays (mostly Lynxes, but some Atlanteans), and a boat train substitute to Liverpool Street, using two Tigers and a Leopard on the Saturdays and the two Tigers on the Sundays. The Sunday morning railway replacement service between Colchester and Shenfield, which uses 19 buses, finished on 15.5.88. The railway work, service 601 and some private hire work resulted in 30 buses being used on Sunday, 17.4.88.

Further news of the Bristol RELL's recently sold to Newcastle Busways is that 20 (OWC 720M) went to Newcastle on March 1st/2nd, with the journey taking two days due to a breakdown, not to the bus but to the breakdown lorry. Similar vehicle 23 (OWC 723M) was delivered to Newcastle on April 28th and on a visit to Byker works on May 7th the following vehicles were noted being overhauled and prepared for service were 18, 23, 25 and 26. 20 (OWC 720M) was parked outside the works, with rear-end accident damage and awaiting a decision as to its future.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to May 8.

Vehicles

MODIFIED: 307 (Q476 MEV) returned to service on 15/4 as an overall advert for Perrys (Ford dealers); it is basically white.

WITHDRAWALS/DISPOSALS:

342 (YWW 359S) was finally withdrawn on 22/4 } 289/5
 352 (DAX 452V) was finally withdrawn on 11/4 } refers
 313 (GHV 106N) was **reinstated** to the active fleet on 6/5 and is currently being overhauled. Thus all DMS's (except 318, which has been scrapped) are now back in the active fleet.

INITIAL DISPOSALS:

331 (XWX 166S) Millman, Warrington
 342 (YWW 359S) Summerbee Coaches (of ??)
 345 (CWW 191T) Stanley Hughes, dealer (delivered on 7/4)
 346 (XWX 186S) Stanley Hughes, dealer
 348 (CDU 798T) Chartercoach, Harwich
 352 (DAX 452V) Kirkby Kingsforth, dealer (delivered 14/4)
 357 (YDW 317T) Kirkby Kingsforth, dealer (delivered 17/3)

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

382/4 (GHJ 382/4L) passed from Buffalo Travel, Flitwick to Spence (dealer), Thorpe Bay; the shell of 382 is being used as a store at S&M Coaches yard at One Tree Hill; 384 will pass to S&M Coaches for service.

ON HIRE:

To Stephenson's Coaches, Southend: the long term hires ended in mid April, with the return of 207 (on April 11?) and of 404 (April 13).

Services

London services: the cuts from 3/4 proved a little too drastic, with some peak journeys reinstated, as follows:

from 7/4 X41 am - 2 additional journeys Vange - Green Park
 pm - 2 additional journeys Embankment - Vange
 from 14/4 X31 pm - 1st jny extended back from Dagenham to Aldgate
 X41 pm - one of the previous week's addnl jnys withdrawn and replaced by a later Embankment - Basildon jny

General

Former Engineering Director Chris Hilditch finally left Southend at the end of April to take up his new appointment as General Manager of Midland Red North; Chris was a good friend to the Group and we wish him well in his new post.

Some more news is now to hand about the 5 coaches sold to Busways:

201 Now in Blue Bus Services livery, numbered 1832, Slatyford depot;
 202 Favourite Services livery, 1833, outstationed at Hetton Le Hole;
 321 Armstrong Galley livery, numbered 71, Byker depot;
 322 City Busways livery, 1872; noted 7/5 in Byker Works minus seats;
 326 Blue Bus Services livery, 1834, nominally allocated to Slatyford but outstationed at a driver's house. Fitted with number blinds.

As a result of the visit to Rayleigh by the Princess Royal (Princess Anne) on April 27, certain services of STL and EN were subject to major diversions, basically similar to those which applied to last summer's bike race (see 280/10); STL 7 and 8 were however diverted via Hambro Hill and Downhall Road to reach Rayleigh Station. Due to the 12' bridge in Hambro Hill, the diversion was covered by Optares 401/2 working a shuttle service, to connect with the Fleetlines on the through service.

Further to last month's notes, Setright ticket machines were also taken out of use on crew operated services from early April, being replaced by Almexes. Thus, for the first time since February 1971, STL are using only one type of ticketing system for on-bus ticket sales. Two person operation, confined mainly to service 1, is gradually declining on STL as no new conductors are being recruited.

Work performed by the Engineering Department for other operators during April included engine repairs to London Buses LS470 and accident repair to Fleetline JDB 108N of Len Wright's London Buslines fleet.

A special 'Seasider' day return fare of £3 has been introduced on X1, available from stops Aldgate to Rainham inclusive, after 0900, towards Southend only; the normal day return fare is £4 - £4.80.

Publicity News

More items this month, most available from the Sub Editor (SAE please):

- i) New free timetable book, blue cover, dated 18/4/88. This includes the 67, despite their stated intention NOT to operate the service!
- ii) Errata sheets for the timetable book, covering 1A & X31, and 23/B.
- iii) A5 leaflets for the London service changes from 7/4 and from 14/4.
- iv) A5 leaflet advertising the special X1 'Seasider' day return fares.

OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

District Bus (Tomlin), Wickford: a second commercial operation, numbered 104, Fryerns to Basildon Bus Station (half hourly, M-S) began on May 3. A second bus has been acquired - fuller details next month.

Stephensons, Southend: See under Southend Transport re hires. More news is now to hand on the service change noted last month. Basically, the present schooldays only service from Hullbridge has been augmented by a peak hour operation to Rayleigh Station and High Street, running quarter hourly M-F between 0610 & 0810 (ex Hullbridge) and between 1643 & 1843 (ex Rayleigh), using 2 MAN coaches. It appears that the morning service is numbered 22A and the evening 22C. Fares are well below the equivalent EN scales for the 9, 20 & 22 and as a result EN have reduced their fares - on peak hour journeys ONLY - to undercut Stephensons, and have introduced a 70p day return. Contract news is that Stephensons are now operating the last round trip from Southend to Chelmsford on Sundays on the 11A, previously an EN commercial operation. The start date for the contract is not known yet.

Smiths-Shearings: not exactly a local operator!, but they outstation a coach in Southend Seaway most nights on National Holidays work. The local press report that a Volvo/Van Hool, D615 MVR, was stolen from the coach park on the night of 9/4; we do not know if it has been recovered.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

CEDRIC, WIVENHOE Have a Mercedes 811/Optare Starrider with coach seats registered E199 UWT.

CHAMBERS, BURES Have a Leyland Lynx with Cummins engine and ZF gearbox registered E 87 KGV.

CHARTERCOACH, GT OAKLEY Have acquired from Ensign, Purfleet the following:-

CDU 798T	Ex Southend 348
HBP 331X	" Kentish Bus 222
HBP 332X	" " " 223
WPH 131Y	" " " 230
WPH 132Y	" " " 234
WPH 133Y	" " " 231
JMB 332T	" Crossville Wales CLL 332
JXI 9141	" Hamilton Services
BSG 551W	" Eastern Scottish

HNU 118N has remained in Chartercoach possession following the recent takeover of Coastal Red by Eastern National. Ex Coastal Red Leopard JCL 812V was hired from Eastern National for use on DFDS work on the 12.3. C589 KTW has been sold to Kings Ferry. Have taken over the Malbus service from Webbs. The coach used is WGR 66R.

FORDS, ALTHORNE

HARRIS BUS, GRAYS Have a Scania 78 seat decker which is being used on service 383 from West Thurrock to Chadwell. Two 25 seat MCW Metro Riders have been delivered for service 389 (Averley-Basildon) won on tender from Essex County Council after being withdrawn by L.C.N.E. Also two Leyland Swifts with Wadham Stringer Vanguard II 38 seat bodywork have been ordered for June.

HEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES The Double-Deck fleet will be reduced from 9 to 5 by the withdrawal of L97/L119/L120/L127/L128 all sold to Ensign, Purfleet in part exchange for NCD 553M Ex Southdown 553 (numbered L147) and WPH 135Y Ex Kentish Bus 233 (numbered L148). Also the Eighth and Ex-SWT Bedfords should now be in service. This is L146 FCY 285W, a Bedford YMQ with Duple DP45F bodywork. L74 has been resealed with bus seats Ex D.P. seats. L147 has Entered service in Green and White livery.

NELSONS, WICKFORD

Further to NS 288/12 BIL 6538 was formerly registered GNT 842V. POD 826N is now Yellow (NIBS). WHW 380H is Orange/White (NBC DP style). TUO 261J is in NBC Green. BIL 6538 is in an all over advertisement livery for the ICS History of Jaguar Motor Museum at Maldon which it acquired whilst with Gullen, Maldon before passing back to Nelson.

OSBORNES,**TOLLESBURY**

Have acquired C101 AFY a Volvo B10M/Plaxton Paramount 3500 C49FT C49FT and is fleet No. 55. Sold is No. 55 DCK 968Y which went to Arlington's in part exchange. The two Bristol LH's LJT 939P and HJT 34N are now with Trimdon Motor Services.

SAMPSONS

New vehicles E564/5 BNK Volvo B10M(automatic)/Plaxton Derwent 3000 B45F finished in a new all White livery with Red 'SAMBUS' fleet names. Four more Volvo's are due, 2 in the Summer for service 317 and 2 more in the Autumn. An Ex GMB fleetname is currently in service in full GMB livery (YNA---M).

Contributions to this months magazine were received from A G Osborne, D Arnold, P Harvey, W Morrison, P W Harvey, M J Brown, R Delatey, M Bullock, P Halls, M McCabe, A Rook, A Meadows, F Spence, J Rugg, G G Toon and the Chief Engineer of Busways Travel Services Ltd. Last months credits should have included P Halls, and our apologies for that omission.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE TO RICHARD DELAHOY (SOUTHEND NOTES) OR IAN RANSOM (OTHER NOTES) BY 10TH JUNE