

EDITORIAL

1978 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions are in many cases due on 1 January 1978 and those wishing to renew for a further year should do so as soon as possible. The annual rates of subscriptions to apply from 1 January 1978 will be £1. 35 (second class postage) and £1. 70 (first class postage). The increase of 10p in the first class subscription rate is to reinstate the administrative surcharge which had been lost. Subscriptions are accepted for one year only. Remittances may be paid by either of the following methods :

1. By crossed postal order or cheque, made payable to the 'Eastern National Enthusiasts Group'.

2. In cash at the Annual General Meeting. (see below)

If you require to commence/continue to receive copies of the 'Southend Busman' please indicate as such with your subscriptions, no indication will imply termination. (see also below) Receipts will not be issued unless specifically asked for, and only if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

This new sheet being the last before the festive season, the committee would like to convey to all members the Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for 1978. We would also like to thank everyone for their interest in the Group, especially those who have assisted in its running and/or who have sent in news sheet reports.

Annual General Meeting

The Groups thirteenth A.G.M. will be held at Seven Kings Baptist Church Hall, Farley Drive (formerly Cambridge Drive), Seven Kings on Saturday 21 January 1978 commencing at 1515 (doors open at 1430). There will be a sales stand at the meeting and refreshments will be provided. A copy of the Annual Report for 1977 has been circulated with this news sheet and the committee will welcome members questions and suggestions at this meeting, so please come along.

Committee Membership

In accordance with the tenth A.G.M. we hereby invite applications for the post of third committee member, which may be held by any fully subscribed member of the Group. The position will be decided by ballot at the A.G.M. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, the closing date will be 10 January 1978.

The 'Southend Busman'

The 'Southend Busman' is an additional news sheet publication produced and edited by our Southend Area Representative, Peter Snell. It gives details of the local independent operators in the Southend area and also additional local notes about Eastern National and Southend Transport (hired vehicles, unusual route workings etc). Coverage is also extended to the operations of the Anglian Division of National Travel (South East). Those members who would like to be included in the circulation of this publication should contact the Secretary. The 'Southend Busman' may be sent to any member (whether resident in the Southend area or not). It is published bi-monthly and is circulated gratis with the main Group news sheet. Some back numbers are available and these may be obtained from the Secretary. (please enclose 12p for return postage if you require back numbers)

Essex County Council Publications

Another timetable booklet has recently been issued by the Essex County Council (see also NS160), this is for the Braintree, Dunmow, Witham and Halstead area. Copies are available from Essex County Council, Planning Department, County Hall, CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 1LF (price 20p, post free). Further timetables planned for this series are for Chelmsford/Malden, Epping/Harlow and Brentwood/Basildon/Thurrock areas.

Copies of the three timetable booklets issued to date by Essex County Council will be available at the A.G.M.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.New Vehicles

Delivery of 1832/3 (VAR898/9S) is expected before the end of the year, these vehicles will complete the 1977 Eastern National order.

A further nine Leyland Nationals, these being a diverted order from East Kent, are expected in January 1978. These vehicles are additional to the 1977 order and will be numbered 1838 - 1846. Accordingly, the 26 Leyland Nationals expected under the 1978 programme will now be numbered 1847 - 1872. (see also NS160)

Withdrawn Vehicles

11.77 1356 (MOO 177) 2715 (95 TVX)

These vehicles have been transferred to the service vehicle fleet. (q.v.)

Re-built/Re-seated Vehicles

12.77 2807 (BVX683B) to FLF6G

Service VehiclesAcquired Vehicles

9001	MOO 177	Bristol MW6G	195.112	E.C.W.	Driver Training Vehicle
9007	95 TVX	Bristol FLF6G	169.040	E.C.W.	Driver Training Vehicle

These vehicles were new in 1962 and 1960 respectively and have body numbers 12628 and 11741, they were previously 1356 and 2715 in the passenger fleet. The transfer was effective from 1 December 1977.

Allocations & Transfers

12.77 0538-D/L(D), 0539-D/L(D), 0882-D/L(D), 0976-D/L(D), 9001-CF, 9007-BD.

The operational fleet of driver training vehicles is now 9001 - 7.

0538 (538 HVX) and 0976 (976 DHK) were added to the December 1977 allocation, having been omitted from earlier issues. They were added so as to confirm that the vehicles are still owned.

Allocations & Transfers

12.77 1339-D/L(D), 1352-D/L(D), 1416-D/L(D), 1514-BN, 1600-D/L(D), 1611-D/L(D), 1704-BN, 1823-BD, 1824-CF(CWDS), 1825-CN, 2741-CF, 2749-BN, 2752-BN, 2762-D/L(D), 3005-D/L.

All the 1600 class coach-saloon Bristol RELH conversions are now on the disposal list, only 1608-10 (GVW978-80H) remain in service.

Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

- 30 Terminal at Leaden Roading to be re-defined as Leaden Close.
- 71 NEW SERVICE : HALSTEAD (Old Rail Station) - Earls Colne - Coggeshall - KELVEDON (Railway Tavern). (Thursday only)
- 323 Tuesday journeys operating between Halstead and Colne Engaine to be extended to Pebmarsh (Cross End).

General

Certain vehicles owned by Alder Valley (The Thames Valley and Aldershot Omnibus Co. Ltd.) have been undergoing maintainance at Eastern National premises. A Bristol FLF, thought to be 648 (DRX120C) and a Bristol VRT, 935 (MPM390P), have been noted to date. Both vehicles were initially observed at Central Works, Chelmsford. The Bristol VRT has now moved to Braintree where it awaits a new gearbox. Maintainance of Alder Valley vehicles is also being undertaken at Chelmsford (Duke Street). More reports please !

It has been reported that Bristol FLF 2712 (92 TVX) has been used in service at Braintree, operating without fleetnumber plates.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORTVehicle on Demonstration

XCW955R Leyland National 11351A/1R 04118 Leyland National B49F

On demonstration from 28 November. This vehicle was also on trial earlier in the year. (see NS156)

General

Arrangements for services to be operated over the Christmas and New Year holiday periods are as follows :

25 - 27 December : no service 1/2 January : Sunday service

SOUTHEND TRANSPORTVehicles on Order

It is reported that the order for 10 Leyland Fleetlines has been reduced to 6.

General

Arrangements for services over the Christmas holiday period are as follows :

Christmas Day - December 25

Special service on route 400 only, as operated in 1976.

Boxing Day - December 26

Special services on routes 1, 3, 4A, 7, 29 and 400 only.

Routes 1, 3, 7 and 29 will operate every hour, routes 4A and 400 will operate every 2 hours.

27 December

Special services on routes 1, 3, 4A, 6, 7, 8, 11, 17, 22, 23A, 24, 25A, 27, 29 251 and 400 only.

Services operated will be the same as operated on 26 December 1976, except that route 23 will not operate and route 23A will operate every hour with revised timings. The last return journey on route 400 will not operate, the last journeys for 1977 being 1800 ex. Southend and 2030 ex. Kings Cross.

On 26/27 December service 400 will be operated in conjunction with the Ensign Bus Company Ltd. We understand that Southend Transport vehicles will be used but will be operated on certain journeys by members of Ensign staff.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS (Continued from NS164)

2416 (208 BPU)	-	Seen South London, 4/77, owner unknown.
2421 (213 BPU)	-	Broken up by Jamieson, Dunscoft.
2433 (968 DHK)	-	Breaker, Barnsley, 7/77.
2707 (87 TVX)	-	Breaker, Barnsley, 2/77.
2719 (99 TVX)	-	Breaker, Barnsley, 2/77.
2736 (183 XNO)	-	Castlepoint Bus Co., (Smith & May), Benfleet, by 6/77.
2746 (E00 588)	-	Ford, Althorne, 3/77.
2763 (RWC 605)	-	Exported to U.S.A., 5/77.
2934 (185 XNO)	-	Exported to Belgium, 6/77.
0048 (48 PPU)	-	Breaker, Carlton, 9/77.
405 (AVX966B)	-	Sold by Black Prince, Morley, 9/77.
1312 (207 MHK)	-	Dealer, 9/77, ex. Nelson, Wickford.
1329 (1267 EV)	-	Scout Group near Bristol (N-PSV), 8/77.
1355 (MOO 176)	-	Stella Maris Coaches, Horden, 8/77.
2402 (XVX 27)	-	Anderson, Iver (N-PSV), 6/73.
2411 (XVX 30)	-	Anderson, Iver (N-PSV), 3/73; dealer, Rotherham, by 9/77.

TO BE CONTINUED (When space permits)