

ESSEX BUS NEWS

JULY 1992

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

339



SUMMERS HERE! Former Eastern National Bristol KSW WNO 484 will once again see use with South Wales this summer. It is seen in St Helens Road Swansea on 21.6.92. on service 2, although its expected to be used on service 71 during the summer.

B Gilbert

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ROCHFORD METINGS

The following dates have been booked for the next Rochford meetings 3rd September and 15th October. These meetings will be held as usual at The Freight House which is adjacent to Rochford Station. Further details will be given next month.

GROUP COACH TOUR TO EASTBOURNE AND HASTINGS

Arrangements are now in hand for a Group tour to Eastbourne and Hastings on Saturday 26th September 1992. Our coach will be a high specification vehicle of Harris Coaches. Subject to final confirmation, we shall be visiting the depots of Eastbourne Buses Ltd., Hastings and District (now part of Stagecoach South) and Metrobus at Green Street Green. Time will also be allowed to view the Southdown operations at Cavendish Place.

Pick up points for this tour will be Lakeside, Rayleigh, Wickford, Basildon, Shenfield, Brentwood, Romford, Newbury Park, Redbridge and Barking. Our coach will return to Rayleigh by 1830. The fare for this tour is likely to be eight pounds, which represents excellent value for money.

We are anticipating a heavy demand for places on this tour. You can make a preliminary seat reservation by writing to Andy Meadows at the address on the cover, stating how many seats you wish to reserve. Your seats will then be guaranteed. Please remember to enclose a SAE for confirmation of your reservation. There is no need to send any money at this stage.

The normal booking form will be enclosed with the August magazine.

We look forward to seeing you on 26th September- in the meantime, keep that date free and reserve your seats NOW!

AVON TOUR REPORT- 27th JUNE 1992

Some 40 members and friends boarded a luxuriously-appointed DAF/Van Hool of Harris of Grays for the Group tour to Avon. After pick ups in Essex, we were soon cruising along the M11 past Countys Debden outstation towards the M25, Slough and the M4. By arrangement with the Met Office, the weather was hot and sunny ensuring that our two Rapide style stewardesses (Derek Stebbing and Dave Arnold) were kept busy serving hot and cold refreshments.

Two "no-show" passengers and summer traffic jams resulted in a slight delay in reaching Badgerline's Kensington (Bath) depot, where Chris Carr, Marketing Director, welcomed us and provided a useful pack of maps etc. A variety of Badgerline stock, including an ex Thamesway VR and an open-topper were soon moved for the waiting cameras. Much spare stock was out on special Glastonbury festival services, but as we had all left our paisley bell-bottoms and beads at home, a detour was not thought feasible. A Minilink liveried sedan chair, lurking in one corner of the shed was presumably a last-resort relier for this service, on account of its limited bodywork layout, (OB1C).

Onwards to Bristol where, after a short tour round some back

streets and two looks at a large roundabout, Crown Coaches depot was reached, with an ex Thamesdown Fleetline and an ex SWT Leopard in evidence. Here, as on the 1983 South Wales tour, we transferred to a Crown Vehicle, (an ex LCBS/Badgerline VR), although this time the transfer was entirely scheduled and not as a result of the DAF springing a leak! Soon-to-be redeveloped Marlborough Street Bus Station was as busy as ever, and more Thamesway VRs, in a variety of liveries (Badgerline, Eastern National, Badgerline undercoat) were presented for snapping. Other attractions included a National Express liveried Sherpa, a white Lynx 2, an Arrowline National, a Silverwing Sherpa and for some a swift half at a nearby hostelry. Next stop: Bristol Citylines Lawrence Hill depot where smartly-turned-out Lynx and Olympians, a line up of past their sell-by date Nationals and a sister ex LCBS VR still with Badgerline awaited us, as well as a miscellany of vehicles visiting the adjacent Volvo-Leyland depot. To make members feel more at home an Eastern National Alexander bodied Tiger under accident repair was noted in part of the workshops.

Back on the DAF, we headed for Weston, where our first visit was to Bakers, whose mainly blue livery certainly made the best impression of the day. VRs ex West Midlands, United and Crossville and ex-Barton Bedfords were duly extracted for the battery of cameras.

Proceeding down an abandoned, (in 1884), railway trackbed, (not a lot of people knew that, but inevitably Richard Huggins did), we finally reached Badgerlines modern Weston depot, to be greeted once again by Chris Carr and also by Trevor Smallwood, Badgerline Group Chairman and Managing Director. Without further ado, they both set to and positioned Volvos, Mercedes, a Starrider, plus veteran Atlantean, 8604. A visiting Midland Red West coach was also moved for good measure. Meanwhile, an ad-hoc visit was arranged to nearby Coombes Travel, where former EN Bedford 1208 was spotted. Unfortunately, as the Coombes MD was unavailable to shift it for the cameras, we had to make do with one of their drivers doing the honours.

As a finale, Derek Stebbing thanked Trevor Smallwood and his staff for their warm welcome and presented him with a framed copy of an early ENOC timetable cover, (of the map type), as a memento of the occasion, and as a reminder of where obscure Essex towns like Southend are!

Our thanks go to Trevor Smallwood, Chris Carr and their staff, the staff of Bakers and Crown, our three professional drivers, Gareth Morgan for the supply of local maps and local knowledge, Paul Harvey, the Hon "Movements Officer" for the day and the organisers Derek Stebbing, Andy Meadows and Dave Arnold. Altogether an excellent start to the new tours programme.

David Harman

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Group has received a request for details of a vehicle that has recently been acquired for preservation. The vehicle is an Austin 500 series single-deck bus, with a petrol engine, and

Mulliner B33F bodywork. The vehicle's registration number is 969 VVX, and it is believed that the bus may have first been used by Essex County Council. Very little is known about the vehicle's previous history, and if any member can provide any details about this bus could they please write to the Magazine Editor, Ian Ransom, who will pass the information on to the owner.

BRISTOL KSWs

Both WNO 479 and WNO 480 were present at the Derby this year and if members would like a print of them side by side or on the road (both in shot) please write to Mr J Bath, 16 Ruskin Drive, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8LG enclosing a sae.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Allocation Changes

6/92 3054 CN-D/L(D); 3069 MN-CN

Location Of Disposal Vehicles

With reference to this months allocation list, all D/L(D) vehicles are at the rear of Clacton depot, except 1764 which is being used for spares at Chelmsford.

Unusual Workings

25/6 BS4016 on service 333 (normally LN operated).
26/6 CF3077 on service 59 (noted on 1030 from Chelmsford and is thought to be the first VR used by BS on a Chelmsford service since losing 3039 and 3114 in 1986).

Pool 1824 was noted in use from Colchester during Mid to late June.

General

Revised fares were introduced on most services with effect from 6.7.92.

Services

7/A Minor changes to schools journeys from 6.7.92.
20 Additional journey 1800 ex Harwich, 1815 ex Dovercourt from 3.8.92.
21 With effect from 27.7.92. all Mon to Sat evening journeys operated under contract to ECC pass to Freemans, except the 1930 ex Deanery Gardens and the 2000 ex Notley.
22A/B Revised route and services introduced from 22.6.92.
76 From 18.7.92. the Saturday am journey is retimed to 0935.
106/26 From 20.7.92. was revised to operate via Thorpe and no longer serves Weeley or Weeley Heath.
119 From 6.7.92. slight route changes were made in Tiptree and Messing.

Services in the Maldon area are to be revised from 8.8.92. further details next month.
The High Street in Chelmsford is to be closed from late July and services will be re-routed. Revised departure points for some services were introduced in Braintree from 5.7.92.

Initial Disposals

Further to EBN 337 1308-10 (ANA 92-4Y) passed to Brewer in 4/92.

Subsequent Disposals

380	(VYO 767)	Noted at Leicester Bus Rally, 5/92, as fully equipped mobile caravan. Owned by Marshall, Syston (N-PSV), labelled as 'Hills Tour Bus'.
1215	(BNO 701T)	Sold to Wealden PSV, by 7/92, following takeover of Boroline by M&D. This vehicle had been withdrawn in 7/91 following an accident in Polegate.
1304	(LLT 345V)	Charity, Thringstone, 3/92, ex. Glenn Miller Orchestra (U.K.) (N-PSV).
1308	(ANA 92Y)	Numbered 161 by Brewer, Maesteg and re-painted in fleet livery.
1309	(ANA 93Y)	As 1308 but numbered 162.
1310	(ANA 94Y)	As 1308 but numberd 163 and retains EN livery.
1357	(OWC 606)	Now given as mobile caravan, with unknown operator, Portsmouth, West Yorkshire, by 4/90. (See also EBN 335).
1403	(VHK 175L)	Shaftesbury Society, Dovercourt (N-PSV), -?-, ex. Carter, Colchester; subsequently to PHAB Club, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
1527	(LPU 452J)	Johnson, Hanslope, 452, ex United Provincial (t/a Pennine Blue), Denton. Re-painted in blue livery with gold stripe. Operating in Milton Keynes.
1715	(WNO 564L)	West Midlands Travel, 1764, 3/92, ex. Tame Valley, Birmingham. Stored at Selly Oak.
1767	(MAR 789P)	Wigley (dealer), Carlton, 3/92, for scrap. (T)
1771	(MAR 793P)	Confirmed as passing to PVS, Barnsley (see EBN 336-others so grouped also passed to PVS).
1774	(MAR 796P)	Tellings Golden Miller, Cardiff (t/a Rhondda Buses), N660, 2/92, ex. National Welsh, Cardiff N660; subsequently to Rhondda Buses Ltd., N660, 5/92.
1775	(MAR 797P)	As 1774, fleetnumber N661.
1789	(PEV 701R)	As 1767.
1799	(TJN 499R)	As 1767.
1818	(VNO 741S)	Welwyn & Hatfield Line Bus Co., 3/92, ex Soverign Bus & Coach, LN 641. (T)
1902	(DAR 124T)	Wigley (dealer), Carlton, by 3/92.
2259	(ONO 64)	Collett, West Bromwich, 5/68, not traced further.
2388	(WNO 484)	Re-painted cream with green band and bonnet, with black wheelarches, by South Wales, 500, 6/92.

2751 (JWC 711) Unknown preservationist, North Hykeham (for preservation), 3/92, ex. Rainworth Royals Jazz Band (N-PSV).

2857 (OPU 822D) Operator now quoted as Londag, Zurich, Switzerland (see also EBN 326).

2930 (AVW 399F) Unknown operator (as mobile caravan), noted Petersfield, by 5/90. (see also EBN 335).

3086 (STW 30W) Cambus Ltd., Cambridge, 748, 10/91, ex. Green, Kirkintilloch. (T)

3088 (STW 32W) Badgerline, Weston-Super-Mare, 5559, 5/92, ex. Western National Ltd., Truro, 1239, was allocated to Penzance. (T)

3099 (UAR 589W) Western National Ltd., Truro, 5/92. (T)

3108 (UAR 598W) Further to EBN 338, retains EN livery. (T)

3120 (XHK 225X) Western National Ltd., Truro, 1240, 3/92, allocated to St. Austell. (T)

3126 (XHK 231X) Western National Ltd., Truro, 1241, 3/92. (T)

3205 (OBD 841P) Western National Ltd., Truro, 5/92. (T)

3214 (FRP 905T) Numbered 724 by Cambus Ltd., Cambridge. (T)

4508 (B696 BPU) Re-registered IIL 1829, by South Wales, 909, 6/92. (T)

9003 (CPU 982G) Stripped for spares by Thamesway at Brentwood depot, by 12/90.

9020 (LFS 299F) Now reported as mobile caravan with unknown operator, Oxford, 3/92 (see also EBN 335). Report of scrapping by Wacton (dealer), Bromyard, 11/90, must therefore be treated with caution. Clarification appreciated.

Many thanks to the PSV Circle, whose notes are used each month to compile disposal information. Many thanks too to those members who are able to add information each month.

For members information, former EN 2388 is used on South Wales service 71 which departs Swansea Bus Station hourly between 1100 and 1900 except 1500 and operates to Limeslade Plunch Lane returning hourly at 1130 to 1930 except 1530. Operation is daily between 19.7.92. and 31.8.92.

THAMESWAY

Acquired Vehicles

501	D588	MVR	Leyland Tiger	Plaxton 3200	C53F
502	D590	MVR	" "	" "	"
503	D592	MVR	" "	" "	"
504	D596	MVR	" "	" "	"
505	D597	MVR	" "	" "	"
506	D598	MVR	" "	" "	"
507	D601	MVR	" "	" "	"
Ex Shearings 588/90/92/96-98/601					
508	MKH 89A		Leyland Tiger	Duple Carib.	C48FT
509	MKH 893A		" "	" "	"
510	MKH 68A		" "	" "	"
511	278	TNY	Leyland Leopard	Duple	C50F
Ex United Welsh Group 125/U117/U122/U194					

These vehicles are for the new City Saver service from Southend to London. They have been painted into all over orange livery with a thick yellow line along each side with route and fare details, the City Saver logo and a large Badgerline symbol on each side. Chassis numbers for the ex Shearings vehicles are 8600403/360/432/440/434/44/442.

511 was rebodied in 1989 and was new as DWY 662T.

721	C440	BHY	Ford Transit	Dormobile	B16F
722	C470	BHY	Ford Transit	Dormobile	B16F

These vehicles are on loan from Bristol Cityline 7440/70 and have been repainted into Thamesway livery, but retain Bristol Cityline legal lettering.

All the above vehicles were acquired during late June.

Vehicles on Order

Badgerline Holdings have informed us that 14 Dennis Darts with Plaxton Pointer bodywork are on order for LT service 214 which is due to commence on Saturday 15th August. Also on order are a batch of Mercedes Benz 811 for LT service D8 which commences in September.

Allocations

June 1823 HH-BD

July 500-11 New-BN; 717 BN-HH; 721/2 New-HH; 1820 D/L(D)-Pool;
1822/36/47/53 Pool-HH; 1905 Pool-HH; 3100 Pool-D/L(D);
9005 D/L(D)-D/Sch.

General

Thamesway vehicles present at the Southend Bus Rally on 7.6.92. were 320, 1421 and 2200.

From Sunday 7th June the daytime rover has been reduced from 2 to 1 adult and the child rover is now 50p and is even valid before 9am. A return ticket will now be issued for the price of a single. These tickets are only valid in the Southend, Rochford and Castle Point areas.

Leyland Nationals now appear regularly on services 15 and 250 to release minibuses for the extension of services 25 and 27A.

The maximum number of buses required for big bus work from Brentwood is as follows:-

service 151 3 (plus 6 from BN)

service 251 4

service 350/1 3 (plus 3 from CF)

service 551 5

There is some interworking between services 251 and 551.

The LT bus stop in Dalston Lane outside the disused Dalston Junction station still has a timetable for services 400 and 870 (London Express) on the London bound stop even though these services ceased in January 1991 (or earlier in the case of service 870).

Repaints

To correct last months magazine 1421 carries an allover advert for the companys Summer Fares Sale. 1869 is being repainted into a revised advert for Vernon Collard.

Service Revisions

Southend Revisions commence 7.7.92.

- 20 Additional journeys introduced and certain evening journeys from Hullbridge operate via Rayleigh Stn. forecourt.
- 24/A Minor timetable adjustments.
- 25/A Extended from Southend to Temple Sutton Rusty Bucket via Sutton Road and Cluney Square- revised timetable.
- 26/A Minor timetable adjustments.
- 27/A Service 27A extended to Rayleigh Station via Kenneth Road
- 28 and Rayleigh- minor timetable adjustments to service 27 and most 28 journeys replaced by 27 or 27A.
- 28A Minor timetable revisions.
- 29group Revised timetables.
- S1-3 New services Southend to London Hyde Park Corner Monday to Friday only. To operate as follows:-
 - S1 via Basildon, Lakeside, Aldgate and Embankment.
 - S2 via Basildon, Homesteads then as S1
 - S3 Direct via A13 not serving Basildon.Operating under the City Saver name offering reclining seats, public adress system, serving Lakeside, fully trained drivers, pleasant and clean interior, complementary morning and evening newspapers, free newsletter, no smoking weekly and monthly tickets giving unlimited travel on any Citysaver coach plus Thamesway commercial bus service.

Publicity

Summer fares Bonanza dated 7.6.92; Citysaver dated 6.7.92 and Bus Times in Southend and Castle Point dated 5.7.92.

Disposals

To correct EBN 337 regarding Thamesway VRs with Western National, the following list is correct:-
3105/20/26/23/3096/99/3104/7/3205 are now WN 1239-47. FRP 901T has not been allocated a fleetnumber while 3205 may be used for spares. Bristol VR 3121 did not pass to Western National, passing to a dealer instead. Finally, 3124 was noted being towed by a Wigley vehicle on 18.3.92.

Service Vehicles

Breakdown lorry 0104 has been transferred from HH to BD.

Southend Transport

Vehicles

Of the acquired VRs the following were available for service on 6.7.92. 301-6, 308, 351/2, 381/2, 401-4.

To correct EBN 338, 311 and 354 shown as being in service, have not entered service and it is unlikely that either of these vehicles will enter service. The other four vehicles shown as not in services (307-9 and GRF 694V) are also unlikely to enter service. An alternative batch of VRs is expected soon as replacement for these six vehicles. 308 was obtained from Circle Line and not Ribble as shown. 353 had not entered service in early July but was expected to do so shortly.

As at 6.7.92. 401/2 had been repainted into fleet livery (these had run in Ribble livery with Blue fronts) 403 is now in fleet livery (never ran in Ribble livery), with 404 remaining in Ribble livery with a blue front. 308 is in Circle Line green livery with ST blue front and rear.

DAF 581 was withdrawn but then reinstated on 4.7.92. It still carries the reversed yellow and blue livery with fleetnames beneath the windscreen, but none on the sides.

Traffic

On 26.6.92. 231, 238, 251, 252, 258 & 260 were used on an emergency rail service between Ilford and Gants Hill due to a cable fire at Stratford. The service continued until about lunchtime.

General

In common with all other operators, vehicles departing from Bulleid Way on service X1 etc. must display a Green Line Associated Service notice inside the windscreen. The Bulleid Way Coach Station is supervised by 2 London and Country inspectors and one ST supervisor who answer questions etc. for all operators who use it (includes Luton & District, Alder Valley, Berks Bucks, Reading Transport, M&D plus of course the former London Country operators).

Subsequent Disposals

Leyland Leopard BTE 205V has been noted with Buffalo, Flitwick.

Routemaster Operations

Apart from the regular operations on services 1,3A,5,16,29 and 63, RM operation is also scheduled on the following:-
Monday to Friday

3 0753 BFT-CBS,1700 CBS-HAYSTACK,1811 HAYSTACK-CBS
3B 0701 GRG-BFT,0745VHE-BGN,1544BGN-VHE
3C 0721 GRG-BFT
4B 1015 CBS-GT WAKERING, 1047 GT WAKERING-CBS

5A 0717 GRG-VHE,0752 GRG-VHE
 7 Schooldays
 0746 SHOEbury (Caulfield Rd)-CBS, 1530 SHS-EAST BEACH
 1542 EAST BEACH-CBS,1454 GRG-GOLDEN CROSS
 1542 GOL CROSS-SHOEBURY (Osprey), 1621 OSPREY-CBS
 7A 0824 CBS-BGN,0841BGN-CBS
 9 0702 CBS-HBE,0800 HBE-CBS,0802 CBS-HBE,0900 HBE-CBS
 14 0656 GRG-KENT ELMS
 20 0725 GRG-RLS(SDO),1603/1623 CBS-EASTWOOD RISE(OAKWOOD)
 1635/1655 EASTWOOD(Silver Jub)-CBS, 1703/1723 CBS-RLS,
 1751/1811 RLS-CBS
 21 0801 LEIGH STN-BOURNES GREEN
 22 0746 GRG-RLS(SDO)
 23 1847 LEIGH STN-BELGRAVE ROAD
 61 0851 CBS-SUTTON CEMETERY, 0906 SUTTON-CBS

Saturdays

6 1641,1701,1731 NEWINGTON AVE-CBS
 1706 CBS-NEWINGTON AVE

BFT- Benfleet Station	BGN- Bournes Green
CBS- Central Bus Stn.	GRG- London Rd. Garage
HBE- Hullbridge	RLS- Rayleigh Station
SHS- Shoebury High School	VHE- Victoria House
(SDO)- Schooldays Only	

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Vehicles

Further to EBN 336, as at 11.6.92 33 has not been fitted with DiPTAC handrails.

General

A lorry fire on the A12 on 2.7.92. caused serious delays as traffic was diverted via Colchester. During the evening peak the journey from High Street to the foot of East Hill took two hours! Open top Atlantean 55 was used to take the Colchester United team on a parade of the town, following their Vauxhall Conference and FA Trophy double success.
 Former CBT Bristol RE SWC 24K was noted at the RE rally in Bristol on 21.6.92.

HEDINGHAM

Vehicles

A further Atlantean re-painted in Hedingham livery is L188 (CBV 307S) and is now assumed to have been re-allocated to Hedingham depot.

Services

93B From 22.7.92. commenced operation of the former Freemans services.

CAPITAL CITYBUS

Services

323 Slight timetable revisions introduced from 25.7.92.
345 Withdrawn with effect from 25.7.92.
348 Route and timetable changes introduced from 25.7.92.

OTHER OPERATORS

BONNERS Schools services 202 and 207 were withdrawn at the end of the school term (22.7.92.)

CAMBUS ECC services 11 and 29 will pass to the Millerbus subsidiary of Cambus from 28.7.92. The 0845 ex Saffron Walden and 1150 ex Cambridge on service 22 will operate vi Ickleton from 28.7.92.

CARTERS The 2258 ex Wivenhoe on service 78 was withdrawn after 11.7.92. as this service is covered by an EN commercial service. Ex CBT Atlantean has received a repaint below the lowered deck windows in a deeper red and fleetnumber 61 has been applied to the front in its original position. Ipswich Buses 206 was still in use on 3.6.92.

CEDRICS A former Alder Valley Bristol VR VPF 281S was noted in service on 1.7.92. It retains light green and mustard yellow livery.

COUNTY BUS Minor timetable changes will be made to service 724 from 25.7.92. From 30.7.92. a new service numbered 260 operating on Thursday and Friday only between Warley and Harlow will be introduced. Departs Warley 0900, returns at 1330 ex Harlow. Slight revisions to services 239 and 261 will be introduced from 25.7.92. A new service numbered 445 between Belhus and Rainham operating morning and evening peaks only was introduced from 27.7.92. A number of changes to services in the Grays area are to be made in early September.

CUNNINGHAM The morning service on route 369 was withdrawn after 31.7.92.

FORDS Are to operate a Monday to Friday service between South Woodham Ferrers and Chelmsford Riverside Centre, with one journey each way on Monday to Friday between 27.7.92. and 28.8.92

FREEMANS From 27.7.92. operation of service 356 passed to Fargo. Service F11 is to be withdrawn at the end of the summer term.

GALLANTS TRAVEL Introduced a peak hour only service to and from Stanford le Hope station, during morning and evening peaks from 20.7.92.

HARRIS BUS Service 400 is to be withdrawn with effect from 3.8.92.

IPSWICH BUSES Are to operate service 220 between Ipswich and Clacton with one journey each way on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 28.7.92. and 1.9.92.

NELSONS Service 46 was withdrawn with effect from 11.5.92. and

service 225 is to be withdrawn at the end of the current school term.

RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS Operation of service 255 will pass to District Bus from 28.7.92.

STEPHENSONS The MAN/Van Hool T815 coach LIB 4324 has been sold to an operator in Cornwall from whom came EAH 381T an AEC Reliance with Plaxton Supreme bodywork which is in use, plus Dennis Dominator/Willowbrook UBG 25V which was new to Merseyside and has been sold to Chester City Transport for spares without being used. A batch of 10 Bristol VRs were being acquired as we went to press and details will be given next month. On the operational front VR NCD 556M has been sold for non-PSV use, while the sale of sister JWW 225N to the USA fell through and the bus remains in service at present. The ex Aintree Coachlines VR WWY 120S has now been repainted into Stephensons livery. Service changes have seen a new route 60 introduced from 8.6.92. running between Southend CBS and Temple Sutton via Central Avenue at about 30 minute intervals on Monday to Friday. At the same time the Monday to Friday service 6 was withdrawn.

WARDS COACHES Have introduced a Tuesdays only service between Elmstead Market and Tollgate, with one journey in each direction.

ESSEX SUNDAY SAVER

To correct the timetable book, service 3A operates via Leigh Elms and service 3B via Rectory Grove.

THE ESSEX MODEL BUS SCENE-UPDATE

Futher to the article in EBN 336, the white metal kits mentioned at the end of the article can be obtained from the manufacturer (MBC) and not from Howes of Oxford who produce a range of "Bus Match" paints. My apologies for any confusion.

In addition, it can be confirmed that Concept Models will produce a Leyland Lynx in ready-built or kit form. A version in EN livery will be available subject to the necessary licensing being obtained.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

The Standard Recorder carried an article during May that Badgerline Holdings would welcome the challenge of operating the Fenchurch Street line of Network South East under Government plans to privatise the BR network. It was to early for them to give details of any changes they would make, while a BR spokesman said that no bids could be made, until details of the franchise could be drawn up.

The same paper carried an article in late April regarding EEC proposals to ban double-deck buses as they are unsafe. Mark Howarth of ST said that "double deckers have been used since the end of the first world war and are perfectly safe. They are only approved after tilt tests and the statement that they are unsafe is unfounded. David Amess MP for Basildon described the plan as "ludicrous and a stupid and outrageous attempt to interfere with something that has nothing to do with them."

The Trader and Shopkeeper (an original source of material) reports that following an appeal to the DoE, the go ahead to operate a market on the former Jackson Road bus station in Clacton on Fridays and Saturdays has been given. The scheme had been rejected by Tendring Council.

The Chelmsford Weekly News reports that planning permission has been given for the construction of 80 flats and a car park on the former Eastern National Central Works site in New Writtle Street Chelmsford.

The Evening Echo reports that a Southend couple are to convert former Cambus Bristol FS5G FVF 423C into a mobile caravan for a trip round Europe as part of a year long honeymoon. The vehicle was displayed at The Southend Bus Rally prior to conversion. Now why didn't your editor think of doing that?

ENOC 2954

EASTERN NATIONAL IN WARTIME 1939-45

Continued from EBN 335

The second part of our wartime story relates to vehicles that we rebodied by the East Lancashire Coachbuilders, again only a few made the trip to Lancashire consisting of one Leyland TD1 and 10 AEC Regent deckers and a selection of Leyland saloons.

In 1943 AECs 3024/5 (TM 6302/3), 3076/83/85-87 (TM 8792/9, EV 1755/4/3) were re-bodied L30/26R, followed in 1944 by Leyland 2847 (VW 8822), and AECs 2902 (VW 9565) 3082 (TM 8798). In 1945 3079 (TM 8795), the AEC mentioned previously as rebodied in 1941 by Duple, received another new body at East Lancs, the former having been destroyed beyond repair at sometime. 3025 also received further damage and was rebuilt by Beadle in 1946.

The Leyland saloon selection was ex Enterprise of Clacton TS2 3217 (VX 1592) previously fitted with Metcalfe bodywork. The following Leyland LT2s 2980/96-8 (TM 6315/09/10/12), 3001-5 (TM 6313/6904-7) and Leyland TS3s 3008/9 (TM 6316/4) are a mystery, as some records show they were rebodied by East Lancs, while others say rebuilt, whatever happened they went to East Lancs. All the vehicles mentioned survived until the mid 1950s when they were withdrawn and scrapped.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JUNE MAGAZINE WERE RECEIVED FROM:-

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DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AUGUST MAGAZINE IS 31.7.92.

FLF STORY

PART 7 OPEN TOPPERS

In 1978, consideration was given to the replacement of the four remaining 1953 Bristol KSW open toppers 2379/82-4 (WNO 475/85/79/80). Consequently, bus 2937 (RWC 608) was converted to open top configuration entering service in 6.78. In addition to the roof being removed, all side and rear upper deck windows and associated framework was removed leaving only the front windows in place. The windows were replaced with plain non-opening windows and new triangular windows fitted to the first bay sloping downwards from the top of the front windows to the side panels. A chrome rail was fitted around the unglazed part of the upper deck, this rail being slightly raised across the back of the bus. The livery was the same as that applied to the KSWs at that time, ie white with a single leaf green waistband, wheelarches and radiator grille, fleetnames were also green with a red and blue double N symbol.

2300, as the bus was numbered, worked alongside the KSWs at Southend on seafront service 67 (Eastwood-Southchurch) for the 1978 season. The following winter a further three FLFs were converted- 2863 (RHK 348D)-2301; 2848 (MVX 885C)-2302; 2850 (NTW 943C)-2303. All four vehicles worked at Southend for the 1979 and 1980 summer seasons, however due to staff shortages at Southend the vehicles were loaned to Southend Transport to cover the service. This had become common practice in the 1970s and it was not uncommon for opentop KSWs and FLFs to appear on Southend Transport's seafront service 68 (Leigh-Shoeburyness). The KSWs displaced from Southend were moved to Clacton to re-instate open top operation of services 117/8 (Jaywick-Clacton-Holland/Highfields) where they stayed for 1979/80. In 1981 the Southend service was much reduced with operation transferred to Southend Transport, the FLFs were therefore moved to Clacton to replace the KSWs (again) on the 117/8. As only three vehicles were required to work the service, 2303 and the KSWs were put into store at the old Prittlewell depot. This proved disastrous as in August 1981 a serious fire in the depot destroyed a number of vehicles in store including open toppers 2303 (NTW 943C) and 2382 (WNO 485). After the 1981 season, 2300-2 were withdrawn and sold as it was not intended to continue with the service.

Despite the attempts to oust the KSWs, two of them 2383/4 (WNO 479/80) remain in stock. They are used for promotional work and driver training, whilst once again this summer one will see use on Wednesday afternoons on a local tour.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET ALLOCATION JULY 1992

Chelmsford (CF)	601-20/22 0700-2/4 1119/21/28-30 1401 1402/08/13/15/26-29 1811/13/19/31/32/34 1841-43/50/55/56/60/62/67/70/72/73/90 1899/1901/10/16/17/24 3070/77/83/84 3106 4011/13
Clacton (CN)	0200/2-24 1925/27/30-32/37-39 3060/64/69 3219-22
Colchester (CR)	1110-2/17/20 1926/29/33/35/36/40 3068/71 3078/91/93/95 3103/11/14 3204/18 4014/15/17/18/20/21 4501/03/12
Maldon (MN)	0703/5/20/21 1114/15 1403/14/16/25 1851 1863/74/92/1921/23 3079/92/94/3112/27/28
Bishops Stortford (BS)	0707-09/11/12/15/19 1125/27 1844/61/65 1872/85/1909/14 4016
Braintree (BE)	0120 621/23-30 0706/10/13/14/16-18
Dunmow (DW)	1407
Harwich (DT)	0750-54 1123 3072/6/3109 4007/8/12/19
Walton (WN)	Three Mercedes from CN depot.
Driver Training	9006 9012
Pool Vehicles	1824/33 2383/84 3500/1
Delicensed Disposal	1741/50/54/64/66/68/90/92/93/1804-6 1812/28/29 2201/3 3038

Bishops Stortford and Dunmow are outstations of Chelmsford, Braintree is an outstation of Maldon, Harwich is an outstation of Colchester and Walton is an outstation of Clacton.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET SUMMARY JULY 1992

	BE	BS	CF	CN	CR	DT	DW	MN	WN	POOL	DIS	TOT
PEUGOT	1											1
MERCEDES	9		21	21					3			54
TRANSIT	7	7	4			5		4				27
RE											1	1
TIGER (CO)			2									2
TIGER (DP)		2	3		5	1		2				13
LYNX			9				1	4				14
NATIONAL		7	24	8	6			6		2	16	69
VRT			5	7	11	3		6		2	2	36
ON (CO)			2		3							5
ON (DP)		1	2		6	4						13
KSW										2		2
TOTALS	17	17	72	36	31	13	1	22	3	6	19	237

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SUMMERS HERE PART TWO. Closer to home Southend Transport will once again be operating service 67 with Fleetline open top vehicles. These also appear on other routes prior to the start of the season. JTD 395P is seen on service 1 at Central Bus Station. (P Snell)