

ESSEX BUS NEWS

April 1997

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

396



ONE OF ELEVEN DENNIS LANCE NORTHERN COUNTIES 1501-11 P501-511MNO recently delivered to Eastern National.1507 is seen here at Colchester Bus Stn.
D Arnold.

MANAGING EDITOR:

Peter Snell

Please send your news reports to:

SUB EDITORS:

Southend Transport:

Steve Thompson, 19 Haven Close, Canvey Island, SS8 0LX

Thamesway:

Andy Meadows, 10 Harvard Court, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh, SS6 9ST

Essex Buses & S Essex small ops:

Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE

County Bus:

Ian Burton, 46 Stoneleigh Drive, Hoddesdon, EN11 9LN

North Essex major ops:

Paul Sparks, 87 Thorpe Road, Great Clacton, CO15 4NT

North Essex small ops:

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR

TOURS ORGANISER:

Andy Meadows, 10 Harvard Court, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh, SS6 9ST

PHOTO ORDERS:

Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Benfleet, SS7 4LH

MEMBERSHIP:

Derek Stebbing, 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP

ESSEX BUS NEWS 396

396 FOCUS OF THE MONTH,

396 725 APU an Eastern National Bristol SC6P new in 1954 fitted with a Perkins P6 engine. It was used as a demonstrator, touring B T C and Scottish Omnibus Group, it was later fitted with a standard SC engine, the Gardner 4LK. 396 was the only SC to operate from Canvey Island depot. Withdrawn in 1964 it was sold together with 395 724 APU to Vagg Knockin Heath.

EVENTS.

May 10th Open Day at Leyton Garage, 10th May 1947 the very first RT of the post war standard fleet entered service.

June 1st Transport Rally Southend.

June 8th Visit to Harris Bus West Thurrock, meet outside depot at 7pm

July 15th By invitation from the Omnibus Society, visit to Southend Transport garage 7pm.

Buses to be speeded up between Southend and Hadleigh **** by £260,000 SCOOT system used in conjunction with traffic light, over 200 buses fitted with special apparatus.

Contributions for this EBN received with thanks from Essex C.C. Essex Buses Eastern National and Thamesway. Southend Transport. County Bus & Coach. P S V Circle. R Dennis, G Toon. C Sigston. M J Brown P Ford. F Cunningham.



Material for the May EBN should be with Sub Editors by 6th May and Managing Editor by 12th May.

NEW VEHICLES

1504	P504 MNO	Dennis Lance	N Counties Paladin	B49F
1510	P504 MNO	Dennis Lance	N Counties Paladin	B49F
1511	P504 MNO	Dennis Lance	N Counties Paladin	B49F

Chassis numbers are D211BR3TGL10574/80/81. Body numbers are 5651/57/58.
This completes the batch of eleven on order.

VEHICLE ON LOAN

Optare Excel demonstrator P844 SWX was in use from Chelmsford during w/e 11.4.97. and was noted in use on service 36.

ALLOCATIONS

Period end 30.3.97 1501-3/5-9 POOL - CR; 1504/10/11 NEW - CR; 1861/62/65/72
1874/85/90 CR - D/L(D); 1863 CN - D/L(D); 2248 CN - POOL; 2802 CR - CF;
3094 CF - CR; 3103 CR - CF; 4009 ACQD - CN

1872 and 1890 were used at Chelmsford for a few days in March.

REPAIRS

3/97 1408 1425 1429 3079 3094 4009 4015

3079 and 3094 have both been refurbished by Marshalls of Cambridge and now seat H43/31F

Following a couple of requests, I intend to publish a list of vehicles still in old livery next month.

GENERAL

A new bus/rail interchange at Braintree should have been opened by the time these notes are read. While in Colchester the planned bus lane in Head Street has had its opening delayed.

A new set of Hywema vehicle lifts are on order for Clacton depot. They replace the existing set, which are 25 years old and were new to Eastern Nationals Prittlewell Works!

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

18.2.97. CF 1414 and 1426 on service 33 (1414 replaced a failed 1002)

3.3.97. CF 1428 on service 33

- 5.3.97** CF 2613 on service 31 (normally Lynx/Dart)
- 11.3.97.** CF 2802 on service 33 (daytime journeys normally Tiger)
- 17.3.97.** CF 2802/2823 and Pool 1872 on service 33.
- 21.3.97** CF 2802 on service 33.

Whilst not unusual as such, duties 1 to 5 at Chelmsford cover services 33/X and on 24.3.97. the vehicles used were 1001-5 in order! As if this wasn't enough the Dunmow outstation journeys were operated by 1006.

The Dunmow outstation bus is normally a Dart or Lynx. However, on Mondays and Tuesdays when there is no Essex CC work, it is often a Mercedes minibus.

SERVICES

- 1/A/B** Renumbered 17 & 18 with minor timetable change from 1.4.97.
- 2/12** Withdrawn and replaced by extension of service 7/8/8A/9 from 1.4.97.
- 5/A** Withdrawn and replaced by services 5 & 6 from 1.4.97
- 8/A/9/10** Withdrawn and replaced by services 7/8/8A/9 from 1.4.97
- 13/14** Withdrawn and replaced by services 5 & 6 from 1.4.97
- 20/A** Revised to serve Safeway store and revised timetable from 1.4.97
- 21/A** Revised timetable, with additional journeys serving Rail Stn. from 1.4.97.
- 23** Revised timetable introduced from 1.4.97
- 30** Revised timetable introduced from 1.4.97
- 41** Sunday service introduced from 30.3.97
- 31A** Revised timetable introduced from 1.4.97
- 51** Revised Sunday service introduced from 30.3.97
- 58/A** Extended in Harlow to Princess Alexandra Hospital from 1.4.97.
- 59** Extended in Harlow to Princess Alexandra Hospital from 1.4.97.
- 64/A** Revised Saturday evening service introduced from 5.4.97.
- 65/A** Revised Saturday afternoon/evening service introduced from 5.4.97
- 67** Minor timetable revision on the 67 group of services from 1.4.97.
- 71** 0710 ex Witham advanced to 0708 and serves Tollgate from 1.4.97.
- 72/A** Minor timetable revision from 1.4.97.
- 72B** Service withdrawn with effect from 1.4.97.
- 74** ECC evening journeys rerouted and numbered 74B from 1.4.97
- 75/B** Minor timetable revision from 1.4.97.
- 76A** Withdrawn with effect from 1.4.97
- 82/A** Minor timetable revision from 1.4.97.
- 87/A** Minor timetable revision from 1.4.97.
- 88/C** Minor timetable revision from 1.4.97.
- 103/4** Minor timetable revision from 1.4.97.
- 106** Renumbered 16 from 1.4.97 with minor route and timetable revision.
- 127** Rerouted via Jaywick with revised timetable from 1.4.97
- 132** Additional journey at 1156 ex Rayne from 1.4.97.
- 308/9** Revised timetable introduced from 1.4.97.
- 310** Revised timetable introduced from 1.4.97.
- 333** Re-routed in Harlow via Princess Alexandra Hospital from 1.4.97.
- 350/1/2** Minor timetable revision from 1.4.97.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflets for services 7/8/8A/9; 21/A; 59; 333 all dated 1.4.97.

These are the first of a new design, that feature photos or a map on the cover, in addition to the First Bus logo.

HEDINGHAM

VEHICLES

Vehicles acquired from Osbornes are numbered as follows:-

L260	BHJ 368S	L268	XGS 767X	L276	LUA 289V
L261	CJH 115V	L269	GVS 948Y	L277	EWV 213T
L262	CJH 141V	L270	CPU 125X	L278	SJI 4635
L263	KUC 228P	L271	KBC 2V	L279	SJI 2954
L264	GSL 897N	L272	MNK 427V	L280	JIL 5623
L265	OSR 191R	L273	MNK 429V		
L266	NPJ 473R	L274	MNK 430V		
L267	PPM 896R	L275	RWC 41W		

Fuller details of the above vehicles were given in EBN 395.

L278 and L279 were sold to Plaxton (dealer), Ware in part exchange for:-

L281 M107 UWY Volvo B10M Plaxton Premiere C50F

Further vehicle news is that L256 has been repainted and is now at Tollesbury, while OSR 191R has been returned to Tollesbury, for spares removal. L275 has been re-allocated to Sudbury.

L263 has been sold to West Kingsdown, Kent.

GENERAL

The 'Hedingham' name has appeared over the entrance to Tollesbury depot, which has been tidied up somewhat since the takeover, with bits of scrap metal etc. having been cleared away.

SERVICES

- 1/2 Extended from Tollesbury to Witham and re-numbered 95/A from 21.4.97.
- 3 Renumbered 91 and revised route and timetable from 21.4.97.
- 4 Withdrawn and replaced by service 95/A.
- 9 Withdrawn after operation on 29.4.97.
- 10 Renumbered 50 with revised route and timetable from 21.4.97.

- 15A** Withdrawn after operation on 11.4.97.
84 1125 ex Sudbury and 1240 ex Colchester withdrawn on Mon to Fri from 28.4.97
328 Revised timetable on this Sudbury town service from 28.4.97



HARRIS bus

VEHICLES

Optare Excels expected for LRT service 108 are registered P324-32 NHJ, P333 HBC, P334 NHJ. Operation commenced on 19th April, from a new base in the Crayford area. 22 Volvo Olympian/East Lancs are on order for services 128,129 and 150. 10 are single door, the balance being dual door. They are to be based at the existing Thurrock depot.

Scania/Alexander F312 PEV is now in Thurrock Link livery.

Volvo Ailsa WRJ 447X was sold in February.

Two of the Optare Excels are used on Sundat service 71C as one vehicle would run out of fuel before the end of the day. Unusual on Easter Monday was Metrorider E305 EVW covering late running on the 1305 ex Chelmsford.

SERVICES

- 382** Service withdrawn with effect from 14.4.97
383 Revised timetable introduced from 14.4.97
386 Service withdrawn with effect from 14.4.97
387 Service withdrawn with effect from 14.4.97
L1-4 Revised timetable introduced from 14.4.97

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

APT RAYLEIGH Recent additions to this fleet are Bristol VR PTT 92R and Atlantean BFV 221Y.

ASSOCIATED COACHWAYS HARLOW Additions to this fleet are TJI 7519 an AEC Reliance/Plaxton, and PIW 4789 (DWK 416T) a Ford/Plaxton.

BARKERBUS ROYDON A recent addition is rare Plaxton 425 L347 MKU. Metroliner decker A253 TPO is confirmed as the former A120 KBA.

BISS STANSTED AIRPORT Bova Futura J7 BBC has been sold.

BLACKWELL ABBESS RODING A Bedford YMP/Plaxton C403 DML has been acquired.

BOON BOREHAM Back here on loan from a dealer is H435 GVL a Setra.

BORDABUS WICKFORD Former Blackpool Atlantean BFR 301R is now out of use.

BRENTWOOD COACHES Scania/Jonckhree NJI 3995 is numbered 7.

CAPITAL CITYBUS Commenced operation of service 20D on schooldays, between Debden and Walthamstow on 10.3.97. providing extra capacity with double-deckers. Grey green operate the main service 20 with Dennis Dart SLF.

CARTERS Recent additions to this fleet, based just outside Essex are E107 JPL and F342 VEF both Renault/Northern Counties. The Bristol RE SVW 274K is reported for

sale, although it remains in use at present. Bristol LH news is that GTX 759W has arrived for spares removal, while former London Transport OJD 89R has been sold, following spares recovery. Sister OJD 84R was withdrawn in January.

CATTONS HARLOW A further non PSV Ford Transit here is G812 TKR.

CEDRIC WIVENHOE Bova Futura G97 VFP has been re-registered MIL 2698.

CHARIOTS CORRINGHAM Two further Volvo/Van Hool coaches are H172/6 HVM, thought to be on dealer loan.

CI COACHLINES HIGHWOOD Additions to this fleet are DRT 681T a Bedford/Plaxton, and from Webbs, Highwood BEV 542S a Ford/Plaxton.

CLASSIC MINIBUSES CORRINGHAM Both vehicles owned F206 NER a Transit and F715 PHJ a bedford midi are unlicensed.

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD A recent acquisition is Mercedes/Mellor N783 OGA. Service1 Waltham Cross to Harlow and Service 2 Waltham Cross to Ongar commenced operation on 7.4.97. These are marketed as Service 2000 and replace former Easybus routes E41-E46 which have been withdrawn.

COUNTY COACHES BRENTWOOD Volvo/Lag A320 FHN is now registered MIL 9747. Bristol VR 2786 RU (MEL 561P) has been numbered 1.

CRUSADER CLACTON Further to last month, BAZ 4772 is now C769 WKS.

CUNNINGHAM CORRINGHAM Ford Transit/Dormobile JMJ 144V has been sold to a Harlow area operator.

DCH COLCHESTER Duple 425 PJI 1244 has been acquired from Stephenson's (in a dealer capacity). AEC Reliance/Duple BTB 685T has been sold.

EASTERN COUNTIES An unusual visitor to Colchester on Good Friday was former EN, Leyland National 2 MHJ 731V. It was operating subsidiary company Waylands journeys on services 166 and 757.

FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE Duple 425 JIL 3123 has been sold.

FORD ALTHORNE Further to EBN 395, Astromega 114 RVX is now registered DSK 107. A stage service between South Woodham and Chelmsford Riverside Leisure Centre on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only commenced on 26.3.97.

GOLDEN ROY ROYDON Most vehicles now carry fleetnumbers, which correspond to their radio call sign. YOI 2642 (RYG 537R) a Leopard/Plaxton has gone for scrap. Mercedes/Reeve Burgess J761 ONK is now registered YOI 2642.

GREY GREEN Are using Dennis Dart SLF/Alexander P952-68 RUL on services 20 and 167, in the Loughton area.

KINGS STANWAY New here is Bova P111 ABC.

MCINTYRE HARLOW Further to EBN 393, Ebro C163 JTW has now gone for scrap.

MIKES BILLERICAY A162 KLK a Bedford YMp/Plaxton is a recent addition.

NELSON WICKFORD A further Bristol Vr has arrived, DNG 232T ex Cambus. Plaxton bodied Leopard BIL 4539 is now in bus livery of yellow and white.

OCTOPUS TRAVEL CHELMSFORD Bedford YNT/Plaxton A445 HNE has been acquired from Florida, Halstead.

PANDORA COACHES CORRINGHAM Have sold BXD 111M a Bedford VAS/Plaxton, and is thought to have ceased operations.

RUFFLE CASTLE HEDINGHAM A number of minibuses have been acquired they are, E816 UKW a Freight Rover, J388 RRX a Mercedes/Devon Conversions, L337 HFU a Mercedes/Autobus and L631 WLD a Ford Transit.

SEYMOUR HARLOW Are using the former Birds, High Laver premises for parking.

SIMIEN RAYLEIGH Fiat/Dormobile E700 EHJ has been acquired from County.

SM TRAVEL HARLOW new service SM1 between Church Langley and Harlow Bus Station from 13.3.97

SPEEDLINK Service 777 extended from London to Stansted. Revised to operate Stansted-London-Gatwick-Crawley from 24.3.97.

SUPREME SOUTHEND Have acquired Fleetline/ECW ULS 662T from Brentwood Coaches.

TEE-JAYS WIVENHOE RJ1 1633 a Bedford VAS/Duple has arrived from Glew Coaches, Colchester and unusual Dodge/Rootes Q394 MPU from Fargo, Rayne. RAY 2W a Volvo/Jonckhree has been sold.

WEBSTER BASILDON Have acquired Tiger/Berkhof C133 PPE from Speedlink.

ESSEX ODDS AND ENDS

EWV 953V a Bedford/Duple and belonging to Bancrofts School was noted at Dons, Dunmow premises recently.

Mid Essex Gravel are using the former Arrow Taxis, Maldon C376 TLD a Mercedes minibus for staff transport.

Vehicles from far and wide continue to visit Nationwide Seatbelts, Maldon. Noted in march were:-

LB of Greenwich Renault/W Stringer E583 MYE, J125 KPO and J125 KPO

Dorset C.C. Tiger/Plaxton C233 HTX

Whippets, Bournemouth Bedford/Plaxton SHP 696R, DAF/Plaxton F203 DRN

Watts, Gillingham Volvo/Berkhof B588 XNO

Southern National Leopard/Alexander GLS 267S

Noted at Fosters Croft, Harlow in March were the remains of former London Country Leyland National LPB 215P and AEC TWJ 433L.

Chelmsford & District Stroke Club are using Ford Transit/Dormobile G426 RKJ, thought to be ex Kent CC.

Essex Dog Display Team have replaced YFJ 49X a Volvo/Duple, with BAO 91Y a Volvo/Plaxton Paramount 3500.

Thurrock District Council have new Mercedes 611D/Crystals P703/4 KAR. Older vehicles in use as playbuses are FGE 443X and TYS 274W ex Kelvin Central. Also here is former London Country Atlantean MPJ 219L.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Timetable booklets for Sunday services in Chelmsford and Harlow, both dated 30.3.97. are now available.

Southend Transport

Vehicles:

NEW

Dennis Dart SLF/ Plaxton B33 or 39F.

DSL 56-63 P256 FPK etc..

58&60 arrived 1/4 56,57,59&63 on 2/4 61&62 on 3/4.

These 8 should be in service by the time these notes are read.

The remaining 4 are due any time now. All delivered in fleet livery of lighter blue and broader red band as applied to the minibuses.

Withdrawn:

FL 211 (JTD 391P) VR 304 (DWY 146T)

LN 711 (JBO 349N) LN 714 (NPK 241R)

LN 718 (GGE 161T) LN 719 (GGE 162T)

This leaves just 1 VR(307) and 4 LN(4707,713,716&745.)

Services:

Revised services from Sunday May 4th.

- service 1B to operate allday Sunday. Shoebury to Hadleigh.
- " 2B withdrawn on Sundays. Replaced by 1B & 22.
Basildon to Laindon section no longer served.
- " 5A withdrawn on Sundays between Shoeburyness & Southend.
- " 8A New Sunday only route Rayleigh -Shoeburyness.
Replaces 5A between Southend & Shoebury.
- " 17 will be converted to minibus operation, and be staffed
by a select group of drivers. Service increased to run
hourly allday Monday to Saturday, and will serve Woodside
between The Fairway and Belgrave Road.
- " 18 will be extended on Thursdays to Roots Hall market.
- " 22 New Sunday only route between Southend, Leigh Broadway,
Pitsea, Basildon to Lakeside. Providing a combined
hourly service with X3 between Southend & Lakeside.
- " 23/23A will be converted to minibus operation, and will be
staffed as service 17, The service will be high
frequency between Leigh Stn and Coombes Corner with
regular extensions to Kent Elms, Eastwood Rise and
Belgrave Road.
- " 29A Due to public requests, will now operate hourly Monday to
Saturday between Belgrave Road and Shoeburyness Renown.
- " 62A will be extended to Belgrave Road, Monday to Saturday
evenings and all day Sundays. These journeys converted
to minibus operation.

'X' group Services.

All services will operate to London Victoria only.

journeys to Heathrow withdrawn.

21:30 Southend to Hyde Park Cnr

23:45 Hyde Park Cnr to Southend.

Journeys withdrawn.

Minor timetable revisions to all services, in the early morning and late evening and Sundays will apply.

New timetables for all services will be available shortly.

HARRIS BUS COMPANY LIMITED - OCTOBER 1996
'VIA' BLIND - TYPE B Scania double deck, bottom roller

WELCOME ABOARD!

DUPLICATE

NOT IN SERVICE

Via Bexleyheath

Via Chadwell St. Mary

Via Civic Square & Byron Gardens

Via Corringham

Via Dartford

Via Feenan Highway & Civic
Square

Via Grays

Via The Homesteads

Via Lakeside Bus Station

Via Northfleet

Via Sidcup & Bexley
NOT IN SERVICE

DUPLICATE

SPECIAL SERVICE

WELCOME ABOARD!

HARRIS BUS

Thamesway

ALLOCATION CHANGES 30th MARCH

1846 BN-D/L(D), 1870 EN-BN, 4009 BN-EN.

1870 has been transferred from Eastern National whilst 4009 has been transferred to Eastern National.

The Brentwood allocation remains at Basildon, planning permission has to be sought for the new property..

REPAINTS

302, 341, 606*, 801, 258.

606 is in advert livery for Victoria Coach Station(expires 1.4.98).

GENERAL

During March, three bridges were replaced on the Great Eastern railway (at Wickford, Rayleigh and Hockley.). Consequently the line was closed between Billericay and Southend each Saturday and Sunday with replacement buses being provided by Eastern National, Thamesway, Southend Transport, Colchester BT, Heddingham and Stephenson's..

Eastern National driver trainer 9018 (ex Thamesway 228) was working from Basildon in early April.

SERVICE CHANGES

6 ECC Sunday contract withdrawn on 22nd March.

61 New ECC Sunday contract from Sutton Cemetery to Eastwood Kent Elm vis Southend and Westcliff from 30th March.

241/4 Extended to Wat Tyler Country Park Pitsea on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 25th May until 28th September.

W13 (LTB contract) Rerouted at Leytonstone Green Man via High Road, Gainsborough Road, Lema Road, Kirkdale Road, to a new terminus on the east side of the Station, returning via Church Lane and High Road. the section of Church Lane under the railway bridge no longer served from Monday 7th April.

362/462 These LTB contracts retained by Thamesway were due to commence in April. However, owing to the wide restriction in Longmore Avenue, Barkingside vehicles are unable to operate until the bollards have been adjusted. Until this work is done the current contract remains in force. The 362 is to be withdrawn between Grange Hill and Barkingside, but the 462 extended from Barkingside to Grange Hill and Hainault The Lowe.

Hi

Proposed changes to LTB Mobility routes in Barking and Havering.

950 Withdrawn

953 Rerouted in Barking town centre to avoid Tesco store.

954 Two journeys rerouted to avoid roadworks in Dagenham.

955 Rerouted in Dollier Row to avoid Tuepin Avenue.

956 Withdrawn from Gale Street and Woodward Road and rerouted via Porters Avenue. Markyate Road, Newham Road and Lodge Avenue.

957 Rerouted from Newbury Park Sainsbury store to Barkingside Tesco store.

958 Also rerouted from Newbury Park Sainsbury to Barkingside Tescos, rerouting is in the South Woodford and Buckhurst Hill area.

959 Rerouted in Barking and Barkingside to serve Barkingside Tescos.

Service withdrawn from Barking Tescos and Newbury Park Sainsbury

961 Rerouted in Elm Park area.

THAMESWAY (SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS)

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
22	E509 TOV	To Ramm, Sudden ex Hawksworth & Squire, Upton.	11/96
24	F892 XOE	To Ely, Woodston ex Ramm, Sudden.	04/96
29	G145 GOL	To Lutonian, Luton via Ramm, Sudden.	05/96
505	D597 MVR	To Eaglen, Morton via Kirby, Anston.	05/96
515	E677 UNE	To Simonds, Botesdale.	09/96
0756	D756 RWC	To James, Tetbury ex Wessex via Somerbus, Bristol.	08/96
1836	VAR 896S	To Winston, Loughborough ex Bristol Bus & Coach, Bristol.	09/96
1840	WJN 560S	To Powell, Wickersley ex Hardwick, Carlton & then to Powells Bus, Wickersley.	10/96 11/96
1847	YEV 305S	To Powells Bus, Wickersley ex Hardwick, Carlton.	11/96
1849	YEV 307S	To Yeates, Loughborough ex Ribble.	10/95
1857	YEV 315S	To Hardwick, Carlton ex Brewers.	11/96
1876	BNO 666T	To Powells Bus, Wickersley ex Powell, Wickersley.	11/96
1881	BNO 671T	To Hardwick, Carlton ex Brewers.	11/96
1903	DAR 125T	To Powells Bus, Wickersley ex Powell, Wickersley.	11/96
1906	DAR 128T	To Powells Bus, Wickersley ex Powell, Wickersley.	11/96
1908	DAR 130T	To Powell, Wickersley ex Hardwick, Carlton & then to Powells Bus, Wickersley.	10/96 11/96
1911	DAR 133T	To Powells Bus, Wickersley ex Hardwick, Carlton.	11/96
1919	JHJ 145V	To Powells Bus, Wickersley ex Powell, Wickersley.	11/96
3073	KOO 791V	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3074	KOO 792V	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3075	KOO 793V	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3081	STW 25W	Re-registered BIL 4710 by Nelsons Independent Bus Services, Wickford.	01/95
3082	STW 26W	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3085	STW 29W	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3087	STW 31W	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3088	STW 32W	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3089	STW 33W	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3090	STW 34W	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96

THAMESWAY
(SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS)

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
3116	XHK 221X	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3117	XHK 222X	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3119	XHK 224X	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3122	XHK 227X	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3215	FRP 906T	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
3217	LBD 922V	To Bristol, ex Badgerline.	01/96
9014	MHS 32P	To Hardwick, Carlton ex Haywood & Prosser, Bedworth.	08/96

EASTERN NATIONAL
(SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS)

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Date</u>
0454	RPU 869M	Re-registered MHE 213M by Nothern, Anston.	10/96
0702	B468 WTC	To Searle, Thornhaugh ex Ramm, Sudden.	06/95
0712	C437 BHY	To Preece, New Tredegar ex Viles, Brynna.	06/96
0713	C438 BHY	To Derbyshire, Woodchurch ex Jones, Bontnewydd.	03/96
1308	ANA 92Y	To Little Red Bus, Smethwick ex Western National, Fleet No.3592.	09/96
1309	ANA 93Y	To Little Red Bus, Smetwick ex Western National, Fleet No.3593.	09/96
1310	ANA 94Y	To Little Red Bus, Smetwick ex Western National, Fleet No.3594.	09/96
1749	JNO 198N (later ACH 32A)	From Alexcars, Cirencester to Cave, Shirley.	04/96
1774	MAR 796P	To Looms, Spondon ex Thamesdown via Trent.	05/96
1892	BNO 682T	To Winson, Loughborough ex Yeates, Loughborough.	09/96

RAIL REPLACEMENT SHENFIELD-SOUTHEND, SATURDAY 22/3/97

Thanks to member Phil Ford the following were observed at Rayleigh Station from 1430-1600hrs.

Southend Transport Olympians; LR706,906
Colchester Borough Olympians; 45.46.47.48.49
Heddinghams VR's; L159, L247, L248, L251, L252, L256, L257
Stephensons VR's; MFA 319V, GGM 109W
Stephensons Fleetline; JTD 393P

MEDIA MONITOR

March 14th: Coggeshall Parish Council hears that residents are having difficulties getting to Colchester General Hospital as there is no direct bus service. They consider that two buses are needed.

March 21st: Last Tuesday evening a bus driver was returning his bus to the Thameside Grays depot and stopped in a lay-by in Stonehouse Lane to visit the toilet. On his return to the vehicle he was met by a man with an eight inch knife and his cash box containing £50 stolen.

March 24th: Eastern National have been placed second in the Welcome Aboard Awards Scheme run by the National Federation of Bus Users. Solent Blue Line were the winners. Under the headline "Passenger power leads to bus changes" the Evening Gazette reports on revisions to Eastern National services in Colchester but this is not the end of the story.....

March 28th: An extended version of the same article appearing the Essex County Standard sees a complete about face for the headline "Bus changes hit rural travellers". The withdrawal of the 75A journey from Tolleshunt Knights, which is claimed to carry just one passenger from that community, will have a knock on effect for Tiptree residents as they claim that the preceding bus from Maldon is often full, a claim discounted by EN. Passengers complained that they did not know about the changes, Stephen Smith for EN said that it was not normal practice to publish information about alterations to services until about ten days before hand, any earlier and the public tend not to remember what is happening. The article also revealed that fares were going up from April 1st but nobody at EN in Colchester was able to reveal details as they had no fare charts. Mr. Smith said "This is the first fare increase we have had for almost a year" and continued with talk of investment in new buses and rising costs.

Hedingham have offered to run a special service in Tollesbury on Sunday June 8th in connection with the Woodruff Pool weekend. EN and the bus driver concerned have been cleared of any blame for the crash on Mersea Island in December which resulted in the death of a car driver

April 2nd: AirUK, Ryanair and Aer Lingus are giving their passengers discounts on a new coach service from Stansted Airport to Victoria to be operated by Flightline. Departures from Victoria hourly 0600 to 1700 plus 1900. From Stansted hourly 0800 to 1800 then 2000 and 2200. Journey time 90 minutes.

April 4th: Felixstowe Pier, Landguard Fort Charitable Trust and Ipswich Buses are investigating the introduction of a road train in Felixstowe as a counter to a proposal for a seafront tramway. Road trains which apparently proved a great success in Eastbourne, Gt. Yarmouth, Plymouth and.....Southend, would start in 1998.

April 5th: The £282m takeover of British Bus by the Cowie Group has been cleared by the Mergers and Monopolies Commission. The Eastern Traffic Commissioner has reduced Buzz Co-operative's O-licence from 14 to 13 after an inquiry into maintenance. Three vehicles have also been suspended for a month

April 8th: Tollesbury parents are up in arms over the new timetables being introduced by Hedingham on the ex Osbornes services from April 14th. Fifteen pupils attending the schools in Norman Way, Colchester would get to school late as the 0805 bus would not pass their schools and they would have to walk from the town centre. They would get home an hour later as it appears the 1600 bus will terminate at Tolleshunt D'Arcy. To their great credit HO took only a day to respond to complaints and have now revised the morning journey to serve the schools and will run a connecting service in the afternoon from D'Arcy but one must ask why did this all too familiar situation arise in the first instance.

Fears that a 7.5 tonne weight restriction being placed on the river bridge in North Station Road, Colchester would result in bus services being diverted have been lifted. Structural engineers have decided that there will not be any problems as the weight involved is 8.2 tonnes, the aim being to divert lorries.

This months items appeared in Coach & Bus Week, Colchester Evening Gazette, East Anglian Daily Times, Essex County Standard or Thurrock Gazette.

Thanks to Bill White for the Thurrock items, if you have any press cuttings, mark with date and name of paper and send to Geoff Toon, 30 Wavell Avenue, Colchester, CO2 7HR or fax to 01206 765558.

COUNTY BUS & COACH

FLEET

Acquired Vehicles

DI 926-9	J926-31 CYL	DAF SB220	Ikarus
VEL 857	B857 XYR	Volvo B10M	East Lancs

DI 926-9 have been repainted into a red/cream livery for operation on the revised 310A Lea Valley service (see service changes).

Allocation Changes to 5th April 1997

BTL 6	B106 KPF	Ware to Delicensed
DI 926-9	J926-9 CYL	Grey Green to Ware
DP 546	K546 ORH	Grey Green to Harlow
LD 554	FYX 814W	Ware to Sold
M 75	JBO 75W	Ware to Sold
M 80	JBO 80W	Ware to Grays
M 372	DTG 372V	Grey Green to Grays
M 500	GYE 500W	Ware to Cowie Leaside (returned)
MB 45	D45 OKH	Grays to Ware
MB 115	F115 JGS	Grays to Ware
MB 154	F154 DKU	Grays to Ware
MB 706	E296 VOM	Harlow to Ware
MB 722	L222 OVX	Ware to Edmonton
MB 723	L223 PHK	Ware to Edmonton
MB 748	E448 TYG	Grays to Ware
MB 939		Acquired to Ware
MBT 865		New to Harlow (for ECC Dial-a-Ride)
TDL 37	530 MUY	Ware to Sold
TL 33	WPH 133Y	Harlow to Sold
VDL 185		Acquired to Ware
VDL 201		Acquired to Ware
VEL 857	B857 XYR	Grey Green to Harlow

VPL 501 (L501 MOO) has been repainted at Stamford Hill into the new Leaside Travel colours.

SERVICES

5 April	310	Hertford - Enfield. Revised running time and timetable. Later journeys to and from Enfield and Hertford. Monday-Saturday operation.
	311	Revised running time and timetable. To operate Waltham Cross via Rye House to Hoddesdon, Hundred Acre Estate (daytime), extended to Ware Marsh Lane Saturdays. Monday-Saturday evenings works off 310 as now: Enfield-St Margarets. Minibus operation daytime. Sundays as now with earlier journeys to and from Enfield.

	310A	Revised timetable and route. Route as existing MTL London 310A Enfield - Hoddesdon Clock Tower, then via County Bus 310A to Hertford Bus Station but not serving Pinehurst (see 333). Jointly operated with MTL. Single deck vehicles to be red with cream roofs.
	310B	Harlow - Enfield. Saturdays only. Revised timetable. MTL operation.
		Interavailability of all tickets between MTL and County Bus along Lea Valley corridor (between Hertford and Enfield).
5 April	327	New Monday-Saturday shopping service. Anti-clockwise Waltham Cross via Bullsmore Lane, Elsing Road, Turkey Street, Hertford Road, Waltham Cross. Minibus operated from Ware. Works off service 311. MUST BE SINGLE DECK-LOW BRIDGE TURKEY STREET.
	333	New service replacing existing H1 and H2. Bengoe-Hertford-Pinehurst-Ware.
	363	Hammond Street to Waltham Cross/Tottenham Hale. Revised Monday-Saturday timetable. Revised running time.
	E41	Epping to Loughton. Sub-contracted journey on Saturdays on Clintona E41 withdrawn.
	M5	HCC contract. New Monday-Saturday route Ware circular (2 journeys).
7 April	381	Coopersale-Harlow. ECC contract. Revised timetable. Variation via Staple Tye withdrawn. Journey extended to Toothill.
	863	Waltham Cross-Cheshunt School. Morning school journey to run 10 minutes earlier, arrive Goffs School 0825.
26 April	392/393	Service 393 re-routed between Tylers Cross and Nazeing Cross Road. Route via North Street to Tylers Cross Road withdrawn. Additional Monday-Friday morning peak journey (392) from Hertford-Harlow. Revised evening peak journeys. Daytime journeys advanced by 5 minutes for train connections at Broxbourne.
11 May	W14	Revised running time. Re-routing at Leytonstone Station and Claybury Hospital site.

ALBIONS IN ESSEX

I recently purchased the PSV CIRCLE publication on Albion double deckers. It revealed the absence of this make in Essex.

Campbells of Pitsea, an ardent Albion operator, purchased a CX37 chassis in 1950 (PPU 187) that was fitted with a second hand Weymann lowbridge body from an AEC Regent of Westcliff Motor Services.

PPU 187 was one of 157 CX37 chassis that were built of which only 4 operated in England. The remainder were purchased by Glasgow Corporation, Western SMT, and South African Railways.

PPU 187 was subsequently acquired by Eastern National when the Campbells business was taken over. Numbered T020 it was operated for a short period and then sold. It was last heard of in Scotland.

Eastern National have only operated one other Albion double decker, namely 3693 GG9600 a former demonstrator, acquired with the Union Jack of Luton business.

I can only recall one other Albion 'decker' in Essex (EWN 858), a CX19 with a rare Welsh Metal Industries body from United Welsh, 933, operated by Crudington, Pitsea in the late 50's.

Some people might say that Southend Transport 323-332 7087-96HJ were basically Albions..... Well, if they operated in Scotland they were Albions, but Leylands south of the border.

Does any member recall any more?

pjs

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GUILD

THE ORIGINAL EASTERN NATIONAL

Frank Cunningham writes from Durban South Africa.

I remember the Guy Arabs being at Southend Depot and when going to Grays on service 70, this was about the time that Southend's Bristol G0,s were away being rebodied at Eastern Coachworks.

The Guys were much livelier than the Bristols although they had the same 5LW engines, and despite being 'utility' the interiors of these buses was very pleasing and comfortable, when delivered, the rear upper deck "windows" were ungazed being completely pannelled in.

I last saw a couple of the wartime "heroes" at Chelmsford bound for Braintree, where they were finally domiciled. By then they looked anything but utility having been completely refurbished, the side windows had sliding vents ECW style and the rear upper deck windows were now glazed.

Blackwells of Earls Colne had a Leyland TD2 HL5335, in March 1950 it was fitted with a second hand Brush body, was this from an Eastern National Bristol G05G.????

Beadle Bedfords ref EBN394

The Beadle Bedford in the Midland area was 4015 NVX529. At this time the remainder were allocated as follows.

4011/2/3/6/7 Chelmsford including prototypes 3923/4

4114/9 Clacton

4018 Colchester

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

The company has won the ECC contract for three round trips on Sunday evenings on service 78: Colchester General Hospital and Brightlingsea, Regent Road. Operation started on 30.03.97, using National 463.

The telephone number for travel enquiries has been changed to 01206 544449. On Sundays calls are transferred to 0181-668 7261.

Ticket rolls for Job Club started to be used on 10.03.97.

Both of the two National 2s transferred from Southend Transport in February 1997 (9 and 26) have had new engines fitted. 9's was fitted by Ipswich Buses, returning on 24.03.97. Atlantean 83 was at Ipswich for attention to its gear box, between 14 and 25.03.97, and 89 had similar treatment between 25.03.97 and 01.04.97.

On 09.03.97 Olympians 43, 45, 46, 47 and 49 were used on railway replacement services between Southend and Shenfield. CBT drivers also drove ST's 257, 259, 262, 263, 705, 903, 908 and 909, after travelling to Southend in 48, 68, 83, 84, 85, 88 and 89. 46 and 80 were called out following a signal failure at Colchester on 20.03.97. Minibus 123 was used between Southend and Shenfield on 23.03.97. On 24.03.97, CBT drivers drove ST's 260 and 906, using 346 and 351 to get to Southend. And 47 and 48 were operated on a sub-contract from Capital Citybus between Shenfield and Newbury Park on 31.03.97.

TED MILES REFLECTS

WALTON DEPOT IN ITS PRIME YEAR 1952 (Spring)

Walton had an allocation of 4 double deckers, namely;
4051 ONO 72, 4143 SHK 525, 4151 TNO 676, 4157 TNO 682.

All were received new at Clacton depot and subbed to Walton on permanent allocation. When maintenance was needed on any of these 3945 MPU 6 was always the first reserve for Walton, and if this was not available then it was 4048 ONO 69. Also in the summer months Bedford OB 4069 ONO 90 was the coach allocated for afternoon and evening tours. The driver for this work was Mr. Webber from Thorpe le Soken, who in the winter months went back to normal bus work at Clacton.

In 1952, 10 drivers and 10 conductors were on the payroll. The Inspector in charge was Stan Holder who came from Grays on 1st October upon the closure of the depot. He lived in the company bungalow at the rear of the depot.

How do I know all this? At the time I lived at Kirby le Soken and my neighbour was Bob Slogrove who was conductor at Walton. As a result I had a licence to 'live in' the depot as my mother often put it.

Prior to Stan Holders arrival, overtime had been scarce at Walton, however he obtained agreement with Clacton whereby Walton crews could work overtime at Clacton, thereby enhancing their earnings.

Walton depot operated Routes; 107 Walton - Clacton
 105 Walton - Colchester
 111 Walton - Harwich (summer months only)

A duty consisted of; ~~6.55am~~ sign on
 7.05am Depot - Naze 5 mins stand
 7.15am Naze - Clacton
 7.55am Clacton depot to refuel
 8.10am Depot - CN bus stn.
 8.15am Clacton - Naze
 8.58am Naze - Clacton via Lower Kirby
 9.45am Clacton - Walton depot
Leave on 105 stand, show Colchester 10.25am Meal break
 11.05am Walton - Colchester
 11.45am Clacton - Walton
 12.25pm Walton - Colchester
 1.30pm Colchester - Walton
Arrive Walton 2.30pm, hand over car, show 107 Clacton
 2.50pm Walton - Naze 5 mins stand
 3.00pm Naze - Depot (show Clacton) hand over car
 3.05pm Office pay in
 3.15pm Finish

This gives an idea of a duty which was normally 8 hours, 6 day week. Anything over 48 hours became overtime. Meal breaks taken at Walton did not count as pay hours, however duties that involved a break at Clacton meant the crew were paid right through. Also there was an early duty which involved a meal break at Colchester depot.

How were the buses cleaned? At Walton there was a cleaner who swept the buses out as they came in at the end of the day. He also cleaned the windows inside and out. When this was done he became the 'Night Watchman' which meant 'head down'!!! Oh, for this arrangement in 1996 and we would not have had the sorry stories of the open-toppers and AJN 825.

Route Observations.

The 107 was a goldmine even in the winter. The 105 had its moments particularly in the summer months when heavy duplication on Sundays was commonplace. Stan Holder was an excellent crowd handler and always got a crew from somewhere (and a bus) to get people home. He was particularly generous with time on 'o' time dockets, which meant crews cooperated.

At weekends in the summer months the doors along the side of the depot would be drawn back and many various Tilling Group vehicles would be parked at the depot for the day, but if the company had not informed Stan Holder a vehicle was coming to Walton he would not allow it to park there and had to go elsewhere. He was ruthless on this point.

In 1953 Bristol KSW 4204 WNO 482 was allocated. One with the staggered seating and then Lodekkas appeared. However I am looking too far forward in my diaries now as these periods are worthy of a further article.



Former Thamesway Leyland National 1876 BNO 666T now operated by Powells Bus Wickersley, it is seen here at Meadowhall Sheffield.

D Arnold.