

EDITORIAL

North East Essex Area Tour - Sunday, April 27th.

Preliminary details are now available regarding the Group's next coach tour, which will take place on Sunday, April 27th. It is proposed to visit the North East Essex area, with visits to Eastern National depots at Maldon (MN), Colchester (CR) and Clacton (CN) and also to certain interesting independent operators in the area. Final details are still subject to confirmation but, in the meantime, please mark the date in your diary. A booking form will be included with next month's news sheet.

New Publications

The following new Group publications will be available during March :-

- 1) E.B. 6 - The Campbells Have Gone - A brief history of the bus services of J.W. Campbell and Sons Ltd.

This new book has been published to mark the 30th anniversary of Eastern National's acquisition of the business of J.W. Campbell and Sons Ltd. It provides a brief history of the vehicles and services operated by J.W. Campbell and Sons Ltd., and also includes 8 photographs of Campbell vehicles. It represents excellent value for money, and is of interest to all enthusiasts.

Price : £0.90 (including postage).

- 2) E.P. 42 - Eastern National Coach Destination Blind List - 1968

This new publication provides a comprehensive list of Eastern National's coach destination blinds during 1968, and includes details of the blinds fitted to specific vehicles.

Price : £0.42 (including postage)

Members are reminded that the 1985 edition of the Eastern National Fleet List Booklet (E.F.B.) remains available. Full details of the Eastern National, Colchester Borough Transport, Rochford District Council and Southend Transport fleets are included, and the price of this publication is now £0.50 (including postage).

The Group also now has in stock copies of an excellent new book, 'Premier's Progress - A History of the Premier Travel Group, 1936-1986'. This book has been published by the Premier Travel Group in conjunction with The Pevensey Press, and includes a fascinating history of Premier Travel's services and vehicles. The book contains 160 pages, vehicle fleet lists and numerous photographs. Copies are available at Group meetings at a price of £6.00, or by post from the Administrative Officer (address below) at a price of £6.50 (inclusive of postage and packing).

Orders for all Group publications should be sent to the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 19. Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, Essex. SS3 9NX.).

Orders for Photographs, Publications and Timetables

Members are reminded that payment for all orders for photographs, publications and timetables, and also for any other sales items ordered by post, should be made by cheque or Postal Order. All cheques and Postal Orders must be made payable to the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group, and members are further reminded that loose money should not be enclosed with orders.

Rochford Meeting - Tuesday, March 11th.

The next meeting at the Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford will be held on Tuesday, March 11th commencing at 1930 hrs. (for 2000 hrs.). This meeting will feature a talk by Mr. Geoffrey Clarkson, General Manager of Eastern National O.C. Ltd., on the subject of 'Eastern National Under Deregulation' and this represents a valuable opportunity for members to hear Mr. Clarkson's views on the development of Eastern National's services and operations. The Committee hopes that a large number of members will attend this meeting, so please mark the date in your diary now.

The following Rochford meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1st, when there will be a talk and slide show on 'Better Bus Photography'.

Data Protection Act, 1984

The Group is currently transferring its membership information onto computerised files, and this will facilitate future administration of our news sheet mailing list and subscription information. Under section 33 (3) of the Data Protection Act, 1984, any member or any other group/person on our news sheet mailing list has the opportunity to register an objection to this situation by May 10th, 1986. Any objections must be sent in writing to the News Sheet Editor by this date. It should be stressed that our computerised information will not be divulged to any external agency or organisation, and that it is solely intended to improve Group administration.

Crosville Enthusiasts Club Weekend Tour to Ireland - Friday, April 25th-Monday, April 28th.

The Crosville Enthusiasts Club (1967) has invited Group members to join a weekend tour to Ireland from Friday, April 25th to Monday, April 28th. The departure point will be at Chester, and rail connections at Liverpool, Chester, Bangor and Holyhead can be arranged. There will be overnight travel to and from Dublin, and bed and breakfast accommodation will be provided in Dublin on the Saturday night. The tour will include a visit to the Irish Transport Trust Rally at Bangor, Co. Down on Saturday, April 26th together with visits to various C.I.E. premises on Sunday, April 27th. The price is expected to be between £50-£55 per person, and further information and bookings (which should include a deposit of £20) can be arranged by contacting Mr. Colin Johnson, Chairman, Crosville Enthusiasts Club, 10, Dale Avenue, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside, L60 7TA.

News Sheet Contributions

All members are reminded that the final deadline for news sheet contributions is always published at the end of each month's news sheet. The News Sheet Editor would like to stress that the Wednesday deadline is the final date at which your contributions can be included in the news sheet, and members are requested to post their news sheet contribution forms to ensure that they arrive by the deadline.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.New Vehicles

Delivery of further Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. dual-purpose double-deck vehicles has occurred during recent weeks, and full details are as follows :-

4009	C409HJN	Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R	ON 10004	E.C.W. CH42/30F	26546
4012	C412HJN	Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R	ON 10007	E.C.W. CH42/30F	26548
4013	C413HJN	Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R	ON 10008	E.C.W. CH42/30F	26549
4014	C414HJN	Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R	ON 10009	E.C.W. CH42/30F	26550
4015	C415HJN	Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R	ON 10010	E.C.W. CH42/30F	26551
4018	C418HJN	Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R	ON 10013	E.C.W. CH42/30F	26554

Delivery dates : 4009-February 1st; 4012-February 6th; 4013-February 1st;
4014-February 5th; 4015-February 6th; 4018-February 8th.

The remaining vehicles of this batch (4011/6/7/9-21) are due for delivery during April. The above vehicles are identical to 4007/8/10, which were reported in last month's news sheet. However, it should be noted that the livery of middle green and middle chrome yellow differs from other recent vehicle repaints in that the colours are reversed. The lower deck is painted middle green, with two forward sloping yellow stripes, whilst the upper deck is painted yellow throughout. This comprises the dual-purpose version of the Company's new fleet livery.

There is no further news to report this month regarding the planned introduction of mini-bus services in the Clacton area using the 25 new Mercedes-Benz L608D minibus vehicles (0200-24). Six of the vehicles are currently licensed (0204/10/2/7/22/4), of which four (0204/10/7/24) are now on hire to Southdown Motor Services Ltd. (East & Mid Sussex Division) for operations in the Eastbourne area (see below). 0222 (C222HJN) was inspected by London Country Bus Services Ltd. at Reigate on January 6th, regarding the possible use of this type of vehicle on LRT service 268, which will be operated under contract to London Country.

0212 (C212HJN) received 'CoastLine' vinyls on December 17th, and it is understood that 'CoastLine' is the marketing name selected for the mini-bus services in the Clacton

area. The 'CoastLine' vinyls are blue and white, with two shades of blue and white lettering, and they are applied to both sides, the front and the rear of the vehicle, with the rear vinyl including the Company's Clacton office telephone number. No other vehicles of this batch carry these vinyls at the present time.

The Harwich & Manningtree Standard newspaper reported on February 7th that 'new minibus services in and around Manningtree are to begin shortly'. The report continued by stating that 'Eastern National has announced plans to operate a minibus on regular commuter trips to Manningtree station and a shoppers' trip into the town centre. Two trips to meet the main trains will be made both in the morning and afternoon, collecting commuters from Lawford, East Bergholt and Brantham. A return journey to Manningtree town centre will also be run for shoppers. It won't run on Wednesday or Saturday afternoons'. The report concludes by stating that no firm date has been fixed for the commencement of these services. Further news regarding these developments will be published as soon as it becomes available.

Withdrawn Vehicles

2.86	1536 (OHK226K)	1547 (SVW275K)
	1540 (PEV502K)	1553 (WNO542L)
	1541 (PEV503K)	1652 (KCG609L)
	1545 (SVW273K)	

Additional information regarding the disposal of these vehicles is included under Eastern National Disposals on page 11.

Vehicles On Order

There is no further news to report regarding the unconfirmed report in Commercial Motor magazine on December 7th, 1985 that the Company has a further 50 Mercedes-Benz mini-bus vehicles on order for delivery during 1986 (see also NS261).

Vehicles On Hire

As reported above, four Mercedes-Benz L608D/Reeve Burgess mini-bus vehicles have been hired to Southdown Motor Services Ltd. (East & Mid Sussex Division) for a short period commencing in late-February. The vehicles are 0204/10/7/24 (C204HJN etc.), and it has been reported that the vehicles will operate in the Eastbourne area, although the East & Mid Sussex Division also covers the Hailsham, Haywards Heath, Hassocks and Lewes areas.

Re-built Vehicles

Leyland Leopard coach 1304 (LLE345V) has recently been fitted with Webasto heating (see also NS261/2).

The Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. double-deck coaches (4500-9) are currently being fitted with opening roof lights, in place of the perspex panels previously fitted, by Eastern National Engineering Ltd. at Central Works, Chelmsford. At the time of writing, the following vehicles had been fitted with roof lights :- 4500 (February 5th), 4502 (February 3rd), 4503 (February 10th), 4505 (February 13th), 4506 (February 17th), 4507 (February 11th), 4508 (February 12th) and 4509 (February 7th).

Allocations & Transfers

12.85 (additional to NS261) 0212 D/L-LWA.
 1.86 (additional to NS262) 0222 D/L-LWA.
 2.86 0204 D/L-LWA (on hire to Southdown), 0210 D/L-LWA (on hire to Southdown),
 0217 D/L-LWA (on hire to Southdown), 0224 D/L-LWA (on hire to Southdown),
 1536 DS-D/L (D), 1540 DS-D/L (D), 1552 DT-D/L (D), 1553 DS-D/L (D),
 1653 DT-CR, 1658 CR-DS, 1702 SD-BS, 1911 CR-CN, 3003 D/L (P)-CF (for
 driver training work), 3024 BE-PL (P), 3025 SD-DT, 3061 DT-CR, 3095 CN-DT,
 3100 BD-SD, 4005 BD-CF, 4007 D/L-DT, 4008 D/L-DT, 4009 D/L-SD, 4010 D/L-SD,
 4012 D/L-BD, 4013 D/L-SE, 4014 D/L-SE, 4015 D/L-SE, 4018 D/L-BD.

The number of Bristol REEL6G's remaining in service has now been reduced to two, 1542 at Braintree (BE) and 1554 at Clacton (CN), and it is expected that these vehicles will be taken out of service in the very near future. Following the sale of Bristol REEL6G's 1536/40/1/5/7/53 (see under Eastern National Disposals), there are now only six of these vehicles remaining in the Company's fleet (1539/42/8/9/52/4), including the Survey Vehicle 1548 (WNO537L).

The three Bristol REEL6G's at Bishop's Stortford (1536/40/53) were taken out of service during late-January, with 1540 and 1553 being moved to Silver End (SE) for storage. Unusually, 1553 was used by Silver End (SE) depot on service 337 on February 1st. Prior to the sale of the six vehicles listed above, the allocations of delicensed Bristol REEL6G's was as follows :- Clacton (CN)-1541/7; Harwich (DT)-1552; Prittlewell (PL)-1539/48/9; Silver End (SE)-1540/53; Walton-on-Naze (WN)-1536.

Although now officially withdrawn from the Company's fleet, Leyland National 1652 (KCG609L) currently remains at the rear of Clacton (CN) depot, where it is being stripped for spares.

Bristol VRTSL6G 3024 (WN0544L) is now allocated as a licensed Pocl vehicle (PL (F)); however, this vehicle remained in use at Braintree (BE) at the time of writing. Similar vehicle 3025 (WN0545L) has been re-allocated from Southend (SD) to Harwich (DT) as a replacement for 3027 (NPU974M) which is currently under repair at Colchester (CR) following an engine fire at Harwich Bus Station on February 5th. The fire required the attendance of local firemen.

Bristol VRTSL6G 3003 (CPU902G) is now being used as a driver training vehicle, allocated to Chelmsford (CF) depot but based at the driver training vehicle yard at New Writtle Street, Chelmsford. Both 3002 and 3003 are now in use as driver training vehicles, having replaced Bristol VRTLL6G's 9016/3 (see below), and they remain in green fleet livery at the present time. 3002 has been fitted with an additional nearside front mirror.

The new Leyland Olympian dual-purpose vehicles have entered service at Brentwood (BD) (4012/8), Harwich (DT) (4007/8), Silver End (SE) (4013-5) and Southend (SD) (4009/10) during February. The Harwich & Manningtree Standard newspaper carried a special feature on the two Harwich (DT) vehicles, including two photographs, in its edition on January 31st, and those vehicles are now in regular use on services 103 and 104. At Southend (SD), 4010 was first noted in service on January 26th on service 251, whilst 4009 was first noted on February 10th. At Silver End (SE), both 4013 and 4014 entered service on February 12th and February 13th respectively (see under Unusual Workings), with 4015 entering service on February 17th.

Vehicle Repaints

The Company published a news release on January 15th regarding the new fleet livery style of middle green and middle chrome yellow. The news release states that service buses will have yellow lower panels, with the upper panels and rear of the vehicles being green. It further states that the new Leyland Olympian dual-purpose vehicles are painted in the reverse of the bus livery with green lower panels and yellow upper panels.

To clarify the reports published in the December and January news sheets regarding the new fleet livery, it should be noted that the rear panels of both double-deck and single-deck vehicles are painted green. However, there were minor variations amongst the first vehicles repainted. For example, Bristol VRTSL6G 3108 (UAR598W) was initially outshopped with yellow lower deck rear panels and two forward sloping green stripes. After a short period in service in this form, the rear panels were painted green at Central Works on January 21st, and there is now only one forward sloping green stripe. The variations between vehicles can be summarised as follows :-
 1707 (WNC556L) - old style yellow fleetnames; green fleetname below front windscreen.
 1736 (HWC 87N) - new style yellow fleetnames; no fleetname below front windscreen.
 1851 (YEV309S) - new style yellow fleetnames; green fleetname below front windscreen.
 3098 (UAR588W) - old style white fleetnames; no fleetname below front windscreen.
 3108 (UAR598W) - old style green fleetnames; green fleetname below front windscreen.

Photographs showing the Company's new fleet livery will be published in News Sheet 'Photo-News' as soon as possible.

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks, and this continues from the information published in NS262 :-

January w/e 25.1.86 - 1305 at CW (National white coach livery); 1602 at CW (National Holidays livery); 3098 at CW (New livery).

February w/e 1.2.86 - AJN 825 at CW (Westcliff-on-Sea traditional red livery); 2203 at MN (partial repaint only, with additional cream waistband area).

w/e 8.2.86 - 1056 at CW, 1304 at CW (National white coach livery), 1742 at CW

(overall advertisement livery for Allen of Romford).
w/e 15.2.86 - 1736 at CW. (New livery).

Leyland National 1742 (HAF483N) has been repainted with an overall advertisement livery for Allen of Romford (Ford car dealers). The livery is basically white with dark blue, light blue and grey signwriting, and the vehicle was first displayed at Allen's premises in Romford on February 21st.

Leyland National 1860 (YEV318S) remains in the paintshops at Central Works where it is being repainted with an overall advertisement livery for Trimoco Cars (Chelmsford) Ltd. The base livery of this vehicle will be white with red and blue stripes.

Leyland National 1863 (YEV321S) is currently in the paintshops at Clacton (CN) depot where it is being repainted with an overall advertisement livery for Glasswells Ltd., Braintree. It is understood that the livery of this vehicle will be basically yellow.

The next vehicles to be repainted in the new fleet livery will be Leyland National's 1905 and 1938 and Bristol VRTSL6G 3041.

General

Mr. Bryan Jones has been appointed as Manager of Eastern National Engineering Ltd. with effect from February 1st. Mr. Jones joins the Company from Herald Engineering Ltd., Plymouth, and our congratulations go to him on his appointment. Also with effect from February 1st, Mr. Alan Seard became Assistant Manager of Eastern National Engineering Ltd., he was previously the Company's Works Engineer.

A large number of vehicles have received attention at Eastern National Engineering Ltd's Central Works during recent weeks. These have included (Orbus 102 (RAH681F), 422 (RNG822W) and 428 (HYG803W), Colchester Borough Transport 60 (JHK500N) and 61 (NNO 61P), Southend Transport 209 (BEK209X), and 353 (CPT822S), Ensign Bus Co. Leyland Leopard coach LUA287V (formerly Wallace Arnold, and at Central Works for the installation of a disabled persons' lift), Hedingham & District L117 (DRB309H), JRD Travel Ltd. (The Londoners) - Dova EG971X, preserved former Eastern National Leyland PD1 2102 (LEV 917) now owned by the Springhill Vehicle Preservation Group, County Coaches (Brentwood) Ltd. DAF/Elaxton coach 5189 RU and London Country Leyland Leopard coaches DL5/6/7/8 (MPL125W etc.) and PL26 (NPA226W) (and not PL28 as recorded in last month's news sheet).

Bristol VRTSL6G 3041 (PW516M) was involved in an accident at White Notley on January 22nd, whilst operating a school contract service from Braintree to Ingatestone. The vehicle skidded on black ice, and then overturned into a ditch. A tree prevented the vehicle overturning completely onto its nearside. The vehicle was recovered using both of the Company's recovery vehicles (0103 and 0104), and it was then taken to Central Works, Chelmsford for repairs.

Leyland National 1915 (JHJ141V) was involved in an accident at New London Road, Chelmsford on February 12th, whilst operating service 361. This vehicle is also now at Central Works for repairs.

Members may be interested to know that the National Bus Company registered a new company on November 19th, 1985 with the title 'The Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Ltd'. The new company has been registered at Companies House with registration number 1961457, and the company secretary is listed as Mr. K.R. Whitbread and the directors are listed as J.B. Hargreaves and J.M. Bodger. This is a completely new company, and is not the old Westcliff-on-Sea company resurrected. The old company was struck off the register during the 1970's after being dormant for many years.

Chelmsford Borough Council and Eastern National have recently agreed to launch a 'Job Seeker' bus pass scheme in the Chelmsford area, similar to the scheme already operating in the Basildon area. Under the scheme, unemployed people will be able to obtain a bus pass at a cost of £2.50, which will entitle them to half price bus travel at off-peak periods on Mondays to Fridays and all day on Saturdays. The pass will be valid for four weeks. Chelmsford Borough Council has also agreed to continue its scheme of concessionary free travel for elderly persons on selected dates during 1986. The suggested dates are March 17th, April 14th, May 19th, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th and September 22nd.

It is understood that the Company's preserved Bristol K5G AJN 825 has been entered in the annual HCVS run from London to Brighton on Sunday, May 4th.

Service Developments

The Company has applied for a number of service revisions during recent weeks, and brief details of these changes are as follows :-

- 100 - Revised route between Highfields (Holiday Park) and St. Osyth (Beach) via A133, North Road, St. John's Road, Valley Road, Holland Road, Eastcliff Avenue, Third Avenue, Marine Parade East, Marine Parade West, Pier Avenue, West Avenue, Jackson Road, Bus Station, Rosemary Road, Station Road, Pier Avenue, Marine Parade West, West Road, Jaywick Lane, St. John's Road, B1027, Clacton Road, Spring Road and Beach Road. Revised timetable, and service to operate Daily from the Spring Bank Holiday weekend to Saturday, September 20th.
- 102 - Mondays to Fridays : 0700 hrs. journey from Clacton to Brightlingsea to depart at 0705 hrs., and operate on reduced running time arriving at Brightlingsea at 0737 hrs.
Weekdays : Additional journey to be introduced from Brightlingsea to Clacton (not via Great Bentley) at 1345 hrs. arriving at Clacton at 1422 hrs.
- 200 - NEW SERVICE to operate Daily from the Spring Bank Holiday weekend to Saturday, September 20th from Highfields (Holiday Park) to St. Osyth (Beach), with route as for service 100 (see above) to Holland Road, then via Skelmersdale Road, Station Road, West Avenue, Jackson Road, Bus Station and then as for service 100 to St. Osyth.
- 360 - Mondays to Fridays : 1517 hrs. journey from Warley (Eagle Way) to Chelmsford (Bus Station) to depart at 1527 hrs. and operate 10 minutes later throughout.
- 406 - Weekdays : Revised timetable, and revised route via A127, Rayleigh High Road, High Street (Rayleigh), Websters Way, A1015, Rayleigh Road and A127.
- 430 - A short-term licence was granted for this service for operation on Tuesday, December 17th and Friday, December 20th (see NS262).
- 439 - A short-term licence was granted for this service for operation on Saturday, December 21st (see NS262).
- 473 - Service to be re-numbered 474, and revised terminals to be Colchester (Highwoods Shopping Centre) and Basildon (Bus Station). Service to operate on Saturdays only via Shrub End, Tiptree, Great Totham, Wickham Bishops and Witham, with revised route in the Colchester area. Service continues to operate via Ronford.

A short-term licence was granted for service 256 (Basildon (Bus Station)-Billericay (Queens Park, Arlington Way)) to operate on Mondays to Fridays from July 7th, 1985 to January 6th, 1986.

As recorded in last month's news sheet, a new set of timetable leaflets were introduced from January 27th for the commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. The only timetable changes have affected service 199 (Glensford-London) which no longer serves Great Cornard. However, as a correction to the information published last month, all timetable leaflets still record the availability of single fares on these services. Members may be interested to know that Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. have regularly used a double-deck Neoplan/Plaxton Paramount coach on service 204 (Tiptree-London) during recent weeks. On such occasions, the vehicle is routed direct via the A12 to/from Chelmsford (Wood Street) to avoid the low railway bridge at Margaretting.

Subsequent applications have been made for minor timetable alterations to the following commuter services :-

- 204 - Mondays to Fridays : 0555 hrs. journey from Tiptree (Maypole P.H.) to be advanced 5 minutes to depart at 0550 hrs.
- 205 - Mondays to Fridays : 0620 hrs. journey from South Woodham Ferrers (Hamberts Road, Ferrers Road) to be advanced 5 minutes to depart at 0615 hrs.

From Sunday, February 9th, various revisions were made to fare stages on services 78 and 88 in the Colchester & Tendring District. A new Day Return fare (£2.00) was also introduced between Mistley (Rigby Avenue) and Colchester (Bus Station) from the same date. Through fares are also now available from points south or east of Colchester

on services 7, 7A, 7C, 74, 78, 78A, 80B, 87, 87A, 103 and 104 to connect with service 474. Service revisions introduced during recent weeks have been as follows :- 406 (re-routed via Rayleigh, see above, and introduced from February 17th); 474 (new service from Colchester to Basildon via Romford introduced on Saturdays only from February 15th, with day return and family fares available together with through fares on the services listed above).

Hertfordshire County Council has recently invited tenders to operate 15 local bus services in the East Hertfordshire area. The closing date for the return of tenders was February 21st, and four services in the Bishop's Stortford area were included with details as follows :-

- Service 10 - Bishop's Stortford-Arkesden-Bishop's Stortford (Circular).
- Service 18 - Bishop's Stortford-Birchanger.
- Service 19 - Bishop's Stortford-Farnham.
- Service 20 - Bishop's Stortford-Furneux Pelham.

Other services were in the Duntingford, Royston and Tring areas.

Publicity News

New publicity material published during recent weeks has been as follows :-

Timetable leaflets - leaflets for services 406 (dated February 17th) and 474 (dated February 15th).

Excursion leaflets - three leaflets are now available for 'Day Breaks' from the Central Essex, Southend and Basildon and Clacton/Harwich/Colchester areas during March.

Commuter services - a full set of timetable leaflets is now available (all dated January 27th) for the commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. There are 8 leaflets for services 190/1, 192/3, 194/5, 196, 197, 198/9, 204/5 and a summary leaflet for all Braintree area services.

Temporary Loans

A large number of vehicles have been noted on temporary loan to Silver End (SE) depot during recent weeks. These have included 1866 CF, 1882 BE, 3024 BE, 3026 BE, 3067 BE and 4503 CF. 1866 was frequently in use on services 53 and 353 during early-February, whilst 4503 CF regularly operated commuter service 194 between January 13th-28th, together with a football excursion from Ipswich to West Ham Utd. F.C. on January 25th. At Braintree (BE), 1655 CN is the temporary replacement for 1863 BE (which is currently in the paintshops at Clacton (CN)), and 1655 was noted on services 89A (February 6th), 311 (February 11th/17th) and 332 (February 7th). 4502 BS was noted at Braintree (BE) depot on January 18th, and it was later used on commuter service 194 on February 4th/5th.

Bedford YMQS 1059 (TJN9C2W) was noted on loan to Enfield (ED) depot during late-January for operation on service W9, probably as a replacement for similar vehicle 1054 which is currently receiving an engine overhaul at Central Works.

Unusual Workings

There have been a large number of unusual workings reported by members during recent weeks. A shortage of space does not allow full coverage of these reports, and selected workings are as follows :-

- 9.12-Southend Transport 225 (services 6 and 16) and 234 (services 9 and 20) were noted on various Eastern National workings.
- 23.12-1119 BE noted on service 70; Southend Transport 224 and 306 noted on E.N. workings on service 22.
- 6.1-Southend Transport 256 (Van Hoel Astronega) noted on service 23.
- 11.1-1125 SD noted on service 402; 1765 III noted on service 20; Eastern Counties LN732, VR242 and VR275 operated a rail replacement service from Shenfield to Ipswich, whilst 3059, 3123 (both SE), 3067, 3115/8 (all BE), 3074 BN, 3080/92/4, 4005/6 (all BD) and 3112 CF operated a similar service from Chelmsford to Shenfield.
- 13.1-1657 CF noted on service 53, replacing 1861 SE.
- 14.1-1125 SD noted on service 406.
- 15.1-3059 SE noted on service 311, with 3067 BE being noted on service 53.
- 17.1-Southend Transport 229 operated a rail replacement service on the Southminster-Wickford branch; MCW Metroliner coach demonstrator ALM399A noted at Chelmsford Bus Station.

- 18.1-Eastern Counties LN765 and VR270 operated a rail replacement service from Shenfield to Ipswich; 1752 CF noted on service 30; 3024 DE was noted on services 335 and 353, with 3055 SE and 3060 SE both being noted at Braintree (DE) depot.
- 19.1-3082, 3106/12 (all CF), 3105 CF (but carrying SD depot allocation plates) and 3093, 3100, 4005/6 (all ID) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield.
- 20.1-Southend Transport 250 was observed operating a regular National Express service 109 journey; 3024 DE noted on services 337 and 353.
- 21.1-1117 DT noted on service 80 (and again on 28.1); 1123 CR noted on service 80 (and again on 24.1, 11.2 and 13.2); 1866 CF noted on service 316.
- 22.1-3060 SE observed on service 311; 3090 SD noted on service 31A. An extremely unusual working involved the use of 1128 LD on service 262. 3120 LN was noted on a Tesco contract working from Pitsea to Wickford.
- 23.1-3051 MN noted on an ASDA service at Rayleigh, with 3091 CF being noted on a similar service at Wickford; 3061 DT was observed on service 80.
- 24.1-Southend Transport 357 noted on service 7A; 1118 HH noted on a service 50 schools working at Rayleigh; 3098 SD noted in service in the new fleet livery on service 251, being the first vehicle in the Southend area to carry the new livery.
- 25.1-1730 CF noted on service 30; 1121 CF noted on service 36B; 3077 CF and 3082 CF noted on a rail replacement service from Chelmsford to Shenfield, whilst a similar service from Shenfield to Ipswich was operated by Eastern Counties LL788 and VR276/90.
- 26.1-1123 CR noted on service 53; 3033/70, 3112/25 (all CF), 3105 CF (but still carrying SD depot plates) and 3092/3, 3100, 4005/6 (all ID) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield; 4010 SD noted on service 251 (and again on 28.1).
- 27.1-Southend Transport 324 noted on service 63; 1121 CF noted on service 36A; 1303 DE noted at Halstead on National Express service 083.
- 28.1-1123 CR noted on service 53 (and again on 30.1).
- 29.1-3003 CF noted on driver training work in Chelmsford; 3067 DE noted on service 53, and this vehicle was frequently noted on services 53 and 353 during late-January.
- 30.1-Southend Transport 210 was noted on services 7 and 61A.
 - 1.2-3067 DE and 3095 DT (but carrying CR depot allocation plates) both noted on service 53; 3075 SD noted on service 251; 1310 SE failed at Braintree whilst operating a private hire journey, being replaced by 1301 CF (which was on loan to DE).
 - 2.2-3077/82/91, 3106/8/10/2/3 (all CF), 3105 CF (but carrying SD depot plates) and 3093/4, 3100, 4005 (all ID) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield. 3119 SD was also noted on this service, whilst a similar service between Hockley and Billericay/Shenfield was operated by 3091 CF, 3097 HH, 3101 SD, 3116 LN and 3122 SD.
 - 3.2-3072 SD noted on service 22; 3074 LN noted on service 232.
 - 4.2-1301 CF failed at London whilst operating commuter service 193, being replaced by Black & White 398 (YEL 98Y), which then worked service 193 back to London on 5.2 then being replaced by Grey-Green YYL775T.
 - 5.2-1122 ID noted on service 270; 3071 SD noted on service 11.
 - 6.2-1540 (ex. BS, and stored at SE) noted on service 330, and this vehicle had been used on service 331 on 4.2. It was again noted in service on this date operating service 321. Grey-Green YYL775T operated commuter service 193 to London, where it was replaced by 1310 SE for the evening journey with 1301 CF operating service 195.
 - 7.2-1861 SE noted on service 330.
 - 8.2-1752 CF noted on service 38, with 1866 CF and 1882 DE being both noted on service 353. 1797 was noted on service 251, whilst 1907 LN was observed on service 262.
 - 9.2-3088/96 (both SD) and 3103/7 (both HH) operated a rail replacement service between Southend (Victoria) and Wickford, whilst 3078 CF and 3093 SD operated a similar service between Chelmsford and Shenfield.
- 10.2-Southend Transport 324 noted on service 4B, whilst Southend Transport 221 and 307 operated a rail replacement service on the Wickford-Southminster branch; 1839 LD was noted on a Chelmsford (CF) depot service 152 working.
- 11.2-1921 MN noted on service 48.
- 12.2-4013 SE first entered service on the 1440 hrs. service 353 journey from Braintree.
- 13.2-4014 SE first entered service on the 1417 hrs. service 53 journey from Witham to Chelmsford; 1733 SE noted on service 70; 3029 DE (replacing 3039 BS) noted on services 58 and 300. An unidentified 'W-Niner' Bedford YMQS was noted at Southend (Victoria Station).
- 15.2-1118 HH noted on service 24; 3117 LN noted on service 400 at London.

- 16.2-1912 DD noted on service 251; 3069/77/8/82/91, 3106/8/10/2/26 (all CF), 3092/3/4 (all DD) and 3075 SD noted on a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield, whilst 3111 SD (but still carrying CF depot allocation plates) was noted on a similar service between Southend and Rayleigh, and 3092 DD, 3116 DN and 4005 DD were noted on another rail replacement service between Laindon and Uppminster; 3120 DN was noted at Laindon on service 400. Canbus 422 (RNG822W) was noted at Chelmsford (CF) depot, following engineering attention at Central Works.
- 17.2-Southend Transport 219 was noted covering the Eastern National service 11 working from Rawreth (Carpenters Arms P.H.) to Southend at 0745 hrs., whilst two open-top Daimler Fleetline's were observed covering Eastern National duties on service 20 on this date. 1861 SE failed at Maldon whilst operating service 335, being replaced by 1829 MN which was also later noted on services 325 and 353. 4013 SE operated commuter service 194, and 4015 SE first entered service on this date on the 1440 hrs. service 353 journey from Braintree.

Service Vehicles

Two of the Bristol VRTLL6G driver training vehicles (9016/8) were taken out of service during February, and they are now delicensed for disposal (D/L (D)) and in store at Maldon (MN) depot. These vehicles have been replaced on driver training duties by Bristol VRTSL6G's 3002 (CPU981G) and 3003 (CPU982G).

2.36 9016 CF-D/L (D), 9018 CF-D/L (D).

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

General

Colchester Borough Transport Ltd. was registered at Companies House on August 16th, 1985 with company registration number 1939857. Initially, the company secretary is Mr. J. Cobley (Town Clerk) and the directors are Mr. J.W.T. Hutton (Borough Engineer) and the Colchester Borough Council (in its corporate capacity).

Bristol REELL6L 25 (SWC 25K) was noted back in service on January 16th and again on February 4th. This vehicle is the first example of the remaining Bristol REELL6L's to be repainted in the new livery (see NS260). It has a cream roof and one maroon band below the windows, but does not have the diagonal stripes that are evident on double-deck vehicles. Other Bristol REELL6L's have recently been noted on services 1/1A, including, for example, 20 (OWC720M) on January 29th.

To correct the information published in last month's news sheet regarding Leyland Atlantean's out of service, the list of vehicles involved should have read 52, 55, 65, 85 and 90.

Leyland Atlantean's 60 (JHK500N) and 61 (NNO 61P) have recently received mechanical attention at Eastern National Engineering Ltd's Central Works at Chelmsford.

Leyland Atlantean 49 (YWC649F) was noted still in regular service on January 20th.

Leyland Leopard coach 101 (DHK101T) entered the paintshops at the Magdalen Street depot during mid-January for a partial repaint to the rear panels. Similar vehicle 102 (DHK102T) was noted back in service on January 16th when it was operating service 19. This particular vehicle has been booked for private hire journeys to the Isle of Wight and Blackpool later this year.

Service Developments

An application has been made for the following service revision :-

2A - Schooldays : 1505 hrs. journey from Gilbert School to Head Street to be withdrawn.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

Re-built and re-bodied Leyland Leopard/Berkhof coaches 254 and 255 were both noted at the premises of Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet on February 3th. The vehicles do not yet carry registration numbers, and neither vehicle has yet to enter service with Southend Transport.

Withdrawn Vehicles

It can be confirmed that Daimler Fleetline 334 (GHJ304L) was sold to Jubilee Coaches, Stevenage during January. It has also been reported that similar vehicle 332 (GHJ302L), withdrawn in April 1985 (see NS254), has also been sold to Jubilee Coaches, Stevenage, but this is still subject to confirmation.

Daimler Fleetline 303 (GHJ303L), which was withdrawn in March 1985 (see NS253), is reported to have been acquired by John Rannoch Poultry Packers, Haughley Park, Suffolk, ca. 10/85. It has previously been reported that this vehicle was being cannibalised for spares (see NS253).

Former Southend Transport open-top Leyland PD3/6 313 (PHJ 952), which is owned by the Sundecker company, was noted at the premises of Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet on February 8th. It was last noted in the South of France in September 1984 (see NS250).

Vehicles On Hire

Ipswich Borough Transport Leyland Atlantean 40 (RGV 40W) remained on hire to Southend Transport during mid-February, although it was expected that the vehicle would be returned to Ipswich on February 20th. The vehicle had worked virtually every service which can be operated by full height vehicles during its period of hire in Southend; for example, it was noted on service 4A at Bournes Green on January 24th.

The former Parks of Hamilton Leyland Leopard coach 359 (MDS242V) remained on hire from Caledonia Coach Sales and Services Ltd. during February.

Bristol REILL6L 303 (JEH179K) remained on hire to Ipswich Borough Transport at the time of writing, but was expected to return to Southend upon the return of Ipswich Borough Transport 40 to Ipswich.

General

Southend Transport Ltd. was registered at Companies House on September 16th, 1985, with company registration number 1947340. Initially, the company secretary is Mr. D.G. Preddy (Director of Finance) and the only director is Mr. F.R. Peacock (Town Clerk), but both these persons are expected to change when the company is activated. The Council has now confirmed the appointment of Mr. D.S. Giles (present Traffic Superintendent) as Operations Director, and it is understood that Mr. C.G. Hilditch (present Chief Engineer) will be the Engineering Director of the new company.

Daimler Fleetline 313 (GHV106N) sustained roof damage after being driven under the Hall Road railway bridge at Rochford whilst running empty on January 16th. The vehicle is now under repair, and has been noted with a replacement red DMS-type roof unit being fitted, presumably from a cannibalised DMS vehicle.

Fares were increased on the X1/X10/X11/X21/X31/X41 group of services with effect from Sunday, January 26th.

Van Hool Astronomega 243 (JEV243Y) re-entered service on January 26th after accident damage repairs, and it is now fitted with a three track number blind and single line destination blind as carried by newer vehicles 256/7.

Leyland Leopard coach 334 (WRO433S) was repainted in standard coach livery on January 21st, and this leaves 335 (WRO435S) (white livery) and 359 (MDS242V) as the only coaches now remaining in non-standard liveries.

Further to the recent reports regarding changes to route arrangements in central Southend, by December 14th Heygate Avenue at the exit of Central Bus Station was closed for roadworks, with all departures using Church Road and the temporary road (which is officially described as the New Construction Road) instead. By January 18th, Heygate Avenue was re-opened and services resumed their normal routes. Additionally, the temporary road was closed at the same time, and thus services 7, 8 and 20 now use Heygate Avenue and Church Road in place of Grove Road and the temporary road.

As a minor correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, Southend Transport operated the 2147 hrs. rail journey from Farnbridge to Southminster and the 2220 hrs. return journey from Southminster to Wickford from December 16th to December 20th, and not only on December 16th as previously recorded. The above workings were again operated by Southend Transport from February 3rd-7th and from February 10th-14th due to overhead line construction work.

Late news is that Ipswich Borough Transport Leyland Atlantean 40 (RGV 40W) was returned to Ipswich on February 20th, being replaced by Southend Transport 303 (JHE179K) returning from Ipswich, and having sustained accident damage whilst at Ipswich. Additionally, it has been reported that re-built and re-bodied Leyland Leopard coach 254 (see above) was delivered to Southend Transport from Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet on February 20th.

Service Developments

Southend Transport revised the special boarding and alighting conditions on service X1 from Sunday, January 5th. The last boarding point on journeys towards Southend, and the first alighting point on journeys from Southend, is now at One Tree Hill, Corringham.

Southend Transport has also recently applied to introduce the following service revisions on the X group of services, which in all cases apply to Mondays to Fridays :-

- X1 - to introduce an additional journey from Socketts Heath (Oak P.H.) to Green Park at 0809 hrs.
- 1540 hrs. journey from Green Park to Basildon (Timberlog Lane) to be re-numbered X41, and be extended to Prittlewell (Blue Boar P.H.).
- X10 - to introduce an additional journey from Southend to Green Park at 0710 hrs.
- X11 - 0640 hrs. journey from Southend (Central Bus Station) to Green Park to be re-numbered X10, with revised route.
- X31 - to introduce additional journeys from Green Park to Canvey (Leigh Beck) at 1520 hrs. and 1630 hrs.

In practice, it is understood that most of the above revisions have already been introduced.

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS

Initial Disposals

- 1536 (OHK226K) - Sold to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 2/86.
- 1540 (PEV502K) - Sold to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 2/86.
- 1541 (PEV503K) - Sold to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 2/86.
- 1545 (SVW273K) - Sold to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 2/86.
- 1547 (SVW275K) - Sold to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 2/86.
- 1553 (WNO542L) - Sold to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 2/86.
- 1652 (KCG609L) - Being cannibalised and broken up for scrap by Eastern National O.C. Ltd. at Clacton depot, 2/86.
- 3014 (SMS 40H) - Still at Central Works, Chelmsford, 2/86, and has not yet been cannibalised and broken up for scrap (see also NS259/60/1/2).

Subsequent Disposals

'National' numbering scheme

- 3709 (FEV 178) - Still owned by Ledger, Northampton (for preservation), 1/86, and vehicle is currently kept at the Castle Point Transport Museum, Canvey Island.
- 305 (UEV 843) - O'Sullivan, Hospital, by 10/74, ex. Brennan, Athlone. (additional information to NS258/9).
- 9430 (LWC981J) - Currently allocated to Ipswich Depot by Eastern Counties O.C. Ltd., RE346. (additional information to NS262).
- 9446 (XVW634L) - Appleton, Bridgend, by 41/85, ex. Nicholls, Garway.
- 2102 (LEV 917) - Still owned by Springhill Vehicle Preservation Group (for preservation), 2/86.
- 2301 (KHK340D) - Dealer, Purfleet, by 1/86, ex. Kinch, Mountsorrel.
- 2400 (XVX 19) - Still owned by Richardson, Swindon (for preservation), 1/86, and vehicle is currently kept at the Castle Point Transport Museum, Canvey Island. (see also NS250).
- 2710 (90 TVX) - Ireland, Hull is a dealer not a preservationist. (correction and additional information to NS261).
- 2702 (995 K00) - Passed to Brakell, Chesham (dealer), 12/78, and then exported to Michelle Gresse, Paris, France, 4/79, for use as a zoological research unit.

- 2786 (937 LWC) - Exported to R. Franco and P. Andrea, San Giovanni, Italy, 3/79, for use as a mobile boutique. (additional information to NS183).
- 2799 (BVX675B) - Exported direct to Canary Islands, 4/82, ex. dealer, Purfleet, by A.H. ThVale, Ja Dunen, Netherlands.
- 2814 (GN0790B) - Exported to Craigstar Inc., Round-up Restaurant, Houston, Texas, U.S.A., 2/81, ex. dealer, Grays. (additional information to NS207).
- 2818 (HEV996B) - Exported to Double Deck Co. SPRL, Brussels, Belgium, 8/82, ex. dealer, Purfleet. Address changed to Linkbeek, Belgium, by 2/84. (additional information to NS224).
- 2842 (MVX079C) - Exported to Double Deck Co. SPRL, Brussels, Belgium, 8/82, ex. dealer, Purfleet. Address changed to Linkbeek, Belgium, by 2/84. (additional information to NS224).
- 2844 (MVX081C) - Exported to D. Barlow, Country Place Apartments, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A., 8/82, ex. dealer, Purfleet. (additional information to NS224).
- 2851 (NTW944C) - Exported to S. Calazel, Publicitie Promotion, D'Eglantine, Paris, France, 3/81, ex. dealer, Grays. (additional information to NS207).
- 2867 (RVW393D) - Northern Scottish Omnibuses Ltd., N5DT (as driver training vehicle), 6/85, ex. W. Alexander & Sons (Northern) Ltd. (additional information to NS261).
- 2871 (RWC943D) - Northern Scottish Omnibuses Ltd., N235DT (as driver training vehicle), 6/85, ex. W. Alexander & Sons (Northern) Ltd. (see also NS255).
- 2905 (WVX532F) - Re-seated to H40/34F by Stagecoach, Perth, 12/85.
- 2920 (AEV814F) - This vehicle has been reported as a playbus sponsored by Waddingtons, Leeds, by 10/85; and also as a mobile showroom for Waddingtons, acquired 1/85. Clarification required. (additional information to NS255).
- 2936 (RWC 607) - Still owned by Miles, Greenford (for preservation), 1/86, and vehicle is currently kept at the Castle Point Transport Museum, Canvey Island. (Vehicle is being preserved in service X10 livery and condition). (additional information to NS240).
- 2940 (KN0949C) - A photograph of this vehicle was published in the July 1985 edition of 'National Bus Trader' magazine, in connection with an advertisement of double-deck vehicles for sale by Top Deck America Travel Inc., Hollywood, Los Angeles, U.S.A. (see also NS236/40).
- 2946 (AVX975G) - Still with dealer, Purfleet, 2/86. (see also NS252/7).
- 3017 (SMS 43H) - Passed to dealer, Middlewich, 8/85, before passing to breaker, Carlton, by 9/85. (additional information to NS261).

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), R.H. Palmer (M105), V.J. Cooper (M128), R. Delahoy (M180), I.M. Dann (M186), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), R.E. Huggins (M296), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), I. Ranson (M421), J. Rugg (M443), C.M.J. Paynter (M515), C.D. Sigston (M523), C. Pretty (M524), R.A. Dennis (M535), F.G. Spence (M545), S.J. Barnes (M576), S. Coates (M603), G. Huggins (AM1), M.M. Bateman and the P.S.V. Circle.

Notes and information for the March news sheet should be sent to the News Sheet Editor (address below), to arrive by Wednesday, March 19th.

Black and white photographs suitable for inclusion in the next News Sheet 'Photo-News' should be sent to the Publications Officer, A.W. Meadows Esq., 52. Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex. SS6 9NW, by Friday, March 31st. Please remember that photographs should be of good quality, and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your photographs.

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