

EDITORIAL

1985 Coach Tours - Dates For Your Diary

Preliminary details are now available regarding two of the Group's coach tours during 1985. On Sunday, May 19th there will be a tour to the South Essex area, including visits to Eastern National depots at Basildon, Hadleigh and Southend, to Southend Transport and to a local independent operator. This year's weekend tour will take place on Friday, August 23rd to Monday, August 26th, and will include visits to a number of operators in the North Midlands area. Please mark these dates in your diary now. Booking forms will be circulated with the news sheet in due course.

New List of Publications

The Group has published a new and completely revised list of its publications (General Circular E.C.5). This contains details of all Group publications (E.P. series) and books (E.F.B./E.B.1-5), and members can obtain a copy by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 563. London Road, Hadleigh, Essex. SS7 3EA).

News Sheet Contributions

Following a suggestion at the last Annual General Meeting, the News Sheet Editor is introducing a standard form for the benefit of those members who contribute news and information for the Group's news sheet on a regular basis. This will assist the News Sheet Editor in compiling news items, particularly on Unusual Workings and Temporary Loans. A copy of the new form is enclosed with this news sheet for those members who have supplied information regularly over the past year. Members are also reminded that all contributions for the news sheet should be sent by post, and that telephone calls should be avoided.

Disposal of Deceased Members' Collections

Following a specific request from a Group member, a new circular (General Circular E.C.17) has been published which contains advice and information for those persons who may be involved in the disposal of deceased members' collections. A copy of this circular is enclosed with this news sheet, and further copies may be obtained if necessary from the Membership Secretary (R.H. Palmer Esq., 67. Perkins Road, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. IG2 7NQ.).

Southend Meeting - Tuesday, March 5th.

The second monthly meeting at our new venue, Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, will be held on Tuesday, March 5th commencing at 1930 hrs. (for 2000 hrs.). See last month's news sheet for full details about transport and parking facilities. The March meeting will feature a slide show on 'Travels Through The Industry' - a selection of slides from the 1960's to the present time, presented by Mike Wescombe, Deputy General Manager, Southend Transport. Bar facilities are available in the room throughout the meeting.

The following Southend meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at Freight House, Rochford.

Chelmsford Meeting - Tuesday, March 12th.

A meeting will be held at 33. Goldlay Road, Chelmsford on Tuesday, March 12th commencing at 1945 hrs. As usual, a range of Group photographs will be available for sale, and the meeting will also provide an opportunity for general discussion. Goldlay Road is in two sections and No. 33 is in the cul-de-sac leading towards Parkway.

New Oxford Publishing Company Books

The Group now has for sale two recent Oxford Publishing Company titles, as follows :-

- 1) 'The Years Between : 1909-1969' - Vol. 2 : The Eastern National Story From 1930, by R.J. Crawley, D.R. MacGregor and F.D. Simpson.

This volume tells the history of Eastern National from 1929 to 1969. It has 208 pages and is casebound with approximately 100 photographs, maps and other illustrations. It includes extensive appendices on the history of routes, acquired operators and vehicles operated during the period. Copies are available from the Group at £11.95 post free, and this book can be recommended to all Group members.

2) 'The Bristol LH', by G.R. Mills.

This book is a pictorial history of the Bristol LH, and contains 236 photographs of this vehicle type. The book has 96 pages, and copies are available from the Group at £8.95 post free.

Orders for these books should be sent direct to the Events Secretary (R. Delahoy Esq., 120. Yarnacott, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. SS3 8AW). Both titles will also be on sale at the forthcoming Rochford meetings.

'The Rise and Fall of British Coachways', by Ken Bateman and Owen Woodliffe

This book has recently been published by Rochester Press and is available at a reduced rate through the Grey Green Enthusiasts Club (it was written by members of the GGEC). The book contains chapters on the formation, operation and decline of the consortium, connecting services and competing operators, and is well illustrated. Copies may be ordered (price £3.25 post free) from :-

The Hon. Treasurer,
Grey Green Enthusiasts Club,
196. Sinclair Road,
Chingford,
London.
E4 8PT.

The Council Vehicle Society

Members with a special interest in local authority bus services may be interested to know that the Council Vehicle Society (formed in 1980) provides wider coverage of the many commercial vehicles operated by local authorities. A news-letter titled 'Council Vehicle News' is published quarterly, and full details of membership and a specimen news-letter can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Mr. P. Jarman, 18. Poplar Close, Biggleswade, Beds., SG18 0EW. Fleet lists of Colchester Borough Council, Rochford District Council and Southend Borough Council are also currently available.

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EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

The two new Leyland Tiger coaches with Plaxton Paramount 3500 coachwork (1128/9 B696/7WAR) have now been placed in store, and are expected to enter service in April.

Acquired Vehicles

Conversion work on former Thames Valley & Aldershot Omnibus Co. Ltd. (Alder Valley) Leyland National 2201 (KCG618L) has now been completed, and the vehicle is currently at Central Works awaiting its entry into service. It has been repainted in dual-purpose livery (as carried by similar vehicle 2200). The original seats have been replaced by 20 coach type (non-reclining) seats, and space is provided for 8 wheelchairs. The seating capacity of this vehicle should be revised to C20D (plus 8 wheelchairs).

Vehicles On Order

Further information is now available regarding the 14 Leyland Olympian vehicles that are on order for delivery during 1985. The ten Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. dual-purpose vehicles will be numbered 4500-9 and will carry registration numbers B688-697EPU. These vehicles are currently being bodied at Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft, and delivery is expected in late-February (3) and March (7). They will be similar in appearance to the dual-purpose vehicles supplied to Thames Valley &

Aldershot Omnibus Co. Ltd. (Alder Valley), London Country Bus Services Ltd. and Maidstone & District Motor Services Ltd. but will carry 13' 8" height bodywork. It is understood that they will be fitted with Transign destination equipment. Livery details were not available at the time of writing, and chassis and body numbers will be published as soon as they become available. The four Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. vehicles for stage services will be numbered 4003-6 and will carry registration numbers B698-701BPU (if delivered before August).

Withdrawn Vehicles

1.85	1404 (VHK177L)	1412 (X00881L)
	1406 (XVW631L)	1417 (GJD196N)
	1407 (XVW632L)	1418 (GJD194N)
	1411 (X00880L)	1419 (GJD195N)
2.85	1524 (KVX570J)	1534 (MHK916J)
	1528 (LVX116J)	1544 (RPU884K)
	1530 (MHK912J)	1550 (WNO539L)
	1532 (MHK914J)	1551 (WNO540L)
	1533 (MHK915J)	

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

Re-built Vehicles

Bristol REL6G 1548 (WNO537L) is now classified as an unallocated Survey Vehicle, and it has been licensed as a private vehicle (LP) (see also NS249/50).

Bristol VHTSL6G 3065 (UVX 2S) was fitted with a Gardner 6LXB engine at Central Works during February in place of its previous Gardner 6LXC unit. The full chassis designation for this vehicle should now read VHTSL6LXB.

There is no further news to report this month regarding the proposed conversion of Bristol REL6G coach 1409 (X00878L) into a disabled persons' bus. Certain seats from this vehicle have been fitted to Leyland National 2201 (KCG618L), and 1409 was stored in the yard at Central Works at the time of writing.

Allocations & Transfers

2.85 1123 BE-CN, 1126 BE-CN, 1302 BD-BE, 1306 BE-CF, 1524 CR (P)-D/L (D), 1528 CR-D/L (D), 1530 CN-D/L (D), 1532 DT-D/L (D), 1533 BS-D/L (D), 1534 D/L (P)-D/L (D), 1544 D/L (P)-D/L (D), 1547 D/L (P)-CR, 1548 D/L (P)-LP (unallocated Survey Vehicle), 1550 CN-D/L (D), 1551 BS-D/L (D), 1552 D/L (P)-DT, 1553 D/L (P)-CN-BS, 1554 D/L (P)-BS-CN, 1726 HH-CR, 1739 HH-BS, 3014 PL (P)-D/L (D), 3024 SD-PL (P), 3058 CR-CR, 3078 CR-CF.

As noted above, Bristol REL6G's 1524/8/30/2-4/44/50/1 were all classified as D/L (D) prior to their withdrawal and sale later in February.

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, Bristol VHTSL6G 3115 (XHK220X) remains at Basildon (BN) whilst similar vehicle 3116 (XHK221X) remains at Braintree (BE). When noted at Braintree in mid-February, 3116 carried a Basildon (BN) depot plate at the rear of the vehicle, but not at the front. These are temporary re-allocations and are not shown in the Company's official vehicle allocation list.

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks, and this continues from the information published in NS250 :-

January w/e 26.1.85 - 1411 at CW (National coach livery) - prior to withdrawal.
 February w/e 2.2.85 - 1058 at CN, 3085 at CW.
 w/e 9.2.85 - 1788 at CW, 2201 at CW (dual-purpose livery).
 w/e 16.2.85 - 1833 at CW (overall advertisement livery for Bates Motors (Belcher) Ltd., Maldon) - see also below.
 w/e 23.2.85 - 3062 at CW.

Leyland National 1833 (VAR899S) has now entered service in its overall advertisement

livery, which is silver with blue stripes and signwriting. The silver base livery was spray painted by Arlington Motor Co. Ltd., Enfield during late-January, and the vehicle had returned to Central Works by February 4th for signwriting.

Leyland Leopard coach 1300 (XHK213X) now carries the latest style of Eastern National fleetname (as first introduced on MCW Metroliner 1603), and this livery modification was carried out at Central Works during late-January.

In addition to Leyland National 1859 (YEV317S) which is currently at Central Works being painted in an overall advertisement livery for Lancaster Garages Ltd., Brentwood, a further three Leyland National vehicles will be painted in overall advertisement liveries during the near future. They are 1864 (YEV322S), 1869 (YEV327S) and 1890 (BN0680T), and all three vehicles are now at Central Works. 1864 will carry an overall advertisement livery for Fairfield (BMW Dealers), Leigh-on-Sea; 1869 will carry an advertising livery for Lex Mead (Austin Rover Dealers), Chelmsford; 1890 will carry an advertising livery for the SMAC Group, Westcliff-on-Sea.

General

Essex County Council's Public Transport Sub-Committee resolved on January 10th to seek competitive tenders, with a view to introduction as near to April 1st as possible, for the following Eastern National services - 34, 34A, 35A, 227, 231, 257, 306, 314 and 315, and also for London Country services 47, 47A, 47B and 369, and for Wiffens Coaches' service between Finchingfield and Great Dunmow. It was further resolved that some tenders would be sought on the 'guaranteed cost' system, and some on a 'predetermined set deficit' basis. These tenders will be sought unless the existing operators would in future be prepared to provide them without revenue support. The tendering process is being carried out as speedily as possible, and all licensed PSV operators based within the District Council areas in which the services operate, or who currently operate local bus services within that District, are eligible to tender. This is stated to be designed to encourage the widest possible competition. The Public Transport Sub-Committee also further resolved that grant-aid for Eastern National services 127, 323, 344 and 345, and London Transport service 254, should not be continued, on the basis that extensive surveys have indicated very low levels of use, and alternative facilities exist, or could be provided at minimal cost, to meet the limited demand. Finally, the Sub-Committee resolved to maintain support for certain 'CountryCar' services, and for the majority of grant-aided Eastern National services in the Bishop's Stortford area.

Leyland National 2201 (KCG618L), which has been converted into a disabled persons' bus (see above), will also be used for driver training duties if required.

Three vehicles which have sustained accident damage during recent weeks are Leyland National's 1777 (PEV639R) and 1856 (YEV314S), and Bristol VRTSL6G 3014 (SMS 40H). 1777 and 1856 are both under repair at Central Works, but 3014 will not be repaired and has been Delicensed For Disposal (D/L (D)). With two Hadleigh (HH) depot Leyland National's (1733/77) currently at Central Works for accident repairs, there have been various temporary loans to HH, and during mid-February 1656 CF and 1712 BN were both on loan.

Following the withdrawal of nine Bristol REL6G's this month, there are now only thirteen of these vehicles left in the Eastern National fleet, of which three are currently Delicensed Pool Vehicles (1539/41/9) and one is a Survey Vehicle (1548). There are still some regular workings by these vehicles, including in the Colchester area the 0740 hrs journey (Weekdays) on service 83 from Colchester (Bus Station), the 1640 hrs. service 104 journey (Mondays to Fridays) from Colchester (Bus Station) and the 1740 hrs. service 88A journey (Weekdays) also from Colchester (Bus Station). On occasions these workings are rostered to other vehicles; for example, on January 28th-30th Leyland Tiger 1111 operated the service 83 journey, whilst similar vehicle 1126 CN operated this journey on February 4th.

Explorer tickets represent very good value for money, and members may be interested in the following itinerary recently undertaken by a Group member. The Explorer ticket saved £9.80 on the normal fares for these journeys.

0845 hrs. service 237 Basildon-Maldon (1712 BN); 1005 hrs. service 119

Maldon-Colchester (1789 CN); 1105 hrs. service 103 Colchester-Harwich (3061 DT); 1235 hrs. service 106 Harwich-Clacton (1780 CN); 1405 hrs. service 119 Clacton-Colchester (1892 CR); 1506 hrs. service 7 Colchester-West Mersea (CBT 80); 1549 hrs. service 7 West Mersea-Colchester (CBT 80); 1635 hrs. service 53 Colchester-Chelmsford (3060 SE); 1800 hrs. service 152 Chelmsford-Basildon (1880 BN).

Service Developments

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

- 7 - Terminal at Shoeburyness to be re-titled Shoeburyness (Osprey).
Sundays : one journey to be withdrawn. These revisions were introduced from Sunday, January 27th.
- 8 - Sundays : one journey to be withdrawn (introduced from Sunday, January 27th).
- 31 - Schooldays : one minor timetable change.
- 36 - Schooldays : one journey to be withdrawn.
- 52A - Timing point at Howe Street to be Howe Street (Corner).
- 53 - Mondays to Fridays : one minor timetable change.
Weekdays : one minor timetable change.
- 55 - Schooldays : one journey to be withdrawn.
- 56 - Schooldays : one minor timetable change.
- 56A - Schooldays : one journey to be withdrawn.
- 80 - Saturdays : two journeys to be re-numbered 80B, and to operate via Great Bromley, Little Bentley and Tendring Heath Hospital.
- 80B - NEW SERVICE to operate on Saturdays only from Colchester (Bus Station) to Harwich (Bus Station) via A1124, A133, A604, Little Bentley, B1035, Beaumont, Stones Green, Great Oakley, B1414 and Dovercourt.
- 116 - Revised circular route, and revised timetable (introduced from January 7th) (additional information to NS249).
- 122 - Schooldays : one minor timetable change.
- 309 - Weekdays : one journey to operate via London Road, Whittington Way and Friedberg Avenue on Schooldays only.
- 373 - An application has been made for a full licence for this service, which operates on Fridays only between Braintree (Bus Park) and Colchester (Bus Station) (see also NS240/4/7).
- 524 - Mondays to Fridays : one minor timetable change.
- 546 - Service to be withdrawn, with the one service 546 journey being re-numbered 547, together with a minor timetable change.

A short term licence has been granted for 'Malbus' services 2/2A between Maldon (Market) and Great Braxted (Du Cane Arms P.H.) from February 2nd to August 1st (Thursdays and Saturdays).

Service revisions introduced during February and early-March have been as follows :-

- 78 - five journeys extended to/from Colchester (General Hospital) on Weekdays (4.3.85); 78A - one journey extended to Colchester (General Hospital) on Weekdays (4.3.85); 126 - one additional journey introduced on Saturdays only from Harwich (Bus Station) to Wix Cross (2.2.85); 317 - one additional journey on Mondays to Fridays from Bishop's Stortford to The Hall Caravan Park (4.3.85).

A new one-way traffic system was introduced in Clacton town centre from Sunday, February 10th, and this necessitated the re-routing of services entering the town from both Pier Avenue and Station Road. In addition, services 108 and 109 operating towards Jaywick no longer serve Clacton Bus Station but use a new stop at Tesco's in Station Road.

Commencing on Saturday, January 26th, and for certain Saturdays and Mondays during following weeks, the rail bridge at Stansted village was closed for road works. Services 303 and 304 were re-routed from B1383 via Forest Hall Road and Church Road to Maitland Road and then via Church Road and Bury Lodge Lane to Stansted Airport, returning by the same route reversed. This diversion meant that Stansted village was not served by services 303 and 304, but alternative facilities were available between Bishop's Stortford and Stansted (Bell and Feathers P.H.) by service 301.

Further service developments and timetable revisions will be introduced on the various commuter services jointly operated with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd. with effect from February 25th. Brief details of these revisions are as follows :-

- 190 - NEW SERVICE from Colchester (Bus Station) to London (Millbank) via Lexden, Marks Tey, Coggeshall and Braintree, with departures from Colchester at 0530 hrs. and from Millbank at 1712 hrs. This service will be operated by Eastern National.
- 191 - Terminal in London to be Millbank, with return journey now departing from Millbank at 1642 hrs. and revised timings to Wanstead. This service will now be operated by Grey-Green Coaches Ltd.
- 192 - Terminal in London to be Millbank, with return journey now departing from Millbank at 1657 hrs. and revised timings to Stratford.
- 193 - Terminal in London to be Millbank, with return journey now departing from Millbank at 1707 hrs. and revised timings to Stratford.
- 194 - Tiptree service to be re-numbered 204, with forthcoming revisions to take place following the completion of a survey.
- 194 - Former service 195 journeys from Braintree (White Courts Estate) will now be numbered 194, with morning departures from White Courts Estate being advanced to 0620 hrs. and 0650 hrs. and with some revised intermediate timings. Terminal in London to be Millbank, with revised evening departure times.
- 195 - Terminal in London to be Millbank, with morning departure from Tye Green being advanced to 0655 hrs. and with revised intermediate timings. Revised evening departure times.
- 196 - Silver End service to be withdrawn.
- 196 - NEW SERVICE from Braintree (Panfield Lane P.O.) to London (Millbank) via Shalford, Wethersfield, Finchingfield, Great Dunmow, Wanstead, Aldgate and Charing Cross, with departures from Braintree at 0635 hrs. and from Millbank at 1702 hrs.
- 197 - Terminal in London to be Millbank, with return journey now departing from Millbank at 1627 hrs. and revised timings to Artillery Row.
- 198 - Terminal in London to be Millbank, with 0555 hrs. departure from Halstead now starting from Earls Colne at 0537 hrs. and operating ten minutes earlier over the section of route from Halstead. Return journey departs from Millbank at 1642 hrs. with revised timings to Artillery Row. Journeys to/from Glemsford to be re-numbered 199.
- 199 - South Woodham Ferrers service to be re-numbered 204.
- 199 - Former service 198 journeys from Glemsford (Post Office) will now be numbered 199, with departures from Glemsford at 0610 hrs. and from Millbank at 1732 hrs. Service no longer serves Great Dunmow.
- 204 - Former service 194 and 199 journeys to/from Tiptree (194) and South Woodham Ferrers (199) are now numbered 204. Terminal in London to be Millbank, with forthcoming revisions to take place following the completion of a survey.

Timetable leaflets incorporating full details of these changes were not available at the time of writing.

The Company's travel office at Queen Street has been closed for redevelopment, and the Company has opened a new 'National Travelworld' office at 2. St. Nicholas Passage, Colchester, with effect from February 4th.

Publicity News

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

- Timetable leaflets - a leaflet containing details of the Clacton town centre one-way system, including timetables for services 108 and 109, dated February 10th
- two leaflets have been published concerning the bridge closure at Stansted, with details of the service 301 timetable - one

- leaflet is dated January 26th, and the other leaflet is undated.
- Express services - a new timetable leaflet for service 795 (Southend-Brighton), dated January 26th.
- General leaflets - a leaflet with details of 'Saturday Saver' fares on service 105 (Walton-Colchester), dated January 26th.
- revised leaflets for the Basildon 'FairCard', Chelmsford 'ChelmerCard' and Southend & District 'TravelCard' schemes, all dated January 6th.
- Essex County Council leaflets - a timetable revision leaflet (No. 2) for the Colchester/Clacton/Harwich area book, dated January 7th.

Unusual Workings

Details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

- 21.12-1407 MN noted on duplicate National Express service 081/4 journeys (and also on 24.12 and 28.12).
- 24.12-1800 BN noted on a duplicate National Express service 109 journey.
- 26.12-1744 DN and 1796 BN noted on the special services (153, 237, 512 and 513) sponsored by Basildon District Council.
- 31.12-Norfolk Motor Services, Great Yarmouth ceased trading on this date, and is no longer part of the East Anglian Express (EAX) pool of operators. Journeys on National Express service 081 were operated by 298 (CAH221V) on this date.
- 1.1-1830 BN and 1854 BN noted on the special services (153, 237, 512 and 513) sponsored by Basildon District Council.
- 15.1-Southend Transport 326 noted on a London Country service 795 working.
- 16.1-1863 BE noted on service 53 (and also on 17.1); 3027 DT noted on service 70A.
- 17.1-1052 MN noted on service 37; 3106 CF noted on service 353; 3110 CF noted on service 33; Colchester Borough Transport 101 noted on service 8.
- 20.1-3097/9, 3103/7/9 (all HH) operated a rail replacement service between Southend (Central) and Pitsea. On subsequent Sundays, a similar service was operated by the following vehicles :- 27.1-3076 BN (on loan to HH), 3097/9, 3103/9 (all HH); 3.2-1765, 1857, 1900, 3085/99, 3103 (all HH); 10.2-1656 CF (on loan to HH), 3099, 3103/7/9 (all HH), 3121 SD (on loan to HH), Southend Transport 318; 17.2-3065 SD (on loan to HH), 3085/97, 3107/9 (all HH).
- 21.1-1119 BE failed whilst operating commuter service 195, with passengers transferring to the next service 195 vehicle (1301 CF).
- 25.1-1822 BN noted on service 400.
- 30.1-Southend Transport 242 noted on service 3 with crew operation.
- 1.2-1126 CN noted on service 82; 1705 CN noted on service 83A; 3032 CH noted on service 107; Southend Transport 338 observed on service 7A.
- 5.2-3122 SD and 3129 SD both noted on service 400.
- 6.2-London Country AN190 (XPG190T) (on hire to Eastern National) noted on service 402.
- 13.2-1856 CF noted on service 3; 3053 SD noted on service 400.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

Vehicles On Order

It can now be confirmed that Colchester Borough Transport has placed an order for two Leyland Olympian vehicles with E.C.W. bodywork at a cost of £66,850 each.

General

Leyland Atlantean 55 (JHK495N) was noted back in service on January 14th having received a complete repaint including matt black window surrounds; it had last been noted in service last July.

A number of the Bristol RELL6L's are out of service at the present time; these are 16 (YWC 16L), 19 (OWC719M), 22 (OWC722M), 24 (SWC 24K), 25 (SWC 25K), 26 (SWC 26K) and 28 (SWC 28K). This has resulted in other vehicles being noted on services 2/2A, 9/9A and 19/19A which are normally operated by Bristol RELL6L's, including Leyland Atlantean 49 (YWC649F) on services 9/19 on January 25th/31st and Leyland Leopard coach 102 (DHK102T) on service 19A on February 2nd.

Other vehicles currently out of service are Leyland Atlantean's 52 (MVK546R), 67 (TPU 67R), 71 (TPU 71R), 81 (YNO 81S) and 83 (MEV 83V). Leyland Atlantean 85 (MEV 85V) was noted back in service on February 16th on services 1/1A and 3 (see NS250).

SOUTHEND TRANSPORTNew Vehicle

Details are now available regarding the new Volvo B10M that has recently been supplied by Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet, and these are as follows :-

300 B300BTW Volvo B10M-61 9333 Berkhof Esprite B340 C53F --- Delivered 23.1.85

This vehicle was delivered in fleet livery, and it entered service on January 25th on the 1830 hrs. service X1 journey to Green Park. The body number was unavailable at the time of writing, and the vehicle is fitted with reclining seats.

Vehicles On Order

It is now possible to confirm the details of the six vehicles that are currently on order for Southend Transport, and this supplements the information published in NS249/50. Details are as follows :-

252/3 - DAF MB200/Duple Laser 2 C57F - currently being built at Duple Coachbuilders Ltd.

254/5 - Two Berkhof Esprite B340 C53F bodies are on order, and will be placed on the rebuilt chassis of former Midland Red Leyland Leopard PSU3A/2R vehicles CHA417/25K (chassis numbers 7003655 and 7004058 respectively). These chassis formerly carried Willowbrook DP49F bodies, which were removed by Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet, and the chassis have now been delivered to Southend. They will be rebuilt with DAF DKTL engines, 5 speed close ratio gearboxes, power steering and revised suspension and braking systems. The coaches will then be re-registered with B or C prefix registrations, depending upon their completion dates. Ensign Bus Co. had previously supplied a Leyland Leopard PSU3/3R chassis (chassis number 7003145) to Southend Transport; this was formerly Western SMT Co. Ltd. L2315 RSD736J, which carried Alexander DP49F bodywork, being new in 1970. This chassis was of the wrong specification, and it is currently at the Tickfield Avenue works and may be cannibalised for spares.

256/7 - Van Hool Astromega TD824 integral double-deck coaches, similar to 243-5 (JEV243-5Y) but fitted with a ZF automatic gearbox in place of the Allison gearbox fitted before, and fitted with inward opening doors and revised interior trim.

Acquired Vehicles

Three vehicles have been acquired recently, and details are as follows :-

351 KAD351V Leyland Leopard PSU5C/4R 7904946 Plaxton C57F 8012LC014 New -/80
 357 YDW317T Leyland Leopard PSU3E/4R 7802366 Plaxton C53F 7911LX502 New -/79
 358 LAK304W Leyland Leopard PSU3E/4R 7902471 Duple C53F 033/5152 New -/81

351 was new to National Travel (South West) Ltd., 351, and passed to South Wales Transport Co. Ltd., 157, in April 1981. It was delivered to Southend on January 25th in a white livery, and was then recertified before entering service on February 13th with the addition of a yellow band to the white livery. It has not been painted with a blue windscreen surround. 357 was new to Hills (Tredegar) Ltd., Tredegar; it was delivered to Southend on January 16th in all over yellow livery, and it entered service on January 22nd with the addition of a blue band to the livery. 358 was new to Globe, Barnsley; it was delivered to Southend on January 24th in an off white livery with pink and dark red stripes, and it entered service on January 25th.

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet Bristol RELL6L 303 (JEH179K) entered service on January 19th, and Leyland Leopard coach 348 (CDU798T) entered service on January 15th, with a yellow band applied over full Wallace Arnold livery. It had previously operated in Wallace Arnold livery complete with Wallace Arnold fleetnames.

Withdrawn Vehicle

1.85

216 (MJN216F)

216 was withdrawn from service on January 21st, and it is currently stored at the Tickfield Avenue works. Also still stored at the works are Daimler Fleetline's

349/58/60/4/9 (WJN349J etc.) which are being cannibalised for spares.

Demonstration Vehicles

Two demonstration vehicles have been examined by Southend Transport during recent months, and brief details are as follows :-

A543WOB MCW Metroliner Hiliner C--F - examined during late-1984, and other details will be published if they become available.

RSL 85 Scania KT112TR with Jonckheere CH--/--Dt bodywork - a three axle chassis with computer assisted gearshift. This vehicle was demonstrated by Roeselare Sales Ltd., Northampton, and was examined on January 24th.

Neither of these two demonstration vehicles was used in service by Southend Transport.

Vehicles On Hire

Burnley & Pendle Transport 13 (WRN 13R) was returned to Burnley on January 14th or January 15th; it had not been used in service since August 1984.

A Leyland Leopard coach is currently on hire from Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet. It has been allocated temporary fleet number 363, and details are as follows :-

363 EWW203T Leyland Leopard PSU3E/4R 7806993 Plaxton C53F 7911LC064 New -/79

This vehicle was new to Wallace Arnold Tours (Devon) Ltd., Paignton, and was delivered as C46F. It was delivered to Southend on February 12th, and entered service on the same day in full Wallace Arnold livery. It had previously been on hire over the Christmas period to G.W. Osborne & Sons, Tollesbury.

Towards the end of January one tank of diesel fuel at the London Road depot became contaminated with water. This caused a series of breakdowns, and a total of six vehicles were hired from Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet and W.H. Nelson Coaches, Wickford during the period from January 23rd to January 25th. Four vehicles were on hire at any one time, and details are as follows :-

Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet

THM680M Daimler CRL6 67429 MCW H--/--F ---- ex. London Transport DMS1680, and operated in Ensign Bus Co.'s Round London Sightseeing Tour fleet.

KUC941P Daimler CRL6 68489 MCW H--/--F ---- ex. London Transport DMS1941, and operated in Ensign Bus Co.'s Round London Sightseeing Tour fleet.

These two vehicles were operated on services 1, 4B and 25 from January 23rd to January 25th.

W.H. Nelson Coaches, Wickford

TFC397K Daimler CRG6 64623 Alexander H43/27D N4/2069/1 ex. City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd., 397 - operated on service 3 and schools contracts on January 23rd/24th.

GHM797N Daimler CRL6 68197 MCW H44/27D ---- ex. London Transport DM1797 - used on services 1, 3 and 25 on January 24th/25th.

NHU191F Bristol RELL6L RELL3/334 E.C.W. B53F 16756 ex. Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 1057 - operated on services 4B, 9B, 10A, 12 and 66 from January 23rd to January 25th.

NHU192F Bristol RELL6L RELL3/335 E.C.W. B53F 16757 ex. Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 1058 - operated on a schools contract on January 23rd.

During this period some schools contracts were also sub-hired to APT Coaches, Thundersley.

Re-built Vehicles

At the time of writing, Leyland Leopard 219 (SPN669X) was still at Purfleet having been fitted with a new Volvo TD100H engine by Ensign Bus Co. (see also NS248/50). It is expected to be returned to Southend in the very near future.

There is no further news to report this month regarding the five re-bodied Daimler Fleetline's (306-10). None of the vehicles had entered service by mid-February, and the new registration number of 308 (see NS250) is not yet available.

General

New service X41 (Prittlewell-Green Park), together with the increased number of journeys on service X31 and an additional 0430 hrs. service X1 journey on Saturdays and Sundays (see also NS250), did not commence on January 27th as anticipated. It

is now expected that these revisions will be introduced from Sunday, February 24th, although this information is subject to confirmation. However, fares were increased on services X1/X11/X21/X31 from January 27th.

The former London Transport Daimler Fleetline's (313-20) have now started to display rear number blinds; previously, this equipment was not being used on a regular basis.

Southend Transport are currently providing a variety of rail replacement services on the Wickford to Southminster line whilst engineering work is carried out for the electrification of this line. These services started on January 21st, and operate every night from Mondays to Fridays. The basic requirement is for two single deck vehicles, which operate between Fambridge and Southminster and return, covering late evening services. The last return journey is extended to Wickford if required. During the week commencing January 21st two vehicles were used, but local reports have indicated that only one vehicle was used during the two following weeks, with Leyland Tiger 247 (A247SVW) being noted on February 6th.

As noted in last month's news sheet, Southdown Motor Services Ltd. withdrew from operating service 795 (Southend-Brighton) after January 25th. The last Southdown coach to operate on the service was Leyland Leopard 1345 (MAP345W), which operated the 1840 hrs. service from Southend on January 25th. A revised timetable was introduced on this service on January 26th, following which London Country Bus Services Ltd. are now regularly operating Leyland Tiger/Berkhof coaches (BTL class) on the service. These are vehicles allocated to Crawley (CY) and are usually in Flightline livery. Among the vehicles that have been noted are BTL 11 (B111KPF) on January 25th and BTL 13 (B113KPF) on January 26th. These should not be regarded as unusual workings, but certainly unusual was the use of London Country TD 3 (YPD103Y) on an Eastern National working on February 14th.

Following the service revisions that were introduced in the Southend area from January 27th, a number of workings previously operated by Southend Transport vehicles are now being operated by Eastern National. These include the 1704 hrs. service 9B journey from Sutton (Purdeys Way) and the 1609 hrs. (Schooldays only) service 10A journey from Golden Cross (Post Office).

Southend Transport are also providing rail replacement services on the Southend (Victoria) to Billericay line between 0100 hrs. and 0400 hrs. on Mondays to Fridays. These services were noted in operation during the week commencing February 11th with three double-deck vehicles.

Leyland Fleetline 234 (MRJ234W) entered service on February 6th in its overall advertisement livery for W.H. Perry Ltd., Southend-on-Sea (see NS250). The livery is maroon with gold lettering.

Leyland Leopard coach 336 (CTM406T) returned to service during the week ending February 16th having been repainted in yellow and blue coach livery (see also NS250).

Former London Transport Daimler Fleetline 314 (GHV 29N) has recently been fitted with a front bumper, and this is the first of the DMS-type vehicles to be fitted with a bumper.

Members may be interested in details of the workings for the many coaches (currently over 20) which stay in London during the day on Mondays to Fridays between their X1/X11/X21/X31 duties. One Van Hool Astromega double-deck coach operates on hire to Emmaheath Ltd. (t/a London Pride Sightseeing) (with a Southend Transport driver and London Pride courier), and operates tours from Piccadilly Circus (Coventry Street) at 1100 hrs., 1300 hrs. and 1500 hrs. One single-deck coach operates a contract for a Japanese school at Marylebone. Two coaches park at the London Regional Transport bus park at Cornwall Road, Waterloo, and the remainder go to parking areas east of the City. Parking there was originally in assorted side streets, and then at the Vallance Road lorry park, Whitechapel. This was vacated in April 1984, and then coaches parked at Hardinge Street, Glamis Road and The Highway, all in Stepney, until mid-December. They then all went to Rotherhithe Street, S.E.1 until January 18th, and they now use a lorry park near Bricklayers Arms, S.E.1.

Finally, an extremely unusual working occurred on January 22nd when a Van Hool Astromega double-deck coach operated service 8 (Southchurch (White Horse)-Central Bus Station).

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EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALSInitial Disposals

1404 (VHK177L)	1411 (XO0880L)	1418 (GJD194N)	All to Bristol Omnibus Co. Ltd., 1/85, fleet numbers 2079-83/6/4/5 respectively (Bristol Country fleet).
1406 (XVW631L)	1412 (XO0881L)	1419 (GJD195N)	
1407 (XVW632L)	1417 (GJD196N)		
1524 (KVX570J)	1532 (MHK914J)	1544 (RPU884K)	All to Citybus Ltd., Belfast, 2/85.
1528 (LVX116J)	1533 (MHK915J)	1550 (WNO539L)	
1530 (MHK912J)	1534 (MHK916J)	1551 (WNO540L)	

Subsequent Disposals1954 - 1964 numbering scheme

- 1026 (JVX 555) - Should read bodywork broken up by E.N.P.G., 7/84. (correction to NS245).
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- 403 (AVX964B) - Sold/scrapped by Miller, Horsham, by 7/84. (see also NS246).
9430 (LWC981J) - Noted stored at Cambridge (Station Yard), 11/84, after withdrawal by Eastern Counties, Norwich, RE846. Removed from that location by 2/85. (additional information to NS250).
- 508 (BPU 21B) - Padley, Anwick (N-PSV), ca. 11/75, ex. Moore, Sleaford. (see also NS222 and NS160 Supplement).
- 509 (7 DXB) - Full details of intermediate owner are Indigo Overland Expeditions Ltd., London, S.W.1. (N-PSV). (additional information to NS160 Supplement).
- 1211 (BNO697T) - Dealer, Cinderford, by 4/84, ex. Seward, Dalwood, and then to Gray, Church Village. (additional information and confirmation to NS248). Gray, Church Village address changed to Gray, Pontypridd, 6/84.
- 1354 (MOO 175) - The report in NS250 was incorrect. The vehicle which passed to breaker, Carlton, by 3/83, was 1352 (MOO 174), ex. Kinross Plant Hire (N-PSV). (see also NS231)
- 1402 (217 MHK) - Owner is Miles, Benfleet (for preservation), who is a member of the Eastern National Preservation Group. (correction to NS250).
- 1410 (XO0879L) 1414 (GJD197N) 1416 (GJD199N) - All to Dealer, Middlewich, 11/84.
1413 (XO0882L) 1415 (GJD198N)
- 2700 (AHJ142A) - Omnibus Promotions (dealer), London, W.10, by 1/85, ex. Cedric, Wivenhoe.
- 2802 (BVX670B) - National Playbus Association, Bristol (N-PSV), 8/80, subsequently to Kensington & Chelsea Community Bus Association, London, W.10 on loan. Returned to National Playbus Association, 5/82, still there 11/83. Delete reference to East Herts Playbus Association. (clarification of NS239 and earlier notes).
- 2837 (LWC663C) - Disposal also quoted as "Tiverton Craft Bus". (see also NS246).
2839 (LWC665C) - Named "Loft" by Top Deck Travel (N-PSV), London, S.W.5.
2853 (OVX297D) - Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5 (N-PSV), 4/84, ex. Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5, and now named "Viking". (see also NS240/9).
- 2875 (STW763D) - Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5 (N-PSV), 4/84, ex. Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5. (see also NS240/9).
- 2913 (WWC743F) - Is N-PSV with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5. (see also NS242/9).
2919 (AEV813F) - Believed to have been dismantled in a boat yard at Southend, 12/81-1/82, engine thought to have been installed in a boat. (see also NS214).
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News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), V.J. Cooper (M128), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), I. Ransom (M421), J. Rugg (M443), G.G. Toon (M452), J.H. Preston (M512), C.M.J. Paynter (M515), C.D. Sigston (M523), R.A. Dennis (M535), F.G. Spence (M545), D.A. Coulson (M568), M. Bullock (M574), S.J. Barnes (M576), G. Huggins (AM1) 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 20th.