

ESSEX BUS NEWS

March 1999

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

419



FORMER HARRISBUS LEYLAND SWIFT E308HPU SEEN HERE IN
CARDIFF BUS STATION AS RHONNDA 401, THIS VEHICLE
TOGETHER WITH E309HPU HAS NOW BEEN SOLD TO PIONEER
COACHES JERSEY C I. Alan Osborne.

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ESSEX BUS NEWS

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EDITORIAL

419 FOCUS OF THE MONTH

C419HJN a Leyland Olympian,ECW bodied with 72 dual purpose seats, part of a batch of fifteen that entered service with Eastern National in 1986.4007-4021, C407-421HJN -- 4019 C419HJN is currently allocated to Chelmsford.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS FREIGHT 8pm

April13th Talk by Nigel Eggleton Commercial Director of Arriva The Shires
 his subject Arriva in Essex.
May To be announced.

Thamesway,concerned over passenger loadings on Canvey local route 26,from peronal observations more publicity might help.

GROUP TOUR

Enclosed is booking form for our tour to Lincolnshire Saturday June26th.This will be a good day so let us have your support.

The saga of bus stops goes on,Chris Stewart informs us that there is a NBC style bus stop at Heybridge (Maldon) on the Colchester direction.
Shenfield Station, the bus shelters were replaced 5.1.99 hence the X99 Forester signs have gone,but there may be one still at Billericay Station.
Contributions for this edition received with thanks from Essex Buses, Arriva Southend and East Herts and Essex First Bus Enthusiasts Group. LOTS PSV Circle.Essex C.C. C Sigston. R Delahoy,C Stewart. P Ford. P Ashton. M Evans. T Miles.

Contributions for April EBN should be with Sub Editors by 6th April and Man Editor by11th April.



THAMESWAY 1432 D676ELL A MUCH TRAVELLED LEYLAND LYNX
IS SEEN HERE AT SOUTHEND BUS STATION ON 15th FEBRUARY
P FORD.

FIRST GROUP NEWS

Half yearly results for the Group to 30.9.98. saw profit rise 40% to £45.4m. Turnover was up 83% to £690.3m. The majority of the turnover increase came from rail, with bus turnover up 7.8% to £324.6m. Capital expenditure increased to £51m, with investment in 461 new buses. Rail rolling stock is being refurbished.

First **Eastern National**

NEW VEHICLES

Further to EBN 415/16, Dennis Dart SLF 732/3 (S732/3 TWC) are for service with Eastern National. They are for a revised Diamond service, to be introduced on 15.3.99. They have already operated with Eastern Counties and Thamesway.

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

1601	D497 NYS	Volvo B10M 31MED17GA011396	Duple	B55F
1602	D499 NYS	Volvo B10M 31MED16GA011406	Duple	B55F

Body numbers are 8515/0054 and 8515/0056

These were ex First Capital Citybus in 2/99.

In addition, three Leyland National 2's have been acquired. These are currently stored and are not expected to enter service. They have not been allocated fleet numbers:-

NLP 391V	Leyland National 2 NL116TL11/3R	07053	B49F
KRS 534V	Leyland National 2 NL106L11/1R	06776	B44F
KRS 538V	Leyland National 2 NL106L11/1R	06722	B44F

These were also ex First Capital Citybus in 2/99.

KRS 534V was new as GSO 1V, while KRS 538V was new as GSO 4V.

Mercedes minibuses 346/52/58/60/70/78 have been transferred from Thamesway to EN.

ALLOCATIONS

Period End 21.2.99. 346/52 Tway-BE; 358/70/78 Tway-CN; 360 Tway-Reserve;
386/7 BE-CF; 732/33 New-Reserve; 1601/2 Acqd-CF; 1899 CN-CF;
1916 Reserve-CF; 3227 Reserve-CN; 3228 CN-Reserve;
2655 CN-DT

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

5.12.98	CF4014 on London Commuter 193 (was Olympian coach)
11.1.99.	CF2672 on 1625 ex Chelmsford service 351 (normally big bus)

The rail replacement service between Shenfield and Chelmsford between 10.1.99. and 14.2.99, was operated by Eastern National. Olympians and VR's were used, while the Ingatestone shuttle, was operated by Dennis Darts.

SERVICES

- 3/4 These Village Link services, had a revised route and timetable introduced from 21.1.99.
- 34 Further to EBN 417, this service is now operated by EN for Essex County Council.
- 64/A Revised timetable introduced from 22.3.99.
- 66/A/B A revised timetable was introduced from 22.3.99. Service 66A is extended to the General Hospital.
- 77 Additional journeys on Monday to Friday from 22.3.99.
- 93 From 22.3.99. operation of the Ipswich to Colchester service, will pass from Eastern Counties to Eastern National. All services will run as 93, with operation of 92/94 being retained by Eastern Counties, but between Ipswich and East Bergholt/Hadleigh only.
- 193 Schoolday service between Ardleigh and East Bergholt, introduced on 22.3.99.
- 306 Revised timetable introduced from 21.1.99.

Owing to a low bridge, all Lakeside services on route 350/1 are worked by single deckers. However, double-deckers still appear on am and pm short workings (if Chelmsford to Brentwood/Romford, could be called a short working!)

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflets for services 59 dated 22.2.99 and 350/1 dated 8.2.99.

GENERAL

Eastern National, together with Thamesway, have set up a scheme to allow Police Officers in uniform to travel free on local buses, while on duty. It is hoped this will deter crime both on and off buses. It does not allow free travel to and from work.

Mercedes 382-387, have Village Link window stickers and are used on services 5 and 7 from Chelmsford depot.

HARRIS BUS

SERVICES

- 383 Revised route and timetable introduced from 20.2.99
- 384 Revised route and timetable introduced from 20.2.99
- L1 Revised route and timetable introduced from 20.2.99
- L2 Withdrawn after 13.2.99.
- L3 Revised timetable introduced from 20.2.99

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

ABBA CARS RAYLEIGH Are a taxi firm using PSV discs. The presence of Ford Granadas A8BAA and B5TAX, on the owners drive, indicates a link between this company and Bestax.

A&B TAXIS PITSEA Ford Transit Tourneo P660 KVV and LDV Pilot R412 VNO are both owned and operate on taxi plates. Ford Transit N443 YJB is on a disc, but this is National one, whereas this operator, has a restricted license.

AMBER RAYLEIGH A Duple Dominant bodied vehicle, is being stripped for spares. It is thought to be SFF 160M.

BAMBRIDGE CANVEY Ford Transit Tourneo R375 CTW, is owned. It carries Davita lettering.

BARKERBUS ROYDON Mercedes 0303, PIL 3523 is reported as acquired.

BASILDON CAB AND FREIGHT Two Ford Transits are owned, M234 TNO and S752 UGV.

BISS STANSTED New here is Mercedes Vario/Plaxton S312 DLG. Mercedes/Crystals P437/8 OVW has been sold to Airport Coaches, Stansted. Van Hool T815, G47 FVW has been sold.

BOON BOREHAM Leyland Atlantean/Park Royal XPG 182T, has been acquired. Leyland Atlantean JSC 883E has moved to Windmills, it is thought to be for preservation. It is understood, that the coach part of the business is to be sold to Windmill. Indeed, some Windmill coaches are now parked here. A planning application, for housing on the current site has been submitted. Obviously, a move to a new base will occur.

CAMBRIDGE COACH SERVICES Service 77 between Stansted Airport and Stevenage, was withdrawn after 14.3.99. It has been replaced by a revised Jetlink service 747.

CARTER EAST BERGHOLT Service 755 had a revised route and timetable introduced from 25.1.99. Service 750 between Holbrook and Colchester and 758 between Dedham and Colchester, are to be withdrawn from 26.3.99.

CEDRIC WIVENHOE Volvo/Berkhof R923/4 ULA are reported as acquired. It is assumed that they have been re-registered R19/20 CED (see EBN418).

CHARIOTS STANFORD LE HOPE Village Link service 15 had a revised route and timetable, registered from 21.1.99.

C&I COACHLINES HIGHWOOD Bedford YMT/Plaxton DRT 681T has been sold.

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD A second Iveco/Marshall is R419 XFL. A new addition is S649 RJA a LDV Convoy.

COACHSTOP SOUTHEND Dennis Javelin/Neoplan P970 HWF has been sold. New here, is S369 FTL a Setra 315GT.

COUNTY COACHES BRENTWOOD DAF/Plaxton UJN 159V was sold some while ago, but has not yet been recorded here.

CRUSADER CLACTON The three Iveco coaches (114 RVX, P120 KNO and LSU 113), plus the four EOS (L109-12 PVW) are to be sold. In exchange will come seven new Setras. One of the Ivecos has been re-registered P626 SNO.

CUNNINGHAM CORRINGHAM Scania/Irizar R447 YDT, is thought to have been sold. It appeared in The Sun on 1.3.99. with Channel Coachways names!

FARGO RAYNE A further LDV Convoy is S434 RBC. A second Mercedes 0303/Plaxton is HSK 855 (previous identity unknown).

FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE Volvo/Van Hool MAZ 6740 has been sold.

GOLF EXECUTIVE BOREHAM Ford Transit CYW 501V has been acquired.

GRAHAMS KELVEDON Mercedes 410D, M381 CGN has been acquired.

HALLS ELSENHAM Bedford YMT/Plaxton GMC 170V has been acquired. Bedford YMT/Plaxton TGW 895R, has been acquired for spares

JACKSONS BICKNACRE Mercedes/Devon Conversion B897 AGJ has been sold.

KB COACHES WICKFORD Talbot D847 OJA has been sold.

LODGE HIGH EASTER New here is S555 YMJ a Scania L124/Van Hool. This joins YMJ 555S a Bedford/Duple, bought new in 1978!

MASSEY LAINDON Renault P985 PBX, the only vehicle recorded as owned, was in fact on loan from Runwood House, to whom it has now returned.

NCS NEWPORT Further Renault Traffics here are K584 JWC and K736 JVX.

NELSONS Service 224 has been revised and now operates from Nevendon and Rayleigh via Wickford and Battlesbridge.

PARKESTON PRIVATE HIRE Is the owner of D155 LTA, a Dodge/Reeve Burgess parked out of use on Whitehall Industrial Estate, Colchester.

PDQ COLCHESTER Renault K127 JVX has been acquired.

PIONEER CLACTON Ford Transit EGC 412X has been sold to NCA, Frating.

PJ COURIERS CORRINGHAM Ford Transit Toureno R854 EWC is owned, but carries Davita lettering.

P&M SHOTGATE Volvo/Plaxton ABM 471A (LUA 247V) is being stripped for spares at the Riding Stables, Woodham Ferrers.

PRICE WICKFORD Ford Transit R376 CTW is owned, but is another vehicle carrying Davita names.

S&M THUNDERSLEY Daimler Fleetline/Park Royal GHV 59N has been acquired. It is thought that Leyland Fleetline OUC 38R and KUC 969P have been sold.

S&P ROCHFORD Leyland National VOD 603S has been sold.

SILVER KNIGHT WICKFORD A recent addition is N83 FWU an EOS 90.

STAR CARS CHADWELL ST MARY Vauxhall midi L494 PEV, which has been here for some time, is now carrying a disc, instead of a taxi plate.

STEPHENSON ROCHFORD Bristol VRECW VEX 292X has been acquired, and is in service.

STORT VALLEY STANSTED Further additions with the take-over of the Travellers, Hounslow business, were Volvo/Plaxton J715/16/18 CWT and J718 EAU (4030 WA, J723 CWT). These have been re-registered OIL 4492,5640,5706,5838.

SWT SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS Recent acquisitions are N484 UJH a LDV400 and P704 UFR a LDV Convoy.

TOWN AND COUNTRY CORRINGHAM Service 400 commenced on 2.3.99. operating between Lakeside and Gravesend via Dartford and Swanscombe. DAF/Duple E957 GGX has been acquired from Metrobus, Orpington.

VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN Bedford YMT/Plaxton ECW 65W has been sold to Stephenson, Rochford (as a dealer). Service 62 between Elmdon and Bishops Stortford, on Thursdays only was re-registered with effect from 4.2.99. This updates the item in EBN 418.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflets have been issued for Village Link services 1; 3/4; 5; 7; 14/15, all dated 4.1.99, although service 7 commenced on 22.2.99! and 19; 20; 21 and 22 all dated 22.2.99.

THAMESWAY PUBLICITY

The following items have been issued recently:-

Timetable leaflets for services The One dated 7.2.99; Famous 5 dated 7.2.99; Super Eight dated 7.2.99; 15/A/B/C/16/A dated 8.2.99; 24/A/B/C dated 27.7.98; 25/C/D/E/11A dated 7.2.99; Wickford Warriors 25A/B dated 7.2.99; 26 dated 8.2.99; Stifford Slider 37 dated 7.2.99; 42 dated 8.2.99; 63 dated 27.7.98; 71/A/B/72/A dated 3.8.98; 73/74 dated 3.8.98; 80 dated 3.8.98; 81/82/83/91/92 dated 3.8.98; 101 dated 7.2.99; 102 dated 8.2.99; 151 dated 8.2.99; 250 dated 25.7.98; 251 dated 22.2.99; 551 dated 5.9.98; CitySaver undated.

A Guide to Bus Services in Billericay and Wickford dated Feb 1999; A Guide to Bus Services in Basildon dated Feb 1999

NEW VEHICLES January 1999

Further information from last month.

1431	D875 ELL	Leyland Lynx	Leyland DP48F	Chassis No. LX 1050
1432	D876 ELL	Leyland Lynx	Leyland DP48F	Chassis No. LX 1058

Both vehicles are fitted with Leyland TL 11 engines instead of the Cummins engines fitted to the rest of the Lynxes in the fleet. They were new to Merthyr Tydfil not Newport as reported last month. 1432 has entered service at Hadleigh in Thamesway livery at the front and rear; the sides are still painted red from its days with CentreWest. 1431 has not been used at the present time.

DISPOSALS February 1999

361, 362, 363 to First Manchester
344, 347, 349, 350, 365, 367, 373 to First Eastern Counties.

ALLOCATION CHANGES February 1999

322 HH-Disposal. 351, 353, 354 BN-RD. 734 Reserve-BN. 735-738 Eastern Counties-BN. 811 RD-BN.
942, 943 HH-BN. 1431, 1432 Acquired-HH. 1803 Reserve-HH. 3109 Reserve-BN.

REPAINTS February 1999

927 to blue/yellow

ODD WORKINGS

03-02-99 926 (blue/yellow) on 551
06-02-99 3226 and 925 (blue/yellow) on 551
15-02-99 1406 on Canvey Clipper
18-02-99 1411 on Canvey Clipper
15-19-02-99 3109, 3222 and 3226 regularly on 551 (school half term)
26-02-99 609 on Arterial Express

NEWS

732 complete with Eastern National fleet names, was used at Basildon at the start of the new services but has since been transferred to Chelmsford. 733 is due to follow shortly but was still at Basildon on March 6th.

Mercedes 256, 336, 337 and 394 are now in full First Capital livery.

From February 17th a low floor Dart S979 JLM has been used on Brentwood locals, it is presumably on loan to release Mercedes mini-buses for new village bus services.

The new schedules at Basildon have resulted in a saving of seven buses with fifteen Mercedes becoming surplus to requirements. Some of these have passed to other First group companies (see disposals.)

Improvements have been made at Romford garage in recent weeks.

Volvo 606 is still in LTS Rail livery.
Mercedes 397 has a mega rear advert for Waterhouse Mercedes.

EASTERN NATIONAL ROUTE 123 **CLACTON -- IPSWICH in 1953** **by TED MILES**

In 1952, upon leaving school, I worked in Frinton at a furniture store. During 1953 the Company opened a new store in Ipswich, in Princes Street and being a trainee was transferred to the new branch, for which I was given a rail season ticket for travel between Kirby Cross and Ipswich, change at Colchester North.

This was OK but my interest has always been buses. I commenced at Ipswich on the first Tuesday in August (the day after the bank holiday), so at 9.50am I was allowed my tea break. I quickly found Ipswich Old Cattle Market Bus Station, looking for the 10.00hrs service 123 to Clacton, what a lovely surprise to see Bristol LWL5G 4123 RHK135, as no 1 relief with 8 standing depart at 09.55hrs. A second relief came on the stand, Bristol K 3945 MPU6, this had a full load with 8 standing and left at 10.00hrs, then on to the stand came Bristol K 4047 ONO68, again this car filled up but only a seated load, apparently this was normal practice so as to pick up passengers en route. Many passengers were left behind, apparently this was normal at this time of the year.

So I had a very long tea break on my first day, my excuse I got lost after finding Joe Lyons tea shop.

As time went by I got to know the 123 very well. From the third week in August the 10.00hrs departure would be down to one double decker relief, which would nearly always be Bristol K 3945 MPU6, on the occasions it was missing it was subbed by Bristol K 3953 MPU14, the regular service car was Bristol K 4047 ONO68. The two deckers operated dead from Clacton with a sign on time of 8am and were overtime duties.

Now the service car was manned by an Eastern National crew from Ipswich working a 6 day week, so every 7th day an Eastern Counties crew worked it, whilst the Eastern National crew had their rest day.

Back to 10-00hrs departure, on arrival between Horsley X and Tendring the 10-30hrs ex Clacton would be coming to Ipswich. Here the two buses would stop, the Ipswich crew would handover to the Clacton crew and vice-versa, auxiliary waybills completed the crews returned to home ground.

On arrival at Clacton at 11-45hrs 4047 would be washed, refuelled and cleaned and then operate Clacton to Tendring at 13-10hrs and 1345hrs Tendring to Clacton, then 14-30hrs Clacton to Ipswich. 18-30hrs Ipswich to Clacton and finally 20-30hrs Clacton to Ipswich, it was outstationed at Ipswich.

From mid September to mid November Bristol K 4047 ONO68 was the regular bus on the Ipswich allocation helped out by Bristol Ks 3953 MPU14 and 4048 ONO69. Loadings in the winter months especially on Tuesdays when it was Market day in Ipswich.

If it were the 14-30hrs departure from Ipswich, we had a 14-30hrs from Clacton and the crews would change over near Mistley Towers, this also applied to the 18-30 and 20-30 departures, however because of traffic conditions at the level crossing at Manningtree and when it was raining and very cold the signalmen were loathe to keep running up and down the stairs from the box, resulting in the change over point sometimes altered.

Wednesday was my early day so I would catch the 14-30hrs to Thorpe Memorial arrive at 15-41hrs and await a 105 to Kirby X, usually Bristol KSW 4143 SHK525 or 4151 TNO676/4147 TNO682 and on Saturdays I would catch the 18-30hrs ex Ipswich this always had standing load to Manningtree.

So how was the the Ipswich crew paid, I know their wages was carried by the conductor of the 14-30hrs ex Clacton on a Friday and handed over on the change over and had to be signed for as correct, any mistakes could and would not be rectified later.

During December January and February single deckers were used Mondays to Fridays Ipswich was allocated Bristol LWL TTW571 and Clacton would use Bristol LWL 4129 TNO666 or 4171 TTW575 for their part. However on Saturdays even during this period double deckers would creep back and always it seemed Bristol K 4047 ONO68 appeared.

Eastern National and Eastern Counties tickets were interchangeable, I suppose the

reason Eastern Counties never duplicated the 10-00hrs ex Ipswich, would have been the difficulty of finding crews at Clacton at night in the peak season, when they had enough problems clearing Colchester queues on Routes 19 to Southend and 53 to Tilbury.

During the two and half years I used the service it was always the same "cheerless drivers but very careful conductors". Clacton duties were open rota and all crews had a turn on the route

I do not remember a breakdown or puncture or any service lost during this period.. The car allocated to Ipswich was of course a Clacton based vehicle, and I find it interesting that in the various publications of vehicle allocations, Ipswich is never mentioned.

Ed. Ted would like to hear from anybody who has recollections of the 123 service his address is Ted Miles

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 PMSA CAROL A
 GALE TOMAS DE IRIARTE
 TARIQUE 35509
 XXXXXX

NORTH ESSEX BUS SCENE

Hedingham Omnibuses

Service Changes

89/89A/89B	Revised route and timetable as from 22nd March 1999.
323/326	Revised from 11th March 1999 to operator service 323 only between Greenstead Green and Sudbury.
331	Revised timetable as from 22nd March 1999. Braintree to Towerlands short working withdrawn.
658	New service as from 22nd March 1999. Two journeys Halstead to Colchester via Earls Colne & Chappel, Mondays to Friday.
84/84A/84B	Revised route and timetable as from 22nd March 1999.
95/95A	Minor timetable revision from 1st March 1999.
91	Minor timetable changes Monday to Friday as from 22nd February 1999.

Vehicles sold for scrap are:-

<u>Fleet No.</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Details</u>
L221	229 LRB	Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme PSU3E/4R, C53F ex Partridge.
L149	E79 HVX	Iveco 49.10, Carlyle Dailybus, B25F.

Painting has been completed on the following:-

L288	RUA 461W	Bristol VR, ECW.
L294	NUM 341V	Bristol VR, ECW.

Crusader Coaches, Clacton

I reported last month that Crusader repaints were being doing by Boons of Boreham. This was an error, for which I apologise. They have been done in fact by Lodges.

I would like to thank Ian Ransom and Mr. D.R. MacGregor MBE B.Sc.(Econ.) MCTT of Hedingham Omnibuses for supplying information for this column.

ARRIVA EAST HERTS AND ESSEX

FLEET

Allocation Changed to January 1999

2167	SLU 261	Arriva the Shires to Harlow
3448/9	R208/9 VPU	Harlow to Ware
4318	C255 SPC	Ware to withdrawn
VDL 185	E949 JJN	Stored to sold, Fleetmaster, Horsham

Allocation Changes to February 1999

0365	P865 VTJ	Harlow to Ware
1108	J976 AKY	Arriva the Shires to Harlow
2224	L424 CPB	Arriva the Shires to Ware
2302	E667 YDT	Stored to sold, Hardwick, Carlton (for scrap)
2308	F367 CHE	Stored to sold, Hardwick, Carlton (for scrap)
2311/2	G926/32 WGS	Harlow to Ware
2352/3	M732/3 AOO	Ware to Harlow
2359	N739 AVW	Arriva Southend to Harlow
3351	J401 XVX	Ware to withdrawn (this vehicle was completely gutted in a recent fire)
3379	M269 VPU	Harlow to Arriva Southend

Liveries

Feb 99: 2224 (L424 CPB) to Arriva corporate (outer London) livery.

Fleet Numbering

MCW 233 BYX 233V 5363 Ware

General

1108 and 2167 are Ford Transits and are used as staff vehicles
2224 is a Mercedes Benz 709D with B25F seating.

SERVICES

15 March	377	Service extended from Purfleet to Bluewater every hour. Improved frequency between Tilbury and Purfleet. Revised running time. Evening contract journeys introduced.
4 April	370	Rouford - Grays. Re-routed between Grays and Lakeside via Lodge Lane on Sundays (Mon-Sat route).



Thurrock Contracts

1 April	361	Grays - Purfleet. Service withdrawn. Replacement service awarded to Town & Country.
3 April	379	Orsett - Rainham. Weekday evening service withdrawn.
4 April	352/353/379	Basildon - Aveley (352/3). Sunday services withdrawn.
	373	Romford - Grays. Additional Monday - Saturday evening journeys. Sunday service extended from Lakeside to Grays, 1002-2202 ex Lakeside, 1000-2200 ex Grays. Other journeys commercial.
	377	Purfleet - Tilbury. Sunday service introduced between Grays and Purfleet (not via Lakeside).
5 April	100/101	Sunday service introduced and Monday - Saturday evening journeys between Basildon - Grays - Lakeside (Part replacement for 352/353).
	374	New Monday - Saturday service Lakeside - Grays - West Hamdon. Part service rural bus grant supported.
6 April	375	Aveley - Grays. Early morning journey back projected to start from Ford Place via Belhus Bypass to Aveley Usk Road then as now but via Garrison Estate at Purfleet and Tesco Lakeside.
10 April	383	Brentwood Road Estate - Lakeside. Later Saturday evening journeys.
	384	Tilbury - Lakeside. Later Saturday evening journeys (Monday - Friday and Saturday day-time service operated by Harris Bus).
	384	Sunday service introduced (replacement for Harris Bus).
	389	New Saturday service Aveley Usk Road - Stifford Clays - Stanford le Hope.

Further to Alan Colebourne's article in EBN416, he has added more comments to this interesting observation

There are a couple of additional items I can now add to the information. I had suspected that 'Tollesbury, Essex' would have been adopted as bootlid lettering for coaches operating from the former Osbornes base and this was confirmed by seeing L280 parked in Victoria on 5th December 1998 with this lettering and the 'TY' code on the front. Incidentally, not all ex-Osbornes coaches are so lettered: L275 at the 1997 North Weald Rally had 'Sudbury, Suffolk' on the back.

A trip taking in Harwich on 20th February last found L121 and L169 in the station forecourt both sporting black on yellow CN codes. Evidently CN has taken over these colours from closed WN. You will recall that I had only previously seen CN applied once before, black on green in a non-standard fashion, to L158. L121 and L169 were evidently outstationed at Harwich and both were in rather shabby condition for Hedingham vehicles.

My route to Harwich passed through Great Oakley where the former Hooks garage had recently been demolished. The site was fenced off but empty. Interestingly the timetable for Hedingham Omnibuses service 129 in the January 1999 Central and North Essex ECC timetable book still has 'Great Oakley, Coach Garage' as a timing point, though I don't suppose this is significant!

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD

Here are listings for the new unified blind sets, introduced in February 1999 onto *all* buses (including those fitted with new blinds comparatively recently). For the first time in many years, all buses in the fleet will have the same blinds fitted. They are produced by McKennas; all entries are dayglow yellow on black.

LIST A: Ultimate - Fleetline and some Olympian (those with 3 part displays)

black blank	SOUTHEND Central Bus Station	black blank
ARRIVA	BENFLEET Tarpots Corner	SOUTHEND AIRPORT
ON HIRE	PITSEA BROADWAY	RAYLEIGH High Street
SHOEBURYNESS East Beach	BASILDON BUS STATION	PAGLESHAM EAST END
SHOEBURYNESS Constable Way	BASILDON HOSPITAL	SUTTON CEMETERY
SHOEBURYNESS RENOWN	LAKESIDE	BELFAIRS BELGRAVE ROAD
BOURNES GREEN	black blank	FOULNESS COURT END
SHOEBURY HIGH SCHOOL	LANDWICK	LEIGH CHURCH
SOUTHEND Central Bus Station	WAKERING CHURCH	EASTWOOD RISE
SOUTHEND QUEENSWAY	LEIGH CHURCH	SOUTHEND Central Bus Station
SOUTHEND DEEPING	SHOEBURYNESS East Beach	WESTCLIFF High Schools
SOUTHEND Victoria Circus	LEIGH STATION	BELFAIRS WOODCUTTERS
HIGHLANDS Thames Drive	NORTH SHOEBURY CORNER	SOUTHCHURCH Newington Avenue
HADLEIGH CHURCH	EASTWOOD RISE	GARON PARK
HADLEIGH VICTORIA HOUSE	EASTWOOD KENT ELMS	RAIL REPLACEMENT SERVICE
THUNDERSLEY Woodmans Arms	SOUTHEND HOSPITAL	STANFORD-LE-HOPE
RAYLEIGH WEIR	EASTWOOD Nobles Green	GRAYS
RAYLEIGH High Street	LITTLE WAKERING Coronation Close	LAKESIDE
RAYLEIGH STATION	NOT IN SERVICE	ALDGATE
black blank	RAYLEIGH STATION	EMBANKMENT
SOUTHEND ARRIVA GARAGE	HOCKLEY SPA	HYDE PARK CORNER
CANVEY ISLAND	ROCHFORD SQUARE	LONDON VICTORIA
HULLBRIDGE	GOLDEN CROSS	BASILDON
WICKFORD	HAWKWELL Nursery Corner	PITSEA
SHOEBURYNESS Blackgate Road	LOWER HOCKLEY	SOUTHEND Central Bus Station
SHOEBURYNESS Gunners Park	ASHINGDON SCHOOLS	black blank
THORPE BAY CORNER	CANEWDON ANCHOR	
SOUTHEND KURSAAL	CANEWDON Loftmans Corner	

LIST B: Ultimate - Other buses (Dart, Lance, some Olympian, minibuses)

This is as per List A - but with deeper individual entries on two lines, eg **SOUTHEND**
Central Bus Station

In some cases the second line is in lower case, whereas the same entry on list A appears all in block capitals, eg list A's **RAYLEIGH STATION** becomes **RAYLEIGH** on list B.
Station

Commentary (lists A & B): this is a comprehensive and generally satisfactory design, albeit with some excesses (two different entries for Canewdon, for instance). Some entries perhaps anticipate future extensions (Shoebury Gunners Park) whilst others reflect old route patterns (eg, Little Wakering - no buses terminate there). Note that Belgrave Road is now apparently in Belfairs, not Eastwood! The Rochford Square entry (replacing "town centre") is odd, since the only service terminating there (69) does so in North Street, *not* the Square.

LIST C: Intermediate - Fleetline and some Olympian

yellow blank	Southchurch Bournes Green Barling	Belfairs Elmsleigh Drive Leigh
Southend Southchurch Thorpe Bay Constable Way	Prittlewell Airport Rochford Golden Cross Ashingdon	Kent Elms Elmsleigh Drive Leigh
Westcliff Chalkwell Leigh Hadleigh Thundersley	Prittlewell Airport Rochford Hawkwell Hockley	Prittlewell Fairfax Drive Mounddale Gardens
Gunners Park Thorpe Bay Seafront Kursaal	Constable Way ASDA Thorpe Bay Southend	Sutton Road Westcliff Hospital Blenheim Chase
Westcliff Chalkwell Leigh Hadleigh Pitsea	Prittlewell Airport Rochford Stambridge	Bournemouth Park Road Garon Park Southchurch White Horse
Wakering Bournes Green Southchurch	Prittlewell Eastwoodbury Western Approaches	Prittlewell Eastern Avenue Stock Road
Westcliff Chalkwell Leigh Road	Prittlewell Arterial Kent Elms	blank
Hospital Westcliff Cliffs Pavilion	Cliffs Pavilion Westcliff Leigh Belfairs	

Commentary: this is a most curious and unsatisfactory list! Passing points for many routes have been split into two separate entries, one for either side of the town centre, when the route in question runs through. For example, the first two entries together cover the 1, but most journeys run through from Shoebury to Rayleigh, likewise the 3rd & 4th entries together cover the 2, the 5th & 6th together the 4/5, 7th & 8th cover the 6, etc. Is it intended that blinds are changed in the bus station on through journeys? - very unlikely! Also note an entry for the western end of the 9, but nothing for the eastern (seafront) end. Finally, a number of entries only apply to routes normally worked by minibuses (6, 17) or Darts (64/65) or coaches (69), so are redundant on the only vehicles that this blind is fitted to (Fleetlines/Olympians)!

LIST E: One track numbers - P & V reg Fleetlines*:

black blank	6 ^A	9 ^A	16	23	29 ^B	69
0	7	9 ^B	17	23 ^A	30	X1
1	7 ^A	10	17 ^A	24	60	X2
1 ^A	7 ^B	10 ^A	17 ^B	24 ^A	61	X3
2	7 ^C	11	18	25	62	X10
2 ^A	8	12	19	26	62 ^A	X11
3	8 ^A	12 ^A	20	27	63	black blank
4	8 ^B	13	21	28	64	
5	8 ^C	14	21 ^A	29	65	
6	9	15	22	29 ^A	66	

Commentary: This list shows all the signs of having been designed *before* the September 1998 revisions, eg inclusion of 6A, 17A, 17B, 29A. It is difficult to see why entries like 24A, 29B, 30, 60, 63, etc are required, and as for the 0, we leave this to readers' imagination!

* Buses with 3 track number blinds are also receiving dayglow numbers. Since these can be used to create almost any combination of numbers, we will not bother to list the individual tracks.

ARRIVA SOUTHEND.

ACQUIRED

Ex Arriva East Herts & Essex.

2310 G925WGS Mercedes Benz 709D Reeve Burgess Beaver B23F

3379 M269VPU Dennis Lance SLF 11SDAWright Pathfinder B40F.

Repainted into Arriva livery at London Rd.

4319 C260SPC is now parked inside the depot.

Coaches now appear on bus routes at odd times

4306 A246AVW on route 1 23/2

4306 A246AVW on route 29 23/2

SERVICE FLEET.

ERF Recovery truck 1153 SUJ 69R withdrawn

Freight Rover van 1156 C471GNO withdrawn

Ford Transit van ? P367NNA was in use at Southend for a few recently.
this was from EH & E Thameside.

Ford Transit van 1168 R103CBU is currently at Southend

Iveco Staff bus 2300 D45OKH is still parked on London Rd.

DISPOSALS.

Leyland National

712 JTU598T Shuttle Buses Kilwinning 12/98 ex Lynn Horsforth.

715 GGE156T Nash Weybridge (dir) ex Londonlinks

718 GGE161T JSM Driver Training Edmonton

720 LPB218P JSM Driver Training Edmonton

Bristol VR

GTX751W Lewis Long Ashton.

LHG440T C & G Chatteris rereg'd PIL6952

Leyland Leopard

CMJ447T Londondrry & Lough Swilly rereg'd 48DL621.

Iveco 59.12

2359 N739AVW Arriva EH & E

2360 N740AVW Arriva EH & E

ARRIVA COLCHESTER

Two more ex-LT MCW Metrobuses have arrived, bringing the total to seven. BYX 283V came on 5.2.1999 and BYX 263V on 24.2.1999. The former entered the paint shop on 16.2.1999. These nineteen-year-old vehicles are replacing Atlanteans of the same age. 5313 (MEV 83V) left for Barnsley in the week of 16.2.1999, and 5314 (MEV 84V) went to Beeston's of Hadleigh on 28.2.1999. 5310 and 5311 (YNO 80S and 81S) were delicensed on 28.2.1999. There are now just seven of this batch of Atlanteans still in service, out of an original thirty.

Volvo B10M 3318 (B858 XYR) was painted in Arriva livery between 1.2.1999 and 16.2.1999.

Arriva Southend's coaches 4322, 4327 and 4333 were borrowed for a private hire involving the Army on 27.2.1999. Colchester's 3304 and 3305 going to Southend for the day.

Recovery vehicle 1154 (B732 XJD) has been sold.

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ARRIVA COLCHESTER LTD., EAST HERTS & ESSEX LTD., SOUTHEND LTD.

FLEET RE-NUMBERING SCHEME

When Arriva the Shires Ltd assumed managerial control of the above fleets on 1/10/98, it was decided to consider re-numbering the three "acquired" fleets into the the Shires own scheme. The first interim proposal was forwarded to Colchester, Harlow & Southend as a discussion document only and to obtain the reaction to the viability of the scheme. Unfortunately there was some confusion in the directive which resulted in Colchester commencing to renumber their vehicles in 11& 12/98 from the original proposals. Added to this a copy was sent to Head Office in Sunderland who, I understand promptly released a copy to British Bus Publishing who in turn may well incorporate it into their "Arriva 1999" handbook.

From the feed-back obtained a second scheme was produced. The PSVC were asked to comment and further amendments were made. However as time was running short, the Engineering Director decided that the scheme should go ahead (warts and all) even though some aspects were still incorrect i.e. DAF/Ikarus buses classed as coaches, the DAF for 724 classed as buses and several coaches of Leaside incorporated.

The 9 vehicles allocated to service 363 and based at Arriva London North's Edmonton depot were deliberately left out of the scheme as when formulated, their future position was unclear. They subsequently became part of the East Herts & Essex fleet on 9/1/99.

This information has been obtained after lengthy discussions with officials at Arriva the Shires who wish to emphasize that they only report what the various depots have advised them. This accounts for the possible discrepancies in the fleet allocation list that they issue. (Hence the confusion over D45 OKH & F154 DKU!)

Mark Garrett

Hon. Sub-Editor, PSV Circle, Major Operators in Beds, Bucks, Essex, Herts & Northants.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET FOCUS No 1 [EBN 415/8 update]:-

<u>FLEET No.</u>	<u>REG No.</u>	<u>DETAILS.</u>	<u>DATE.</u>
1940	KEP829X	South Wales Transport. FLEET No 829 Brewer, Caerau. FLEET No 829 Eastern National. Eastern Counties. Fleet No LN629 Re-numbered 629 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford.	NEW 12/81 12/89 Aqq 10/90 9/95 1/96 10/98

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET FOCUS No 2 [EBN 417/8 update]:-

<u>FLEET No.</u>	<u>REG No.</u>	<u>DETAILS.</u>	<u>DATE.</u>
4511	D511PPU	Eastern National. Essex Buses. FLEET No 4511 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford. Smith (t/a Fargo Coaches), Rayne.	New 8/86 12/95 12/98 12/98

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET FOCUS No 3:-

Leyland Tiger TRCTL11/2R / Alexander TE Special DP53F. (1110 - 1127)

<u>FLEET No.</u>	<u>REG No.</u>	<u>DETAILS.</u>	<u>DATE.</u>
1110	HHJ371Y	Eastern National. Destroyed by fire at Colchester. Royal Insurance (dlr). Whiting Bros, Pontefract (dlr for scrap).	NEW 3/83 12/94 by 2/95 2/95
1111	HHJ372Y	Eastern National. Yorkshire Rider. (not used) Badgerline. FLEET No 2211 (on loan) Eastern Counties. FLEET No TA532 Re-numbered2 Fitted with bus seats except rear row. Stephenson (dlr), Rochford. Southern National. FLEET No 2221	NEW 3/83 5/95 9/95 9/95 1/96 by 10/97 3/98 7/98
1112	HHJ373Y	Eastern National. Thamesway. FLEET No 1112 (on loan) Thamesway. FLEET No 1112 Essex Buses (t/a Thamesway). FLEET No 1112 Essex Buses (t/a Eastern National). FLEET No 1112 Western National. FLEET No 2224	NEW 3/83 8/95 1/96 3/96 1/98 5/98

1113	HHJ374Y	Eastern National. Thamesway. FLEET No 1113 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Caerau. FLEET No 374 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Maesteg. FLEET No 374 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Port Talbot. FLEET No 181 PMT Ltd. FLEET No STL297	NEW 3/83 7/90 2/91 5/91 4/93 10/97
1114	HHJ375Y	Eastern National. Yorkshire Rider. (not used) Badgerline. FLEET No 2212 (not used) Thamesway. FLEET No 1114 (on loan) Thamesway. FLEET No 1114 Essex Buses (t/a Thamesway). FLEET No 1114 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford. Taylors Coaches Ltd, Yeovil. (Cawlett Group) FLEET No 7024	NEW 3/83 5/95 5/95 5/95 1/96 3/96 6/98 7/98
1115	HHJ376Y	Eastern National. Yorkshire Rider. (not used) Badgerline. FLEET No 2213 (not used) Thamesway. FLEET No 1115 (on loan) Thamesway. FLEET No 1115 Essex Buses (t/a Thamesway). FLEET No 1115 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford. Taylors Coaches Ltd, Yeovil. (Cawlett Group) FLEET No 7025	NEW 3/83 5/95 5/95 5/95 1/96 3/96 6/98 7/98
1116	HHJ377Y	Eastern National. Thamesway. FLEET No 1116 South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 169 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Port Talbot. FLEET No 182 as DP49F South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 182	NEW 4/83 7/90 5/91 4/93 4/98
1117	HHJ378Y	Eastern National. Yorkshire Rider. (not used) Badgerline. FLEET No 2214 de Courcey, Coventry. Re - reg MJ12368	NEW 4/83 5/95 5/95 7/95 1/97
1118	HHJ379Y	Eastern National. Thamesway. FLEET No 1118 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Caerau. FLEET No 379 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Maesteg. FLEET No 379 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Port Talbot. FLEET No 183 South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 183 Mainline Group Ltd & re-seated to B65F	NEW 4/83 7/90 2/91 5/91 4/93 4/98 10/98
1119	HHJ380Y	Eastern National. Yorkshire Rider. (not used) Badgerline. FLEET No 2215 (not used) Western National Omnibus Co. (not used) Eaglen (t/a Eagre), Morton. Re - reg KSU477	NEW 4/83 5/95 5/95 5/95 7/95 3/97

1120	HHJ381Y	Eastern National. Eastern Counties. FLEET No TA533 Re-numbered 3 Fitted with bus seats except rear row. First Eastern Counties Buses Ltd. FLEET No 3 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford.	NEW 4/83 1/96 1/96 by 10/97 11/98 1/99
1121	HHJ382Y	Eastern National. Eastern Counties. FLEET No TA534 Re-numbered 4 First Eastern Counties Buses Ltd. FLEET No 4 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford.	NEW 4/83 9/95 1/96 11/98 1/99
1122	A691OHJ	Eastern National. Thamesway. FLEET No 1122 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Caerau. FLEET No 391 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Maesteg. FLEET No 391 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Port Talbot. FLEET No 184 South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 184 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford.	NEW 11/83 7/90 2/91 5/91 4/93 4/98 12/98
1123	A692OHJ	Eastern National. Yorkshire Rider. (not used) Badgerline. FLEET No 2216 (not used) Western National Omnibus Co. FLEET No 1123 (not used) de Courcey, Coventry. Re - reg MJ12369	NEW 11/83 5/95 5/95 5/95 7/95 6/97
1124	A693OHJ	Eastern National. Thamesway. FLEET No 1124 South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 170 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Port Talbot. FLEET No 185 as DP49F South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 185	NEW 11/83 7/90 5/91 4/93 4/98
1125	A694OHJ	Eastern National. Eastern Counties. FLEET No TA535 Re-numbered 5 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford. Taylor's Coaches Ltd, Yeovil. (Cawlett Group) FLEET No 7026	NEW 11/83 1/96 1/96 3/98 7/98
1126	A695OHJ	Eastern National. Thamesway. FLEET No 1126 South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 171 AE & FR Brewer Ltd, Port Talbot. FLEET No 186 as DP49F South Wales Transport Co Ltd. FLEET No 186 Stephenson (dlr), Rochford.	NEW 11/83 7/90 5/91 4/93 4/98 12/98

1127	A696OHJ	Eastern National.	NEW 11/83
		Yorkshire Rider. (not used)	5/95
		Badgerline. FLEET No 2217	5/95
		Eastern Counties. FLEET No TA531	9/95
		Re-numbered 1	1/96
		Stephenson (dlr), Rochford.	3/98
		Taylors Coaches Ltd, Yeovil. (Cawlett Group)	
		FLEET No 7023 & Re - reg UFX940	7/98

WHERE ARE THEY NOW No 3

ESSEX BUSES MERCEDES 401-419/21-32

401-410	P401-410HPU MERCEDES 711D	PLAXTON B23F	10/96
	ALLOCATED TO ROMFORD FOR LT ROUTE 193.		
411-419	R411-419RPU MERCEDES 0814	MARSHALL B27F	8/97
	TRANSFERRED TO FIRST CAPITAL Nos 571-579		8/98
421-428	P701-708PWC MERCEDES 0810	PLAXTON B27F	6/97
	FORMERLY NUMBERED 2710-2708 BY EASTERN NATIONAL		
	RENUMBERED TO 421-428		7/97
	TRANSFERRED TO FIRST GLASGOW MA201-208		8/98
429-432	R429-432DJN MERCEDES 0810	PLAXTON B27F	6/98
	DELIVERED DIRECT TO FIRST CALDERDALE SOME PUT IN TO		
	SERVICE IN EASTERN NATIONAL LIVERY, REREGISTERED		
	R401-404RYG. SINCE TRANSFERRED TO FIRST GLASGOW MA209-212		
	12/98.		

CHANGING FACES

Over the years local bus operators have altered the appearance of certain vehicles by changing radiators. Canvey and District, Leyland TD1 GX 184 had an AEC radiator put on, it is said that it also had an AEC front and rear axle.

Westcliff Motor Services made a few alterations, early Dennis Lances JN 960-2 appeared with AEC radiators, followed by acquired Dennis Lances ex Brighton and Hove. When Westcliff took control of Canvey and District, a Daimler CWG5 JTW 608 soon acquired a Bristol radiator.

Eastern National had also "joined the club", it is said that the Thornycroft double deckers were given different radiators and at least one of the batch of Leyland TS4s 3304-3308 MJ 401-5, namely 3304 had a Bristol radiator.

There may have been more of these changes over the years, if any member can broaden this list I would be pleased to hear them.

pjs

ITINERARY FOR "EXPENSIVE" ESSEX INDEPENDENT DAY OUT - SAT. 23 JAN 1999 (COST £14.65)

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DEP.	ROUTE DETAILS		ARR.	SERVICE NUMBER	OPERATOR	FARE	NO OF PASSENGERS	VEHICLE DETAILS	
8.30	LAINDON Victoria Road -	BASILDON Bus Station	8.40	104	CROWN BUS	£1.10	6	- N 418 UWN Iveco	UVG body B29F
8.50	BASILDON Bus Station -	WICKFORD Broadway	9.25	33C	THAMES WAY	£5.50	6	373 H 384 OHK Merc 709	Reave Burgess B23F
9.52	WICKFORD Rail Station -	CHELMSFORD Bus Station	10.42	VILLAGE LINK 14	CHARRIOTS OF ESSEX	£1.90	9	- S 642 MGA Merc 814	Marshall B27F
10.45	CHELMSFORD Bus Station -	HALSTEAD High Street	11.49	352	EASTERN NATIONAL	RANGER	23	2818 L 818 OPU Ds Dart	Plaxton B34F
12.05	HALSTEAD Butler Road -	SUDBURY Bus Station	12.57	321	BRESTONS	£1.30	14	- S 617 URT Merc 814	Plaxton Bower 2 B31F
13.15	SUDBURY Bus Station -	COLCHESTER Bus Station	14.10	753	CHAMBERS	£1.80	33	- F 51 ACL Volvo	(ex Rhondda 1997) Alexander H 47135F
14.30	COLCHESTER Bus Station -	MALDON High Street	15.58	95	HEDDINGHAM	£3.05	18	L 270 CPU 125X Ld Tiger	Plaxton C 53F
16.17	MALDON High Street -	CHELMSFORD Bus Station	16.59	31	EXTERN NATIONAL	RANGER	5	1425 F 425 MJN Ld Lynx	Leyland B49F
17.00	CHELMSFORD Bus Station -	BASILDON Bus Station	17.52	100	THAMES WAY	RANGER	32	963 N 963 CPU Ds Dart	Plaxton B37F
18.13	BASILDON Bus Station -	LAINDON Duthen Road	18.28	151	THAMES WAY	RANGER	22	* 366 H. 377 OHK Merc 709	Reave Burgess B23F
						£14.65			

* MERCEDES VEHICLE USED AS CERTAIN DARTS AT BASILDON ARE AWAY BEING PAINTED IN "METROBUS" LIVERY

NOTES

- 1) All vehicles operated as per timetable.
- 2) Service 33C (BASILDON-WICKFORD) is very circuitous route taking 35 minutes (being withdrawn on 6 Feb 1999)
- 3) Village Link Service 14 has double runs at South Hanningfield and West Hanningfield
- 4) Service 95 (HEDDINGHAM) has double run from TOWERS HUNT D'ARCY to TOWERSBURY