

ESSEX BUS NEWS

September 1996

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

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WINNING PHOTOGRAPH IN THE COMPETITION WAS THIS FINE SHOT BY JOHN WEEKES OF FORMER EASTERN NATIONAL MERCEDES O220 G220HJN NOW WITH WESTERN NATIONAL 170 AT PENZANCE.

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ROCHFORD MEETINGS :- Freight House 8pm

October 8th	Video Evening - Please bring any interesting videos you have.
November 12th	Programme to be announced.
December 10th	Slide Show by Richard Delahoy - 20 years ago.

GROUP TOURS

October 12th	Meadowhall - Sheffield
October 20th	East London Municipalities Tour.
	Booking form enclosed.

Wanted

Photos of Wests Coaches, Woodford
A16BUS - please contact the Man. Editor.

Mr. Peter King, 53 Beaufort Street, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS2 4NQ would like to know where ribbons for ALMEX type A ticket machines can be purchased. Anyone who can help please contact Peter direct.

Photo Competition Results

Winners

Overall Winner	J. Weekes	Former EN Mercedes 0220 with Western National
2nd	D. Arnold	EN Leyland National STW18W with Stevensons
3rd	I. Dann	Optare P503 DUG on delivery to Metrobus.
Slide Entry	A. Sugden	EN Dart at Southwold

NEW VEHICLES

2678	P678 HPU	Mercedes Benz 709D	Plaxton Beaver B23F
2679	P679 HPU	Mercedes Benz 709D	Plaxton Beaver B23F
2680	P680 HPU	Mercedes Benz 709D	Plaxton Beaver B23F
2681	P681 HPU	Mercedes Benz 709D	Plaxton Beaver B23F
2682	P682 HPU	Mercedes Benz 709D	Plaxton Beaver B23F

Chassis numbers are 669003-041529/041516/041512/042964/043021

Body numbers are 96.7MHV5206-5210

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

228	D228 PPU	Mercedes Benz L608D	Reeve Burgess B20F
3110	XHK 215X	Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB	ECW H43/31F

Both were ex Thamesway 228 (7/96) and 3110 (8/96).

ALLOCATIONS

8/96 228 ACQD-POOL; 2203 CF-D/L(D); 2212 CR-BE; 2241/50 DT-D/L(D);
2252 DT-CF; 2665 CR-BE; 2678/79 NEW-CR; 2680-82 NEW-DT;
3110 ACQD-CF

REPAINTS

7/96 3222

8/96 1921 1402 3076 3110

1402 carries an overall advert for Essex County Council's Travelwise campaign.

GENERAL

The new Mercedes minibuses feature new standard moquette and vandal screens fitted to the drivers door. These are among the last 709s to be built as Euro 2 specifications, will result in a different engine being fitted and the model will become the 711.

Bristol VR 3076 has returned from Marshall Bus at Cambridge, where it has been refurbished. The work includes new lower deck floor, shark-tooth step nosing, new handpoles and bell pushes in the lower deck, increase seating to 74 seats with new moquette, upgraded heating and demisting equipment, structural repairs and repanel as required. It is planned to send further VRs for similar work to be carried out.

The Leyland Olympian coaches (4500 series) are having new floor covering fitted, this replaces the carpets which have become well worn and untidy over the years.

SERVICES

- 5 Revised route in Bockings Elm area from 23.9.96.
- 20/A Minor timetable revisions from 30.9.96
- 58/A Slight alteration to afternoon journeys from 9.9.96.
- 64/A Minor timetable revisions from 30.9.96
- 75/B The 1600 schooldays ex Colchester withdrawn after 2.9.96.
- 75/B Revised timetable introduced from 30.9.96
- 77 Minor timetable revisions from 30.9.96.
- 78/A Minor timetable revisions from 30.9.96.
- 79/A Re-numbered 63/A with a revised route and timetable from 30.9.96.
- 87/A Revised route and timetable introduced from 30.9.96.
- 99 Withdrawn after operation on 7.9.96.
- 100 Withdrawn after operation on 7.9.96.
- 101 Withdrawn after operation on 7.9.96.
- 103/4 Minor timetable revision from 30.9.96.
- 106 Revised route and timetable introduced from 24.9.96.
- 126 Revised route and timetable introduced from 24.9.96.
- 127 From 23.9.96. the non-schooldays journeys withdrawn.
- 132 Revised route and timetable introduced from 30.9.96.
- 233 New service. Schooldays Chelmsford to Southend High School via Wickford
- 310 Bishops Stortford to St Michaels Mead from 9.9.96.
- 333 Revised timetable and route in Epping introduced from 9.9.96.

INITIAL DISPOSALS

- 2241 (C688 ECV) Hybrid Vehicles Ltd (Development part of First Bus)
- 1844 (WJN 564S) Hardwick, Carlton, (for scrap), 7/96
- 1860 (YEV 318S) As 1844

HEDINGHAM

VEHICLES

Bristol VR APT 813W has been numbered L246 and together with L245 is allocated to Sudbury.

The five Atlanteans, the last ex Norfolks vehicles, have been withdrawn and sold as follows -

L186 (CBV 305S) ABC Travel, Manchester; L187 (CBV 306S) Brentwood Coaches; L188-90 (CBV 307-9S) Thornes, Bubwith, W Yorkshire.

Ford coach L239 (BCJ 733V) has also been sold to an unknown operator in East Dereham, Norfolk.

Also withdrawn is long lived L86 a Bedford YRQ/Willowbrook, new in 1975, It is being used for spares at Sible Hedingham.

SERVICES

- 14A Commenced operation of ECC service ex CBT on 4.9.96.
- 49 New Service Colchester to Highwoods Monday to Friday from 23.9.96.
- 80 Slight timetable revision from 9.9.96
- 84 Slight timetable revision from 9.9.96.
- 601 Sunday only service will continue to run during the winter.
- X15 Withdrawn after operation on 13.9.96.

PAUL SPARKS CLACTON COLUMN

Dennis Dart, Fleet No.2817, Registration No.L817 OPU is now back from Plaxton's after its unfortunate incident in Tiptree as reported in last month's issue of Essex Bus News. As the opportunity is available it is having the FirstBus logo placed upon it, the first Eastern National Dart to be blessed with this privilege.

Also back is service is Mercedes 709D Fleet No.2647, Registration No.L647 MEV after its accident which was also reported in last month's issue of Essex Bus News. This vehicle, also, is having the FirstBus logos placed upon it. Back from Marshalls in Cambridge, fully reburbished, is Bristol VR Fleet No.3076, Registration No.KOO 794V and very nice indeed it looks as well!

Thamesway Dennis Dart Fleet No.940, Registration No.M940 TEV will be returning home within the next week. Eastern National Dart Fleet No.2821, Registration No.L821 OPU is currently at Hadleigh Depot after its stint at Ponders End. Evidently they are trying to make it look presentable for its return to duty for operating out of Clacton Depot. It seems life in London has left its mark upon this vehicle!

Four Mercedes 608D's are currently in the yard at Clacton. These are Fleet No's 2203, 2228, 2250 and 2251, Registration No.'s C203 HJN, C482 BHY, C232 HCV and C990 GCV respectively. They are all for disposal. Eastern Counties will be taking two and they are currently selecting which two they want. Once they have done this the remaining two will go to another source.

Group member Peter Ashton reports to me the following:-

Leyland Lynx vehicles from Chelmsford seem to more prevalent on service 33 of late with the following being noted at Southend.

14.14 & 18.30 departure on 29th July.

14.25 & 17.30 departure on 30th July.

14.07 & 18.30 departure on 5th August.

Thank you for this information Peter.

Also Group member Malcolm Torrance has shown interest in joining the KSW Preservation Group and also my Clacton Column, both of which are greatly appreciated.

On a final note this interesting letter from a reader was published in the 23rd August edition of the Clacton Gazette.

"I feel the time is just about right for some rival competition to come in to the bus service in Clacton considering the way Coastline has lately been treating its regulars.

As soon as the holiday season starts, we are left "out in the cold", not just one bus missing on the route but two.

I used to praise unstintingly the regularity of our little buses, but not anymore.

I wait just long enough to realise that there's nothing doing, then have to make other arrangements. It's just not good enough".

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

AIRPORT COACHES STANSTED Recent additions are Iveco minicoach N458 DBK and Leyland national MCA 676T

AIRPORT EXPRESS SOUTHEND Ford transit H3 KMK has been sold.

AVRO COACHES Operation of service 230 passed to Nelsons with effect from 4.9.96.

BERNARDS HARLOW Further to last month RNH 784V has a Ford chassis.

BLUE TRIANGLE Service 204 re-introduced from 4.9.96.

BORDACOACH WICKFORD Further to last month B873 YYX has a Duple body.

CARTERS Revised timetable introduced on service 755 from 11.9.96. Revised route and timetable introduced on service 133 from 2.9.96

CATTON A further vehicle G359 NKE is operated, but no details are available.

CEDRICS Have registered service 120X, schooldays only from Walton to Colchester Royal Grammar School from 1.9.96.

C&M LAINDON Leyland Swift/Reeve Burgess G375 YUR has been re-registered RVA 3S. The previous RVA 3S a Bedford/Plaxton retains this plate but is out of use.

CHARIOTS CORRINGHAM DAF/Van Hool ADC 366A has been fitted with a nearside wheelchair lift.

CHELMSFORD CAB Recent additions are Omni H224 BKM and Transit N105 BPU.

COACH STOP SOUTHEND A new vehicle is P969 HWF a ?/Neoplan.

CRUSADER CLACTON Have sold Setras KSU 473 and NSU 136.

CUNNINGHAM CORRINGHAM Have sold Volvo/Van Hool VYB 704.

ESSEX THAMESIDE CANVEY Have sold B951 HBB a Fiat/Caetano.

INGATESTONE COACHES No longer appear to use the station yard and NIW 1639 appears to be the only vehicle operated. PIW 4795 a Bedford/Plaxton has gone to Mikes Coaches, Basildon.

M&E SHOEBURYNESSE Have sold HPH 715V a Volvo/Plaxton.

NELSONS Commenced operation of evening 352/3 from 5.8.96.

OCTOPUS TRAVEL CHELMSFORD Have acquired F501 SCW a Mercedes/Elme minicoach.

OSBORNE TOLLESBURY Van Hool T815 TJI 3131 has been sold.

ROGERS STANFORD LE HOPE Acquired is Renault T35 F818 KKP.

SM TRAVEL Revised route and timetable introduced on service E18 from 2.9.96.

STEPHENSONS Service 67 will be withdrawn after operation on 22.9.96. A new service numbered 12 on schooldays only between Rochford and Stambridge was introduced on 4.9.96. Service 223 between Rochford and Great Baddow, Sandon School commenced 3.9.96. Timetable alterations were made to services 7B,22,222,224 and 225 from 3.9.96. Metroliner C979 HOX is now in use in full Stephensons livery. Bristol VR TPE 155S appears to be out of use. Leyland Royal Tiger FAD 272Y and Sherpa minibus E94 OUH have been sold.

SOUTH WOODHAM TAXIS A further Ford Transit is J813 AWF, although this is a non PSV

TOMS SOUTHEND Ford Transit/Dormobile G720 WDU has been acquired.

WATSONS TILBURY Scania/Plaxton LIL 2184 has been re-registered JAZ 4405.

WAYS MINICOACHES BOREHAM Have acquired K650 HNW a Mercedes minicoach.

WEBSTERS BASILDON B780 XNC a Freight Rover sherpa has been added to this fleet.

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GUILD

THE ORIGINAL EASTERN NATIONAL

The final part of the pre-war Bristol K5G story is to be published in a separate publication - 'The Tale of the Wandering JEVs' to be announced shortly.

As local members may have seen in the Evening Echo the museum at Canvey Island has obtained the remains of a Dennis Lancet, ex-Eastern National, which was found at Braintree during building operations.

We are researching the wartime Guy Arabs delivered to Eastern National viz.3875 - 3884 JTW 146-8/236-9, and certain queries have been raised.

- 1 Some were used at Luton before moving to Grays.
- 2 Some were operated from Southend on route 70, again before they went to Grays.

Any ideas?

Fleet List:-

Stephensons - Rochford

PHH 407R	Bristol VR	ECW	ex Cumberland
TPE 155S	Bristol VR	ECW	ex Berks Bucks Bus
YBF 682S	Bristol VR	ECW	ex Pott eries
NEH 724W	Bristol VR	ECW	ex Potteries
MBZ 714O	Bristol VR	ECW o/t	ex East Midland
JTD 393P	Dailmer CRL6/33	NCME	ex Southend
HIL 4346	Leyland AN68 EL B F.		ex Hylton Castle
HIL 4349	Leyland AN68 EL B F.	on chassis	SUG561/95M
C979 HOX	Metroliner D/D		
SIB 7518	Ford R1114 Plaxton C53F	Driver Trainer/PCV	
OIB 5401	Leyland RT	Roe/Doyen	ex Rossendale/Ellen
OIB 5402	Leyland RT	Roe/Doyen	Smith fleet

HARRIS BUS Bedford FNJ 993V has now returned to Fargo. Talbots K622/3 WOV have been sold. Ford Transit F849 LHS has re-entered service and is in use on the Tilbury Town to Riverside shuttle, formerly operated by Tilbury Taxis. According to a display at Tilbury Town, more seats, greater comfort and easier accessibility is now provided! Two Talbots were acquired as part of the takeover of Walkers services. Neither has seen use here, they are E563 MAC and F924 ABV. Sherpa M52 WEV is now in use with the coach company. TYJ 15S an Atlantean/East Lancs arrived on loan from Brighton Buses in early September. P317/8 KTW are DAF DB250/N Countiers Palatine II which arrived in early September. They are in a new dark blue/lime green livery and are lettered Lakeside Link - serving North Kent. The remains of Bristol VR VRP 37S left for a Barnsley breaker on 5.9.96. In addition to the two ex Walkers vehicles Ailsa WRJ 447S and DAF coach K97 GEV are out of use at the depot, while Atlantean OCO 118S is out of use at Tunnel Truck Hire.

HARRIS BUS

Thamesway

VEHICLES

702	P702 HPU	D212DRITGW10207	9610LFHWZ583
703	P703 HPU	D212DRITGW10208	9610LFHWZ584
704	P704 HPU	D212DRITGW10211	9610LFHWZ585
705	P705 HPU	D212DRITGW10217	9610LFHWZ586

708 was delivered on 7th September, 706/7/9/10 should be delivered by the time that you read this.

Allocations 28.8.96

200 BN-BD, 203 BN-BD, 204 BN-D/L(D), 205 BN-BD, 228 D/L(D)-EN, 237 BD-D/L(D), 238 BD-D/L(D), 241 BD-D/L(D), 335 HH-BN, 336 HH-BN, 337 HH-BN, 338 HH-BN, 702 NEW-HH, 703 NEW-HH, 704 NEW-HH, 705 NEW-HH, 3110 BN-EN.

228 and 3110 have been transferred to Eastern National

Repaints

246, 339, 349, 351, 352, 368, 369, 380, 387, 805, 808, 809, 810, 811, 1886 are in the new livery. (1886 is the first Leyland National having been an advert for Romford Stadium). Its rear number plate is now above the rear windscreen. A number of Ponders End (PD) have been prepared for repaint at Hadleigh (HH).

941 is an advert for Essex County Council and expires in 7.97.

Disposals

208	C491 HCV	7.96 Africa Link (dlr), Romford
227	D227 PPU	8.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
229	D229 PPU	8.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
232	D232 PPU	8.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
236	D236 PPU	8.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
237	D237 PPU	8.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
238	D238 PPU	9.96 Greater Manchester Buses North
239	D239 PPU	7.96 Africa Link (dlr), Romford
241	D241 PPU	8.96 Greater Manchester Buses North
242	D242 PPU	7.96 Africa Link (dlr), Romford
243	D243 PPU	7.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton
244	D244 PPU	7.96 Hardwick (dlr), Carlton

OPERATIONS

32/A/B Slight timetable revisions from 30th September between Wickford and Billericay.

39 Revised route and timetable Basildon Hospital and Noak Bridge from 30.9.

40 Revised timetable from 30th September.

43 Revised route and timetable Basildon Hospital and Billericay.

60 New shoolday service from 4th September Stanf*le-Hope to Southend.

ECC269 Timetable revised from 4th September to suit shooll times.

LTB362/462 Contracts to commence May 1997 using 28 seaters.

LTB214 Extra journeys operated between Liverpool Street and Kings Cross using Bristol VRs 3110 and 3113.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

CBT is to receive eight Greenways from London & Country, Addlestone, where they had been made redundant by the loss of the contracts for LTB services 116 and 117.

Correcting last month's report, the two Olympians, 46 and 47 (F246 MTW and H47 MJN), arrived on 1.8.96. 46 was repainted into fleet livery between 3.8.96 and 15.8.96 and entered service on 21.8.96. 47 was repainted between 19.8.96 and 2.9.96 and in service on 4.9.96. As a result, Atlanteans 62 (RCN 96N) and 185 (XPG 185T) were withdrawn on 3.9.96.

Nationals 10 (BVP 810V) and 26 (EON 826V) were transferred to Southend Transport on 1.8.96. However, 10 was brought back on 21.8.96, when 9 (BVP 809V) was transferred to ST.

Atlanteans 80 and 86 were repaired by Ipswich Buses from 13 and 19.8.96 respectively.

The sight-seeing tour was operated on six Sundays (the last two in July and four in August) at 1330 and 1500, as well as weekdays.

On 4.8.96 Olympians 48 and 49 were used on a railway replacement service, running single early morning journeys from Colchester and Witham to Shenfield. On 17.8.96, 41 ran a single journey from Wivenhoe to Clacton to replace a broken-down train. The following day an Olympian replaced a train from Colchester to Clacton. On 28.8.96 Tiger 103 was used to rescue railway passengers stranded on a train near the bridge in Cowdray Avenue, following damage to the overhead at East Gates, 48 did a trip to Clacton, and 69 was put on stand-by at North Station. 48 was called out to North Station on 5.9.96 following overhead power problems, but was not used.

Following the changes on 26.7.96, copies of the revised route map are available from the company, as is a timetable leaflet of ECC contracted services.

The Managing Director of CBT Limited is now John Piper.

And finally.....a ticket promotion for McDonalds started on 2.9.96: medium fries and a drink for 99p!

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Contributions received with thanks from Essex Buses (Eastern National and Thamesway), Southend Transport, R Dennis, C Sigston.

Contributions for the October EBN should be with sub editors by 3rd Oct, and Main editor by 9th October.

Mechanicals:

Southend Transport

Engineered... IN (BVP 809W)
England National 2 NR 116L11/1R B49F
(Ex Colchester B.T. August 96)
Bridgman... IN 10 (BVP 810V)
W... (ETH 380T)
Ditto Trains 415/416 (0415/416 DPG)

Disposals:

IN 10 (BVP 810V) To Colchester B.T.
Train 416 (0416 DPG) To Thorpe Park

Subsequent Disposals:

RM 112 (WM 1240) Exported to Germany. (ex Brakell.)
RM 115 (WFO 410/WLT 378) To TimeBus Travel, Watford.
(ex Way Travel.)
VW 401/402 (F401/402 BHK) To Guernsey Bus 6 & 7.
(ex Derby.)
(New Reg Nos...55159/53467)

Repaints: RM 909 (F579 SM6) to allover advert for
Talking Pages. (Yellow/Blue) Front in livery.

Publicity:

New timetable leaflets for all revised services.
Old style Blue/White except 7 & 8 group which is
green/White and X services which is green line style.



NEW ARRIVAL WITH HARRIS bus ARE TWO DAF/NC P317/8 PTW, THE LATTER IS AT LAKESIDE

- 1 No Change.
- 1B This service will replace 1B evenings, Sunday to Saturday, and increase the service to Rayleigh Stn. to half-hourly.
- 2 Will terminate at Shoebury-East Beach during the day Monday to Saturday and will no longer serve Campfield Rd, Asda or The Renown.
- 2A Will operate Monday to Saturdays and combined with 2 will create a half-hourly service to Basildon. Will operate as 2 until Constable Way, then turn towards the Renown and terminate at Asda.
- 2B Withdrawn evenings, Sunday to Saturday. Replaced by 1B.
- 2C Will operate between Basildon Hospital and Landwick, replacing 2A but operating the same route.
- 3/3A Withdrawn. Replaced by 28/29/29A.
- 5/5A/5B/5C No Change.
- 6 Is revised and will no longer operate between Rochford and Cockethurst Corner and White Horse and Sutton Cemetery. The new service operates between Landwick and Eastwood. The route operates as now from Kent Elms to Southend then Southchurch Road, Rose Inn, Barling, Wakering to Landwick. On return to Kent Elms, turns right into Snakes Lane, left at Cockethurst Cntr. to Rochford Corner and left into Rayleigh Road and terminate at Kent Elms Corner.
- 7/7C/8/8C As now to Priory Park, then left into Fairfax Drive, right into Prittlewell Chase, right into Hobleythick Lane to The Bell, returning to normal route. Return journeys as reverse, rejoining normal route at Priory Park.
- 7A/8A Withdrawn. Replaced by increase to 7 & 8.
- 7B/8B Revised to operate via Asda, and no longer serve Elm Rd. Will also operate via Prittlewell Chase & Hobleythick Ln in both directions. Then as current route.
- 7D Will operate as other 7B/8B to Bournes Green, then North Shoebury Corner, North Shoebury Rd, Asda to The Renown.
- 9 No Change. Evening service increased to half-hourly from Progress Rd to Rayleigh, due to extension of 29.
- 10 No Change.
- 14 No Change.
- 17 Revised to operate Belgrave Road to Sutton Cemetery. Operates as now from Belgrave Rd to Central Bus Stn, then to Woodgrange Dr, Lifstan Way, White Horse, Hamstel Rd, Eastern Ave, Lewes Rd, Pantile Ave, Norwich Ave, Royston Ave, Sutton Rd, Stock Rd, Chandlers Ave to Sutton Cemetery.

- 17A No Change.
- 17B No Change.
- 17C Operates as 17 to Leigh Church, then right into Hadleigh Road, right into London Road, then left into Eastwood Rd, then as 17 to Belgrave Road.
- 17D Operates as 17 from Eastwood to Cliffs Pavilion, then right into Cambridge Rd, Scrutton Road, Nelson Road, Alexandra Street, onto Southend Bus Station.
- 18 One morning journey extended, Monday to Friday school days only, from Southend to Cuckoo Corner via Victoria Avenue.
- 23 No Change.
- 23A No Change.
- 24 Operates as present from Eastwood to Southend Bus Stn, then Southchurch Rd, Bournes Green, Thorpe Bay Station, Delaware Rd, Elm Rd, Eagle Way, Ravendale Way to North Shoebury Corner.
- 25 Operates as present from Eastwood to Southend Bus Stn, then Southchurch Rd, Bournes Green, Maplin Way North, Delaware Rd, Elm Rd, Eagle Way, terminating at Asda, or through to North Shoebury Cnr, via Nth Shoebury Road.
- Evening journeys will start at Southend Bus Station, and operate as now to Eastwood Old Road then cross A127, down Progress Road, then turn left and follow service 9 route to Rayleigh Station. Return route as reverse.
- Services will no longer serve Belgrave Road in the evenings. No change to Sunday daytime service.
- 29A Operates as service 28 to Eagle Way, then to The Renown, Shoebury High Street and Shoeburyness East Beach. Monday to Saturdays.
- 61 No Change to route, but Sunday service withdrawn.
- 62/63A No Change.
- 63 No Change.
- 64 No Change.
- 66 & 69 No Change.
- *X* Services.
- Services will now depart from Southend Bus Station at 10 minutes to the hour, until 18:50 then 21:30.
- X1 Will operate via Pitsea Broadway, Pitsea Road and Ashlyns.
- X10 No Change.
- X11 2 morning journeys to operate from Iapots direct to Vange Five Bells. All others via Pitsea Broadway, resuming route at flyover to Vange.