ESSEX BUS NEWS

August 1998

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

412



THAMESWAY VOLVO PLAXTON 606 N606NPU operating the new Coach and Rail service from North Southend to West Horndon station, Painted in LTS Rly livery 606 is seen here at West Horndon awaiting the next departure

JOHN RUGG.

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North Essex small ops:	Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR
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ESSEX BUS NEWS
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EDITORIAL

412 FOCUS FF THE MONTH
LHK412 wss a Leyland PS1 Duple C35F operated by the City Coach Company from Brentwood, fleetnumber LS1.delivered in 1946. In 1950 it was exchanged with Daimler CVD6 Strachen L55R of Rose Brothers of Chelmsford who later in 1954 sold it to Maroon Coaches of Woodford Green.

Gremlin of the month EBN411
The gremlin crept into EBM 4 with the misplacement of page 7 as 13, my apologies to all concerned.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS FREIGHT HOUSE 8pm
The dates published last month have now been confirmed,
Programme
September 8th Open slide evening with our new equipment, members invited to bring a selection of slides along.
October 13th Slide show by Martin Weyell A to Z of defunct operators.
November 10th Programme to be announced.
December 8th Slide show by Richard Delahoy 20 years ago

GRUOP TOUR
Due to lack of response from operators and bookings , the tour has been cancelled.

Contributions for this EBN received with thanks from Essex C.C. First Bus Enthusiasts . LOTS .PSV Circle. I Taylor. R Delahoy.C Sigston M Torrance. D Harrison M Ford.Essex Buses Arriva Southend.Arriva East Herts and Essex.

Contributions for September EBN should be with Sub Editors by September 5th and Managing Editor by 12th September..

NEW PUBLICATION:

HICKS BROS. LTD. - FACT FILE 2

This is the first in a new series of booklets which aim to provide an instant snapshot of an operator just before their final takeover and demise. The publication is in A5 format with a glazed cover. It contains a short history, fleet list (as at 31/12/49) and details of ENOC fleet numbers and withdrawal dates. A route map and list of services is provided together with details of tickets. There are a total of nine excellently captional photographs .

Further Fact Files to be produced will be :

1. City Coach Company Ltd.
2. Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Ltd.
3. Coastal Red
4. Moore Bros.

Copies of **Hicks Bros. Fact File 2** are available at £3 (post free) from :

A. G. Osborne, 7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex IG3 8LT

FIRST GROUP NEWS First

First Group results were announced on 1st June, they include:-

Pre tax profits	up 42% to £72.5m
Operating Profit	up 30% to £95.9m
Turnover	up 43% to £795m
Market Share	22%

All bus companies increased their margins, except Strathclyde and Midland Bluebird, where increased competition from Stagecoach is a major factor. Southampton and Centrewest also traded ahead of target. Great Eastern and Great Western Holdings were also both in profit. The only major problem to future growth, is that of staff shortages, which is affecting most transport providers at present.

First group have recently announced the outcome of the Customer first survey. 91% of customers rated their most recent journey as a good experience. Benchmarks are set for reliability, frequency, staff conduct, vehicle and fares. It is interesting that 75% of passengers were women, while 95% of those approached use the bus at least weekly.

First have acquired the entire share capital of Capital for £14.1m. In the region of 280 vehicles are operated, with about a 5% share of the London Bus Market.

Possible problems with fleetnames has now arisen. First Computers a small computer firm in West Yorkshire, was planning to trade as First Leeds and First Bradford, to which First Group objected. A check at Companies House led to the discovery, that First had not registered the company names. First Computers have now registered 35 different names! First group are confident that they can prevent the names being used.

First Eastern National

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

4315	L315 PWR	Volvo Olympian	N Counties	H47/29F

Chassis and body number to follow.

To correct EBN 410, 727 and 728 (R458/8 BNG) are on loan from Eastern Counties and have not been acquired.

ALLOCATIONS

Period End 26.7.98.	2232 Reserve - D/L(D); 3226 CR - Reserve; 3229 CR - D/L(D); 4301/15 Acquired - CR
Early August 1998	1001/3/4 CF-D/L(D)

Pool 3234 was operating from Chelmsford depot in early July.

Mid August saw a large number of re-allocations. Full details will be given next month, but Darts returning from loan to MTL (the batch from service 214), will see Colchester lose the majority of it's Mercedes minibuses. These in turn will pass to Chelmsford, which will allow the surprising disposal of the Mercedes 814's, which are understood to be going to Scotland.

REPAINTS

7/98 1428 4010 4014

GENERAL

Service 65 has been branded Centurion 65 and 722 -726 carry route branding for this service. The usual higher standards as set for Diamond, Canvey Clipper etc are incorporated on this service.
Bishops Stortford outstation is located at the Causeway Business Centre, Adderley Road in answer to a couple of query's.
Eastern Counties R553 CNG a Scania/Wright in Park and Ride livery was noted in Chelmsford depot on 26.7.98. The reason for it's appearance is unknown.

SERVICES

10 Operation of 0730 ex St Michael's passed to Hedingham from 3.8.98.
16/126 Revised timetable introduced from 3.8.98. to 30.8.98.
21 Revised route and timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
30 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
31/X Revised route and timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
32 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
34 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98. Service 34A is withdrawn.
58/A Service de-registered after 17.8.98. I assume it will be replaced.
59 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
73 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
127 Withdrawn after operation on 14.8.98.
132/3 Revised route and timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
301 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
308/9 Revised route and timetable introduced from 17.8.98. (To replace 58/A??)
310 Withdrawn after operation on 14.8.98.
331 Revised timetable introduced from 8.8.98.
333 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
343 New service between Braintree and Flacks Green on Saturdays from 8.8.98.
344 Operation passed to Hedingham with effect from 7.8.98.
352 Revised timetable introduced from 17.8.98.
356 Withdrawn after end of last school term.

Details of services 58/A and 308/9 were awaiting confirmation as this issue went to press.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflets for services 87/A; 102/103/104 both undated reprints, 34 dated 9.3.98; 1 dated 24.5.98 - 30.8.98; 5/6 dated 26.5.98; 65 dated 29.6.98; 31/X and 73 dated 16.8.98.

The leaflet for service 75 dated 27.4.98 has been re-issued and now correctly shows 4016 en-route to Maldon!
The leaflet for service 65 depicts 714, a Diamond service bus. The front has been amended to show Highwoods 65, but the side indicator shows a red diamond.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

3.6.98. CF 4510 on service 31 (normally used on Commuter service)
23.6.98 CN 2653 on service 75 (normally big bus)
6.7.98. CF 2823 on Diamond service (normally SLF)
14.7.98. CF 1416 on Diamond service (normally SLF)

Thamesway Dart 987 has been on loan at Colchester during late July.
Tiger coaches 1130/1131 are used on a wide range of services from Chelmsford depot, as are the Leyland Nationals which have returned recently.

INITIAL DISPOSALS

1001 (EWR 651Y)	First Northampton, Northampton, 8/98.
1002 (EWR 652Y)	First Northampton, Northampton, 7/98.
1003 (EWR 653Y)	First Northampton, Northampton, 8/98.
1004 (A660 KUM)	First Northampton, Northampton, 8/98.
9800 (SWW 305R)	Hardwick, Carlton (for scrap), 7/98

EASTERN NATIONAL

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a NATIONAL bus company

EASTERN NATIONAL

EASTERN NATIONAL

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS

FLEET No.	REG No.	DETAILS.	DATE.
602	C602NPU	Gordon, Southwaite. Sold.	by 5/98
604	C604NPU	McKenzie, Workington. Sold.	by 12/96
720	B454WTC	Private Owner, Combe Down. ex Eurotaxis, Harry Stoke.	by 5/98
0752	D752RWC	White (t/a Whiteways), Monmouth. ex Cleverly, New Inn.	3/98
0753	D753RWC	White (t/a Whiteways), Monmouth. ex Cleverly, New Inn.	4/98
1004	816 ZX [MAR779P]	Lyons, Miltown Malbay. Sold.	by 4/98
1057	TJN980W	Crainey & Curtis, Kilsyth. Remains gone.	2/98

1202	BNO688T	Bellamy, Nottingham.	
		ex Flint, Nettleton.	4/98
1213	BNO699T	Yeomans, Hereford.	
		withdrawn.	by12/97
1710	WNO559L	Wigley, Carlton (dlr for scrap).	
		ex Serveverse, Mile Oak.	9/97
1834	VAR900S	The South Wales Transport Co Ltd (for spares).	
		ex A E & F R Brewer Ltd (for spares).	4/98
2810	FWC428B	New York Double Decker Tours 9	
		- ? - , - ? - .	by5/98
		ex Webb, Spirit of 76, New Carrollton, MD.	? / ?
		Open Top configuration.	by5/98
2819	HEV997B	New York Double Decker Tours 14	
		ex London Double Decker Bus Co, Miami, FL.	-/95
		Partial Open Top configuration.	by6/95
		Open Top configuration.	by3/96
3036	NPU983M	Wigley, Carlton (dlr for scrap).	
		ex Jones, Llanidloes.	3/98

First Thamesway

DISPOSALS

July 1998
1845 WJN 565S To Hardwick (dealer) Carlton
617 N617 APU To Eastern Counties.
618 N618 APU To Eastern Counties.

ALLOCATION CHANGES

July 1998
251 PD- RES. 417 RES – PD 617, 618 BN – DISP.

REPAINTS

July 1998
934, 935, 936, 940.

ODD WORKINGS

30–7–98 616 on 250

NEWS

Following the sale of Capital Citybus to FirstGroup on July 7th there have been some changes to Thamesway London services.

The first change was before the take over date when the new company now known as First Capital took over Thamesway route D8 from Stratford to Crossharbour on June 29th. Vehicles used are Thamesway Mercedes 0805 – 0811 which have been transferred to Hackney until new Dennis Darts are delivered. This operation is a sub-contract and replaces the recent staffing for W9, which Capital Citybus had been providing at Ponders End.

One duty on Thamesway contract for route 500 was operated by First Capital 744 on July 12th. A Basildon vehicle worked the other duty with a First Capital driver.

Recent reports in the Ilford Recorder say that improvements to route 462 will have to be diverted around the width restriction in Longwood Road if new buses are to replace the earlier Mercedes 608s'. Failing this the width restriction could be replaced by "rising bollards" similar to those recently introduced in Cambridge.

A Redbridge councillor has voiced his concern after hearing Thamesways' plan to withdraw the Ilford – Walthamstow section of the 551 from September 5th. The company cites unacceptable delays from traffic congestion as the reason for the move.

A recent internet page quotes that Thamesway is to open a new depot at Bryant Avenue near Gallows Corner, Romford (code RD), and that routes 193 and 362 may be operated from there. Could this be the same place as reported in the April EBN?

From July 27th early saver tickets priced at £5 daily and £20 weekly have been available on the first two City Saver journeys to London from Pitsea Broadway and Tarpots, Benfleet, departing at 04.24 and 04.58 respectively. There is no restriction on return journey times.

A combined coach and rail commuter service has been set up jointly with LTS Rail from the northern suburbs of Southend to London Fenchurch Street. Thamesway coaches will run to West Horndon Station where passengers will transfer to trains.

5 Dennis Darts are to be returned from MTL London. They are to go to Basildon, which will allow the Darts currently on loan from Eastern National to be returned.

THAMESWAY

SERVICE REVISIONS

Our apologies for the non-appearance of this section, in recent months. This covers the entire missing period, to ensure all news has been published. It is planned for this part of the column to appear monthly in future.

15/16	Revised timetable introduced from 29.6.98.
15/A	Revised timetable and re-routed in Eastwood from 27.7.98.
32/A/B	Revised route and timetable introduced from 29.6.98.
33	Revised route and timetable introduced from 29.6.98.
40	Revised timetable introduced from 5.5.98.
39/40	Revised route and timetable introduced from 29.6.98.
71/A/72	Revised route and timetable from 3.8.98. Certain journeys extended to Epping.
73/74	Revised timetable introduced from 22.6.98. and again from 3.8.98.
80	Revised timetable introduced from 3.8.98.
81/82/83	Revised timetable introduced from 3.8.98.
91/92	Revised timetable introduced from 3.8.98.
201	Re-numbered 301 from 3.8.98. Extended to South Woodford to replace ECC service 549 journeys.
203	Withdrawn after 24.7.98.
241/4	Extended on Sundays, to Wat Tyler Country Park from 24.5. to 27.9.98.
256	Revised timetable from 14.7.98.
261	Operation of ECC journeys passed to Arriva from 3.8.98.
391	Revised timetable introduced from 26.5.98.
501	Operation of ECC journeys passed to Arriva from 3.8.98.
S1-5	Revised timetable introduced from 27.7.98.
S12	Withdrawn after 24.7.98.

Could a Southend area member, please provide details of the LTS connection service operated by 606 to the Thameswau sub-editor. Thank You.

ALLOCATIONS - 26-7-98

BRENTWOOD
349-355, 357, 2252, 2657-2659 TOTAL 11

BASILDON
336-338, 340-348, 356, 358-381, 601-605, 607-615, 851-854,
918-922, 924-943, 959-972, 1886, 2660-2662, 2808, 2817, 2819, 2821, 2822 TOTAL 103

HADLEIGH
309-327, 606, 616, 701-711, 717-721, 944-958, 987, 1400, 1404-1406,
1409-1412, 1417-1424, 1430, 1803, 1870, 3113, 4003-4005, 4022, 4023 TOTAL 78

PONDERS END
231, 234, 235, 245, 246, 254, 256-258, 261, 301-306, 388-398, 401-417,
800-811, 973-986 TOTAL 71

DISPOSAL
233, 250, 252, 253, 255, 259, 260, 617, 618, 1863, 1907, 3225

POOL
251, 307, 339, 418, 419, 1830

ON HIRE TO MTL
901-917

DRIVER TRAINERS
9016, 9017, 9717

Essex Buses
Eastern National
Thamesway
First Eastern National
First Thamesway

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS

FLEET No.	REG No.	DETAILS.	DATE.
2212	C212HJN	O'Connor (t/a Swift Travel), Ilford.	
		ex Stephenson, Rochford.	12/97
		reseated to C20F.	*12/97*
4503	B691BPU	Sargeants, Kington.	
		ex Stephenson, Rochford.	5/98
		Re-reg MIB6189	5/98

ARRIVA
Southend Ltd

FLEET
Mercedes MM482 P482DPE to Arriva livery

Leyland Nationnals 12 BVP812V and25 EON EON825V have been sold to Supreme Coaches at Southend.

SERVICES
New service KURSAAL HOPPA
Operating between Souuthend Victoria Station and The Kursaal. new Mercedes 453 and 454 are the vehicles usually on this service..

DISPOSALS
346 XWX186X Averon Formby.

Arriva Southend,Arriva Colchester and Arriva East Herts and Essex are now controlled by Arriva The Shires from Luton;more details next month.

HARRIS BUS

VEHICLES

Sherpa N25 COO has passed to the coach company.
Optare Excel P446 SWX remains on loan here.

SERVICES

Services 98 and 99 between Bradwell and Broomfield Hospital were withdrawn after operation on 1.8.98. The service has been totally revised to operate between Maldon and Bradwell, with operation by Eastern National, from 3.8.98. These services were normally driven by Dave Arnold, (who is well known to many Group members) he has moved to Thurrock depot.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

31.3.98. Olympian 360 on service 132 (should be Excel)
22.4.98. Excel 379 on 180 (should be Olympian)
25.4.98. Excel 376 on 180 (should be Olympian)

Service 98/99 were worked by a number of unusual vehicles in the final weeks, due to problems with the regular Talbots. These included Metrorider 310, Mercedes 582/583 and Excel 326. With the Mercedes in LTS and Gala Bingo livery and the Excel in dedicated 108 Stratford - Lewisham, one wonders what the population of the Dengie area made of it all!

HARRIS COACHES

VEHICLES

Small additions are VW Caravelle P574 GKL and VW Sharan P701 RPU.
Sherpa N25 COO has been repainted in new coach livery., as has Neoplan M504 XWC.
The remains of K97 GEV a DAF/Van Hool, which was burnt out three years ago, have now departed for scrap.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

AIRPORT COACHES STANSTED Neoplan E473 YWJ has been sold. Mercedes/Reeve Burgess E940 CJN has been acquired from Biss, it has been re-registered BAZ 7349. Other re-registrations are Bova G441 PWW to 125 LUP and Toyota Caetano H370 GRY to PUU 970.
AMBER RAYLEIGH Ford/Duple RNK 317W has been sold.
APT RAYLEIGH RBD 215 (new as A131 MFL) a DAF/Jonckhree has been acquired.
BEESTONS Services 150/1 between Halstead and Sudbury were revised from 3.8.98. They have been re-numbered 320/1 and operate to revised routes and timetables.
BERNARDS HARLOW Leyland Tiger/Plaxton FIL 7665 (new as A527 LPP) has been acquired.
BISS STANSTED New are Dennis Javelin/Plaxton R917 HTW and Volvo/Plaxton R918/9 HTW. Leyland National MCA 676T is out of use. Mercedes 0303/Jonckhree 125 LUP is now registered A335 WEV, while Van Hool T815 PUU 970 is now G47 FVW. School service GMO 509 from Hatfield Heath to Bishops Stortford High School is registered with effect from 2.9.98.
BORDABUS SHOTGATE AEC Reliance/Plaxton 524 FN, AEC Reliance/Duple YPL 91T and Atlantean/E Lancs BFR 301R have all been sold. This leaves B873 YYX a Tiger/Duple as the only vehicle owned.
BRAMMAN CLACTON A recent acquisition is D367 FUV a Toyota/Caetano.
BRANDON BLACKMORE END Bristol LHS/Plaxton OEG 289p has been re-registered 841 BMB, the former holder of this number a Setra, is assumed to have been re-registered and sold.
BRENTWOOD COACHES Volvo/Plaxton N41/42 BWM have been acquired from MTL, Liverpool.
BUZZ HARLOW Leyland Tiger/Plaxton B292 KPF has been acquired.
CAIRD CARS COLCHESTER VW Transporter L657 LNO is now PCV registered.
CEDRIC WIVENHOE R15 CED is a new Volvo/Jonckhree. Vehicles confirmed as acquired are Bova TJI 6306 (new as G419 WFP) and Neoplan H881 AVK (new as H4 DTS). The Neoplan has been re-registered EIJ 4016. Further Olympian/ECW buses are ACM 705/10X. Volvo/Jonckhree K908 RGE has been re-registered FSK 868. Vehicles on loan, but now returned included J826 EWS a Tiger/Plaxton, J24 VWO and L275 HJD both Volvo/Plaxton. Further news on the fire is that L3 CED was undamaged, while M8 CED was scorched, but has been repaired. VR HWJ 933W suffered distorted panels, but these have been repainted. Former EN Olympian/ECW has been sold back to Stephensons, Rochford.
CHELMSFORD CAB Two Ford Transits have been acquired, they are Q448 VMF and H957 KVX. Further Omni's are L746 RVW and H220 BKM. Yet more new Transits are R695/9 FTW and R451-5 HVW. All pre N registration Transits, except the Dormobile versions appear to have been sold.
C&I COACHLINES HIGHWOOD School service AMO 578 from North Weald to Brentwood Headley Walter School, is now registered as a stage service.

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD R993 FOO a Mercedes 814D/Plaxton has entered service. A new service 210 commenced on Thursdays only from 6.8.98. and replaces the current operation on 206/209 operated by Arriva. Operation of services 214/5/9/220 passed from Arriva to Clintona with effect from 3.8.98. Service 217 from Blake Hall to Ongar has also been won from Arriva. It was extended to and from Epping, with operation on Monday to Friday, currently Thursday only, with effect from 3.8.98. Service 2000 number 2, has failed to reach the year 2000! It has been withdrawn and replaced by service 217 between Ongar and Epping and 213 (operated by Arriva) to Waltham Cross.

COACHSTOP SOUTHEND The new Bova is R980 GUB. Bova N581 BDT has been sold

COOKS SOUTHEND Bedford YNT/Duple A236 KTT has been acquired from Southend Coaches.

COUNTY COACHES BRENTWOOD Volvo/Ikarus 2328 RU (E608 YJO) has been re-registered E928 JJN.

CUNNINGHAM CORRINGHAM Any reference to JDZ 2774 should be ignored. This vehicle was here for repair and is not owned. Renault R191 EBX is a new addition.

DESTINATION EXPRESS SOUTH BENFLEET Ford Transit J658 MLN is owned.

DONS DUNMOW M9 KFC a Toyota/Caetano has been acquired. To correct last month CM0 508 is the Barnston to Bishops Stortford service. Yet more schools services registered for stage carriage are CM0 556 from Thaxted, CM0 557A from Little Bardfield and CM0 557B from Stanbrook all operate to Dunmow, Helena Romanes School.

EAGLE LINE BULPHAN Ford Transit A887 WML has been sold.

EDS MINIBUS EAST TILBURY Peugeot N846 EBW has been acquired. It replaces Ford Transit D840 UAR.

FARGO RAVNE New is R468 YDT a Scania/Van Hool. Vehicles acquired are Bristol VR HUP 766T ex Grahams, Kelvedon and Scania/Van Hool L399 LHE. Vehicles sold are Mercedes 0303 HIJ 6931 and 784 EYB, Dodge/Dormobile C167 CKR, Sherpa F81 WBD and Scania/Plaxton K500 GSM. The CountryCar services have been withdrawn after operation on 1.8.98. and replaced by a network of conventional bus services, operated by EN and Hedingham.

FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE Schools service CMO 545 between Braintree and Witham Rickstones School has been registered from 8.9.98.

GARDNER WIDFORD Bedford YNV/Duple GAZ 4363 is with this operator, rather than Flagfinders, Braintree, whose depot it shares. A recent purchase is L417 DVR a Sherpa 400.

GODWARD RAMSDEN HEATH Sherpa 400 N741 NFX is a recent addition.

GOLDEN BOY ROYDON Service FM31 between Sedge Green and Harlow St Marks School has been withdrawn.

GOLF EXECUTIVE BOREHAM EOS K152 DNT and LAG Panoramic F629 SRP have been acquired.

GRAHAMS KELVEDON Have registered schools services CMO 517/8 between Kelvedon and Witham from 7.9.98. Operation of Malbus services 2 and 4 passed from Grahams to Hedingham from 4.8.98.

HAILSTONE BASILDON Mercedes/Mellor F355 DVR has been acquired.

HALLS ELSENHAM Bedford YNT/Duple A987 RFO has been sold. Missing from EBN 407 was the registration of the Bedford/Plaxton sold to Darren Thorn it is YDO 519T

HALSTEAD TRAVEL Bristol VR's LHG 440T and DWY 148T have been sold to Beestons. Services 114 between Bures and Halstead via Earls Colne on Monday to Friday from 8.9.98 and 88H between Great Yeldham and Colchester via Halstead on Monday to Friday from 27.7.98, are the first stage services provided by this operator.

INGATESTONE COACHES Bedford YMT/Duple TJI 6277 has been acquired from Mikes, Crays Hill.

JACKSON BICKNACRE Bedford YMT/Duple CDT 322T has been sold to Majestic, Colchester. Leyland Leopard/Alexander PRA 12R has been sold to nelsons for spares.
KB COACHES WICKFORD VW LT31 C541 VHO is a recent addition.
KINGS STANWAY R777 ABC is a new Bova Futura.
LEE ROY KELVEDON HATCH Bedford YMT/Plaxton LVS 432V has been sold.
LODGE HIGH EASTER The reference to the acquisition of ACP 832V should be ignored. It is in dealer stock. Scania/Plaxton G31 HKY has been sold.
NEED A BUS BOWERS GIFFORD Bedford VAS/Plaxton OTL 321V has been sold.
NEWPORT CAR SERVICES Also here are Talbot Freeway/Dormobile H108 LOM and Sherpa 400 F674 WLS.
PARKESTON PRIVATE HIRE/MAJESTIC BUSES What was left of former Osbornes Fleetline/Alexander GSL 897N has been sold to Wheeler, Colchester for scrap.
RAYS TRAVEL SHOTGATE OUH 828X a Volvo/Plaxton has been acquired from Seymour Harlow, where it was registered LIL 5072.
ROYDON COACH TRAVEL Former Hedingham Tiger/Jonckhree A331 VHB has been re-registered IUI 7970.
RUFFLE CASTLE HEDINGHAM Leyland Swift/Elme F577 WCK has been sold.
SEYMOUR HARLOW XSV 839 (new as A400 WGH) has been acquired.
SJH CRAYS HILL Volvo/Plaxton LUA 240V has been sold.
SM TRAVEL HARLOW MAN SR280 KFX 675 has been sold.
S&P ROCHFORD Bristol VR HTC 729N has been sold.
STALLION COACHES BROOMFIELD Service AMO 580 from Ulting to Maldon Plume School has been registered on schooldays from 7.9.98.
STANWAY TRAVEL SERVICES LAYER DE LA HAYE VW mini 269 VPJ and Transit P843 NWC are owned.
STATION CABS ALTHORNE Joins the list of taxi operators using PCV discs, as these are reported to be cheaper than taxi plates! Ford Galaxy R79 HHJ and Ford Sierra F26 RWC being used as such here.
STEPHENSONS ROCHFORD Bova OJI 2830 has been sold. This was the last vehicle in service acquired from Simien, when the business was taken over. Operation of service 224 between Nevendon and Chelmsford, passed to Nelsons from 4.8.98.
STORT VALLEY STANSTED Continue to invest in new stock, with Dennis javelin/Plaxton R126 XWF and Volvo/Plaxton R181 TKU.
SUPREME SOUTHEND Volvo/Caetano K708 RNR has been sold. This is one of the vehicles acquired from the Chartercoach business. A further acquired vehicle is F254 OFP a Volvo B10M/Alexander double decker. MAN/Jonckhree HSK 855/892 (G369 RNH, G169 RBD) have been sold. The former depot at Refinery road, Parkeston has closed. Vehicles are now based at The Farrows Business Centre, Thorrington Cross.
TEE JAYS WIVENHOE Dodge/Rootes Q394 MPU has been sold.
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS COLCHESTER Mercedes/Robin Hood P571 HKM is owned.
TREKKERS HARLOW Duple 425 C300 BYO has been acquired.
VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN Toyota/Caetano J480 NJU has been sold.
WARD ALRESFORD Vehicles are now based at Cockaynes Farm, Alresford.
WATSON ENTERPRISES WEST THURROCK NIL 2546 (D731 BBF) a LAG Panoramic has been acquired.
WESTS WOODFORD GREEN R100 BUS is a further Dennis Javelin/Marco Polo.
WINDMILL COPFORD Vehicles are now based at Westside Industrial Park, Stanway.

FLEET

ARRIVA
East Herts & Essex Ltd

Liveries

In addition to LX253 (see EBN 411), LX251,257,258 (H251/7/8 HEV) have been repainted to Arriva livery.

Allocation Changes to June 1998

M 493	GYE 493W	Arriva Colchester to Grays
SLF 430	P430 HVX	Grays to Arriva Colchester

Allocation Changes to July 1998

M 208/232	BYX 208/232V	Arriva London South to Grays
M 419	GYE 419W	Arriva Colchester to Grays
SLF 419/420/422	P419/420/422 HVX	Grays to Arriva Colchester

General

SLF 419/420/422/430 have been transferred to Arriva Colchester to update their fleet. The Metrobuses M208/232/419/493 are for routes 370/373 (Romford-Grays).

SERVICES

11 July 851/853 854/859 Harlow Town evening services revised to improve train connections at Harlow Town station.

1 August

206	Chigwell Row-Loughton	246	North Weald-Ongar
209	Lambourne End-Loughton	252/253	Waltham Cross/Waltham Abbey-Chingford
211	Breach Barns-Waltham Cross		
213	Upshire-Waltham Cross	254	Loughton-Epping
214/215/219/220	Debden-Loughton	394	Abbess Roding-Epping
217	Blake Hill-Ongar	396	Hastingwood-Harlow
218	Ongar-Blackmore	397	Epping Town Service

ECC Contracts. Last day of operation.

1 August	545	Service withdrawn.
	549	South Woodford-Loughton. ECC contract. LDO 1.8.98. Replaced by extension of 201 journeys operated by Thamesway
3 August	C1	Ware-Cuffley station via Cheshunt station. HCC contract re-awarded.
	211	Waltham Cross - Breach Barns. New ECC contract. Harlow operation
	212	Waltham Cross-Roundhills/Breach Barns. New ECC contract Harlow operation
	213	Waltham Cross - Epping St Margarets Hospital via Parklands and Upshire Village. New ECC contract. Harlow operation.
	250	Waltham Cross-Debden. ECC contract. Revised Monday-Saturday evening service for train connections at Waltham Cross
	261	Brentwood-Blackmore. New ECC evening contract (currently Thamesway). Harlow operation

	381	Toot Hill-Harlow. ECC contract. Certain journeys re-routed via Coronation Hill (replacement for 397)
	501	Stansted Airport-Lakeside. New ECC evening contract (currently Thamesway). Harlow operation
	517	Upshire-Oakwood. New ECC evening and early mornings contract. Revised evening service to improve train connections at Waltham Cross
5 September	378	Monday-Saturday services reduced. Later and earlier journeys to and from Lakeside
7 September	446	Manuden Carters Hill-Saffron Walden. ECC contract. School days only.
10 October	301	North Weald-South Woodford. Withdrawn Monday-Saturday between Loughton station and South Woodford. All journeys diverted via Borders Lane Epping Forest College. All journeys extended from Tylers Cross to Ongar. Debden operation
	549	South Woodford-Loughton. Service withdrawn.

ESSEX ODDS & ENDS

Recent visitors to Nationwide Seatbelts, Maldon were:-

LB of Greenwich	A747 YUL, A778 UYL,B163 XUU, B165 WYV, B180 WYV all are Leyland/WS
	H717 KVT Transit/Oatia, G703 XEH, H719 KVT Ford Transit/Ford
Southern National	GLS 275S Leopard/Alexander
Levers Poole	F40 KRO ?/Wadham Stringer
Metroline	M1236
Stephenson, Rochford	HHJ 372/75/76Y, A696 OHJ Tiger/Alexander - all dealer stock
Dunottar School Reigate	G770 SSB Ford Transit/Ford
West Woodford Green	F711 CWJ MCW Metrorider
Heath Mount School	F191 GGS Bedford midi
Hedingham	D345 WPE Ford Transit/Carlyle
Lords Taveners	F303 BKM Ford Transit/Ford

Bedford/Plaxton NTO 510P has been noted on driver training work in Chelmsford recently. The current owner is unknown.

ROUTE 765 - ANOTHER LOST ESSEX - SUSSEX LINK

(BY IAN TAYLOR)

My previous article traced the history of recently deceased service 795 but do you remember it's sister, the 765? This route was one of my favourite Green Lines of all times; indeed my first ever visit to Brighton, when I was living in Hertfordshire, was aboard a 765 on Maundy Thursday 1984. Ironically, whilst I was in the town that day I walked along the Lewes Road to visit the Brighton Borough Transport bus depot blissfully unawares that eight years later I would move into a house virtually opposite it!

Although the 765 survived only 18 months, like the 795, it was another marathon of a route which was introduced on 1st April 1984. Running between Stevenage and Brighton it used a mixed RS/RB/TD allocation from Crawley garage and a RB/TD/TP mix from Hertford. The interesting thing about the route was that one coach from each garage finished at the opposing garage each night. As a result, certain Monday to Friday evening journeys between Hertford and Bishops Stortford on routes 350 and 351 were worked by a Crawley coach!

Initially there were four journeys each way per day although this was reduced to three from 26.1.85. The only other change during this period came on 11.6.84 when in common with other Green Line services it was revised at Gatwick Airport to use the lower level coach station rather than the upper level.

As if the route wasn't long enough already (3 hours 57 minutes running time), on the 29.6.85 it was extended from Stevenage to Luton in support of Green Line 750 with a through running time of 4 hours 41 minutes. Today the slowest Thameslink train service links Brighton and Luton in just under two hours.

The arrangement of coaches finishing at opposing garages each night was officially terminated on 7.8.85 and passengers on the last journeys were asked to change vehicles at Romford. This change was made because once Crawley had lost most of it's TDs it was difficult not to have a BTL scheduled to work the 765. This caused problems as Hertford drivers were unfamiliar with BTLs. In addition, Crawley's practice of sometimes putting a Leyland National on the "sleeper" working tended to cause resentment at Hertford. After the change Crawley then used BTLs on the 765 on a regular basis.

This arrangement was short lived however for the service was suspended for the winter on 26.10.85 and in the event was never resumed in subsequent years. The effects of this suspension was the withdrawal of many handy direct links such as a fast service to Romford from many places; an odd move just before Christmas. It also meant the deletion of the only London Country Dartford to Sevenoaks link, as well as a service between North Kent towns and Gatwick Airport. Coincidentally the 765 had been introduced exactly six years after the lost of the last direct London Country service between Dartford and Sevenoaks (401) on 1.4.78.

The 765 opened up many new direct links for me as well and after my initial journey at Easter I used the route again during 1984/85 to visit Crawley, Sevenoaks and Dartford; in each case it saved tedious cross-London coach journeys. Unfortunately the route was plagued by late running especially if there were any problems on the M25 Motorway which the route used extensively. I recall the coach

home from Dartford one dark winter's evening in late 1984 running nearly one hour late, for example.

The most interesting section of the route for me was the part from Sevenoaks to Dartford, a link usually associated with the eccentric doctor's bus, Thames Weald, who had operated it since the sixties. When I discussed the 765 with one of the Thames Weald drivers, a couple of years after it's withdrawal, she complained bitterly how the route had poached a number of Thames Weald's regular passengers which the independent never regained even when the 765 bit the dust. Perhaps consistent late running on the part of the Green Line had put them off public transport for ever!

Whatever the reason for it's failure, a route with a running time of four hours or more dependant on the M25 with it's erratic behaviour patterns for a fair proportion of it's journey is very ambitious to say the least. Of course the brave new ventures of the 765 and the 795 amongst others all occurred in NBC days and before London Country was split up. Even with the original division the 765 would have passed through three of the four new company territories; today these companies have been further sub-divided. Despite a certain amount of joint operation on long routes, I doubt if we'll see the likes of the 765 being re-introduced today.

Hertford's TP7 prepares to leave Brighton Pool Valley for Stevenage on Maundy Thursday 1984 whilst Southdown's Leyland National 101 (AYJ 101T) awaits departure for Horsham Carfax. Route 107 has changed very little over the last fourteen years.

