

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the *EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP*)

NOVEMBER 1988

ISSUE N° 295



One of the more recent additions to the Osbornes fleet is this ex Eastern Scottish Seddon DFS 805S, numbered 16 by its new owners.

(I Ransom)

ROCHFORD MEETING

The December meeting is on the 13th of the month at Rochford Freight House, which is located adjacent to Rochford Stn. and will take the form of a Bus Quiz, with two teams proving what they know or don't know about their interest.

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ESSEX HERITAGE COACH TOUR REPORT - Sunday 25 September

This tour, using an Alexander bodied Leyland Tiger attracted a load of 34. The weather at the start was rather gloomy, but the sight of a London Buses Metrorider operating an early route 66 journey started the tongues wagging. At Romford an East Midland Frontrunner Leyland Atlantean on L.R.T. route 252 attracted interest..

The first call was at Brentwood where a Voyage National vehicle was in attendance undergoing maintenance. Mercedes minibuses 0227 and 0231 were then positioned for photographs just to prove there really were two Eddy Grimstead adverts! Then it was on to Braintree, where the arrival of Heddingham Omnibuses L125 (BNO 700T) on service 631 got the shutters clicking. The party then transferred to Blue Triangles RT2150 for the return trip to Great Yeldam on the Essex Heritage route. On return to Braintree, the weather improved and further vehicles were presented for the cameras.

Next stop, Colchester, and another photographic selection - several Bristol VR's in advertising livery, Leyland Olympian 4003 in Lucas colours as well as acquired vehicles from Milton Keynes and Alder Valley. During the Bus Station visit the sun even made a brief appearance and shone on Eastern Counties LN587 in thier new livery on the 696. At Maldon a new Lynx was the centre of attention, whilst at Chelmsford the last photographic extravaganza of the day included more advertising liveried vehicles in the shape of LN's, VR's and ON's, as well as the two vehicles especially equipped for disabled passengers. The end of another tour, which all agreed had been most enjoyable; our thanks to the Director of Engineering and our driver, Redvers, for making it all possible.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Subscription renewal forms are enclosed with this news sheet for those members whose subscription expires in December. In order to update our mailing list, it would be appreciated if the following members could advise us of their postcode upon renewal :-

M58 (E. Thompson)	M440 (I. Groves)
M97 (E. Smith)	M441 (S. Hagarty)
M181 (F. Smith)	M442 (R. Beesley)
M201 (T. Bones)	M454 (K. Russell)
M227 (R. Webb)	M471 (B. Salmon)
M325 (F. Mann)	M524 (C. Pretty)
M330 (P. Turney)	M550 (J. Palmer)
M399 (Access Transport Society)	M568 (D. Coulson)
M409 (J. Harvie)	M631 (R. MacGregor)
M420 (K. Johnson)	M680 (M. O'Connell)

MISSING MAGAZINES

Could I once again remind all members, that if your magazine fails to arrive or is faulty to write to Bob Palmer, as he is the only committee member who has spare copies.

SPACE FILLER

I am sure that most members would like a magazine that contains no blank space, and to this end I would like ask anyone with anything that they consider to be of interest, to send it to the News Sheet Editor. Ideas that come to mind are blind features, historic items, or perhaps a memory of something that has happened whilst working or travelling by bus. Also, if there is something you need to know, write to me and if the committee cannot provide an answer, we can include an appeal for help in the magazine.

FLEET LISTS

It is with some regret, that owing to a lack of help from those operators that have been contacted, with only one list forthcoming, that the planned supplement to this magazine cannot be published.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Essex County Council timetable, Area 2 Braintree, Halstead, Witham priced at 30p plus 20p post + packing is now available from Mark Bullock, 219 Maplin Way North, Thorpe Bay, Southend SS1 3NY.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDNew Vehicles

0245/6	F245/6	MVW	Mercedes Benz	L709D	Reeve Burgess	B23F
0247-52	F247-52	NJN	"	"	"	"

The chassis & body numbers of these new vehicles are as follows:-

0245	669003-20-876591	17324	30/8/88
0246	" " 877815	17325	"
0247	" " 879760	17323	4/11/88
0248	" " 879833	17329	2/11/88
0249	" " 879672	17330	7/11/88
0250	" " 900195	17331	"
0251	" " 905337	17486	not yet delivered
0252	" " 905123	17487	" " "

Owing to the confusion that may have occurred over the delivery of the new Leyland Lynx vehicles, full details of the entire batch are published below:-

1400/1	E400/1	HWC	Leland Lynx	LX112L10ZR1R	B49F + 22	standing
1402-9	F402-9	LTW	"	"	"	"
1410-14	F410-14	MNO	"	"	"	"
1415-19	F415-19	MWC	"	"	"	"
1420-29	F420-29	MJN	"	"	"	"

Chassis numbers for their entire batch are :-

LX 1158-60/62-64/72-81/86/87/90/91/98-1207

Delivery dates were 1400-4 6th July, 1405-9 26th July, 1410-14 18th August, 1415-19 7th September., 1420-24 20th September, 1425-28 27th September, 1429 not yet delivered.

VEHICLE REALLOCATIONS

10/88 (additional) 0245 New - DT; 0246 New - Pool; 1654 Pool - D/L(D);
1703 Pool - D/L(D); 3202 CR - DT.
11/88 1054 CR - Pool; 1429 New - CF; 1500 BS - CR; 1502 BS - BE; 1722 CF - Pool;
1749 BE - D/L(D); 1768 BS - CN; 1838 CF - SD; 1865 BE - CR; 1866 SD O- CF;
1892 CR - BE; 3037 CR - D/L(D); 3061 WN - DT; 3066 SD - CN; 3067 BE - SD;
3084 DT - BE.

Vehicles On Loan

South Wales Leyland National 2, KEP 829V which has been adapted for the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee was in use during October, being noted in use at Chelmsford on the 43 from 12th October to the 17th, appearing at an exhibition in Witham on the 18th, passing to Southend for use on the 2/27 between 20th and 22nd and finally on to Colchester for use on the 74/78 from the 24th.

Repaints

w/e 17. 9.88 0227 at BD, 1766 at ENE, 1771 at ENE.
 w/e 24. 9.88 1868 at ENE, 4503 at ENE, 3069 at ENE.
 w/e 1.10.88 3069 at ENE.
 w/e 8.10.88 3077, 4503 at ENE.
 w/e 22.10.88 4504 at ENE.
 w/e 29.10.88 None repainted at ENE.
 w/e 5.11.88 1798, 3094 at ENE.

0227 is in all over advert livery for Eddy Grimstead, and 1868 is an all over advert livery for Wallspan bedrooms.

3122 is currently being repainted at ENE.

General

Following the loss of the 341, it is thought that the entire Bishops Stortford allocation, will return to being parked in the garage, the situation at the end of October being that 3 vehicles were still being parked in the Bus Station.

For those interested in such things 3055 has been confirmed as the last bus into Silver End depot, whilst the last to leave Clacton, Castle Road was 1132 on 4.9.88 which then worked the ECC service 133.

Services from Chelmsford depot were hit by an unofficial strike on the morning of 1.11.88 over plans to upgrade minibus drivers, the action disrupted services from the start of the morning until about 0830 when drivers returned to work.

Our congratulations go to Mr Stephen Bund who has been appointed as the Manager of EN's South Essex area replacing Mr Maurice Jordon who has left the company. Finally, Angela Walker has been appointed as Chief Driving Instructor at New Writtle Street to replace Dick Urand who has taken early retirement. Our best wishes to both of them and I promise not to make any comment about lady drivers!

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for 9, 28/28A both dated 14.11.88; 26/26A dated 13.11.88 ; 33/33A dated 16.10.88; 44A/B dated 26.9.88; 48/48A/56B/56C dated 30.10.88; 350/351/450/451 dated 30.10.88; 33/X70/370 and 33/333/X70 both dated 16.10.88.

LRT 193 dated 9/88.

ECC leaflet for 505 dated 3.9.88.

National Express service 081 timetable leaflet dated 30.10.88.

Unusual Workings

- 17/9 ECOC VR275 parked inside CR depot.
 23/9 YT Merc C512 KHE parked in CR bus station.
 6/10 BS 1126 on 119 (and again on 7/10).
 10/10 DT 1133 on 119.
 11/10 MN 1114 on CR/Bexford Works Contract.
 10/10 The Jean Michel Jarre concert in the London Docklands was served by a special service from Becontree Heath, and the following were hired to London Buses: EN 1126, 1936, 3057, 3078, 4003, 4004, 4006, 4015; CBT 41-4, 75, 79, 82, 83, 84, 90 and Norfolks OKY 65R, 229 LRB and 90 NOR.
 19/10 CF 3054 in use from Bishops Stortford (still there on 22/10), and BE 4017 on 712 (until 21/10).

A number of reports have been sent, regarding special workings from Chelmsford. These tend to occur on certain Mondays, when Chelmsford Borough Council arrange free travel days on services in the Chelmsford area, these cause special workings usually to Southend, Basildon and Colchester, normally using double deck vehicles with special route numbers 11X, 53X etc.

Service Vehicles

It would appear that Ford Fiesta D Van, D94 STW, was acquired from Coastal Red when Eastern National acquired the company.

DISPOSALSEastern National LimitedInitial Disposals

1650 (LMO 225L), 1654 (KCG 611L), 1702 (WNO 551L), 1703 (WNO 552L), 1707 (WNO 556L), 1708 (WNO 557L), 1709 (WNO 558L), 1712 (WNO 561L), 1713 (WNO 562L), 1715 (WNO 564L), 1724 (NEV 681M), 1724 (NEV 681M), 1734 (HWC 85N), 1735 (HWC 86N), 1736 (HWC 87N), 1746 (JNO 195N). All to Martins, Middlewich 10/88.

1050 (TJN 973W) and 1934 (MHJ 730V) are to be broken up for spares by ENL.

Subsequent Disposals

- 430 (LWC 981J) Rallybeam, Debach, t/a Blue Bus Services, 6/88 (revised name of Felixstowe Omnibuses).
 510 (19 P00) Now reported as "withdrawn by 8/88, by Carter (contractor), Kings Lynn". (was acquired by Carter in 4/76 - see NS164 - and not reported since).
 0602 (C602 NPU) Numbered F2 by Crawford, Kirkintilloch (additional information to Mag. 283).
 1206 (BNO 692T) Rogers, Rainworth, 2/88 ex Kirkby (dealer), South Anston.
 1302 (LLT 343V) Jones, Sudbury, 4/88 ex Jones (Staines Luxury Coaches), Laleham.
 1306 (LLT 347V) Cowdrey, Gosport by 3/88 ex Linkline, London NW10.
 1417/8 (JEU 508/9N) Light, East Stour, t/a Shaftsbury & Discript. Vehicles kept at Gillingham (Dorset) BR Yard.
 1504 (CVW 858G) as 430.
 1730 (NEV 687M) Coleman, Yoevil, by 7/88, ex Pride of the Road, Royston.
 1731 (NEV 688M) Driffield & District, Langtoft 8/88 ex Black Prince, Morley.
 2201 (JWV 430) Eastern National Preservation Group 11/88 via Spence (dealer), Thorpe Bay ex Stagecoach, Perth acquired 8/88 from Sykes (dealer), Carlton.

- 2823 (JHK 455C) Owner is Somerset Training Services Ltd., Bridgewater (see also NS 266).
 2929 (AVW 398F) Withdrawn at depot of Fowler, Holbeach Drove by 7/88.
 2932 (184 XNO, ACA 507A) Was reregistered in 2/88 from ACA 507A to ACA 979A (corrects Mag. 293).
 9017 (LFS 289F) North (dealer), Sherburn, 7/88, ex Top Deck Travel, Edgware.

Services

With effect from this issue, all services changes with the exception of Southend, will appear under the timetable areas, as used in the Essex County Council timetables.

Bishops Stortford, Saffron Walden

- 17 The services operated by Smiths were amended from 5.9.88, the revised times are shown in the August 1988 timetable.
 33 With effect from 16.10.88. the 0515 ex Bishops Stortford was retimed to 0530, the 0705 was retimed to 0700, whilst the 0540 ex Stanstead was retimed to 0547 and the 2245 to 2210. On Sundays services depart Bishops Stortford hourly from 0842 until 1742, with return departures hourly between 0842 and 1742.
 34 Paul Harvey reports that this service is in fact a commercial operation and commenced on 10.10.88 (further to 294/20).
 301/2 Errate to August 1988 timetable, the 1618 and 1735 from Bishops Stortford are numbered 301, with the 1710 departure being a 302 journey.
 350/1 The 0640 ex Bishops Stortford and 0740 return passed to Golden Boy from 31.10.88.
 724 Revised route and timetable introduced from 26.11.88.
 738 Revised timetable introduced from 30.10.88.
 X41 & Herts C.C. 341 Withdrawn as a result of service 341 passing to Regs Coaches from 31.10.88.

Witham, Braintree, Halstead

- 3 With effect from 8.11.88 a number of revisions were made to the timetable, the 0730 ex Witham is rerouted in Tiptree, with the 1630 ex witham operating beyond Tiptree only on request, with an additional journey from Tiptree to Witham at 1700. These changes apply on Mondays to Fridays only.
 53 The 0630 ex Colchester was retimed to 0620 and runs 10 minutes earlier from 14.11.88.
 90 The 0635 ex witham, has been retimed to 0630 and runs 5 minutes earlier.
 188 The 0850 ex Halstead was withdrawn after 23.10.88. On Saturdays additional commercial journeys were introduced from 29.10.88 at 1900 from Colchester, and 2320 from Halstead.
 311 Revised evening services introduced from 31.10.88.
 337 The 1804 journey was rerouted via Spa Road and Spinks Lane from 7.11.88.
 353 Revised evening services were introduced from 30.10.88.
 363 This contract passed to Blue Triangle prior to operation by SM travel (further to 294/20), this service also runs 3 minutes earlier from Witham to Braintree than is shown in the new ECC timetable.
 370 Additional journey at 2308 from Dunmow to Braintree introduced from 31.10.88.
 451 Was revised to operate to Romford station, but no longer serves Brentwood station. and in addition is retimed between Chelmsford and Braintree, departing Braintree 5 minutes earlier and arriving 3 minutes later.
 452 Is revised between Chelmsford and Halstead, to depart Halstead 5 minutes earlier and arrive one minute later.

Colchester

- 7E The 0800 from East Mersea is diverted to Lexden Road Schools from Osborne St and no longer serves Head Street or the Bus Stn, and runs every Monday to Friday. The 1558 service 7 from Colchester is renumbered 7E and extended to East Mersea, replacing the 1635 from Blue Row. The 1810 ex Blue Row no longer operates.
- 76 The Saturday service passed to CBT under contract to ECC from 5.11.88.
- 82 Errata. An additional journey at 0810 from Fordham arriving in Colchester at 0835 was missed from the July timetable.
- 103/4 Errata. Departures from Harwich between 1020 & 1250 have the wrong route numbers at the top of the column.
- 128 This service was in fact withdrawn on 11.9.88 (further to 294/4).

Clacton, Harwich

- 1, 1A Additional Sunday journey at 0935 from Clacton returning at 1000, introduced from 30.10.88.
- 2 The 2225 from Clacton is retimed to 2230, with the 2237 withdrawn from 30.10.88.
- 10B The 2250 Sundays only from Walton was withdrawn after 23.10.88.
- COASTLINE ECC contract operation of the Sunday services commenced on 30.10.88.
- 12 After 29.10.88 the 0750, 1650, 1720 and 1750 were withdrawn.
- 74 From 11.9.88 the section of route between Wivenhoe and Clacton on Sundays became an ECC tendered service, the timetable is unchanged.
- 103/4 See Colchester notes.
- 115 NEW SERVICE. Operated by Eastern National, replacing the schools journeys on service 105. Departs Weekly at 0835 arriving at Tendring High School at 0855 and returning at 1520 from Tendring, commencing 31.10.88.
- 125 The timetable is revised as follows and operates Mondays to Fridays only, ECC operation 0743 from Harwich, 1635 from Weeley, and commercial journeys at 0900 ex Thorpe returning from Harwich at 1443, commenced on 31.10.88.
- 127 From 31.10.88 the following commercial journeys were introduced, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 0900 from Brightingsea returning at 1400 during school terms only. During school holidays operation is on Tuesday and Thursdays departing 20 minutes earlier.

Harlow

- T21 From 6.9.88 this service became an ECC tendered service.
- 310B NEW SERVICE. Enfield to Harlow via Waltham Cross, St Margarets on Saturdays only. Hourly between 0818 & 1618 from Enfield returning at 0942 & 1742 from 8.10.88 with operation by London Buses.

Chelmsford, South Woodham, Maldon

- 11A Renumbered 11 with the first return journey on Monday to Saturdays and the entire Sunday service retimed. In addition the 1805 return journey from Southend will be retimed and pass to Eastern National, all with effect from 13.11.88.
- 39 The timetable published in August timetable was not introduced.
- 53A, 56C Both outward routes from Chelmsford were revised to operate via the High Street with effect from 30.10.88.
- 95A Revised to operate schooldays only with effect from 31.10.88.
- 95B Renumbering of route from 98 (further to 294/21).
- 98 NEW SERVICE. Operated by Clintona under contract to ECC between Bradwell, Tillingham and Southminster Station, outward at 0640 and 0725 returning at 1840 and 1925 M-F only from 31.10.88.

- 99 NEW SERVICE. Dengie Area to Broomfield Hospital, operated by Clintona under contract to ECC, commenced on 14.11.88.
- 190 The 0640 from Witham will be rerouted to serve Chelmsford Bus Stn. from 3.1.89.

Basildon

- 4, 7, 12, 14 Revised timetable introduced by Nelsons from 31.10.88.
- 234 Additional ECC services introduced at 0910 ex Basildon Bus Stn. and 2005, 2105 and 2205 from Basildon Hospital, returning from Wickford at 0935, 2035 and 2135 operated by Harris Bus and introduced on 30.10.88.
- 237 Additional journeys at 1600 from South Woodham and 1700 from Basildon, operated by Jacksons from 31.10.88.
- 257 Please note that the service that passed to Priory is numbered 549 (amends 294/21).

Grays

- 372/5 From 5.9.88 the majority of this service became a commercial operation by Harris Bus.
- 374 An additional journey on schooldays at 0850 from Uplands Estate to Tescos, Purfleet, operated by Cunningham was introduced on 6.9.88. Revised timetables were introduced on Harris Bus journeys from 31.10.88.
- 383 Revised route and timetable from 5.9.88.
- 384 NEW SERVICE introduced by Harris Bus between Chadwell and West Thurrock from 5.9.88.
- 385 NEW SERVICE introduced by Harris Bus West Thurrock Tesco circular via South Ockenden and Aveley introduced from 5.9.88, this replaced service 10 which was withdrawn.

Southend

The following changes commenced on 13.11.88 unless otherwise stated.

- 2 1938 Basildon to Hadleigh operates 15 minutes earlier Monday to Saturdays.
- 3 On Saturdays the 0634 ex Hadleigh will operate 5 minutes earlier.
- 3C The 0530 ex Canvey operates 10 minutes earlier to Hadleigh depot, then 5 minutes earlier to Shoeburyness.
- 6, 9, 24/24A Revised timetable introduced.
- 7A Service withdrawn.
- 20 Additional journeys at 1612 from Southend to Shoeburyness returning to Prittlewell at 1644 introduced on schooldays only from 28.11.88.
- 25 Revised timetable introduced with the Sunday service being withdrawn.
- 26, 27 Revised timetable introduced.
- 28 On Saturdays the 0731 ex Canvey will commence from Hadleigh depot at 0807.
- 29A/C Withdrawn and replaced by increased journeys on the 9 and 29B, revised 61A and new 62.
- 29B Revised timetable.
- 61A Rerouted from Bournemouth Park Road to Sutton Road and revised timetable.
- 62 NEW SERVICE. Prittlewell, Priory Park to Southend Central via East Street and Sutton Road.
- 250 Additional journey at 0704 from Prittlewell to Rawreth. Sunday service withdrawn. In addition the 0632 and 0732 from Basildon to Shotgate, returning at 0702 & 0802 will be withdrawn from 28.11.88.
- 251 Revised Sunday timetable.

Others

National Express - Winter schedules were introduced from 30.10.88.

Wiffens - The London Commuter service will operate to a revised route and timetable with effect from 25.11.88.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORTVehicles

The registration numbers of the Metroriders 11 to 15 are F111 NPU etc. The one with coach seats is number 11.

Olympian 45 went to Leylands at Workington on 14.10.88 and 46 returned from there on the following day. When they are used on bus work these vehicles can usually be found on services 5A and 5B.

Hired vehicle 92 (Reading's 78) was returned on 1.10.88 but was replaced the same day by Reading's 79, which CBT numbered 93. This went back to Reading on 28.10.88 and was replaced by another Reading vehicle, Leopard coach 202. This vehicle retained its Reading number.

Atlantean 52 was back in service on 8.10.88. Coaches 101, 102 and 104 were all off the road for part of October 1988. Open-top 48 was used on tree lopping for four weeks in September/October 1988.

New blinds, which include Middlewick, have been fitted to the Lynxes, the Leopards and D26, the Metrorider. The other two hired Metroriders, 9 and 10 (Northumbria's 824 and 826), have dot-matrix displays. Despite not having new blinds, one or two Atlanteans have been used on services 3 and 3A. Horkesley Heath, the other new terminus, was already included on the blinds.

As well as commercial services 3, 3A and 31, the Metroriders are used on ECC services 15 and 80.

The last RE's departed on 30/8 (22) and 1/9 (16), this corrects last months notes.

Services

The 0812 hours journey from Boxted to Colchester on ECC service 80 is operated by CBT on Saturdays, as well as during the week.

The extension of services to Great Horkesley has led to protests from local residents, who claim that childrens lives are being put at risk by buses passing through the residential estate, although local papers are now publishing letters from residents supporting the service.

Only the first journey on ECC service 10 (the 735 hours from Gurdon Road) has been transferred from CBT to EN (correction to 294/20).

Part of North Station Road has been closed and so buses are being diverted via Colne Bank Avenue and Station Way. The bus stops just south of the railway bridge have been moved to under the railway bridge (northbound) or north of the railway line (southbound).

CBT hired 10 buses (Atlanteans and Olympians) and drivers to LRT for the laser concert in Docklands on 8 and 9.10.88.

Finally, one unusual working was that of the 53 on the 3, 3A, 31 group of services on 21.10.88.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to November 6.

Vehicles

ACQUIRED:

591 SNM 84R Bedford YMT Duple C53F

Acquired 10/88 ex Roy Hayden Coaches, Great Wakering in part exchange for 513 [255] (XHU 326). This coach is currently at the works awaiting preparation for service, but it has also been advertised for sale (see below). If it does enter service it is expected to be used primarily for self drive hires to other operators.

- VLT 205 AEC Routemaster PRV H36/28R

Acquired 11/88 ex London Buses Ltd (RM 205) for spares only.

The dates of entry to service of the 6 Routemasters outstanding from last month are: 101 - 4/10; 103 - 11/10; 104/5 - 18/10; 108 - 6/10; 112 - 7/10. Body numbers and the dates new to LT of the *bodies* are:

ST N ^o .	LT N ^o .	LT body n ^o .	PRV body n ^o .	Date new to LT
101	RM 12	B 510	L3786	10/60
102	RM 172	B 20	L3296	6/59
103	RM 577	B 664	L3940	6/61
104	RM 797	B 285	L3561	3/60
105	RM 937	B1796	L5074	12/63
106	RM 949	B 755	L4031	4/61
107	RM 993	B 930	L4187	9/61
108	RM1061	B1021	L4289	11/61
109	RM1183	B1216	L4493	5/62
110	RM2034	B2060	L5338	10/64
111	RM2101	B2109	L5387	1/65
112	RM2124	B2099	L5377	12/64

We do not intend to publish the dates new of the "chassis", since these constitute running units only which were switched from vehicle to vehicle in the course of LT's overhaul programme and thus the registrations /bonnet numbers of the buses bear no connection with the original running units. It will be noted that 102 has a particularly early body of the fixed upper deck front window variety. This bus is gradually being prepared as a showbus - it carries gold RM fleetnumbers and Routemaster names, chrome light surrounds and the original style of deep ventilation grille. It is expected to receive the early style radiator grille and a staircase route number box, in due course. Most of the parts required for this work have been financed privately by some ST staff. 102 also has traditional white on black registration numbers, rather than the reflective plates of the other 11.

It now seems that 111 is the only one to carry the Southend crest on the radiator. Mechanical problems have affected certain RM's, so that at times only 6 have been available for service, with Fleetlines substituting on the 1 and 3A. As a result, the 2 remaining DMS's, 307/10 [314/9] remain in service (on M-S) at the time of writing.

MODIFIED:

The first closed top Fleetline to receive the new livery is 235, which re-entered service on 31/10. It is blue (the new shade) up to the top of the lower deck windows, white between decks and round the upper deck windows, with a blue roof. The new style fleetname is carried below the lower deck windows on each side and on the front dome. In contrast to the RM's, there is no red band.

Trainer 334 has also been repainted, into the traditional blue & cream. It looks very smart, but the overall effect is spoilt by the use of a fleetname style never used on the PD3's; the fleetname and some fleet-number transfers are also in the "wrong" position.

WITHDRAWN:

305	[316]	GHV 8N	Withdrawn 6/10 (last used 30/9)
306	[315]	GHV 15N	Withdrawn 6/10
503	[203]	UTD203T	Withdrawn 26/10 (last used 3/10)
504	[204]	UTD204T	Withdrawn 26/10
506	[206]	BTE206V	Withdrawn 26/10
507	[207]	BTE207V	Withdrawn 26/10 (last used 25/9)
901	[371]	WJN371J	Withdrawn 31/10
903	[373]	WJN373J	Withdrawn 31/10

902 (WJN372J) will be retained for 1 month as a tree lopper and will be withdrawn at the end of November. In addition, the coach fleet has been reduced to 26 operational vehicles (505/8-11/21/4/6/31-3/45-51, 581/2, 601-6). The other coaches are not yet withdrawn but constitute a reserve fleet. The following coaches were offered for sale in "Coachmart" at the beginning of November:

502/12/23-6/91 [340,254,339,338,329,351, Bedford] plus the already withdrawn 522 [344].

INITIAL DISPOSALS:

503/4/6/7 (details above) to Brighton Buses, 10/88. All 4 are to be repainted into Brighton livery by ST, but 2 were initially sent to Brighton in ST livery.

513 [255] XHU 326 To Roy Hayden Coaches ("The Blue Diamond"), Great Wakering, 6/10; repainted blue/white before sale.

305/6 (details above) to Ensign Bus, 10/88.

Re these and the DMS's reported last month, Ensign numbers are:

Reg	New ST n°.	Old ST n°.	Ensign n°.
MLH476L	302	311	236
MLK620L	303	312	231
TGX820M	304	320	251
GHV 8N	305	316	208
GHV 15N	306	315	255
GHV106N	308	313	206
SMU926N	309	317	237

All except Ensign 231 (blue/silver livery) are operating in ST colours with Ensign names and are expected to remain so until withdrawn and replaced by the new Metrobuses currently being delivered to Ensign. Subsequently, 301 [305] MLH 371L was sold to Ensign 11/88; it is thought that this is for sales stock, not operational use.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

Whoops! On 29/4/9 last month I asked for the new owner of Fleetline 367 (WJN367J). Perhaps I should have looked back to 288/8 where I reported it as going to Arena Travel, Merseyside (still there?). Sorry.

[337] CTM407T was noted recently at Victoria Coach Station in dealer cream, apparently with Southern Motorways/Williams of Emsworth - clarification required, please.

I am sorry to say that no other reports have been received, in response to the appeal for coach disposals. I can only record here what you tell me about - please keep your eyes open and help if you can!

Services

25 It appears that the contract journeys continued until 23/10.

Two corrections to last month are necessary. ECC contract 61 of course operates via Bournemouth Park Road, not Sutton Road - thanks to the two eagle eyed readers who spotted *that* slip of the pen. ST operated contract 23A's (M-S evenings) *do* operate the new routeing in Eastwood via Cockethurst Corner, but observations suggest that the Clintona Sunday contract still goes via the Rayleigh Road.

Christmas/New Year plans: apart from minor changes to coach operations, normal services will run on all days over the holiday except for:

Dec 25 - one X1 only;

Dec 26 and Jan 1 - limited ser 0800-1900 approx comprising hourly ser on 1, 7 (?Shoebury - Hockley?), 29 & 66, and every three hours on 4A & X1.

Dec 27 and Jan 2 - Sunday service plus additional 7's and 29's.

General

At the open day at the CPTMS museum on Canvey on 9/10, ST were represented by 108 on the park and ride service and 310 was in use as a sales vehicle. The new ultimate blind listed on 294/23 last month is in fact numbered T17 not T15 - the one checked by the sub-editor carried the wrong code! Acting Managing Director David Schlackman was appointed as the permanent new MD during September.

Bus stop flags are starting to receive new ST name panels with the new style fleetname and the enquiry office phone number, the latter replacing the town crest.

Work undertaken at Tickfield Road for other operators has included more repaints for Midland Red North (A703/8 HVT - Tiger/Duple bus; B604 OEH - Tiger/Duple coach; and Olympian bus B910 NBF) and repairs to accident damage on S&M's ex Southend Fleetline WJN 368J.

When resources permit, duplicate buses continue to run on certain services. These are now normally minibuses, on routes 1, 4A, 7 and 9A.

COMMENT:

Readers will have noticed a steady decline in the size of the coach fleet over recent times, consequent upon declining traffic on the X1 group of routes. Indeed, the operational coach fleet has now halved from its peak of a couple of years ago. From the sub-editor's observations, there are a number of reasons behind the rise and subsequent decline in the *commuter* operations. X1 really took off in the aftermath of the 1982 rail strikes. At that time there was relatively high unemployment in the south east, and employers did not need to pay high wages to attract staff. More recently there has been a shortage of staff in central London, so that employers have had to offer far more generous incentives - witness the unprecedented 50% increase in summer 1987 in the big banks' London weighting. As a result the cost v. time

equation, which benefitted X1 so well 4 or 5 years ago has swung back in favour of rail. Added to this has been the increasing traffic delays some due to road works (Sadlers Farm, Barking Creek and the A406 interchange) which ironically are now finished and, in the past, poor driving standards and a high accident rate. Off peak traffic has also been hit as ST - like other coach operators - cannot compete effectively with BR's hugely successful One Day Capitalcard. All that said, it is perhaps not so bad that the coach operations have now returned to more manageable proportions - at its height, X1 stretched ST's resources close to breaking point.

OTHER OPERATORS - Southend area

Clinton, Brentwood: 21/A ~~were~~ revised (see 294/11 & 17) as a consequence of the extension of ST commercial services 23/A/B to Highlands, but from 31/10 (thus giving a month's overlap with ST). 21 (via Leigh Station) is withdrawn and all journeys operate as 21A, running Southchurch White Horse via Temple Sutton, Prittlewell, Leigh Elms/Church/Western Road to Thames Drive, then extended via the A13, Hadleigh Church, Essex Way and Benfleet Station to Canvey, Waterside Farm Sports Centre! This mammoth route, with a running time of 49 minutes, runs hourly M-F (with Transits & Sherpas). On Sats it is a one bus operation between Canvey and Leigh Elms only. The extension is designed to restore a regular service to Essex Way, and the ECC leaflet includes details of EN and ST daytime commercial services via that road, but strangely makes no mention whatsoever of the evening and Sunday ST operation on 5. Sunday contract 11A expired at the end of October but an EN operated evening contract journey has been introduced for the winter.

District Bus (Tomlin), Wickford: as expected, the contract for 25 was cancelled before it started, but the 7C has been allowed to stand, notwithstanding the ST commercial operation. The contract journeys are retimed to depart Ashingdon at 0645, 0707 & 0730.

Lynxline Ltd, Sth Woodham: RE LHT166L has been repainted white as an overall advert for Cluney Upholstery, South Woodham. It is an RELL6L with ECW B5QF body and was supplied by Wealden Omnibuses (dealer). It remains on loan to Stephensons Coaches, working on the South Woodham contract routes M-S and on Southend route 6 on Sundays. Conversely, Stephensons minibus XVA 923T is operating Sunday contract 10/12 for Lynxline, because of the difficulty of turning the RELL at the Paglesham terminus.

M & E Coaches, Southend: acquired from Wealden Omnibuses for use on the Rochford Leisure Bus free service is HTC729N, Bristol VRTSL/ECW ex Bristol OC, now painted green and white. Consequently Fleetline TGM229J (in Rochford blue) is now a spare bus. Ex S&M VRT TOE438N is now also in green/white but cannot be used on the Leisure Bus service as it is full height.

Macstrax, Stambridge: re 294/17, the contract for Rochford to Wallasea/Paglesham services does replace the former Southend Radio Cars contract. Some journeys are now extended through to Southend General Hospital. In use is F809 DKO, a blue/white Ford Transit (factory body), presumably an 8 seater. It is understood that a second (identical?) taxi bus is owned, and it would seem that when not in use on the contract, both are operating some kind of commercial service, perhaps as part of Southend Radio Cars Circle Shuttle route. Observations would be welcomed!

Nelson (NIBS), Wickford: new commercial services recently started are:

- 20 Billericay, Queens Pk to Gt Burstead, Plough: M-S, every half hr.
- 22 Pitsea to Basildon via Rectory Rd, Ashlyns, Timberlog Lane and Long Riding: M-S, hourly.
- 24 Basildon, Felmores to Pippes Hill (Cranes Industrial Site) via Pitsea, Vange and Basildon B/S. Some jnys start from Wickford. Mon-Fri peak hours.
- 07 This existing Wickford local service has a revised route.

S&M Coaches (Linkfast), Hadleigh: Fleetline 549 YKM has been sold to Spence (qv); ex Leicester 26 was reinstated to the end of November; WJN368J has been repaired by ST (qv).

Southend Radio Cars: duly lost Rochford contract routes 10A/10B/12 to Macstrax upon expiry. Two full size coaches are owned - as well as OMJ792M (see 294/17), ex Osbornes Reliance/Plaxton UVW 89L is owned. Both are only class V tested and it is difficult to see what legal use they can be put to: observations would be welcomed.

T V Taxis, Southend: yet another service is 9S, half hourly from Eastwood (Nobles Green) via parts of EN 9 and ST 9A to Southend.

Dealers: Spence (Thorpe Bay) continues to be active. More LC-SW ex Barton RN's bought are MRR805/7K. Ex Venturer Reliance coach JGJ755D has been acquired and sold on for use by the MSC for Community Transport projects in Newcastle. Ex S&M Fleetline/PRV 549 YKM (orig. RFN960G) has also been acquired, passing on to DGB Products (UK) Ltd of Manningtree for non psv use. See also under EN for the purchase of JVV 430 and its sale to the Eastern National Preservation Group.

Non PSV's: noted in Westcliff on 3/10 was a Bristol VRT trainer, FHE800L, in full Yorkshire Traction livery! Was this a case of taking a wrong turning on the A1, or is it now locally owned?

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Members may be interested to know that an East Suffolk timetable is now available. The timetable is priced at £1.30 including post, from the address given last month.

VISITORS TO EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERING - OCTOBER 1988

Blue Diamond, Harlow	C360 LVV
London Buses	LS291, V28
Maidstone & District	5745, 5876
Nelsons	TUO 259J

Repair work has now started on London Buses T876, which has been present since February 1988. The list of visitors last month refers to August and September.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEXBUZZ GO-OPERATIVE

LOTS reports that this new company, formed by ex LCNE staff, commenced operations on 1.10.88 using eight Mercedes 309D/Reeve Burges s B20F (F72-79 SMC) and one DP25F (F71 SMC). The base is situated at Unit 20, Latton Bush Centre and seven routes around Harlow are operated Monday - Fridays and four on Saturdays.

CHELMSFORD CAB COMPANY LIMITED

Yet another new operator, who commenced operations on 2.11.88 between Chelmsford, Maltings Road and Chelmsford High Street using Austin FX4 taxis on a twenty minute interval service between 0900 & 1600.

HARRIS, GRAYS

The new vehicle mentioned last month is part of the Harris coach fleet, my apologies to anyone who expected top level luxury on local services!

SILVER BIRD

Have been fined in court, after an action brought by Essex County Council under the trade descriptions act. The charges were brought as a result of the introduction of minibuses to replace the double deck luxury coaches that were used when the service was introduced. As members are no doubt aware, loadings on the service were very poor and minibuses were introduced, although publicity continued to show that vehicles carried toilets, no smoking areas, telephones, drinks and hostess service, hence the action above was taken by trading standards officers.

WESTS

My apologies for the information about service 505 that appeared last month, the only thing in common with the 502 being its terminals, and a section between Chingford Mount and Walthamstow. The 505 operates via Bumbles Green, Waltham Abbey and Chingford Station. A self contained 503 continues to operate between Yardley Lane Estate and Walthamstow, operated by LCNE under contract to LRT.

More new minibuses for Wests are D163 KDN Optare City Pacer ex Red Rover, Aylesbury; D579/80 VEV ex Ribble Sherpas and ex LCNW Sherpa D869 NVS, also E518 YWF an MCW demonstrator has been on loan.

H C CHAMBERS

Fleet At 10/88

VRT 840S	Bedford	YMT	Plaxton	C53F
PPV 199W	"	"	"	"
WDX 396X	"	"	Duple	B63F
DBJ 969Y	"	"	"	"
A211 JDX	"	"	"	"
B792 MGW	"	YNT	"	C53F
C668 WRT	"	YMT	"	B63F
D642 DRT	"	"	"	"
E 87 KGV	Leyland	Lynx		B52F

The above is published, as it may be of interest to members in the North of the county, owing to the amount of workings by this operator into Colchester.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Various Ian Allen bus fleet books, in average condition and marked, Reasonable prices. Assorted fleetlist books e.g., Ribble, Alder Valley, Midland Red, Reasonable prices. Coachmart magazines from late 84 to end of 87 (over 150 magazines) - £10 the lot. Omnibus magazines from late 73 to 79 - £3 the lot.

If you are interested in any of these items, or a complete list of what is available write to :- Derek Stebbing, 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP.

Contributions to this months magazine were received from :- D Arnold, M Bullock, P Clark, J Cooper, R Delahoy, R Dennis, P Halls, P Harvey, J Lidstone, I Mayoh, M McCabe, A Osbourne, R Palmer, A Rook, J Simpkin, F Spence, D Stebbing, G Toon, M Weyell, District Bus, Lynxline, Grey Green Enthusiasts Club, LOTS & PSV Circle.