

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The Monthly Magazine Of The ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

FEBRUARY 1989

(Formerly the EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP)

ISSUE No. 298



Lynxline LHT 166L working route 20X Southend - Rawreth (Carpenters Arms) on Boxing Day. (Richard Delahoy)

ROCHFORD MEETING

The March meeting will take place on the 14th March at the Rochford Freight House, which is located next to Rochford Station. This meeting will once again take the form of a "surprise evening" as the subject is yet to be decided.

EDITOR: Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CMU 0XU

SUB EDITORS: *Southend Transport and Southend Area Small Operators*

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road, Southend, SS1 3TT

Small Operators - Rest Of Essex

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, CM9 7NR

PUBLICATIONS: Andy Meadows, 52 Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS9 9NW

PHOTO ORDERS: Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, Essex, SS7 4LH

MEMBERSHIP: Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Barkingside, Essex, IG2 7NQ

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDVehicle Re-Allocations

2/89 1054 CR(Pool) - D/L(D); 1055 D/L(D) - Pool(DrT); 1057 D/L(D) - Pool(DrT);
1130 CN - CF; 1866 CF - BN; 1873 MN - BD; 1874 BN - CF; 1876 BD - MN

In addition to the above 1051/3/7 have been noted on driver training work.
Corrections to 297/5, 1051 etc should read PD - D/L(D); 1053 BS - D/L should read 1503 BS - D/L(D). 1503 was withdrawn as a result of serious accident damage.

Vehicle On Loan

F956 XCK Leyland SwiftII Wadham Stringer B39F

Inspected at New Writtle Street before being used from Colchester between 3/2 and 9/2. It is in a red and cream livery almost identical to Hedinghams.

Repaints

w/e 17.12.88 4508 should read 4505.
w/e 14. 1.89 0205 at TS, 3086 at ENE.
w/e 21. 1.89 1115 at MN, 1743 at HH, 1848 at BN, 3052 at BN.
w/e 28. 1.89 1918 at TS, 3060 at ENE, 4006 at CN, 4012 at TS.
w/e 4. 2.89 1747 at CN, 3070 at TS, 3102 at HH.
w/e 11. 2.89 3065 at ENE.

TS is an unofficial code for Tom Sangster of Maldon.
0205 is now an all over advert for Coronation Garages whilst 1918 is an advert for Southend Airport.

General

Further to last months notes on the new Essex Ranger tickets please delete the reference that states "and will not be valid on Eastern National". In addition these tickets will continue to be valid on ECC evening services where EN provides a daytime commercial service.

Certain fares in the Southend area were not increased until 12.2.89 so as to follow ST's increase on 5.2.89.

Webbs service 46, Hedinghams 52 and Golden Boys 349 have been using Chelmsford Bus Station from the start of 1989 following an arrangement with Essex County Council.

Former Eastern National Bristol VRT 3006 (SMS 32H) featured on the B.B.C. television programme "Songs of Praise" from Derby on 8 January 1989. It was used to transport school children to one of the locations, whilst still with Trent, 759. It has subsequently been withdrawn (see Disposals).

Publicity

Essex Ranger Ticket leaflet.
Highwayman services 804, 805, 806 timetable dated 27.5.89 to 23.9.89.
Basildon Faircard leaflet.
Stansted Railair leaflet published by Network South East.
Essex Sunday Saver leaflet for 1989.
Eastern National serving Harlow, undated timetable leaflet.

Unusual Workings

12/1 PD 3214 noted in Colchester.

27/1 HH 3085 noted in Colchester.

30/1 CH 3066 on 118.

7/2 PD 0250 noted at CF depot.

BS1113 was in use from Braintree during the middle of January. A CF based Lynx is now normally outstationed at Dunmow, although which one tends to change every few days.

Disposals - Initial

1503 (PJT 258R) Essex County Fire Brigade, 1/89, training brigade staff in heavy vehicle recovery.

Disposals - Subsequent

0604 (C604 NPU) Went to Hoban, Workington, 11/87 (Correction to Mag 290).

1200 (BNO 686T) Still with Rogers, Southampton, 1/89.

1208 (BNO 694T) Was acquired by Coombs, Weston-Super-Mare by 2/88 (additional information to Mag 292).

1210 (BNO 696T) Still with Brice, Four Marks, 1/89.

1397 (OWC 606) Young, Nottingham (for preservation), 11/87 ex Thompson (farmer), Garforth (N-PSV) via Hardwick (dealer), Barnsley.

1408 (X00 877L) Still with West Suffolk County Council, XR68, 1/89.

1414 (GJD 197N) Re-registered LRN363N ex 841 FAT 7/88 by Hutchinson, Leigh.
(841 FAT)

1415 (GLD 198N) Went to Sale Moor Cars, Partington, 2/85 (additional information to Mag 297).

1625 (BGX 649Y) Heyfordian, Upper Heyford, 5/87 ex Johnson (dealer), Harthhill.
(2705 TD) Re-registered 2705 TD.

1650 (IMO 225L) East Midland Motor Services Ltd., Chesterfield, 10/88, ex Martin (dealer) Middlewich, fleetnumber 529.

1654 (KCG 611L) as for 1650, fleetnumber 530.

1701 (WNO 550L) Bott, Abergynolwyn by 11/88, ex Martin (dealer), Middlewich.

1703 (WNO 552L) as for 1650, fleetnumber 531.

1704 (WNO 554L) Williams, Deiniolen 9/88, ex Martin (dealer), Middlewich.

1709 (WNO 558L) as for 1650, fleetnumber 532.

1712 (WNO 561L) as for 1650, fleetnumber 533.

1713 (WNO 562L) as for 1650, fleetnumber 534.

1728 (NEV 658M) Withdrawn by Black Prince, Morley 10/88.

1730 (NEV 678M) Coleman trades as 'Yeovilian'. (additional information to Mag 295).

1734 (HWC 85N) as for 1650, fleetnumber 535.

1735 (HWC 86N) as for 1650, fleetnumber 536.

1746 (JNO 195N) as for 1650, fleetnumber 537.

2385 (WNO 481) Withdrawn by White, St. Albans, by 7/88.

2721 (802 WWV) Reported as still with Sanderson, Long Sutton, 1/89. However previously given as passing to Ensign (dealer), Grays, 12/80. Clarification requested. (see also Mag 205).

2898 (WVX 525F) Still with Powler, Holbeach Drove, 1/89.

2944 (AVW 403F) Was withdrawn by Essex County Council and passed to Ensign (dealer), Purfleet, -/88. (additional information to Mag 291).

3006 (SMS 32H) Withdrawn by Trent, Derby, 759, 12/88.

3011 (SMS 37H) Withdrawn by Trent, Derby, 760, 10/88.

9445 (XVW 633L) Still with Avro, Lincoln, 1/89

ServicesBishops Stortford, Saffron Walden

- 9 A new commercial service introduced by Premier Travel on Sundays, between Cambridge and Saffron Waldon via Duxford and Gt. Chesterford on 22.1.89 replaces Millers service 112 and departs Cambridge at 1005, 1205, 1405, 1605 & 1805 returning at 1105, 1305, 1505, 1705 & 1905.
- 738 The last day of Cambus operation was in fact 31.12.88, whilst Premier Travel also took over the LCNE journeys from 29.1.89.

Clacton

- 127 Service revised from 10.1.89 to depart Clacton at 1400 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Chelmsford, Maldon

- 349 From 3.1.89 the 0720 ex Chelmsford was revised to depart at 0715 and run 5 minutes earlier throughout.

Brentwood

- 265 With effect from 6.3.89 all journeys after the 1928 from West Hordon are revised to operate via the Three Arches Estate (ie via EN 151 route).

Grays, Tilbury

- 352 A new service running hourly between Corrington - Stanford le Hope - Grays and the Lakeside Shopping centre introduced on 25.2.89. by LCNE.

Basildon

- 241/4 Not previously reported is that the evening journeys on these routes were operated by Eastern National on 27.12.88 and 2.1.89.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Bus 55 is to be converted to an open topper following the sale of 48. Of the same batch of Atlanteans 57 and 60 have been sold. 57 has gone to a West Country operator and is his first double decker, at least it will be if it gets there! The vehicle is at 2/2 back in the depot minus engine having failed on the A12 on its way West. A small link with the REs remains in the depot, a front radiator panel complete with the fleet number 28.

Olympian 42 was extensively damaged in an accident in Osborn Street on 19.1.89 and is being repaired at ENE.

Atlantean 85 has been fitted with an experimental gearbox and air throttle.

Leopard 101 has been off the road for some time while its bodywork is being refurbished.

The workings on National Express service 084 ceased after 24.12.88.

Following the completion of roadworks in the north of the town, traffic problems are now much easier and the frequent delays to services notable in the run up to Christmas is now past. The opening of a new roundabout at the junction of North Station Road Clarendon Way and Station Way means that services no longer make the diversion via Colnebank Avenue. The Albert roundabout has been converted to a "split pear", traffic from the North and West cannot turn into North Station Road, but buses travelling from the station cut through the middle of it.

Problems arise if the new roundabout is closed, as it was on 28/1 when road markings were being put down, buses inbound returned to the diversionary route they had been following but as it was impossible to turn into the bus lane they had to run via Westway which meant no stop between the Station and the Town Centre.

Following the failure of BR to tackle parking problems at North Station, CBT services (except ECC-contracted 11 and 15) ceased using the down-side exit stops on 27.2.89. From the same date, new timetables were introduced on services 1/1A, 2/2A/2B, 3/3A/31, 4/4A, 5/5A/5B, 9/9A and 74A. These involve more buses and extra lay-over time in the evening peak on 1/1A and 3/3A/31 in an attempt to reduce late running that has been a problem recently.

Bus 45 made an appearance on service 75 on 18/1.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Not alot this month, the Evening Gazette has reported that ECC is concerned that off peak journeys on the 91/2 often carry only one or two passengers. The level and pattern of service will be reviewed when the present contract expires at the end of October.

A reader wrote to the Essex County Standard complaining about "elderly retired coaches" being used on service 105, and suggested that the "litte buses that run between Clacton and Walton....are more comfortable than the ancient stock that we have to put up with". Quite how frequently the writer travels he does not say but any of the Hedingham vehicles used must be an improvement on the Coastal Red fleet or VRs used by EN, and the new Swift the mainstay of the service is hardly elderly.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to February 6.

Vehicles

ACQUIRED:

113	ALD 871B	AEC Routemaster	PRV	H36/28R
114	ALM 5B	" "	"	"

Acquired 14/1/89 ex Southampton Citybus; originally London Transport RM's 1871 and 2005 respectively. Both are Leyland engined, in contrast to 101-12. They are expected to enter service on March 1st.

The body numbers and dates new of the bodies of these two, plus the RM acquired for spares (RM 205), are:

113	LT body number	B1903	PRV body number	L5181	Date new	5/64
114	" " "	B1919	" " "	L5197	" "	5/64
RM205	" " "	B 944	" " "	L4196	" "	9/61

ON LOAN:

290	F290 NHJ	MCW Metrobus Mark II	MCW H46/27D	New 1988
-----	----------	----------------------	-------------	----------

On loan from Ensign Bus as part of ST's continued evaluation of new vehicle types, 290 was used from January 13 - 20 on a variety of routes.

With reference to last month's notes, 'Buses' magazine reports that the DAF/Optare is registered F370 BUA and was demonstrated on December 1st.

A further vehicle was examined on January 26, F699 OPA, a Carlyle Works bodied Iveco which is number 489 in the Alder Valley South fleet. As we went to press, it was expected that a Mercedes minibus was to be demonstrated in mid February - full details next month.

MODIFIED:

Further repaints into the new livery are 216/52. Fleetline 224 has received an overall advert livery for Continental Cars Renault dealership at Wakering. It is predominately yellow, with black and white lettering, but with fleet blue livery on the front lower panels to aid passenger recognition. This brings ST's overall advert fleet back up to 4 (208 - Dansk Design; 224 - Continental Cars; 234 - Allied Bedding and 251 - Perrys).

The complete list of names (Pride of ...) for the original batch of RM's comprises: (not all had been completed as we went to press):

101 Benfleet	105 Eastwood	109 Rayleigh
102 (not to be named)	106 Hadleigh	110 Southend
103 Canvey	107 Leigh	111 Thundersley
104 Chalkwell	108 Prittlewell	112 Westcliff

INITIAL DISPOSALS:

332 XWX 189S We understand that this passed to Millman, Warrington in 1988, joining sister 331.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

Further news of the DMS's sold to Ensign is that ex ST 305/6/9 (GHV 8, 15N, SMU 926N) were loaned by Ensign to Boroline Maidstone for use as driver trainers from about mid October on; the hire ended on 16/12/88.

Services

- 23/A ST have won the contract for the Sunday services on these two routes from April 30th, replacing the present contracts with Stephenson's and Clinton's respectively (297/14 refers).
- 24 Following on from last month's comments, the ST and District Bus contracts were amended to follow the commercial route via Chalkwell Shelter by early in February.

General

Fares were raised from February 5th as predicted. Fares below 35p are unchanged; most over 35p rise by 5p but some are unchanged and the maximum single fare is REDUCED by 40p to £1-20; consequently the maximum return fare is also reduced from £1-95 to £1-80. The Day Rover ticket is also made significantly cheaper, reducing to £1-80 from the former £2-60. The Family version is reduced by 95p to £4. The 50p maximum fare on Canvey is unchanged, and the maximum fare on 9A is reduced to 70p (previously 95p), the latter as an experimental move. Another interesting development is the acceptance of London Boroughs' OAP passes for half fare travel on X1, X11 & 795. Finally, the ST/EN/BR joint Travelcard will increase to £10 weekly, £40 monthly from March 5; for the first time standard BR photocards will be valid for use with this ticket.

Another significant move from February 5th sees Essex County Council Sunday Saver tickets issued and accepted on all ST services (except X1 west of Vange) on Sundays and Holiday Mondays; similar conditions apply to EN's commercial operations (except for 251 between Walthamstow & Romford and the whole of the 400). This move will be welcomed (especially by enthusiasts!) in south east Essex, where the Sunday Saver was previously of little benefit because of the high level of commercial operations on a Sunday. The Sunday Saver now costs £2.20 (adult/OAP), £1-20 (child) and £4.50 (family).

The contract to repaint vehicles for Midland Red North ended in November, with (according to our records) 25 vehicles dealt with. Those not previously reported comprise A603 HVT, B515/6 OEH - Tiger/Duple coaches and A702/4/9 HVT - Tiger/Duple buses. A603 HVT was exhibited on November 18-20 in Newcastle under Lyme during a Coach Drivers Club weekend as an advert for ST's Engineering Department's services.

A new training school, incorporating modern training aids, has been opened at the ST garage, in the (refurbished) former uniform stores.

To add to the comments of the News Sheet Editor on page 297/3 of last month's edition, I should like to add my personal thanks to the staff of Southend Transport for the continued supply of up to date and detailed information about ST; particular thanks are due to Mark Howarth, Commercial Director, and to the former Engineering Director, Chris Hilditch for his help prior to his departure northwards to MRN.

Publicity News:

A new faretable book, price 50p, is now available.

Unusual workings:

In recent months ST have operated numerous scheduled rail replacement services, plus a few emergencies. The former has included Sundays on the Southend Victoria branch and weekday evenings/early mornings on the LTS over various parts of the Pitsea-Shoebury section (in connection with work to upgrade the power supply on the LTS to a uniform 25kv).

OTHER OPERATORS - South East Essex

District Bus (Tomlin), Wickford: a further (commercial?) service is 106, Basildon B/S (dep 0945 M-F) to the Bryn Centre, off Whitmore Way, returning at 1209.

AND FINALLY

. . . a new edition of the ECC timetable for Southend made a welcome (and overdue!) appearance early in January. Generally it is very good and comprehensive with only a few minor errors - strangely, mostly affecting contract services, which the County ought to know the most about! It is of course very difficult to keep timetables up to date, given the pace of change with commercial services - I wonder how long it will be before this issue becomes out of date. So far it has done very well, lasting at least 4 weeks!!

VISITORS TO EASTERN NATIONAL ENGINEERING - JANUARY 1989

Black Horse Buses	OUD 431M
Chartercoach	KIB 6827
Chelmsford Playbus	LFS 300F
Colchester BT	42
Essex County Council	SVW 274K
Luton Bus	752, 951
National Car Parks	UPE 201M

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

CHAMBERS, BURES It is reported that an Olympian has arrived which, if true will be the first decker for about 20 years.

FORDS, ALTHORNE Have acquired 820 KP0 a Bedford YRT with a Plaxton C53F body and have sold SNM 496N a Ford with a Duple C53F body to Woods, Billericay.

GOLDEN BOY Have taken delivery of a Leyland Swift with a Wadham Stringer B39F body, the registration of which is unknown at present.

HARRIS BUS The next new Scania should enter service in March and will be F314 PEV.
NEV 774V and RWC 651W are to be repainted in bus livery.
Owing to staff problems at Eastern National Brentwood depot on 2.1.89.
D304 PEV worked the following journeys on behalf of ECC :-
1730 Brentwood White Horse - Broomfield Hospital (service 451).
1830 Broomfield Hospital - Brentwood White Horse (service 451).
2005 Brentwood White Horse - Romford (service 251).
2032 Romford - Wickford and 2133 return (service 251).
2232 Romford - Brentwood White Horse (service 251).

HEDINGHAM D345 WPE has been acquired from Alder Valley, repainted in fleet livery, numbered L153, and is normally used on the 90.
Another new minibus with Reeve Burgess Beaver bodywork is due soon and will be for use on the 52.
Reallocations for 1/89 117 KN - HD Pool; 112 KN - HD and 142 KN - LT.
L85 the Kent Blaxill advert vehicle has been repainted into fleet livery. L77 & L83 have both been sold to Eagle Coaches of Basildon.

WESTS Another six MCW Metrider MF150 with B23F bodywork have been added to the fleet, they are registered F713/4/5/8/9 CWJ and F367 CHE. D579/580 VBV have been sold.

CORRECTION TO 297/16

Please note that Lyn Watson's phone number is 0245 - 32227 (ie 4 2's not 3).

Contributions to this magazine were received from :- D Arnold, I Dann, R Dennis, P Halls, P Harvey, J Lidstone, I Mayoh, M McCabe, A Osbourne, R Palmer, C Paynter, C Sigston, G Toon, Eastern National, Grey Green Enthusiasts Group, LOTS, M&D and East Kent Bus Club, PSV Circle, Southend Transport, Tom Sangster.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MARCH EDITION OF ESSEX BUS NEWS SHOULD REACH THE EDITORS BY 3.3.89