

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the *EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP*)

DECEMBER 1988

ISSUE No. 296



Photographed during October at the garage of Blackwell, Abbess Roding was former Eastern National Ford Transit mini-bus 0600 (C600 NPU), which is now painted in the smart red, white and black livery of its new owner
(Derek Stebbing)

JANUARY MEETING

Will be held on Tuesday, January 10th 1989 at the Rochford Freight House, which is adjacent to Rochford Station. The meeting will include a Transport Bazaar and members are invited to bring along unwanted items for sale or exchange,

SEASONS GREETING

May I take this opportunity to wish all members a merry christmas and a happy new year.

EDITOR:	Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford St, Chelmsford, Essex	CM2 0XU
Sub Editors:	<i>Southend Transport and Southend area small operators</i>	
	Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoenbury Road, Southend	SS1 3TT
	<i>Small operators - rest of Essex</i>	
	Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon	CM9 7NR
PUBLICATIONS:	Andy Meadows, 52 Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex	SS6 9NW
PHOTO ORDERS:	Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, Essex	SS7 4LH
MEMBERSHIP:	Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Barkingside, Essex	IG2 7NQ

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Saturday, February 18th, 1989

The Group's twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 18th, 1989 at the Cramphorn Theatre, Fairfield Road, Chelmsford. The doors will open at 1300 hrs., and the AGM will commence at 1400 hrs. The Group's sales stand will be at the meeting with a full range of sales items.

The Cramphorn Theatre is situated adjacent to the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford, and is opposite the entrance to Eastern National's Chelmsford (CF) depot. Chelmsford Railway Station is only 100 yards from the Theatre.

For members travelling from the Southend area, a special bus service will be provided to Chelmsford, by kind courtesy of the Eastern National Preservation Group, using a preserved Bristol L5G, ONO 49. Full details of this service will be published in next month's magazine, but the vehicle will depart from Southend during the morning to arrive in Chelmsford before lunch-time. It may also be possible to arrange a short tour from Chelmsford prior to the commencement of the AGM, again with the Bristol L5G.

A selection of recent bus videos will be shown in the auditorium before and after the AGM.

A licensed bar will be available at the Theatre, and drinks will be served before and after the AGM. Light refreshments will also be available.

For members travelling by car, there is a large free car park available at Chelmsford Civic Centre, and the entrance to this car park is at the end of Fairfield Road.

Please remember that only Group Members can attend the AGM and proof of membership will be required.

Members are urged to attend this meeting, which is the principal event in the Group's calendar. The Cramphorn Theatre is an excellent venue, and the AGM is being held in Chelmsford to enable as many members as possible to attend.

Finally, members from the Southend area who will wish to use the special bus service to Chelmsford can reserve their seat by telephoning Andy Meadows on Rayleigh (0268) 785496 - please note this new telephone number.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS FOR 1989

If you have not yet renewed your subscription for 1989, then please do as soon as as possible using the renewal form enclosed with last month's magazine.

NEW BOOKS

The following new title is now available from Andy Meadows :-

London Buses Past and Present, published by Capital Transport and looks at the many varied vehicles that have operated in the Capital. A must for all with an interest in London's Buses, priced at £5.25 including post + packing.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDNew Vehicles

1429 entered service from Chelmsford in mid November.

Vehicle Re-Allocations

12/88 0245 DT - Pool; 1125 SD - BE; 1726 BE - Pool; 1754 CN - DT; 1762 CR - CN;
3030 Pool - CN; 3039 CN - CR; 3050 WN - DT.

Repaints

w/e 29.10.88 4504 at ENE.
w/e 5.11.88 1935 at CN; 3122 at ENE.
w/e 12.11.88 1733 at HH; 1821 at HH; 3079 at ENE; 3097 at HH; 3122 at ENE.
w/e 19.11.88 1758 at HH; 1760 at CN; 3200 at ENE; 4502 at ENE.
w/e 26.11.88 1931 at ENE; 9011 at ENE.

1927, 3058 and 4501 are all being repainted at ENE during w/e 3.12.88.

General

The Essex Chronicle reports that the 30 Leyland Lynx vehicles that have entered service, have been funded by a 10 year lease with the Foward Trust Group to meet Eastern Nationals requirements.

Coachmart reports that Voyage National is to be sold to National Express. The deal is expected to be completed before Christmas, and is part of National Express current plans to own and operate its own vehicles. The six vehicle fleet are understood to be included in the deal.

Evening services in Chelmsford were diverted on 22.11.88 as a result of a serious fire in the High Street.

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for Southend area services 2; 3/C; 6/A/B; 11; 26/A; 29B and 51/551 all dated 13.11.88, and service 9; 24/A; 25; 28/A; 61A/62 all dated 14.11.88.

Summary of EN services between Southend and Tarpots Corner dated 13.11.88.

Unusual Workings

None to report this month.

DISPOSALSEastern National LimitedInitial Disposal

0601 (0601 NPU) Oakley Old Peoples Home, Chelmsford 11/88. This vehicle is painted in a yellow livery and has been fitted with a tail lift.

Services

Only two changes to report both in the Harwich area.

22A/B Revised from 5.12.88 and converted to 'big bus' operation.
103 0800 ex Harwich and 0818 ex Transit Camp withdrawn after 2.12.88.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORTVehicles

Details of the Metrорiders are as follows :-

11 F111 NPU MCW Metrорider MF158/014 MB10030 DP29+8F
12-15 F112-5 NPU " " " 013 MB10026-9 B31+8F

12, 13 and 15 arrived on 7.11.88, 14 on 8.11.88 and 11 on 20.11.88. 13 entered service on 8.11.88, 12, 14 and 15 on 9.11.88. 11 had not entered service by 23.11.88.

9 and 10, Northumbria Metrорiders 824 and 826, left on 7 and 8.11.88. D26, the demonstrator E637 TOG, left on 7.11.88.

Since thier MoTs in the summer, Lynxes 31 and 32 have had tuscan red skirt mouldings, similiar to those on 33 to 37, instead of grey ones.

Olympian coach 45 arrived back on 17.11.88 after partial rebuilding by Leylands. 45 and 46 have chassis numbers ON10778-9 and are classified ONCL10/1RZ.

Reading Transport's Leopard coach was returned there on 18.11.88.

Atlanteans 73, 84 and 90 were off the road for much of November 1988.

Tiger 104 has received a new engine and was returned to service on 16.11.88.

Twelve new vehicles have been delivered in 1988 and the average age of the fleet is 8 years.

Services

As well as the services mentioned last month, the Metrорiders are used on ECC services 14 and 14A.

CBT is to operate commercial services from 0800 to 1830 on 27.12.88 and 2.1.89 on 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 4, 4A, 5A, 5B, 6, 6A, 7C and 8.

Fares were raised by 11% on 21.11.88, as follows: 18p to 20p, 27p to 30p, 34p to 38p, 40p and above by 5p.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to November 27.

Vehicles**MODIFIED:**

The second Fleetline to appear in the new livery was 229, on 22/11. At the time of writing, 230 & 250 were in the course of receiving the new livery (which, incidentally, also includes a fleetname on the rear dome as well as at the front). Buses which are fitted with steel front bumpers are having these painted black when in the new livery. It is planned that one Fleetline will be painted into the new scheme each week.

As anticipated, the RM's are to be named - the names selected being "Pride of . . Southend, Leigh, Westcliff, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Rayleigh, Prittlewell, Eastwood, Chalkwell, Thundersley and Canvey" (all, of course, places served by the RM's). None had been done as we went to press. The observant amongst you will have noticed that there are only 11 names - showbus 102 will not be named.

WITHDRAWN:

307 [314] GHV 29N Withdrawn 23/11

This left just 310 [319] in service of the DMS fleet, and that bus was expected to come off at the end of November, consequent upon much better reliability of the RM's in recent weeks (they are now achieving 85-90% availability).

902 (WJN372J) was retained as expected for tree lopping, and it is expected that it will be withdrawn at the end of November. Coaches 525 [329] and 526 [351] have been put back into regular service and are now fitted with Wayfarer ticket machines - thus the entire OMO fleet (with the exception of 310) is now Wayfarer equipped.

INITIAL DISPOSALS:

More news is to hand about the 6 coaches sold to Brighton Buses. The two which operated briefly in ST livery were 503/7 [203/7]; they later returned to Southend to be painted into two tone blue, after 504/6 [204/6] had been sent to Brighton. Fleetnumbers for the 6 coaches sold are: 24 - ex [219] (SPN669X); 73 - ex [330] (BHQ440V); 81/2 - ex 503/4 [203/4] (UTD203/4T); and 84/5 - ex 506/7 [206/7] (BTE206/7V). All 6 are allocated to the Lewes Coaches fleet, where they rejoin company with two buses which also operated in Southend recently - ex Venturer Travel Fleetline ROK453M (which ran on hire to ST between January and June last year) and Reliance bus DVA355K.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS:

- [327] (HRN 42N) which had been on long term hire to Southend was returned to its owners, Fylde Transport, in 3/87, resuming duties in ST livery as Fylde 42. Earlier this year it was rebodied with a new Duple 320 series coach body and renumbered 26; it has now also been reregistered to YNJ 434.

- [324] (WRO434S)) Re 292/5 and last month's issue, these 3
- [336] (CTM406T)) are all confirmed with Southern Motorways/
- [337] (CTM407T)) Williams of Emsworth. 324 had earlier been noted (on dealer loan?) to Boroline.
- [361] (WJN361J) Ham, Hawkhurst to AJS, Carlton (for scrap) 4/88
- [380] (GHJ380L) City of Oxford MS to Worth, Enstone, 9/88
- [385] (GHJ385L) Millman, Buckfastleigh to Filers Travel, Ilfracombe, ?/87.

Services

Re 293/8, the Southend Borough Council plans for three tendered routes have now crystallised into 2 services, 17 (Southend CBS to Eastwood via the old route of that number) and 62 (Southend CBS to the General Hospital, mainly via the old 62 route). ST have won both contracts, which will start on Tues 3/1/89, using City Pacers - full details next month.

Christmas/New Year plans: we can confirm that the Boxing Day and New Year's Day operation on 7 will be between Shoebury and Hockley only.

General

A new Director of Engineering was appointed to start from November 28, replacing Chris Hilditch who moved to Midland Red North some months ago. He is Peter Hill, MIRTE, and we wish him every success in his new appointment.

The travel office at the garage has recently been moved to a newly fitted out area on the ground floor of the garage; as noted previously, ST are now booking agents for National Express, and the new office is equipped with a Prestel set.

Southend Borough Council has arranged free off peak travel within the Borough for OAP's on three Thursdays leading up to Christmas (December 1, 8 and 15) on the buses of ST, EN and TV Taxis; on ST and TVT free travel is also being given to the unemployed on those days.

Duplicates continue to operate on various routes to counter abstraction from the taxi buses; Dominant III bodied coach 510 (KWG130W) is often used, along with City Pacers and other coaches.

With effect from the next issue, we will only refer to vehicles by their *current* fleetnumbers; a full fleetlist, giving both old and new numbers, appeared in the October magazine (294/15 & 16).

PUBLICITY NEWS:

Press adverts have been used to promote the London 'X' coach services, together with an A5 size leaflet handed out at certain rail stations and on buses.

COMMENT:

Regular observers of the local bus scene will have noticed the virtual elimination of the Southend Borough crest from all of ST's activities - leaflets, bus stop signs, the new livery and new uniforms all carefully avoid use of the crest, presumably in an attempt to create a new identity for the company. In the Sub-Editor's view, this break with history is a retrograde step. STL and its predecessors had a long and (mainly) proud tradition of providing a good service, and there is still some goodwill attached to the municipal connections. The Borough are of course also still the sole shareholders in the company. It is interesting to contrast the situation with that of Southend's refuse collection service, which was handed over to a private contractor (Exclusive Cleaning) some years ago - yet the dustcarts and other vehicles still proudly display the Borough crest. Or perhaps to contrast with certain other towns - eg Blackpool - where the Council would not permit their crest to be used by their (wholly owned) transport company. Is it too late to ask that the crest not be banished entirely?

OTHER OPERATORS - Southend area

Lynxline Ltd, Sth Woodham: a special commercial operation was planned for December 26 and January 1, to supplement ST's operations in the expected absence of any EN services on those days. An hourly service will operate between 0930 and 1830 numbered 20X, from Southend CBS via EN 20 to Kent Elms and then as the 250 to Rawreth (Carpenters Arms); in addition a return trip between Rochford and Southend will run as 7X. The operations are being planned and financed by Group member Lyn Watson and the Sub Editor and will use the Bristol RELL, LHT 166L. Please come along and sample the RE and support this service!

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

BLUE TRIANGLE Triangle Operation of service 363 is in the hands of RT 2150 & 2799, whilst the 500 is being operated by SMI AND MBA 539.
 ENSIGNS The 348 has not commenced at the time of writing (further to 294/19) and another route registered but not commenced, is the 349 between County Park Estate and Romford.
 LONDON COUNTRY NORTH EAST The 503 shuttle was withdrawn after operation on 14.10.88 without replacement.

LONDON REGIONAL TRANSPORT

The Walthamstow minibus routes won by Eastern National are now booked to commence on 5.3.89.

In addition to this service 379 between Chingford Stn. and Yardley Lane Estate will pass from Grey Green to Eastern National and be converted to minibus operation, this may commence in January 1989.

Finally, the W9 should be converted from midibus to minibus in early January.

Contributions to this months magazine were recieved from :- M Bullock, R Delahoy, R Dennis, P Halls, P Harvey, M Jarvis, I Mayoh, A Meadows, D Stebbing, Golden Boy, LOTS, Lynxline, PSV Circle, Southdown Enthusiasts Club.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JANUARY MAGAZINE IS JANUARY 6TH 1989

HISTORICAL FEATURE - SOUTHEND TRANSPORT BLINDSUltimate blind T13:

The starting date for use of this blind is not known, but it was superceded by bus destination blind T16 and by coach destination CT15; nevertheless, T13 was still in use on certain vehicles (eg Fleetline 227) as late as August 1988.

All displays white on black

[white blank]

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT
EXCURSION
HADLEIGH CHURCH
HADLEIGH VICTORIA HOUSE
THUNDERSLEY KENNETH ROAD
THUNDERSLEY WOODMANS ARMS
RAYLEIGH WEJR
SOUTHEND VICTORIA CIRCUS
RAYLEIGH RAIL STATION
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STATION
BOURNES GREEN
THORPE BAY STATION
NEW THUNDERSLEY
TARPOTS CORNER
CANVEY VILLAGE
CANVEY WINTER GARDENS
CANVEY HAYSTACK
CANVEY E N DEPOT
SHOEBURYNESS BLACKGATE ROAD
SOUTH BENFLEET STATION
CANVEY LEIGH BECK
SHOEBURYNESS EAST BEACH
SHOEBURYNESS STATION
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STATION
LANDWICK
LITTLE WAKERING CORONATION CLOSE
NORTH SHOEBURY
LITTLE WAKERING CORNER
GREAT WAKERING CHURCH
FOULNESS COURT END
PRITTLEWELL PRIORY PARK
PRITTLEWELL WARNERS BRIDGE
ROCHFORD TOWN CENTRE
ROCHFORD STATION
SOUTHEND AIRPORT
ROCHFORD ROCHE AVENUE
GOLDEN CROSS
STROUD GREEN
HAWKWEEL NURSERY CORNER
HOCKLEY STATION
HOCKLEY SPA
HOCKLEY BULL
RAYLEIGH HIGH STREET
PRIVATE
[black blank]
ASHINGDON SCHOOLS
SOUTHEND KURSAAL
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STATION
RAYLEIGH STATION
SHOEBURYNESS SPORTSMAN
THORPE BAY CORNER
SHOEBURYNESS CAMBRIDGE

LOWER HOCKLEY DOME
SOUTH FAMBRIDGE ANCHOR
SUTTON SCHOOLS
PAGLESHAM EAST END
CANEWDON LOFTMANS CORNER
WALLASEA BAY
EASTWOOD WHITE HOUSE ROAD
SOUTHCHURCH NEWINGTON AVENUE
EASTWOOD KENT ELMS CORNER
CHALKWELL STATION
TEMPLE SUTTON CLUNY SQUARE
TEMPLE SUTTON GOLDEN GOBLET
EASTWOOD WOODCUTTERS ARMS
CHALKWELL PARK SOUTHBOURNE GR
PRITTLEWELL BELL HOTEL
SOUTHCHURCH WHITE HORSE
LEIGH STATION
EASTWOOD BELGRAVE ROAD
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STATION
EASTWOOD RISE
SOUTHEND VICTORIA CIRCUS
HULLBRIDGE ANCHOR
LOWER HOCKLEY CHURCH ROAD
HIGHLANDS WOODLANDS PARK
SOUTHCHURCH LIFSTAN WAY
RAWRETH BEDLOES CORNER
LEIGH CHURCH
CHALKWELL EASTWOOD BOULEVARD
WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOLS
WESTCLIFF GENERAL HOSPITAL
CHALKWELL SCHOOLS
PRITTLEWELL EKCO WORKS
SUTTON CEMETERY
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STATION
WESTCLIFF PLOUGH
HIGHLANDS THAMES DRIVE
SHOEBURYNESS EAST BEACH
SOUTHEND KURSAAL
LEIGH ELMS
PRIVATE
CANVEY EASTERN ESPLANADE
SHOEBURY COMMON
SOUTHEND VICTORIA CIRCUS
CIRCULAR
CHALKWELL SHELTER
SOUTHEND PIER HILL
ROOTS HALL
RAWRETH CARPENTERS ARMS
WICKFORD STATION
BASILDON BUS STATION
LONDON KINGS CROSS
GRAYS BUS STATION
ROMFORD ST EDWARDS WAY
CHELMSFORD BUS STATION
COLCHESTER BUS STATION
MALDON BUS STATION
[white blank]