ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

JANUARY 1987

ISSUE No. 274



Bova 1625 is seen at Chelmsford Bus Station, (D.Arnold.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This has been re-arranged for Saturday 14th February at Freight House, 13:00 (for 14:00).

ROCHFORD MEETING - Tuesday 3rd February

The next meeting at the Carriage Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford will take place on this date at 19:30 (for 20:00). This will be a members slide evening and you are invited to bring your favourite 40 slides of 1986. All members and friends are invited.

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TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL REPORT - A review of the Group's activities during 1986

CHAIRMANS REPORT

The year 1986 will prove to be a very significant year, both for the bus industry and also for the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group. As far as the industry is concerned the effects of de-regulation are now with us and from 26 October the revised pattern of bus services in Essex started. This has already introduced many changes and certainly the overall scene for the enthusiast is one of considerable interest and variety.

The same date, 26 October, was scheduled for a Group committee meeting from which we learnt that three of the present committee members wished to resign. After an appeal to the membership some new applicants have now come forward to help with the running of the Group and with some re-location of duties and re-organisation of services, the Group should be able to function satisfactorily next year. The forbearance of members during the transition period would be much appreciated.

Finally, with the revised pattern of bus services in Essex, a suggestion has been made that the name of the Society be revised from the E.N.E.G. to the E.B.E.G. (Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group) to reflect the new situation after de-regulation. This important change is to be discussed at the A.G.M.

NEWS SHEET EDITOR'S REPORT

1986 has proved to be the busiest year yet for the Group's news sheet, and during the year members received 142 pages of news. This compares with 139 in 1985, 110 in 1984, 84 in 1983 and 81 in 1982. Although subscriptions have increased by a small amount during the year, in line with higher postage charges and other increases in the price of paper and ink, members continue to receive real value for money, particularly as our subscription rates are amongst the lowest of all enthusiasts groups.

The year has been dominated by the de-regulation of the bus industry, which took effect on October 26th, and Eastern National's operations have been substantially revised. Municipal operations in Colchester and Southend were affected to a lesser extent, but nevertheless there have been some significant developments all of which have been recorded in the news sheet.

At the time of writing, Eastern National is now one of the largest companies still remaining in the National Bus Company. Indeed, outside the major cities it is one of the largest operators in the country and the fleet continues to include many interesting vehicles. The delivery of 50 mini-buses, the acquisition of second-hand vehicles and the introduction of the three Bova Europa coaches have created further interest.

Our two electric duplicators have generally performed very well during the year, dealing with between 3,000-4,000 printed pages each month. We have transferred address records to a computer, and we are currently introducing computer printed address labels for the news sheet.

The 'Photo-News' feature continues to be included in the news sheet. However, its success depends upon more photographic contributions from members. We can now reproduce good quality colour photographs, and members are urged to support this aspect of the news sheet.

As you are all aware, I have decided to stand down as News Sheet Editor after eight years. I have greatly enjoyed my involvement as News Sheet Editor, but business and family commitments have combined to reduce my spare time and it is now an appropriate time to hand over to a new Editor, particularly as the local operators enter a new phase in their history. We have been fortunate in receiving offers of help from members and a new News Sheet Editor and News Sheet Assistant Editor will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting on the 14th Feb. I wish my successors well in their work, and I hope that all members will continue to contribute information and notes to help make our news sheet as popular and up to date as it is now.

TOURS ORGANISER'S REPORT

Two tours were operated during the year:-

27th April 1986	North Essex Tour	Eastern National 1118
20th September 1986	Hastings Excursion	Hastings District 426

Although these two tours ran at a healthy profit which the Group needs to subsidize loss making activities, we very much regret that a weekend tour arranged to the West Country had to be cancelled due to the very low number of bookings received. This was a great disappointment to us as not only did it waste a lot of your officers time it cost the Group money both in lost profit and wasted money on postage and telephone calls.

PHOTOGRAPH OFFICER'S REPORT

Photograph sales during the year have kept at a steady rate, with particularly good receipts at Southend and North Weald. The current trend of sales is encouraging and with the new enlarger recently purchased by the Group I intend to extend the range available at events. Once again I repeat my yearly appeal, any negatives not required please pass to the Group archives.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

The sales of publications etc. have been extremely good again in 1986 with turnover into the four-figure bracket. This has been achieved largely as a result of taking books etc. from other publishers such as Bus Enthusiast, Bus Times and Yarnacott Publications. It has now been decided that in order to continue and improve this rate of expansion, for 1987 we will have an expanded sales team and be able to attend more events than before and also expand our range of items for sale. Our new policy has yet to be decided, but we will certainly continue the range of Group produced publications including a new version of our highly successful Fleetbook. New Group publications to appear in 1986 were:-

EFB	Eastern National Fleetbook	May
EB6	'The Campbells Have Gone'	February
EP4	Colchester and Southend Fleet List	May

Two other new books published in 1986 worth a mention here are 'Southend Corporation Transport, Trams, Trackless and Buses' written and published by group member Richard Delahoy trading as Yarnacott Publications and 'Eastern National in Focus Volume 1' compiled by another member Derek Stebbing. It was indeed a pleasure to sell these excellent volumes and we eagerly await subsequent publications from these houses.

EVENTS SECRETARY'S REPORT

This will be my last annual report as Events Secretary, a post I have held since the committee was restructured at the beginning of 1979. I feel that it is time to let someone else organise our monthly meetings - partly because I am very aware that 'familiarity breeds contempt' and it's time for some new ideas and direction for the Rochford meetings in particular, but also because business commitments are making it increasingly difficult for me to be able to get to meetings promptly - or at all in some cases!

In this report I will refrain from listing all the activities of 1986 but I would like to thank all those members who have contributed to the meetings, and in particular Derek Stebbing and Mike Allen for hosting local meetings in their homes.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in the Group meetings and special tours that I have organised: whether you have helped in the organisation, have given a talk or film show, or just attended, thanks for your support. I wish my successor every success - I am sure that you will give him (or her!) your support and encouragement.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT (Last years figures in brackets)

During 1986 there were 57(43) enquiries through the post about membership of the Group, and other serious enquiries were dealt with at functions attended and through postal sales and also through individual contacts. The year started with a total of 230(224) members, 40(36) new members were enrolled during 1986 and as at 1st December

total membership stood at 267(252). Associate membership stands at 7(9) persons. As the figures show our membership is still rising if more slowly than in previous years.

Subscriptions

These started at £3·30/£4·00 for the January renewals period but were raised to £3·80 /£4·50 by the time of the July renewals period. These figures were held until October when because of Post Office price increases the subscriptions were raised further to £4·20/£4·90. A two year rate, with a small discount, was offered to existing members at renewal times. These still represent good value when the amount of news and information sent to members is recalled. (139 pages in 1985 for instance).

Members must be warned, however, that these rates cannot be held in the future due to circumstances beyond the control of the managing committee. Changes in the methods of producing the news sheet and a hefty 150% increase in the price of Notices & Proceedings (up from£1 to £2·50 a copy - and we buy two editions 26 times a year - total cost £52 up to £130 per year) will mean increased costs having to be passed on to the membership in general. For this reason the two year subscription has been suspended this time round.

Publicity

This consisted only of small classified ads. appearing in Buses magazine. Response has been reasonable and is to be continued once things have settled down with our internal reorganizations. The Group must attract new members if it is to continue in its present form, if only to replace those who leave membership, for whatever reasons. Further gratis adverts were placed in commercial publications, our own fleetbook and the first edition of 'Bus Times'.

THANKS

The Committee would like to thank the following members of staff from the undermentioned companies for their assistance and co-operation during 1986:-

G. Clarkson	Managing Director	Eastern National
R. Orbell	Traffic Manager	" "
R. Iles	Fleet Engineer	" "
G. Dodson	Manager, Braintree,Uttlesford & East Herts	" "
A. Dixon	Fleet Engineering Assistant	" "
A. Spindler	Traffic Assistant	" "
K. Mellor	General Manager (Retired)	Southend Transport Ltd
I. Trevette	Managing Director	" " "
D. Giles	Operations Director	" " "
C. Hilditch	Engineering Director	" " "
C. Sampson	Transport Manager	Colchester Transport Ltd
R. Wheatcroft	Planning Department	Essex County Council

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first new style news sheet which is also my first as editor. I would like to express my thanks to those who have provided notes for this month's edition, and would ask all of you to report your observations, however unimportant you think they are as they are always of interest to other members.

My thanks go to Derek Stebbing for all the help he has provided in producing this news sheet, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of all members for producing the news sheet for the past eight years.

PRIVATISATION

Eastern National has been sold to eleven members of the management under the government's privatisation of the National Bus Company programme.

Led by Mr. Geoff Clarkson, managing director, and financial director Mr. Harold Taylor, the sale took place on 23rd December, 1986.

The other members of management involved in the buy out are Mr. Robin Orbell, Mr. Bob Iles, Mr. Fred Offord, Mr. Gordon Cheek, Mr. Geoff Dodson, Mr. Mike Holden, Mr. Maurice Jordan, Mr David Kershaw and Mr. Gerry Neville.

Following the buy out, the Company's board of directors is as follows:- Mr. Taylor- Executive Chairman and Director of Finance; Mr. Clarkson - Managing Director; Mr. Orbell - Director of Operations and Mr. Iles - Director of Engineering. In addition to these changes Mr. Cheek becomes Fleet Engineer.

The management hold 80% of the shares in the new company, the balance being owned by County Development Capital, a subsiduary of Nat West Investments, who arranged the loans for the completion of the buy out. It is intended to offer all employees a chance to buy shares in the near future.

We would like to wish the staff and management of the company every success for the future.

OPERATING AREAS

The company have reduced the number of operating areas from the six introduced in August 1985 to four, this follows Mr. Martin Lewis' departure to United Transport in Stockport.

The operating areas are now North Essex comprising Braintree, Clacton, Colchester, Dovercourt, Silver End and Walton; Mid-Essex and East Herts including Bishops Stortford, Chelmsford, Maldon and the outstations at Great Dunmow and South Woodham Ferrers; Basildon and East London comprising Basildon, Enfield, Ponders End and Walthamstow; and Southend and Brentwood including depots at Brentwood, Hadleigh and Southend.

Following these changes Mr. Mike Holden becomes Manager-North Essex assisted by Mr. Len Wilson who is responsible for Clacton, Colchester, Dovercourt and Walton, and Mr. George Jones who is responsible fot Braintree, Silver End and Bishops Stortford.

Mr. David Kershaw becomes manager-Mid-Essex, with Mr. Eric Carter remaining as Planning and Schedules officer for Chelmsford and Maldon with assistance from Mr. George Jones.

Mr. Gerry Neville has become manager of the Basildon and East London area with Mr. Dave Boyceremaining as Planning and Schedules officer for Basildon.

Mr. Maurice Jordan becomes manager of Southed and Brentwood with Mr. Chris Duncan who has joined the company from Southend Transport, becoming Planning & Schedules officer.

Mr. Geoff Dodson becomes manager Contracts and Commercial Activities, and is now based at Head Office, New Writtle Street. He is responsible for the LRT tendered services and for the commercial units of the Company including travel sales and coaching. Mr. Nick Parker becomes his Planning and Schedules officer.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITED

Following privatisation, members will no doubt have noticed that legal lettering on vehicles has been amended to read "Eastern National Ltd" from the former "Eastern National Omnibus Company Limited". As a result of this all buses carry ON HIRE TO EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS COMPANY LIMITED stickers in their windscreens. This is due to routes and vehicles still being licenced to the old company and this arrangement will continue untill the changes are agreed to by the Traffic Commissioners.

Vehicles are having their NBC logos painted out and new style fleetname vinyls covering the old white block lettering, although it would appear that buses at some depots have yet to be treated.

NEW VEHICLES

Mercedes minibus 0232 (D232 PPU) is not reported as having entered service at Brentwood, although officially allocated there, and remains in use as a driver training vehicle from the yard adjacent to Central Works.

AQUIRED VEHICLES

Former Milton Keynes Citybus, Bristol VRT 3216 (FRB 907T), is now reported as being H42/31F when aquired due to the rear upper deck seat being 2+2 (rather than a bench seat). Also the rear seats were fitted with anti-vandal plastic seats, however it is now at central works having standard seats and the rear bench seat from driver training vehicle 3003 (CPU 982G) fitted to upseat it to H41/31F.

VEHICLES ON ORDER

The company have no vehicles (including minibuses) on order, and this has been confirmed by the company during January.

VEHICLES ON HIRE

The Ford Transit minibus on loan from Cambus was returned during December. 2010 (C297 MEG).

ALLOCATIONS AND TRANSFERS

1/87 1625-LWA, 1626-LWA, 1627-LWA, 1866 HH-CR, 1888 CR-CF, 1897 CF-HH, 3075 SD-PD
3218 P/L(P)-SD

Itis not yet possible to confirm if 3004 has been withdrawn from the PSV fleet. Although allocated to PD, 3075 has been noted in service from WW on 29th & 30th December, 1986 on LRT route 20.

Bristol RELL6G 1548 (WNO 537L) remains delicenced for disposal, and it is still parked in the driver training yard at central works.

It has been reported that two of the South Wales Transport Leyland Nationals at Maldon have been sold for scrap, although the identities of the vehicles concerned are not known at the moment.

SERVICE VEHICLES

Bristol VRTSL6G 3003 (CPU 982G) appears to have suffered slight accident damage when seen in Central Works yard on 8th January.

VEHICLE REPAINTS

The company has continued to kindly supply details of vehicle repaints during recent weeks, and this follows on from the information in NS273:-

w/e 29.11.86 - 3217 at HH (additional to NS273)
w/e 13.12.86 - 1117 at CN, 3031 at CN, 3048 at CW (partial repaint of yellow area)

Vehicle repaints cont'd...

w/e 20.12.86 - 2117 at BN, 3214 at HH, 1743 at HH, 1128 at A1, Mundon in to Highwayman livery, 3213 at CW.
w/e 27.12.86 - 3207 at MN, 3216 at BN.
w/e 3. 1.87 - 3206 at CW.
w/e 10. 1.87 - 3208 at CW.

All the above are in the new livery and in addition the 32xx series received London vinyls. It should be noted that 1831 received only a partial repaint in to the old livery following the repair of accident damage at Maldon.

GENERAL

The new depot at Wharf Road, Ponders End is to open on 25th January and the expected allocation is 3075 and 3204-3217 with the vehicls operating LRT routes 307 & 359. The depot is to be equipped with bus lifts known as Hywema's, which enable vehicles to be lifted without the need for a pit to be provided. The depot will also assist in the maintainance of buses at Walthamstow and Enfield.

The British Rail yard at Bishops Stortford remains in use for the overnight and weekend parking of vehicles, although the numbers involved have been reduced from eight to five. On Saturdays it is common to see one bus there all day.

Leyland National 1792 (PEV 704R) has retained its Howard's Estate Agency advert following its transfer from Clacton to Bishops Stortford; however the Clacton area telephone numbers have been painted out.

BS 1739 (GJN 999N), BS 1761 (MAR 783P) and DT 3061 (LJN 656P) have been fitted with full depth destination blinds of the style in use at Brentwood etc., as have cetain vehicles at Maldon depot, the exact identities of which are not to hand - observations please!

Colchester based VR 3095 (UAR 704R) was involved in an accident whilst on service 78 on Christmas eve, and was taken to Central Works for repair in early January.

Bova 1625 (BGX 649Y) went to Arlington's, Enfield to be fitted with Econocruise equipment on 17th December. It returned by 22nd December.

The Company's conversion from Setright to Wayfarer ticket machines was completed with the conversion of Maldon depot from Sunday 23rd November, 1986.

A special "Booze Cruiser" service was provided in Colchester on Christmas Eve running between Mile End, Highwoods, Greenstead, Town Centre, Monkwick, Shrub End, and Lexden. The service was free and was financed by the Colchester Licenced Victuallers Association and operated by Eastern National. The service was also run on New Year's Eve when CR 3078 and CR 4003 were noted on it, with the Olympian displaying "ALE CONTRACT" on its destination equipment!

High winds caused an exeptionally high tide on 31st December, blocking the Strood connecting Mersea Island to the mainland, resulting in delays of up to one hour on services 7 &7A. The 11:20 from West Mersea operated by CR 4004 just about made it off the island, overtaking a marooned car on the way. Although the wind had dropped by 2nd January, one of the highest tides for a year resaulted in CR 4003 being held on the island for over half an hour with the 13:20 ex-West Mersea and CBT 41 & 74 were delayed for a simmilar time on the mainland side. It is hoped to have a photo of a paddling bus on the cover of a future edition.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Alterations to Service 53:- The 0604, 0634 & 0734 from Silver End to depart 4 mins. earlier and operate via Silver End Hotel. An additional journey at 17:16 from Witham, "Martins" to Marks Tey,(Near Rail Station).

The following alterations have been made to independant operator's services, and appear for members interest:-

BORDABUS:- To withdraw service 6 from 26,1.86.
CHARTERCOACH (Coastal Red):- Additional journey on service 10 at 18:05 from Colchester to Harwich.
JACKSONS:- Providing the service on route 46B between Chelmsford & High Ongar.

MALBUS:- Service 1 - 12:25 from Maldon is extended to Bradwell on Thursdays.
Service 2 - 13:00 from Maldon is retimed on Thursdays to 12:45 and runs to the Saturday timetable.

SIMIEN TRAVEL:- NEW SERVICE - Benfleet Station to Benfleet Station, an hail and ride service via Canvey Island on Mondays to Fridays w.e.f 26th January.

In Colchester the Evening Gazette reported on 7th January that some services are to be changed from 2nd February including a limited stop service between Colchester and Harwich via the eastern by-pass and an half-hourly service between Colchester and Clacton. It is presumed that this relates to service 119 as services 74 & 119 jointly run to this frequency at present.

Coastal Red have announced changes from 26th January including withdrawal of Parkeston Quay services due to lack of support; however a new service between Harwich, Kingsway, Fronks Road, The Drive, Tollgate and the Transit Depot, which is basically the old route 121/122, is to be introduced. None of Coastal Red's service alterations mentioned in this paragraph should be taken as definite as they have not appeared in the official notices from the Traffic Commissioners.

PUBLICITY NEWS

Details of recent publicity material known to the editor are as follows:-

Christmas and New Year Services - Leaflets for Basildon & Thurrock, Braintree Uttlesford & East Herts, Chelmsford & Maldon, and Southend & District.

New service X74 - Timetable and fares leaflet for the Harwich to Basildon service. Additionally a carrier bag advertising the X51 has been seen by a group member in the London area.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

21/11 CF 0753 noted in South Woodham Ferrers.
22/11 ED 0600 on service 193, SD 4002 on service X51.
25/11 CF 1131 took the Essex County Cricket team to Buckingham Palace to receive the County Championship. During the ceremony 1131 was parked in the courtyard in front of the palace.
28/11 SD 4000 on service X51.
29/11 CF 3077 on service 353.
2/12 BN 3068 on service 400.
4/12 CN 0200 noted in Chelmsford Bus Station, PL(P) 3212 on service 7 in Colchester, SD 4018 on service 20
6/12 Driver trainer 3003 noted in Bishops Stortford. (And again on 13/12).
11/12 CN 0204 parked in Colchester Bus Station, CN 1110 on service 11, and CN 3030 on service 12 in Clacton.
12/12 CN 1310 on a private hire in Colchester, Hitchin Bus 239 (KVV 239V) on a private hire in Chelmsford. (Leyland Leopard/Willowbrook).
14/12 CF 3069, 3106 & 3111 SE 4013 &4014 BE 4016 &4017 all noted on rail replacement work between Shenfield and Witham.
16/12 BE 3063 on private hire in Chelmsford.
17/12 PL(P)3215 noted on service in Colchester and it remained there in early January.
18/12 BS 1769 on service 333, SD 4000 on service 4B, SD 4504 on service 4.
19/12 CR 1302 and SD 1305 parked in Chelmsford Bus Station, SD 3060 on service 4
20/12 DT 1920 on service X64.
23/12 2383 noted in London Road, Chelmsford, CF 4005 on service 48.
24/12 CR 1302 noted on Christmas in Lytham tour, CN 1705 on service 7 in Colchester, SD 3064 on service 4, CF 0751 on private hire between Great Waltham and Chelmsford.
25/12 MN 1921 on services 97X & 98X - the only E.N. services on Christmas Day.
27/12 BD 1839 on services A1 & B.
30/12 CF 4005 on service 43.
31/12 BN 1795 on service 722.

Unusual workings cont'd...

2/1 CR 4003 on Silver End service 53 duties.
3/1 HH 1118 on service X51.
4/1 SD 4010 on service 20.
7/1 CN 0204 on driver training work in Chelmsford.
8/1 PL(P)1050 on service C1.
10/1 SD 1937 on service 11A.
11/1 CF 3033 on service 11A. (The 17:33 ex- Chelmsford)
13/1 BD 1864 on service 36. (The 16:40 ex- Chelmsford, operated by CF not SW)

CENTRAL WORKS

Visiting vehicles during late December and early January include CBT 22, Alder Valley North Leyland Natioal 155, East Kent BristolVRT 7019 and a former Greater Manchester Leyland National 155 (KBN 892P) which has been aquired by Webbs Coaches.

BOOKSALES



The group has the following new additions to its sales range:-

Buses and Trams Of Bath

Written by Steve Chislet, this hardback volume details the history of public transport in Bath from the earliest horsedrawn buses to Badgerline mini's with over 150 illustrations. Price £10·95.

The Final Years of The National Bus Company

Keith Jenkinson's latest book details the most recent history of the NBC as it heads towards privatisation, with many illustrations of new companies and liveries including colour covers and four pages inside. The cover depicts Olympian 4012 at Oxford Circus. Price £8.95.

SMT Eastern Scottish (An 80th Anniversary Story)

Written by D.L.G. Hunter, this publication tells the story behind one of Scotlands largest operators and is one of the best books produced for some while. Price £8.50.

ALL THESE BOOKS are available from Andy Meadows, 52 Ferdale Road, Rayleigh SS6 9NW. Please add £1.00 to cover postage and packing for one, two or even three books. They will also be available at the Rochford meeting.

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COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

The two Leyland Linxes, 31 and 32, are now in regular service on the 2/2A route as described in NS 272, and on a service 5A working that finishes at20:08. After this time only Atlanteans from the batches 51-53 and 61-90 are used. REs 16 and 22 are currently out of use, as are Atlanteans 52 (since 7/86) and 73. Atlanteans 77 and 89 were back in service by 6.12.86 and 16.12.86 respectively.

Ipswich Road was closed to northbound traffic,just north of the by-pass, for the week commencing 29.12.86. Northbound buses on services 2, 2A and 2B were diverted via Harwich Road and Goring Road. This and the accompanying traffic holdups caused delays to these services, especially on 2nd January. Highclere Road is still not open yet and so service 9 continues to terminate at Gilberd School on Mondays to Fridays, including school holidays, instead of Highwoods Square.

Since 3rd January Costal Red has operated a bus on schools service 16, relieving the overcrowding on the CBT service bus. On 7.1.87 Coastal Red operated ex-West Midlands PTE Fleetline NOB 331M. CBT usually allocate an Atlantean to this service from the main batch 61-90 which are 74 seaters, and not one of the 82 seaters from batch 51-53.

Over the holiday period there were no services on the three public holidays but normal services operated on other days with the exception of all services ceasing after about 20:30 on Christmas and New Year's eves, and service 14 did not run from 29.12.86 to 2.1.87 inclusive.

An RE is now regularly used on the last return CBT journey on service 74A on Mondays to Fridays. The vehicle operating the 16:00 trip from Colchester to Marks Tey now shows the latter destination instead of a blank.

Tesco Contracts

Tescos has produced a new leaflet showing the revised pattern of CBT contract services that was introduced on 17th November, 1986 and these are shown below:-

T1 - St. Johns Street to Highwoods departing half hourly between 09:00 and 17:30, on Mondays & Fridays only.
T2 - Clacton to Highwoods via St. Osyth, Brightlingsea, Arlesford and Elmstead Market at 09:00 & 13:00, Mondays & Tuesdays only.
T3 - Dovercourt to Highwoods via Mistley, Manningtree and Dedham at 09:00 & 13:00, Wednesday & Thursday only.
T4 - Sudbury to Highwoods via Great Cornard, Newton Green and Nayland at 09:00 & 13:00, Tuesday & Wednesday only.
T5 - Wivenhoe to Highwoods via Greenstead half hourly from09:40 until 15:40, Thursdays & Fridays only.

Service Revisions, w.e.f. 26th January

Service 1, 1A & 1B; revised timetable with Longridge Park journeys on the 1B being diverted to Greensteads East as per service 1.

Service 2, 2A & 2B; revised timetable with increased frequency on Mondays to Fridays.

Service 3; revised timetable.

Service 75; afternoon trip to Rowhedge will return in service to Colchester.

Service 31; NEW SERVICE to run Longridge Park to General Hospital via Harwich Road, Town Centre and North Station hourly between 08:30 & 17:30, Mondays to Saturdays.

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SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

VEHICLES

Aquired

Northampton 7 was collected on 18th December and has, as anticipated, been numbered 304 and painted in bus livery. It is currently being prepared for use.

On hire

More information is now available concerning the hire of Olympians from Cardiff City Transport Services Ltd.. Six will be received on hire, initially for 2 years; they will be painted by STL in yellow and blue coach livery. Cardiff 559 has been on hire for some months and continues in operation in its owners livery. The first of the others to be received, in December, was 365 (Cardiff 555 - B555 ATX), with 363 (Cardiff 553) and 364 (Cardiff 554) being delivered on 6th & 10th January respecively. They are ONLXB/1R with East Lancs DPH43/27F bodies. 365 has been repainted and is currently at Southend's works awaiting modifications to its heaters. Two of the vehicles will replace 323/7 when their period of long term hire ends in the next few months.

On Loan

17/12, 249 to Venturer Travel for a private hire to Witham.
20/12, 329 to Venturer Travel for a private hire to Tenterden.
31/12, 388
7/1, 318 } all to Venturer Travel for service 21.
8/1, 316

Also to record this month is the fitting of 220 with an SBG type dome/blinds during January.

SERVICES

Holiday period services generally followed the pattern of recent years thus:-

Christmas Eve - full service but with revisions to evening peak X services.
Christmas Day - one return journey to Heathrow on service X1.
Boxing Day - hourly service on routes 1, 3 (from Southend Central to Canvey; STL normally only operate two Sunday journeys on this route), 7 (Shoebury to Hockley; in previous years service between Southend and Shoebury has been on the 3), 29 and 63. Two hourly service operated on route 4A and six journeys on X1 to Heathrow. Compared to the 1985 operation there was no service on 20A, and for the first time since special services began in 1971, no separate timetable leaflet was issued, details being supplied in the main booklet.
New Years Day - generally a Sunday service on all normal routes but with the addition of an hourly service on the 3 between Southend and Canvey. Compared to 1985 there was no service on 10, 12, 20A, 24, 25, 27, 251, a reduced service on 64 but an augmented service on 1, 29, 63 and the 23 operated.

An additional Essex County Council contract from 27th October, 1985, is for 3 schoolday only journeys on route 1 between Rayleigh Station and Thundersley 6th Form College.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

10/12 - Cardiff 559 on service 3A, Astromega 243 on service 1.
25/12 - 215 on service X1. As noted above this was STL's only working on this day.

SOUTHEND SUPPLEMENT

The information below continues that given in the supplement sent with NS 273.

Commercial Operations

TV TAXIS. A further LT28 is VWG 611Y; Caravelle B64 FKW is now out of service. The London Road service now has its own bus stop at Victoria Circus outside the Co-op bank, but drivers seem to ignore it in favour of the taxi rank area! The Westcliff/Chalkwell/Leigh route does not follow the 24 exactly, running via Woodfield Road and Leigh Road not Grand Drive.

R & R BUS SERVICE. A recent search at Companies House reveals that a company, Southend Dial a Ride Services Ltd., is registered at Mrs. Raymonds address. Perhaps she has ideas of expanding?

NATIONAL EXPRESS. The fourth operator on 090 is usually Catteralls of Southam, 15:30 ex-London; 17:50 ex-Southend.

CHANNEL COACHWAYS. C1 is thought to be the old rail-air service and it is believed that this service has not yet operated at all.

STEPHENSONS. Commuter service X101 has been withdrawn in May 1986 but this cancellation does not appear to have been officially reported in Notices and Proceedings.

FORDS. The Southend terminus is Seaway carpark. Operation is usually by ex-Lothian Atlanteans, although ex-Southend Fleetline 356 has been used. Return fares are £1.50 from Bradwell or Tillingham or £1.00 from South Woodham.

VENTURER. Leisure Lynx services 19 & 403 will be withdrawn after operation on 20th or 21st January.

ROCHFORD LEISURE BUS. Ommited from the supplement was Rochford District Council's established free Leisure Bus service. The Council will cease direct operation on 9th January, with M & E COACHES of Southend taking over on the 10th, under contract to the Council and using a vehicle in the Council's blue livery. The Council's ex-Southend Transport Daimler Fleetline, WJN 348J, will be sold.

SIMIEN COACHES. This Canvey based operator (with 2 coaches used on schools and private hires) has registered a service to commence on 26th January. This will be a circular service from Benfleet Station via Somnes Avenue, Link Road, Long Road, Furtherwick Road, High Street, Leigh Beck, High Street, Dovervelt Road, Somnes Avenue. This will operate on Monday to Friday evenings only with four journeys between approx. 16:30 & 18:30 at a flat fare. A Ford coach will be used although the registration provides for double deck operation.

Essex County Council Tendered Operations

It should be noted that most ECC contracts were only for 3 or 6 months and some changes are likely at the end of January.

VENTURER. Operation of 21 will cease on 23.1.87 upon contract expiry. It is understood that Eastern National have won the contract for the next 3 months and will commence on the 26th. The contract for service 6 is for 6 months . Southend Transport provide engineering services to Venturer and hire buses to them when required - usually these are overall advert Fleetlines.

UPSON. This operator also uses DAF/Plaxton XPP 422S on the 24. Due to the erratic operation of this service the contract has been revoked by the Council. Southend Transport have taken over the service on a commercial basis with 3 evenig journeys and 14 on Sundays. The service now terminates at Daws Heath by running round a loop consisting of Weston Road and Daws Heath Road, in addition services towards Southend run via Clarence Road instead of Nelson Street.

STEPHENSONS. Venturer Travel AEC Reliance, DVA 355K, was on hire from 8th to 24th December for service 26/26A due to failure of CCN 911D, but the Leyland Leopard returned to service with a replacement engine taken from a YAR/K registered Leopard Plaxton.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED. Additional County contracts not previously reported are 3 double deck schoolday only workings on service 1 from Rayleigh Station to Thundersley Sixth Form College at 08:00, 08:15 and 08:30 with return workings at 15:55 (not Wednesdays) or 12:55 (Wednesdays only).

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EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS

Subsequent Disposals

350 (573 UVX) - PK Historic Omnibus Co. Ltd., Hunmay (for preservation) 12/86 ex Cott, Bonham.
2102 (LEV 917) - Still owned by Springhill Vehicle Preservation Group, Tunbridge Wells (for preservation) 12/86, (additional information to NS's 250 & 263).
2946 (AVX 975G) - Still with dealer, Purfleet, 12/86.
3016 (SMS 42H) - Still with dealer, Purfleet, 12/86.
3019 (SMS 45H) - Ribble M.S. Ltd.,2042, 10/86, ex Sth. Midland Ltd., 801.
3047 (OCS 576H) - Ribble M.S.Ltd.,(fleetnumber unknown) by 12/86, ex Sth. Midland Ltd., 802.

NEWS SHEET CONTRIBUTIONS (No. 274) Items for next edition to editor by 6th Feb.

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A. Ostourne(C&F), P. Snell (M32), J. Cooper(M128),R. Delahoy(M180),D. Stebbing(M183),P.Harvey(M219),A. Rook (M257),D.Arnold(M379),J.Collins(M405),I.Groves(M440),G,Toon(M452),F.Spence(M545), M.Bullock(M574),S.Barnes(M576),J.Skinner(M578),J.Simpson(M623) and PSV Circle.