

ESSEX BUS NEWS

APRIL 1993

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

348

Moore's

Moore's

1963 - 1993



MOORES KELVEFON Guy Arab 3 LP612 Strachen L55R photographed here at Colchester Bus Stn on a wintry day,

D Withers.
Bristol Vintage Bus Group.

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Peter Snell

Please send your news reports to:

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Thamesway:

EN & South Essex smaller ops:

North Essex smaller ops:

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Editorial

FUTURE EVENTS

Sunday 9th May

Barking Bus Rally Town Hall Barking.

Sunday 6th June

Southend Bus & Historic Transport Rally Southend

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The Essex Group of the Omnibus Society have notified us of the following evening visits.

A. Tuesday 15th June 93 Stephenson's Coaches - meet South~~th~~ Rochford at 19-00 hrs.

B Tuesday 20th July 93 Colchester Borough Transport - meet 26 St Botolph St. at 1900 hrs.

Both operators have also promised a tour in an interesting vehicle leaving about 19-30. Please contact John Rugg on Basildon 0268 544348 nearer the dates if you would like to come along as guests of the Omnibus Society.

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SOUTHEND MEETINGS. at Freight House Rochford, advance dates & information.

Tues. 21st Sept. 93 Mr G.Torrance of Southend Transport Ltd,.

Tues. 19th Oct 93 Mr T Smallwood of Badgerline Holdings.

Tues. 9th Nov 93 Members Slide Evening.

Tues. 14th Dec 93 Mr R Delahoy. "Confessions of a Bus Driver.

Meetings will be held at Chelmsford and Ilford during the winter period, dates will be announced in due course.

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WANTED

Photographs of vehicles operated by T.W.Rolfe of Woodham Walter, also of Osbornes Tollesbury, Bedford WTB DTW789.

THE SOLENT OMNIBUS CLUB are looking for a photograph of County Coaches Brentwood Bedford SB AAW 326B.

Any member who can help with any of the above-----please contact the Man/Ed.

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TOUR NEWS

For up to date news see page 7.

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Contributions for this edition were received from, M Weyall, S Menzies, LOTS, Thameswy, Badgerline Enthusiasts Group,

Reports for the May magazine should be to the Sub Editors by APRIL 30th

New Vehicles

396/7 K396/7 GHJ Mercedes Benz 709D Plaxton Beaver B23F
Delivered late March for increase commitment on LT 362 (see Below), in full Thamesway livery, with near-side and rear 3-track number blinds.

Repaints

Noted repainted in fleet livery is 227 ex Eddy Grimstead all-over advert. Citysaver Coach 515 has now acquired Citysaver signwriting.

Allocations

March 93 201 BD-BN 707 HH-BD 1883 Pool-D/L(D) 1884 BN-HH 1905 HH-D/L(D) (correction)
Late March 396/7 New-BD

General

Bristol VR 3216 has passed from Crown Coaches Bristol to JBS Coaches of Bedford. Leyland Nationals 1883 & 1905 have now passed to Crown Coaches of Bristol.

Service Revisions

6 Rectory Road Hawkwell is closed for approx. two months from Mid February due to road works. Service diverted via Lascelles Gardens
239 Essex County Council contract journeys Brentwood to Ongar withdrawn after service Friday 2nd April. Replaced by County Bus 501.

The 362 extensions were cancelled at the last minute- the Ilford extension due to Redbridge Councils refusal to remove a 7' width barrier in Longwood Gardens, despite the Council asking London Transport to provide a bus service in Longwood Gardens.

The Roots Hall Thursday Market service and the Mecca Bingo Service at Southend have now both ceased. The Tesco Free service provided for Pitsea has now also been withdrawn.

Hadleigh still operate a contract service from Southchurch to the Bingo Hall at Basildon, as well as Harris Bus and Fords Coaches.

Spotlight on Brentwood

To correct previous information only 7 minibuses are required for Brentwood town services on Saturdays, with services interworking at Brentwood High Street, affecting services 70-73 and 80.

Big Buses from BD are allocated to the following services excluding School Contracts:-

Service 151	2 (plus 7 from BN)
Service 225	1 Saturdays only
Service 251/551	9 Mon-Fri 8 Saturdays
Service 350/1	3 Mon-Fri (plus 3 from CF)
	4 Saturdays (plus 2 from CF)

Service 350/1 are mainly operated by double deckers usually Olympians from BD, with Eastern National providing VR's.

Publicity

42 undated

Unusual Workings

9-3-93 BN 376 noted on service 151
10-3-93 BD 3113 noted on service 72
16-3-93 PD 4001 noted on service 351
20-3-93 BD 3113 noted on service 251
1-4-93 BD 396 noted on service 193

FLEET ALLOCATION AT 31st MARCH 93

Basildon 201/235-44 357-87 501-20 718-20 1404-6/10-12/22-24
1866/79/81/87-89/91/93 1904/8/20/22

Brentwood 225-34 301-6/88-97 707 1810/23/39/45/6/54/59/76/86/94 1900/3/11-
13/19 3110/13 4004/9/10

Hadleigh 307-56 701-6/8/9/11-17/21/22/55/56 1400/9/17-21
1803/17/21/22/30/35-37/40/47/49/52/53/57/64/68/69/71/75/78/80
1882/84/95/97 1906/7/15/18

Ponders 245-60 800-11 901-17 1001-04 4000-03/5/6
End

Training Vehicles 3101/2200/9005/13-15

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Westcliff coach found in Malta.

I recently received an interesting letter from Dave Farrier of Oldham, who, whilst on holiday in Malta in October 1992 discovered that vehicle Y-0799, chassis 0662 3042 is none other than AHJ 404 AEC Regal 1 Duple coach of Westcliff Motor Services. It is now fitted with a body by SCHEMBRI and is of course totally unrecognisable.

Alan has taken photographs of this vehicle, I shall be obtaining copies of these, details next month.

PJS.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Allocations

4/93 1824 Pool-CR; 1940 CR-CF

The above corrects the notes in EBN 347, your sub-editor having taken the end of March for the start of the ECC 52 contract.

Vehicles on Order

The 16 Plaxton bodied Mercedes minibuses on order, are due to enter service from Chelmsford in June. They will enable the remaining town services 41A/B and 44A/B to be converted to minibus operation at higher frequency.

Minibus conversion of other routes has seen increased use of these services, against a loss of passengers (customers?) on other routes.

It is hoped that a further 10 Mercedes minibuses will arrive before the end of the year to replace earlier minibuses in the fleet.

General

It is sad that once again a further depot closure has to be reported. Maldon depot will close in June with the majority of its allocation being transferred to Chelmsford and some work moving to Colchester.

As a slight balance to this Braintree will re-open and will provide maintenance facilities for the Braintree minibus allocation, which is currently an outstation of Maldon.

A small outstation will be established in Maldon, to provide minibuses for town routes, plus a couple of big buses for country services.

The depot building at Bishops Stortford is now being advertised for sale and an alternative site in the town is being sought.

Revised fares were introduced on the majority of commercial services from 1.3.93.

A number of special promotions known to your sub-editor are detailed below.

Since 1.2.93. any passenger travelling between Thorington Cross and Wivenhoe have, on production of a valid bus ticket had their total bus fare deducted from the bill at the Londis Supermarket in Wivenhoe.

From Easter special discounts are available on admission to Colchester Zoo, again on production of a valid bus ticket.

Repaints

February 1914

March 2383 (in cream/green)

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for services 31A/32/33/46 dated 4.1.93; 40/A

dated 10.1.93; 44/47 dated 7.2.93; 333 dated 21.2.93; 87/A dated 28.2.93; 21/A, 31/X, 41A/B, 48/A/49/56B, 44A/B/C/D, 56/A/57/A/48A/56B, 103/4; 133 and 53/B all dated 28.3.93.

Timetable booklets for EN buses in Maldon and district dated 9.8.92. but updated to 28.3.93. EN buses in Braintree, Witham, Halstead and District dated 28.3.93. EN buses to the new Tesco Supersote at Wood Street, Chelmsford dated 7.2.93.

Leaflets for new bus service to Beeleigh Link, Chelmer Village dated 7.2.93. (two different types), Fares leaflet for buses between Clacton and Colchester undated, Winter Saver Days bargain fare between Walton and Clacton dated 1.2.93 to 31.3.93.

Although not published by EN, a booklet that may be of interest is Scenic Britain by Bus, it gives ideas for days out by bus, rover tickets and contacts for times, fares, information and accomodation. It is an excellent publication for anyone planning a holiday or even a day out by bus in another part of the country, and whats more its free! It is available from bus or tourist information offices or send a 9 x 4 sae to:-

Scenic Britain by Bus, 4 Station Road, Knowle, Solihull, B93 OHT.

Services

52/A/B ECC tender passes from Hedingham to EN from 26.4.93. The new tender specifies Diptac fitted vehicles to be used.

53/B Slight route and timetable revisions from 5.4.93.

Unusual Workings

11.3.93. CF 1834 on service 53B (CR operated).

Initial Disposals

1750 (JNO 199N) Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, 2/93. This vehicle is used for training purposes.

1811 (VNO 734S) Hardwick for scrap 2/93.

3060 (LJN 655P) Maldon Majorettes (N-PSV), 2/93.

EFE MODELS

Members may be interested to know, that the above company have now released a model Bristol FLF in Eastern National livery. It is available from leading transport model shops priced from £7.25

ENOC 2954

4204 Bristol KSW5G opentopper is now back home, having been acquired for continual preservation and can be seen in a yard on the Charfleets Estate Canvey Island.

Three Bristol KSW5Gs were exported to America in 1969 viz. 4181/3/4 UEV 836/8/9, does any member know if these vehicles still exist?.

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|      |           |                                                                             |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1705 | (WN0554L) | MBC 1, Rowley Regis, 1/93, ex, Lawrenson, Haydock.                          |
| 1723 | (NEV689M) | Went to Yorkshire Rider, 6/92, withdrawn by 8/92.<br>(correction to EBN345) |
| 1776 | (PEV688R) | Wigley (dealer), Carlton, by 11/92. (T)                                     |
| 1786 | (PEV698R) | as 1776.                                                                    |
| 1787 | (PEV699R) | as 1776.                                                                    |
| 1792 | (PEV704R) | Hardwick (breaker), Carlton, 12/92.                                         |
| 3038 | (PWC513M) | Peterborough PVS (breaker), Peterborough, 12/92.                            |

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## **Southend Transport**

Very little news this month from Southend Transport. British Bus plc. has emerged as the front runner for the Southend Transport fleet, an announcement is expected later in April.

On Friday 2nd April, the lack of trains due to a rail strike, resulted in the X group of services being operated mainly by double deckers, the coaches demoted to town services etc.,.

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### TOUR NEWS

Heddingham Tour Saturday 17th July 1993.

This tour will visit the premises of Chelmsford Travel, Little Waltham, Boon of Boreham, Beestons Long Melford, and the Heddingham depots in Kelvedon, Little Tey Sible Heddingham, Walton and Clacton.

Pick up points have been revised from those published in the March EBN and we will now start from Rayleigh and call at Basildon, Romford and Chelmsford. If you require to be picked up at points on the A127 or A12, please let Andy Meadows know at the time of Booking.

A booking form giving further details is included with this months EBN.

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**NEW**

166 H888 TKS Leyland Olympian Northern Counties H46/29F  
This bus carries the first of NCME's new double deck body design, the Palatine II. The panels are bonded to the framework (not screwed or rivetted), there is no lower saloon rear window, plastic seats, and a new design front end which slopes forwards from top to bottom with curved windscreen and upper deck front window. The overall effect is to make the bus look very similar to the Optare Spectra. Livery is yellow with the addition of black window surrounds on both decks - this 'breaks up' the rather overpowering effect of all over yellow rather nicely. The bus was delivered on Friday April 2nd and made its first public appearance at the Cobholm rally on Sunday April 4th. It had not entered service at the time of writing.

**ON ORDER**

One Volvo Olympian chassis, with Volvo engine, for July delivery.

**ACQUIRED**

KRS 538V Leyland National 2 NL106L11/1R- B44F new 1980  
ex Inverness Traction ,582, It arrived on Saturday April 3rd, in Stagecoach corporate livery. It is not yet inservice and is the first of a number of Leyland National 2,s to augment the commercial fleet. It was new to Alexander (Northern) as NPN4 (GSO 4V) ,

798 THX 256S Leyland National 10351A/2R- 05310- B21DL  
ex London BUses LS 256 - painted red with yellow stripes: it still carries HD garage code.

**WITHDRAWN**

770 (F170 DET) sold 3/93 : 795(BYW 356V) -being used for spares

**ON HIRE**

Three Dennis Falcons are still on hire from Ipswich - two are 109 and 112. They were fitted with DM destination blinds in February, having run without any until then. TPE 155S is also still on hire from Stephensons ( note correct spelling) as of April 7th.

**SERVICES**

246 Withdrawn between Corbets Tey and Upminster Station (again) from Monday March 29th.  
340 diverted via St. Albans City and Hemel Hempstead General Hospitals from March 14th.

**REBUILT** - to H46/31F ( ex H46/27D) - 279/81/83 (F-MHJ)- this leaves only 285,288,292,294 to be done.  
to H46/30F - 295/98 (JWF 495/8w)

**REPAINTS** - yellow

124 (G124 YEV), 278(FUT 38V),279/81/83(F279 MHJ), 295 (JWF 495W)

## COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

### Services

Service 12, the Fridays-only route between Wivenhoe and High Woods, was withdrawn after being operated on 7.4.93 (a Wednesday because the Friday that week was a bank holiday). ECC service 77 was transferred to Hedingham Omnibuses after 25.3.83

There has been a lot of criticism in the local press of the withdrawal of service 3A; the Essex County Standard managed to find more passengers than CBT did!

Fares were raised on 29.3.93, as follows:

|              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| old fare (p) | 30 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 70 | 75 | 80 | 85 | 90 | 95  |
| new fare (p) | 35 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 70 | 80 | 80 | 90 | 90 | 100 |

|              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| old fare (p) | 100 | 105 | 110 | 115 | 120 | 125 | 130 | 135 |
| new fare (p) | 100 | 110 | 110 | 120 | 120 | 130 | 130 | 140 |

The railway replacement operations continued on Sundays throughout March 1993, mostly west of Colchester and often over by mid-day.

### Vehicles

Olympian 48 was slightly damaged when it collided with a bus shelter in Head Street.

Olympian 42 has been repainted, losing an advert that covered the whole of its rear.

Atlantean 82 has received a partial repaint.

Open-top Atlantean 55 is back at Magdalen Street from its winter storage.

rad010493

## HEDINGHAMS

### Vehicles

Bristol VR L168 was omitted from the allocation list published in EBN 346, this vehicle is allocated to Kelvedon.

Bedford YRQ L74 (SVW 774K) was sold some time ago, and was seen on TV in a programme about "New Age" hippies in a convoy of vehicles.

More recent disposals are former Kemps Bovas L171-3, these have passed to Moseley (dealer) in part exchange for a F registration Tiger/Paramount 3200.

### Services

102/3 Revised Sunday service introduced from 9.4.93. under contract to Cambridge County Council.

X15 Introduced from 16.4.93. to operate between Colchester Bus Stn and Cambridge Drummer Street via Earls Colne, Hedinghams and Haverhill, on Fridays only.

## OTHER OPERATORS

ADAMS BRENTWOOD Acquired the two coaches from the now defunct Tiffin fleet in 11/91. These are XUN 344V a Ford/Plaxton and WNT 377Y a Ford/Duple. Ford Transit E865 LCX has passed to Lewis, Clacton.

APT RAYLEIGH Neoplan 2803 PK was re-registered A16 APT prior to becoming B701 JYJ and passing to Jacksons. DAF F213 RJX is now A16 APT. JXI 9143 a Bedford YMT and E992 JOO a Toyota minicoach have both been sold.

ASSOCIATED HARLOW Vehicles sold are JDG 323V a Bedford YMT and Royal Tiger C943 JTM.

BJS GT. WAKERING Bedford VAS AYS 899S has been sold.

BECKINSALE CLACTON The only vehicle in this fleet is ex Tilbury Coach, Ford Transit B405 VWY.

BLACKWELL ABBESS RODING Recent additions are LHD 951T a Bedford VAS 5/Plaxton, MVY 54T a Bedford YLQ/Plaxton and Ford Transit E870 AJR. Ex EN Transit C600 NPU is still operated.

BONNER ONGAR It is reported that this operator will cease operations soon, Mercedes minicoach A830 PSE appears to be the only vehicle left in the fleet. Service 381 passes to Bernards, Harlow under contract to ECC from 12.4.93.

BRENTWOOD COACHES A further Neoplan Skyliner is No.12 (with Chelmsford Travel fleetnames). Can someone supply the registration please.

BUZZ HARLOW In addition to its fleet of minibuses TND 414X a DAF/Plaxton coach ex Southern Star, Harlow is now owned.

CAMBERS BENFLEET This minibus operator now has a new Transit K254 DPU.

CATTON HARLOW Two Ford Transits are operated F639 DKA and K340 DWC.

CEDRIC WIVENHOE Volvo/Ikarus E499 UOP is now HIL 6244, while Volvo/Plaxton HIL 6245 was ex E906 UNW. The latter entry confirms previous EBNs. Bristol VR HKE 676L is now used as a storeshed.

CHARTERCOACH HARWICH The fleet now consists the following:-  
K457/8 PNR Volvo Plaxton, K459 PNR Caetano Optimo, HIL 5681 FAP Sanos, HIL 5679/80 Mercedes 0303 and K708 RNR a Volvo Caetano, a further Volvo Caetano registration unknown is also operated. All other vehicles have now been sold.

COACHSTOP SOUTHEND Have moved out of the Airport, where to?

COLCHESTER COACHES Ford/Plaxton SEL 679H has been sold.

COUNTY COACHES BRENTWOOD 5189 RU is now carried by the former D322 VVV a Quest/Jonckhree.

CROWN BENFLEET B290 RJF a Bova Europa has been acquired.

CUNNINGHAM STANFORD LE HOPE Recent additions to the fleet are K200 CCC a Volvo/Van Hool and K300 CCC a Caetano minicoach.

DAY HARLOW A Mercedes minicoach E194 JGM has been acquired, it replaces similar C538 LFW.

DISTRICT BUS Revised timetables were introduced on the majority of Basildon commercial services from 5.4.93.

DON DUNMOW Acquired during 1992 were HDX 907N an ex Ipswich Atlantean and B515 CBD a Tiger/Jonckhree. Rebodyed Volvo B188 XJD has been sold.

ESSEX THAMESIDE CANVEY Are now operating D419 VHJ an all Ford Transit.

FARGO RAYNE The following Mercedes 0303/Jonckhree have been acquired UJN 487/8Y (now RIB 8030/1) and 248 CNP. Volvo/Jonckhree A338 YDT has been sold.

FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE Continues to expand with XNK 203X a Ford/Plaxton bus and VTW 35W a Volkswagen minibus.

FORD ALTHORNE Acquired in late 1992 was LJI 477 a Bedford YRT with Willowbrook Warrior bodywork. It was due to enter service in April. Also now owned is 238 JUO (ex 959 AYK and A389 NNK) a Royal Tiger/Van Hool. Bedfords KMC 673P and RYL 730R have been sold.

FREELANCE CANVEY Acquired in 1992 was SPU 443W a Ford/Plaxton with a lift fitted. The fleet is now based at Southend Airport.

FUNSTON CHRISHALL Acquired are D988 JYG a VW/Optare minibus ex Marino, Harlow and BGY 587T an AEC Reliance/Plaxton ex Robilliard Harlow.

GODWARD Further to EBN 343 HIL 8131 was new as A217 YAB and came via Lee-Roy Brentwood. Ford/Duple NLP 60V was sold in 1991. Service 44 was withdrawn from 12.4.93.

GRAHAMS KELVEDON Also owned is F652 OHD a DAF/Duple sister to F651 OHD. Vehicles sold are GIL 3276 a Volvo/Plaxton and F164 SMT a Leyland Swift.

GREENHAM BASILDON Acquired in early 1992 was Scania/Plaxton D516 SWE.

HARRIS WEST THURROCK BUF 425C has been re-painted into fleet livery. Talbot TBP J178 MNX was on loan for two weeks during March. Also on loan is Eastbourne Buses 47 covering for Scania F312 PEV, which has rear end accident damage. DAF coach E95 EVW has been re-registered 7968 FH.

KB COACHES WICKFORD Ford/Plaxton LVS 229P has been sold to Ridgeon, Stanford le Hope.

KINGS STANWAY Have sold KTW 796V a Ford/Plaxton.

LEE-ROY BRENTWOOD Have re-registered NJF 671P to HIL 8132.

LODGE HIGH EASTER Tiger/Van Hool C396 DML has been acquired.

M&E SHOEBOURNE Leyland Tiger/Berkhof HOI 7624 was acquired in

April 1992. This replaced BSG 551W which passed to S&P Southend.  
MARINO HARLOW Acquired are ULS 646T a Leopard/Duple and VNK 787N a Bedford YRT/Plaxton. The latter may well have been sold.  
PRIORY LAINDON Disposals during 1992 were FLJ 745V and A500 NWC both Fords and D527 NDA a Freight Rover. Out of use is Bedford YRT ADC 91A. Added to the fleet is E417 MOU a ?/Caetano. Former Cambus Transit/Dormobile C626 MEG has also joined the fleet.  
RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS Have sold Freight Rover minibus C269 GOF to Massey, Laindon a new operator. Also sold is F372 MUT a Dennis Javelin/Duple.  
RONDA COACHES SOUTHEND UGM 750Y a Ford Transit has joined the fleet.  
RUFFLE CASTLE HEDINGHAM Leyland Cub OWJ 460X has been sold.  
S&M HADLEIGH Yet another DMS has been acquired GHV 43N.  
S&P SOUTHEND Two vehicles of differing performance have been acquired, AAL 521A a Bedford YMT ex APT Rayleigh and STT 621X a MAN SR280.  
SIMIEN RAYLEIGH Further to EBN 347 FIL 6278 is a Leyland Tiger ex BJS Gt Wakering.  
STANS GT. TOTHAM Have sold MAH 999P a Bedford/Duple to BJS Gt. Wakering. A Bova Futura acquired is KSU 477 this was soon re-registered PJI 5644.  
SUPREME Two new vehicles not previously reported are J2/3 SUP both of which are full EOS coaches. A further Scania/Jonckhree to join the fleet is F909 YNV which has been re-registered HSK845. K6 SUP is a recent addition this has Jonckhree bodywork on an unknown chassis.  
 Also re-registered is F918 YNV now HSK 843.  
 Volvo/Berkhof NSU 182 has been sold to Taylor, Hadleigh, while LHS 188V a Volvo B58 has been sold to a Manchester firm.  
VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN Have acquired Bova 597 AXF.  
WICKS BRAINTREE Have acquired YAJ 503Y a Bedford YMP/Plaxton.  
WIFFEN FINCHINGFIELD Recent additions are D217 XPK a LAG ex C&M Laindon and F863 TNH a Toyota midicauch.  
WINDMILL COPFORD A Mercedes minicoach THE 383Y has joined the fleet. Ford/Duple KPP 622V was sold after a short stay. Bedford YRQ XGV 685V has passed to TDT, Kelvedon for driver training.

To try and avoid confusion among members, who only take a passing interest in smaller operators, it is now intended to give the trading name and base of these operators.  
 Many thanks to the PSV Circle for much of the above information, which has been published by them since January 1993.

#### NON PSVS IN ESSEX

UOD 433J last with Bender School of Motoring was noted in a yard at Rawreth Industrial Estate on 6.3.93. which is used by Carter, Convoy Commercials and Star Groundwork.