

EDITORIALGroup Administration

As mentioned last month will members please not send any orders for photographs and publications until after the dispatch of the March news sheet. This is to enable the new Group administration to be organised. A circular giving details of the new administration and officers will be circulated with the March news sheet.

News Sheet Editorship

A message from Alan Osborne :

This is my last news sheet, written incidentally on my birthday ! I hope you have all enjoyed reading my 179 manuscripts and will also find the efforts of our new editor equally informative.

A message from Derek Stebbing :

Firstly I would like to thank Alan Osborne for his efforts in the regular production of the news sheets over the past 15 years. I hope to use much the same format with some new innovations which will be introduced later. As this is a new venture for me, there may be some inconsistencies in my first issues, and your forbearance would therefore be appreciated. Notes for next months news sheet should be sent to me by March 21 at :

D. A. Stebbing Esq., "Hillsborough", 80, Maldon Road, Great Baddow,
CHELMSFORD, Essex. CM2 7DJ.

Southend Meeting, February 14

Owing to the arctic weather conditions the above meeting had to be cancelled at the last minute. We would like to apologise to members for any inconvenience caused. In the event of extreme weather (or of industrial disputes) confirmation that meetings will occur may be obtained from the Events Secretary, Richard Delahoy on Southend 42894. The talk scheduled for this meeting has been postponed until May.

Chelmsford Meeting, Wednesday, March 14

At the Civic Centre (Committee Room 3), Duke Street, Chelmsford at 1930 for 2000. Richard Delahoy will present an illustrated talk on 'Southend Transport Fires'. The Civic Centre is adjacent to the Bus Station and is two minutes walk from the Rail Station.

Suffolk Coach Tour, Sunday, April 22

This tour will include a visit to Ipswich Transport garages at Constantine Road and Priory Heath with transport between the depots provided by an A.E.C. Regent V double decker. A booking form for the tour will be circulated with the March news sheet, in the meantime keep the date free.

Tour to British Coach Rally, Saturday April 21

This tour is being organised by two Group members to the above rally at Brighton. Participants will be able to study the Saturday operations of Southdown and Brighton Transport as well as the rally. The tour will use one of Southend Transport's 1965 Leyland PD3/6 double deckers (which are expected to be withdrawn in 1979), and will depart from Southend at 0900 (additional pick ups by prior arrangement), the fare is £2, £1.50 for under 18's. Please contact either Lyn Watson, 6, Roedean Close, Southchurch, SOUTHEND-on-SEA, Essex SS2 4TH, or Richard Delahoy. (Southend 42894)
This tour is privately organised and its success will depend upon the support received, if successful further tours may be organised.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.New Vehicles

1212	BN0698T	Bedford YMT	HW451556	Duple	918/2752	C53F
1214	BN0700T	Bedford YMT	HW451497	Duple	918/2751	C53F
1215	BN0701T	Bedford YMT	HW451513	Duple	918/2754	C53F
1216	BN0702T	Bedford YMT	HW451543	Duple	918/2753	C53F

1896	DAR118T	Leyland National 11351A/1R	05921	Leyland National	B49F
1897	DAR119T	Leyland National 11351A/1R	05922	Leyland National	B49F
1898	DAR120T	Leyland National 11351A/1R	05923	Leyland National	B49F
1899	DAR121T	Leyland National 11351A/1R	05924	Leyland National	B49F
1900	DAR122T	Leyland National 11351A/1R	05925	Leyland National	B49F

Delivery dates : 1212 - 2.79 1216 - 2.79 1898 - 2.79
 1214 - 2.79 1896 - 2.79 1899 - 2.79
 1215 - 2.79 1897 - 2.79 1900 - 2.79

Note that the chassis number of 1212 (BN0698T) differs from that previously notified as HW450556 (see NS176). This vehicle has retained its designated fleetnumber and is therefor out of chassis number order sequence.

1896-1900 (DAR118-22T) were delivered with white bands already painted on. This is a change in Leyland National policy. The Leyland Nationals are the first class of saloons to use a third centennium of fleetnumbers (1700, 1800, 1900).

Withdrawn Vehicles

1.79 (Corrected date - see NS175) 2858 (OPU823D)

This vehicle has been transferred to the Driver Training fleet. (q.v.)

Re-built/Re-seated Vehicles

The conversion of Bristol FLF 2858 (OPU823D) to a Driver Training vehicle is now complete and the vehicle entered service in February.

Conversion of 2861 (RHK346D) to 9010 is well advanced and entry into service is anticipated during March.

Conversion of 2863 (RHK348D) to open-top is now complete, apart from the fitment of handrails. The conversion of 2850 (NTW943C) has commenced at Prittlewell.

Allocations & Transfers

2.79 1875-SD, 1893-SD, 1894-SD, 1895-SD, 2749-D/L(D), 2807-BN, 2848-D/L, 2850-D/L, 2859-D/L, 2896-D/L, 3012-D/L.

Allocations of D/L(D) vehicles by personal observation :

PL - 1423/47, 2379, 2749, 2801/10/20/55, 2941.

MN - 1434/8/45/6/9, 2761/70.

Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

48 Certain journeys to operate via Dukes Park Estate, Springfield.

The following revisions to services have recently been introduced on the dates shown, details will be found in the appropriate news sheets specified :

3.12.78 236 (NS175)
 255 - additional journeys introduced to provide shopping facility from Little Burstead to Billericay. All journeys re-routed via Tye Common Road and London Road.

4.12.78 337 (NS177)

8.1.79 334 - Journey to Braintree (St. Francis Catholic School) withdrawn and replaced by facility on service 321.

29.1.79 48 - (NS178 & NS179)
 232 (NS171), 251 (NS171), 327 (NS178), 344 (NS178).

Service Vehicles

9009 (OPU823D) entered service in February (Correction to NS175). The Driver Training fleet is to consist of 1 saloon and 7 double deckers, at present an extra double decker is being used.

Allocations & Transfers 2.79 .. : 9009-SD.

General

Bristol FLF 2753 (JWC 713) of 1962 has recently gained a three year Certificate of Fitness. (C. of F.)

Bristol VRT 3053 (LJN648P) has entered Prittlewell Works for repainting into fleet livery, it was previously in overall advertising livery for Phillips Ltd. Prior to entering the works the vehicle was noted to stray away from service 400 and operated on a number of local services including 4B, 17, 25 and 25A.

Leyland National 1892 (BN0682T) has been fitted with experimental ticket issuing equipment and was in use at Maldon in mid-February, it is due to move to Hadleigh later. Further details to follow.

Bedford YMT 1208 (BN0694T) worked on National Travel service 355 from Harwich to Sheffield and return on 31 January and 1 February in place of failed National Travel (East) Leyland Leopard OKY 59R which was repaired at Harwich, but suffered flood damage at Stowmarket on the return journey on 2 February.

Several unusual workings have occurred on service 400 recently with Bristol FLF's, Leyland Nationals and Bristol RELL 1508 (EPU189G) being observed. Service 251 has also attracted a number of strangers recently in the shape of a crew operated Bristol VRT and a Leyland National saloon.

Revised fares have been applied for to co-ordinate with London Country Bus Services Ltd. over common sections of the following services :

2, 32/A, 46/A, 47, 49/A, 59/A, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 260, 261, 267, 269, 308, 402.

(The sections of services 26, 151 and 251 which parallel London Country routes are co-ordinated with London Transport Executive fares. - ed.)

Revised fares have also been applied for on express services (some of which have not yet been operated by Eastern National). The revised fares are to achieve an overall increase of 7½%, with no individual fare increased by more than 15% except where necessary to co-ordinate with other operators. Premium return fares are to apply on Summer Saturday day services.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles on Hire

323 ETO456C Leyland PDR1/2 L40531 Met.-Camm. H45/27D new 1965

The notes concerning the vehicles hired from Reading Transport require some clarification. It was intended that only two such vehicles be hired, but owing to the mechanical problems encountered (see NS178) more vehicles became involved.

General

Noted at Tickfield Road works recently was Albion Lowlander 328 (7092 HJ), especially repainted for its new owners, a shop called "La Cicogna" of Kensington High Street, London.

Further ex. London Transport A.E.C. Swifts noted at the works recently were :

SMD 73 (AML 73H), 431/46/7 (EGN 431J etc.) ; SMS 795 (JGF795K)

Also at the works was former SMD 441 (EGN441J) (see NS178) which has been repainted red by Southend Transport and lettered 'London Transport Recruitment Vehicle'.

Two other strangers at the works (reasons uncertain) are London Transport Daimler Fleetline DMS 316 (JGF316K) and a test-rig Metropolitan in grey primer livery.

INDEPENDENTS

Osborne, Tollesbury

The ex. Eastern National Bristol FLF acquired recently is 2800 (BVX676B) which is numbered 2. (see also NS178)

EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS - Held over due to lack of space.