



RIVALS CALL HALT OVER BUS BATTLE

A truce has been called in the Colchester bus war. Both CBT and EN are to carve the town up between them, although they deny a deal has been struck. It is believed from April 25th the sight of rival buses fighting for passengers on the same route will end.

CBT's Raymond Giles said we are both looking at consolidating the routes we have, on some very heavily used there will be quicker frequencies. We are looking at going on in a way which will most assist the public and for future revenue. Robin Orbell of EN said that the changes followed a six month review which showed competition meant some routes could not be viable.

Evening Gazette Friday 11th March 1994

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ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

EDITORIAL

Mark Howorth, formerly of Southend Transport who joined the Badgerline Group at Brewers has been appointed Managing Director of fellow Badgerline company Western National. The Group would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for all his cooperation with the Group and to congratulate him on this appointment.

ROCHFORD MEETING

With reference to EBN 358 please note the April meeting will be held at The Freight House Rochford and not as stated at Ferndale Rd. Rayleigh. This will be an open slide evening, and members are invited to bring a selection of slides along.

VACANCY FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Following the resignation of Bob Palmer, his duties of Treasurer have been assumed by Alan Osborne. Consequently there is a vacancy for a committee member. No specific duties are yet decided, these will be dependant upon the particular attributes of the selected applicant. If you would like to become a committee member and can help the Group, then please apply. If you have any special talents that would be of interest then let us know. Applications should be sent The Chairman Alan Osborne 7 Farley Drive Seven Kings Ilford Essex IG3 8LT.

ANDY MEADOWS COLUMN.

The Mayday Bristol RE Tour- a booking form for this is enclosed- book your seat now to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 18th June- plans for a long day tour to Bournemouth on this day are still at an early stage, but make a note of the date, JUNE 18th.

Last month's major news item was the intention of Essex County Council to support the purchase of ten Dennis SLF ultra low floor buses. The low floor bus is clearly the way ahead for the urban operation, and Essex County Council are to be commended for their initiative and far-sightedness in setting up this project.

The low floor bus provides travel opportunities for all of the community, the design means that millions more potential passengers can use buses with ease and speed regardless of the fact that you may be laden with shopping trolleys and baby buggies, they may be elderly and infirm and also those with physical problems and wheelchair users.

I hope that many operators will see the benefits of the low floor bus and look forward to seeing them across the country. am

BADGERLINE GROUP NEWS

Executive chairman of the Badgerline Group Trevor Smallwood, has been appointed president of the Bus and Coach Council for 1994. This presidency will last for twelve months and Trevor Smallwood replaces SYT's Paul Sephton who has held the post for the last year.

In a deal worth £23million, Butler Woodhouse (owners of Stoke based PMT) has been acquired by the Badgerline Group. This major acquisition involves 500 vehicles and gives the Group a footholding in North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

SUMMER EVENING VISITS.

The Omnibus Society invites Group members to visit Southend Transport on June 21st at 19-00hrs, meet outside in London Rd.

The Group has arranged a visit to Harris Bus at West Thurrock on July 5th at 19-00hrs.

Acknowledgements for this issue. Essex County Council, Thamesway, Eastern National, Colchester B.T.. County Bus & Coach. R Delahoy. P Harvey .

G Toon. R Dennis. M Weyall. P Ford. M Evans. I Burton.

Closing date for reports for EBN 360 is April 14th.



CARTERS COACH SERVICES BRISTOL VRT UNW 928R PARKED HERE AT COLCHESTER BUS STATION AFTER OPERATING SERVICE 750 FROM BRANTHAM.

photo on front cover

WESSEX OF BRISTOL VOLVO/PLAXTON 141 H69 PDW ON NATIONAL EXPRESS SERVICE 084 TO LONDON.

EASTERN NATIONAL

EASTERN NATIONAL

a NATIONAL bus company



SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS

335	(282 NHK)	Twell (breaker), Ingham, by 1/78, ex. Smith, Ingham. (additional information to NS172)
382	(VYO 769)	as 382
1340	(2730 VX)	It is confirmed that this vehicle passed directly from Woodcock, Redditch to Duce, Southampton. Vehicle was removed from BaMMoT in 1992 for storage elsewhere. (this may be the source of the previous confusion)(clarification of EBN357)
1404	(1252 EV)	Dolan (for preservation), Crook, 8/93, via Parton & Allen (dealer), Carlton, 6/93, ex. Phillips, Shiptonthorpe, 6/93. (additional information to EBN357)
1501	(PJT256R)	Thamesway, 1709, ex Brewer, Port Talbot, 709, 1/94. Previously on loan from 12/93. Operating in overall white livery.
1527	(LPU452J)	Now reported as passing from United Provincial to Milton Keynes City Bus, 2/92. (This is thought to be in error, since vehicle was operated by associated operator Johnson, Hanslope. However, was there a paper transfer via the above ?)
1602	(B459WHJ)	Golder, Collier Row, 10/93, ex Specht, London E.7.
1659	(KCG617L)	Withdrawn by Powney, Aintree, by 7/91, probably broken up on premises.
1709	(WNO558L)	Was numbered 532 by East Midland Motor Services, Chesterfield (correction to EBN330). Withdrawn 12/93, and to Lister (dealer), Bolton, 12/93.
1721	(NEV678M)	Beeston, Long Melford was re-named Constable Coaches, Long Melford, by 9/92. Hence initial owner requires amendment. (see also EBN350)
1732	(HWC 83N) (PJI4084)	as 1721, EBN reference 346.
1739	(GJN999N)	Now thought to have been withdrawn by Powney, Aintree, by 6/91, and hence may <u>not</u> have passed to City Fleet. (see also EBN333)
1755	(LJN663P)	City Bus Lines, Birmingham, 12/93, ex Sovereign Bus & Coach, LN663.
1818	(VNO741S)	Repainted into allover advertising livery (dark yellow/orange) for Healeys Tools, by Sovereign Bus & Coach, by 12/93.
1856	(YEV314S)	Front end transferred to 1834 (VAR894S), remains to Hardwick (breaker), Carlton, for scrap, 11/93.
1883	(BNO673T)	Hardwick (breaker), Carlton, by 10/93, ex Crown, Bristol.
9005	(OWC295K)	Stripped for spares at Brentwood garage of Thamesway, 11/93.

VEHICLES



THAMESWAY
Your Local Bus Way

C963 GCV Mercedes L608D, Reeve Burgess DP19F
G978 GCV Mercedes L608D, PMT B20F

Acquired from Western National (117 and 127) in 2.94, noted at BD on 27.2.94.

JYV 961W Austin FX4 taxicab
Noted at BD working crew transfer work.

Mercedes D764 KWT has yet to be numbered.
Ford Transit 702 (C445 BHY) also noted at BD on 27.2.94 in white livery
whilst 711 (B444 WTC) remains in service.

SERVICES

Brentwood are revisions effective 7th March.

- 70-78 Brentwood town services completely revised to operate:-
71 Stondon Massey - Brentwood Station
72 Stondon Massey - Warley
73 Bishops Hall Estate - Warley
74 Bishops Hall Estate - Warley
79/A NEW SERVICES Bishops Hall Estate and Shenfield Station circular
80 Revised route and timetable between Woodman Road and Shenfield
81/2 Revised timetable Brentwood and Hutton circular
251 To operate a slightly revised timetable between Basildon
and Walthamstow (routeing also revised)
350/1 To operate a slightly revised timetable between Chelmsford and
Romford
551 To operate a slightly revised route and timetable between
Brentwood and Walthamstow

Southend area revisions effective 20th March.

- 2 Revised timetable daily between Southend and Walthamstow
3/A/C Revised timetable daily with the introduction of a revised
evening routeing in Southend to operate as route 3B
11 To operate a slightly revised M-F timetable between Southend
and Chelmsford
15 Revised timetable
20/A/C to operate a slightly revised timetable daily between Hullbridge
and Shoeburyness
24/A To operate a revised timetable weekdays with the introduction
of new service 24B via Grand Parade, Leigh between Hadleigh and
Southchurch
26/A/B To operate a revised timetable M-F between Canvey and Rawreth
27/A To operate a slightly revised timetable M-F between Canvey and
Shoeburyness
29B Revised weekday timetable between Southend and Southchurch
250 To operate a slightly revised timetable with route diversions
at school times between Southend and Basildon

Contract effective 28th March

- 211/3 Withdrawn with operation being transferred to County (Townlink)

Vehicles

A further batch of Mercedes minibuses are being acquired from Western National, as replacements for the ex Badgerline Ford Transits. At the time of going to press C107 HGL and D534 KGL has arrived at Clacton for work prior to entering service.

Bristol VR 3070 has been withdrawn, following accident damage. It was stolen from Chelmsford depot on the night of February 4th (see EBN 358/22). To replace it a VR is to be acquired from Bristol Cityline and this is expected to go to Colchester depot, which in turn will release a 'home grown' VR to Chelmsford.

Services

- 19 From 27.3.94. the Sunday service will pass to Hedinghams.
- 20 From 14.3.94. a revised route and timetable was introduced.
- 21/A Slight timetable revision introduced from 7.3.94.
- 22A/B As service 20.
- 23 Withdrawn after 12.3.94. and part replaced by services 22, 22A and 22B
- 26 Service withdrawn after 4.3.94.
- 27 As service 26.
- 33 From 7.3.94. the 1545 ex Chelmsford was revised to operate 5 minutes later.
- 34 As service 21/A.
- 37 As service 21/A.
- 41A Slight revisions to evening timetable introduced from 7.3.94.
- 133 As service 21/A.
- 314 From 9.3.94. extended to and from Dunmow Post Office.
- 325 After 23.3.94. the Wednesday service passes to Hedinghams.

Repaints

2/94 1130 4011

Leyland Tiger 1130 has been re-painted in a style similar to that carried by the Alexander bodied Tigers. It was previously in Highwayman livery, which is still carried by 1128 and 1129.

The overall advert carried by 1909 for Sears Finesse Windows has now been amended to Chelmsford Patio Door & Window Co. Ltd.

Leyland Olympians are in the following schemes:-

4013/4/7 4501/3/10/11 are in the old dp livery.

4007/8/12/18/20 are in the later (more yellow) version of the old livery.

4011/15/16/19/21 are in the new livery.

Manual blinds have been fitted to 4011-19, 4021, 4501/3/12.

General

A new plan for Chelmsford Bus station has been submitted and is expected to receive the go ahead from planners. The joint British Rail and Hambro plan will see the viaducts converted for use as shops, information centre and staff offices. The existing Viaduct Road will disappear and will be replaced by a new bus station. The existing EN garage will be replaced by an office and shopping complex.

A further fares increase was introduced from 6.3.94. Fares of between 48p and £1 were increased by a maximum of 5p. Good news is that Essex Day Rangers remain priced £4.50 and are now available at all times from drivers. Two children aged under 5 are now able to travel free with one adult.

Unusual Workings

18.2.94. HN 1939 on service 88.

The spare Dennis Dart at Colchester covers a number of services when available, for instance one was on the 119 on 17.2.(801), while 802 appeared on the same service on 1.3.94.

To correct EBN 358/5 CR 3091 was in fact on a CR duty.

HEDINGHAM

Services

20 From 30.3.94. this becomes a commercial operation.

21 After 24.3.94. there may be a change of operator.

22 As service 21.

23 After 24.3.94. there will be a slight timetable alteration and the operator may change.

700 Service withdrawn WEF 4.4.94.

OTHER OPERATORS REST OF ESSEX

APT RAYLEIGH Volvo/Jonckhree K905 RGE has been acquired from Park, Hamilton and re-registered 827 APT.

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD A further Talbot for Easybus work is L469 DOA.

DISTRICT BUS Operation of services 44C and 56C will pass to a different operator from 27.3.94. Service 112 will be withdrawn after 25.3.94. Service 235 will pass to Harris Bus from 27.3.94

FARGO RAYNE To correct EBN 358/15, Q394 NPU should read Q394 MPU, also our cover shot shows Reeve Burgess bodywork. Can someone confirm the actual body carried?

HARRIS Recent additions are J51/2 GCX both are DAF/Ikarus B48F, ex Strathclyde C942/3. Leyland PD BUF 425C has been sold to Wallace Arnold, Torquay during February. Leyland Atlantean OCO 120S passed to AML, Hounslow during the same month. A Sherpa added to the fleet is L558 NOO. News from the coach fleet is that L93 OAR a Neoplan Skyliner CH54/16D was acquired in early March. Prior to this G851 NUP a Scania/Van Hool ex Armstrong Galley (G32 WTY and KSU 460) was on loan from Stuart Johnson for about two weeks.

C.G. MYALL A revised route and timetable will be introduced on service 41 from 4.3.94.

ORPHAN BASILDON Have acquired Ford/Plaxton VRU 204S from Ferrers Coaches.

NELSON WICKFORD BIL 7894 is now in Nelsons livery, thus ending the G&G fleetname and livery.

P&M COACHES WOODHAM Have acquired JBW 68Y a Volvo/Plaxton ex Motts, Stoke Mandeville.

PRIORY There will be a change of operator on service 380 from 28.3.94.

STEPHENSONS Revisions are to be made to services 3B, 7B, 22, 63B, 222 and 225 from WEF 1.4.94. Fleetline MBE 616R went on hire to ST from 1.2.94. as planned but became defective after the first day and has remained out of use since then at the ST depot. Two further Fleetlines have been acquired they are JTD 393/4P ex Capital Citybus, both being new to Southend Transport. They are not in use at the present time. Bristol VR CBV 17S remains on hire to St on Monday to Saturday following gearbox repairs, but is used by stephensons on Sunday. It still carries full ST livery including fleetnumbers.

Rail Replacement Services

On Sunday 13th February a rail replacement was operated in place of the 'Stansted Express' between Broxbourne and Stansted Airport. The service was operated from 0700 to 1800. Buses left Broxbourne at 27 and 57 minutes past the hour and arrived at Stansted Airport at 07 and 37 minutes past respectively. Buses left Stansted Airport at 00 and 30 minutes past the hour and arrived at Broxbourne at 40 and 10 minutes past respectively.

6 vehicles were in use. The registration numbers were as follows:

Sampsons	L501 MDD, E118 KFY
Airport Coaches	C128 PPE, C140 SPB (in Jetlink livery)
Biss Brothers	696 BTY, 125 LUP

Also on the 13th February a rail replacement service was operated between Broxbourne and Harlow Town between 0841 and 1841. Buses left Broxbourne at 41 minutes past and arrived at Harlow Town at 05 minutes past. Buses left Harlow Town at 04 minutes past and arrived at Broxbourne at 28 minutes past.

2 double decker buses were in use. The registration numbers were as follows:

SM Travel	RDC 103R
Stort Valley Coaches	THX 285S

A rail replacement service was also in place on the 13th February between Broxbourne and Hertford East between 0841 and 1841. Buses left Broxbourne at 41 minutes past and arrived at Hertford East at 09 minutes past. Buses left Hertford East at 00 minutes past and arrived at Broxbourne at 28 minutes past.

2 single decker buses were in use. The registration numbers were as follows:

SM Travel	ULS 646T
Horizonte Holidays	FIL 490T

FLEET

COUNTY BUS & COACH

New Vehicles on Order

MB 723-7 L723-7 PHK Iveco 59.12 Marshall B25F scheduled for 6.94 delivery
MBT 713-6, MB 717-22 and MBT 805 will be registered L713-22/805 OVI

Acquired Vehicles

B instead of the 10 Mercedes B11's being available from Capital Citybus, all eight will now be for Citibus Tours. An 'H' registered Volvo B10M/ Plaxton is due for the Sampson fleet and DSU 733 of the Biss fleet will be transferred to Sampson during the Spring replacing Volvo B58 530 MUY.

MB 754 D554 HNW Iveco 49.10 Robin Hood B21F 1986
entered service with County Bus, 3/94

Vehicles On Hire

29/46/57 E329/46 SHW, E457 TY6 Iveco 49.10 Robin Hood B23F 1988
arrived on hire from Citibus Tours 30/1 (46/57) and 19/2 and will be kept until deliveries of the new Iveco 59.10/ Marshall minibuses are completed.
(MB 708/9) have been on hire to Citibus from 30/1 but are due back by the end of February)

Allocation Changes for 1 March 1994

MB 754	Acquired to Harlow	Cit 46	Citibus to Harlow
Cit 29	Citibus to Harlow	Cit 57	Citibus to Harlow

Vehicle Modified

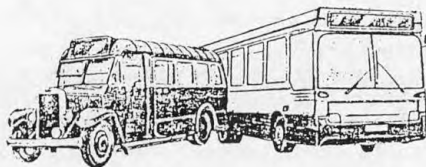
TPL 518 E118 KVF Tiger/ Plaxton was re-engined with a Volvo unit 2/94

SERVICES

25 March 857/858 Last day of operation.

26 March 510 NEW SERVICE Collier Row to Lakeside Regional Shopping Centre from Mavney Road, Marlborough via Mavney Road, White Hart Lane, Collier Row Road, Chase Cross Road, Lower Bedford Road, Straight Road, Faringdon Avenue, Gooshays Drive, Dagnam Park Drive, Leamington Road, Petersfield Avenue, A12 and M25. Monday to Saturday hourly - '3.2' agreement in London.

517 Following consultation, the Enfield terminus will be Cecil Road and the route through Bush Hill Park on all journeys will be Ponders End High Street, Lincoln Road, Great Cambridge Road, Trinity Avenue, First Avenue, Park Avenue, Wellington Road, Lincoln Road, London Road, Cecil Road. Iveco 59.12 minibuses will be used.



808		Minor timetable adjustments.
810		NEW SERVICE Harlow Bus Station Circular via First Avenue, Howard Way, Edinburgh Way, Tesco Superstore, Edinburgh Way, Old Harlow Station Road, A414, Edinburgh Way, Tesco Superstore, Edinburgh Way, Howard Way, First Avenue, Bus Station. Half-hourly NSu (NSSu - off peak only)
811		Minor timetable adjustments.
815		NEW SERVICE Harlow Bus Station Circular via Western section of current service 857/858. Hourly NSu (NSSu - off peak only)
817/818		NEW SERVICE Harlow Bus Station Circular (817 clockwise, 818 anti-clockwise) via First Avenue, Dovehouse Croft, Mowbray Road, The Lawn, Muskhams Road, First Avenue, Old Harlow, A414, Church Langley, Second Avenue, Bus Station. Both hourly NSSu off-peak.
29 March	386	Minor timetable adjustments on commercial journeys.
22 July	300	Last day of operation.
1 August	501	1810 NSSu Lakeside to Harlow retired to 1820 and re-routed in Brentwood via Rail Station.

GENERAL

Airport Coaches Limited

6995 VEU Ford Transit of 1989 with a 1994 Zodiac C14FL conversion was acquired 2/94 and is now in the new livery. D548 CVN which was uprated to M11 was sold 2/94. UCY 629 was repainted into the new livery 2/94.

Biss Brothers Travel Limited

Further to EBN 358 this new Lynton subsidiary from the acquisition of the bus and coach business of RD and C R Biss of Spellbrook on 31 January. Business will be 'very much as usual' and for the time being the operation remains based at the Biss Group Mercedes dealership at Spellbrook, Bishops Stortford.

Southend Transport

Vehicles.

ON 446 (F246 MTW) Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ Leyland DPH 43/29F.

Has arrived from Colchester in the new X1 livery, but at present does not carry S.T. fleetnames or London coachlink lettering.

It has standard roller blinds fitted, unlike 447.

ON 448 has returned to Colchester, but 447 is still in service in C.B.T. Coachways livery at present.

LN 714 (NPK 241R) is being prepared for a return to service here.

On Hire.

FL 116 (MBE 616R) was used in service on Feb 1st on route 9, but then became defective and has not been used since. However it remains stored at the back of the depot.

Stephensons VR (CBV17S) ex S.T 306 is expected to return on hire on Monday to Saturdays shortly, after gearbox repairs. It will return to Stephensons on Sundays, for use on their E.C.C contract routes.

Routemasters.

RM 102 (VLT 172) has been re-registered WYJ 857.
RM 115 (WLT 378) has passed to Ways Travel, Boreham, Chelmsford.
RM 116 (543 CLT) has passed to the Routemaster Heritage Trust, Twickenham. (update on EBN 358)

Only 9 RM,s remain in store at London Road Depot, 102,103,105,106,107,110,118,120 & 122. These are all due to be removed shortly.

P.D 3s

PD 334 (CJN 434C) remains under repair, following accident damage sustained late last year, to the rear offside corner.
PD 336 (CJN 436C) "Lulu" is still stored out of use at Tickfield Ave. works, following engine failure.
PD 339 (CJN 439C) latterly with the Centre for Transport, at Whalley, Clitheroe, Lancs. was reported to be for sale at £2000 + vat. (enquiries to 0254 823921.)

Subsequent Disposals.

FL 352 (WJN 352J) has passed to P.M.T with the acquisition of Pennine Blue by P.M.T
FL 213 /214 (JTD 393P/394P) have passed to Stephensons, Rochford. as non runners. (2/94) ex Capital Citybus.

Services.

S.T were involved in Rail Replacement work on Mon 31st Jan between Southend Victoria & Wickford and a Southend Central & Rochford shuttle. Also involved were Harris Bus, Stephensons, who hired in A.P.T, B.J.S, Reliance and Simien.

General.

S.T have set up a User Group, to enable passengers to put forward their views on the companys operations. The first meeting was held on March 5th, under the Chairmanship of Mr R. Delahoy.

Other News.

It is reported that 4 low floor Dennis Lance SLF/Wright buses are on order, supported by Essex County Council. Further news awaited with interest ?..

NEW

671 - 680 L671 RMD Volvo B6 Alexander 'Dash' B31F+10
 new 2/3-94, allocated to NP for route 236.
 chassis nos- 676 = 5296 679 = 5307.

ACQUIRED

748 B358 LOY Leyland National 2-NL116L11/3R -07781 -B48F
 749 B359 LOY " " " 07782 "
 New to British Airways in 9/84 as BU 394/5, as B33T, with dual doors
 nearside and center door offside, converted to B48F before entering
 service. 748 -first day in service Mon 14 Feb, 749 - Friday March 4th.

HIRES

Ipswich 208 returned to Suffolk by Jan 15th.
 On Wed February 22nd Ipswich 101 returned home and was replaced by
 103 YDX 103Y Dennis Falcon SDA408/127 - East Lancs B44D -1983
 body no A3604

254 returned off hire to London Suburban Bus on Wed March 2nd
 and was in service the next day- 261 returned from LSB on Friday
 March 4th.

DISPOSALS

603/7/9 (J603 HMF) - Citibus TOURs, Chadderton, nos 3,7,9, 2/94
 571 (BLS 671V) broken up in DM yard, Mon/tues Feb 28/March 1st
 593/4 (JTD 393/4P) removed from DM yard to unknown destination,
 Monday 28 Feb.

SERVICES

236 -Friday 04 Feb- start of gradual conversion to Volvo B6 opn.
 246- Additional journeys from 21 FEB 94, 07.55 Harold Hill to
 Cranham, 15.45 Cranham to Harold Hill.

REPAINTS

121/5/6 (G-121YEV) - all 8 of the 121-128 Olympians are now yellow.

GENERAL

On Sunday 13 Feb Romford area locals were run by the following due to
 cleaning requirements : the use of MkI Metrobuses in service on
 a Sunday is very rare. 165= 178,179,275 248= 159,160/1/8
 252 = 170,279,298. 365 = 276, 278, 297

on 04 March highbridge Metrobus 282 ran the 11.04 ex Romford on
 the 348. A secondhand 14 seat crewbus has been purchased to ferry
 drivers from DM to various changeover points, it is registered
 F359 PPU and is numbered 859- first day in use was Mon 21 FEB. Can
 anyone give any details of this vehicles history ?

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

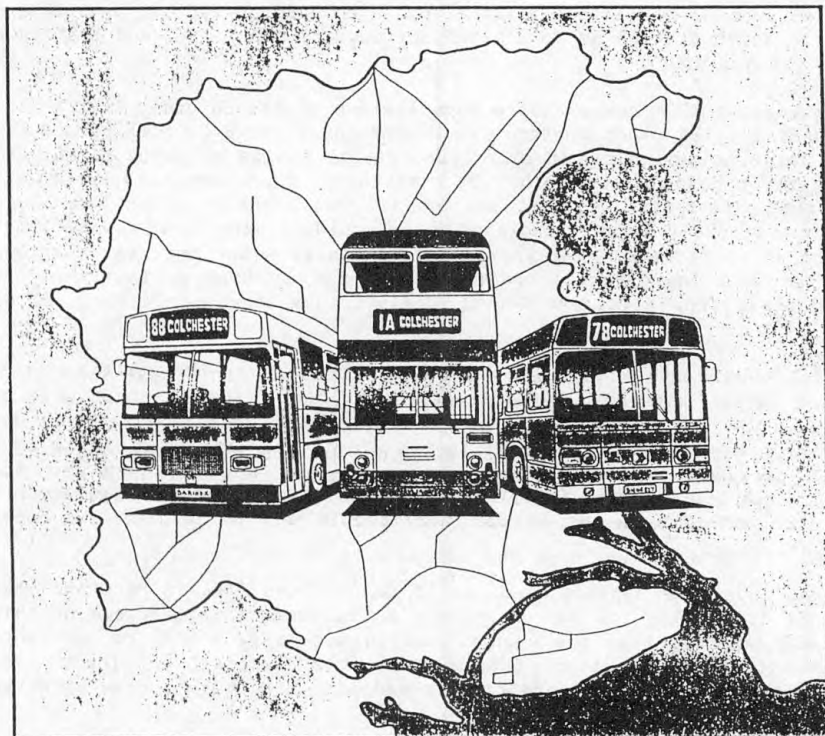
The fourth Leyland National 2 to be transferred from Midland Fox was formerly their no 3810, which will be CBT no 10. EON829V will be no 19 in the CBT fleet. The first National, no 21, entered service on 28.2.94.

Lynxes 31 and 32 were transferred to Crosville Wales on 25.2.94 and 4.3.94.

Olympian 46 was transferred to Southend Transport on 25.2.94, and 48 made the opposite journey the same day. It has been used sparingly by CBT because it is still in Southend Transport livery.

The two Tigers, 103 and 104, are being retained for the time being for use on private hire. The only other vehicle with coach seats now is Olympian 45.

The new Manager/Engineer in charge of the company is Ray Giles, who was Engineering Manager in the old regime.



NORTH ESSEX NOTES

Eastern National appeared to be suffering from a shortage of Minis during the last week in February with VR, LN and a Tiger all making appearances on Services 64/A. Service 73 has seen ON, VR, LN, and MD types but now appears to be preferred work for a Transit. The supervisors shed at CR has been moved closer to the canteen to make space for a portable building which since October had been situated inside the EN garage to provide facilities for the additional staff.

February 11th 1994: The Essex County Standard (ECS) reports that CBT are offering a £250 reward for information leading to conviction of the person who attacked a driver at the end of January. On the Neighbourhood News pages the Essex University column states that following discussions between the Students Union and Eastern National a new evening bus service, starting at 6pm, was operating between the University and the residential blocks on Greenstead. It is not clear if this item refers to the 73 or another new service.

Readers are well aware of the "expertise" shown by journalists when reporting transport related items, the following appearing in the ECS refers to the closure of Colchester Town for a week. "The bus companies will allow holders of valid rail tickets to ride up until 9pm, when the station would normally close. There are buses all day at intervals of less than ten minutes from Head Street to North Station, while buses leave St Botolph's Corner for the Hythe at slightly longer intervals. Commuters heading for the Hythe from St Botolphs can catch CBT 4 or 4A or Eastern National 64. From Head Street CBT 2, 5, 7 and 8 buses go to North Station as do Eastern National 67 67A 74, 77 and 178". How many errors can you spot?

The Evening Gazette (EG) has a double page feature on the Saturday Park & Ride service operated by EN under contract to Colchester Borough Council from North Station. A large colour photo of 3127 appears with a line of eight passengers all holding their hands out; the bus is stationary, doors open and no driver! Comments from passengers who had waited for the double decker that was skippered by a friendly driver included: "we wouldn't park in town...cars get pinched from multi storeys". The North Station overflow car park is notorious for car crime. The logic behind the use of service by some is baffling, one couple had driven from Eight Ash Green, hadn't they heard of Services 82 or 88.

February 17th 1994: *Car Drivers Hop On A Bus* is the EG front page head line. Both CBT and EN say passenger numbers are rising. Robin Orbell of EN said he was encouraged by the number of people who tried and then continued to use their services, more than he had anticipated. Some passengers were making more journeys but more people were leaving their car at home which was good news for congestion in the town centre. Graham Turner of CBT said passenger figures were up by 15 to 20 per cent, he was pleased more people were using buses and hoped it would continue.

February 18th 1994: The appearance of an ON on Services 4/4A is rare and when it happens it is usually one of 41 - 44, but 49 made an appearance on this date. The ECS reported that the council was to make a £20m bid for Government aid to ease traffic congestion. One option was a new rail station at the University linked into a park and ride scheme with a similar scheme at Marks

Tey. The paper also reported that the remaining council owned bus shelters, apart from those in the Bus Station, would be replaced by J C Decaux following the signing of a new contract.

February 22nd. A letter to the EG wonders if the environmentalists who had welcomed last weeks news of increased bus usage had ever travelled behind a CBT or EN bus as a fair number emitted considerable quantities of black smoke when pulling away. Were they badly maintained, badly designed or both he asked?

February 23rd 1994: The EG reports that the Council is considering bus lanes for East Hill and Madgdaalen Street.

February 25th 1994: CN231 noted leaving Colchester Bus Station on depot duties, a large sheet of board the only "passenger". HN1932 on Service 81.

March 1st 1994: A new month opens and customers can be excused for thinking that more operators are competing on town services when Cityline RHW201V appears on Services 67/A while CR1921 is on Service 69. The first sighting of 21 is made, being noted on Service 5.

March 2nd 1994: The additional evening peak journeys on Service 4 are in the hands of 103 (using the Wayfarer from 104), still in Coachways colours.

March 3rd 1994: Another surprise on the Service 4 peak journeys, your correspondent is not sure how to report this working, Southend Transport 448 on hire to CBT or CBT 48 advertising the X1 for Southend.

March 4th 1994: Both ECS and EG report that the bus war means that Colchester customers will escape fare increase that EN are to introduce from March 6th. While fares increased in December remain unchanged some others will rise by 5p to cover increases in the cost of fuel and spare parts. These are the first increases on many routes since July 1992 and Pricebuster returns increase for the first time since November 1990. On Mondays to Fridays after 0900 and all day on Saturday each adult will be able to take two children under 5 free. Marketing Manager Geoff Dodson said the company had decided to make not increase fares in the town because of the situation with CBT. In areas where there were several operators on the same route the company took a "different commercial viewpoint" and tended to follow other operators. CBT manager Raymond Giles admitted passengers had been lost to EN after they introduced new services, "we are hoping things will start to improve and are thankful to the public that have remained with us". He said CBT had no plans for an increase.

March 7th 1994: The claim that no EN town fares were to increase is not strictly correct as the Winter Warmers offer ends and is replaced by the Mad March Hare who offers "Buy a Return, Go Home for 10p". The EG reports that Badgerline made a profit of £6.9m in the last financial year, up from £3.2m. Earnings per share rose from 4.3p to 9.1p

DID YOU READ.....

In an article on municipal privatisations Trevor Smallwood, Badgerline Chairman, was quoted as saying putting midi-buses on less travelled routes allowed no opening for competitors. He thought that within 10 years three or four large companies would control 80% of the market. At present Badgerline and Stagecoach, which together account for 8% of the bus market are the only two listed bus companies, but it is possible the likes of GRT, Go Ahead Northern and British Bus may follow.

Financial Times - January 8th 1994

Since this appeared floatations for GRT and Go Ahead have been announced.

Essex operator, Hedingham has taken delivery of its first rebodied vehicle from East Lancs Coachbuilders. A photo of L148 (WPH 135Y) appears. Robert MacGregor said "Its £60,000 cheaper than a new 53 seater bus, the bodywork and interior is first class. It won't be our last"

Coach & Bus Week February 12th 1994

Essex County Council is providing grant aid to three operators for low floor buses. The grant will be the difference between the price of a conventional vehicle and the low floor model. County Bus will take four for their Harlow to Romford service, Hedingham two for their Maldon to Witham service while Southend Transport will operate two or four on their services. Consultants will run a before and after study to judge the their impact.

Coach & Bus Week February

12th 1994

Lynton Travel Group has taken over Bishops Stortford based Biss Bros. Biss will continue as a separate company. Chairman Bob Howels said that the aquisition fitted in with existing operations and would strengthen the company's prescence in a highly competitive market.

Coach & Bus Week February 12th 1994

The Stratford upon Avon operator has blow the whistle on Southend seafront's shuttle trains after just one season and sold them to Eastbourne. The service appeared well used but the pricing structure is believed not to have given the expected return.

Evening Echo February 18th 1994

New bus routes in Braintree are to be axed because hardly anybody uses them despite their being put on because of public demand. EN admits it has lost a considerable amount of money. Service 27 served the Beckers Green development where there are homes for the elderly and disabled but an average of only three or four people travelled on each journey. Service 26 to Rayne had ten journeys a day with an average between them of seven passengers.

Evening Gazette February 21st 1994

Caption to a photo in Pages From The Past: This is how The Square, Tollesbury looked in the 1950's whn it was still known as the Market Place. Unlike today on five vechiles were visable - and two of those were Osborne's buses.

Essex County Standard - February 25th 1994

Parents of a 14 year old boy from York have been sent a bill for £2000 by a coach company for repairs caused by his being thrown against the windscreen when the vehicle braked had. The company said he had ignored repeated requests to sit down.

BBC Ceefax February 27th 1994

Temporary changes to HO Service 89 will be made from March 19 because of the closure of Hedingham Rd in Halstead for roadworks. Buses to Halstead and

Braintree between 9am and 4pm will leave ten minutes ahead of advertised times from Gt Yeldham and the Hedinghams and will travel via Gosfield.

Evening Gazette - March 2nd 1994

A towns bus service manager has said plans for one-way traffic will cause major problems for bus routes. Three of the proposals to provide better traffic circulation through Maldon include one-way systems while the fourth would include ramps and other traffic calming measures. David Kershaw, the manager of Mid Essex and Herts Eastern National Buses said elderly people "will not walk a long way through Maldon to catch a bus. We have reservations about ramps because of the problems to passengers inside the buses, but it will be better than one-way systems....there is no real alternative bus route other than right around the town".

Evening Gazette - 4th March 1994

BBC ESSEX: Dave Monk Phone In.

Peter Edwards of Thamesway and Robin Orbell of Eastern National were Dave's guests on March 11th.

A Colchester caller complained that mini bus exhaust fumes were at an unacceptable level, particularly for someone with a chronic lung condition. Robin said it was unlikely there was a general problem but a couple of vehicles were receiving attention. The caller said he had seen four or five in a matter of minutes the previous day. A debate on the colour of the smoke white or black followed. Listeners were asked to report instances of large amounts of exhaust smoke to the local depot. Another caller said bio-diesel would cure the problem. It was explained cost and availability was a drawback.

In the previous programme a caller had complained about buses at Lakeside and Peter had promised to visit. This he had done and found that buses from their companies were turning off engines on arrival although the driver of another operators bus did not do so. One caller was unhappy that her enquiry regarding lost property had not resulted in the property being found but another was pleased that her lost purse had been found but another thanked EN for finding her purse quickly.

A caller from Rayleigh had, just twenty minutes earlier waited for passengers to alight from a Service 20. Another bus arrived behind, so she went to get on that but it pulled off before she could get there. In the meantime the first bus was filled to capacity. She caught the blue bus.

A Clacton caller objected to having to wait in the rain while drivers stood in shop doorways smoking, could not shelters be provided. Robin explained that it was the Councils responsibility but drivers were there to serve the public and should load on reaching a stop.

Other callers asked for details of buses from Southend Victoria station to the General Hospital; why some single fares were the same as returns and a complaint about buses coming to a halt to set down with the left indicator still showing.

Dave raised the question of Badgerlines profit. It was explained that as a public company they had to make money to reinvest and continue operating. This was still not understood by many people.

NATIONAL EXPRESS»»

This month I am dealing with CRUSADER GROUP TRAVEL which is part of the NATIONAL EXPRESS coach group.

Crusader Travel is the central coach hire and group travel division of National Express ,this branch of the company is located in London.

The other FLEETNAMES used by National Express are as follows.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 1:Eurolines. | 2:Rapide/National Express. |
| 3:Superbus. | 4:Rapide/Caledonian Express. |

As mention in my last article. There now follows a list of companies that operate under contract to National Express in our own area.

1:Ambassador Travel which is located in Great Yarmouth. They operate mainly from London.

2:Galloway European Coachlines is located in Mendlesham Suffolk and operate two services from London.

3:Premier Travel are located in Cambridge, and operate 10 services from:

A:05 from London. B:02 from Liverpool.

C:01 from Cambridge. D:01 from Lowestoft.

E:01 from Weymouth.

This is only a small list of companies that operate in our own area.

HELP NEEDED

Does any member have any of the following.

- 1:Blue waterproof coat (National Express Style).
- 2:National Express V-neck jumper (Current Style).
- 3:Pin on name badge (Not used) for National Express.

Please contact me direct on 0268-784662.

HELP WITH REPORTS NOW NEEDED TO KEEP THIS SECTION GOING.

CANVEY ISLAND

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PF1035/I	2 Cook J.	Highway Coaches ?? ceased ??	Canvey Island	/... ..
PF0693	3 Barge	Essex Thameside 302 Furtherwick Road	Canvey Island	E197/D1 TQ800825
PF1074/N	1 Mann	Island 20 Waarden Road	Canvey Island	E197/D2 TQ799837
PF1366/I	2 Barge	Essex Thameside MarineGar, 258 Furtherwick Rd	Canvey Island	E197/E1 TQ80.82.
(Application - to replace PF0693)				
PF0911/R	2 Robinson	Roadrunners M.Ss. "Aries", Odessa Road	Canvey Island	E197/E2 TQ806831
PF1192/N	3 Brailey	Milestone Mini. "Four Jays", Westcliff Gdns.	Canvey Island	E197/F1 TQ813830

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA District

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PF0026	12 Cook E.M. & W.E.	Cooks Coaches adj. 1 Southview Drive	Westcliff-on-Sea	E190/B1 TQ863864
PF0987/R	2 Russell	S & R Minibuses 133A Southview Drive	Westcliff-on-Sea	E190/B1 TQ864868
PF0026	Cook E.M. & W.E.	Cooks Coaches 551 London Road	Westcliff-on-Sea	E190/B1 TQ865863
PF0763/N	2 Wright T.F.	Toms Mini Coach Lancaster Sch, Prittlewell Che.	Southend-on-Sea	E190/B2 TQ863872
PF1017/R	2 FDR Ltd	FDR 200 Priory Crescent	Southend-on-Sea	E190/C2 TQ876876
PF0689	1 Hill	Hill 118 Priory Crescent	Southend-on-Sea	E190/C2 TQ879873
PF0650	1 Caten	LC Coach Travel Southend Airport	Southend-on-Sea	E190/C3 TQ873888
PF0714	3 Couldridge	Freelance Trav. Southend Airport	Southend-on-Sea	E190/C3 TQ873888
PF0001	27 Abridge Enterprise.	Supreme Stock Road	Southend-on-Sea	E190/C3 TQ879883
PF0981/I	8 Hopes	Coach Stop Grainger Road	Southend-on-Sea	E191/D1 TQ883863
PF1053/T	. Parker	Parker 19 Beaufort Street ?	Southend-on-Sea	E191/E1 TQ899862
PF1300/R	1 Browning	Browning Flat 2, 19 Pembury Road	Westcliff-on-Sea	E199/E4 TQ865854
PF0093	125 Southend Trans.Ltd	Southend Trans. 87 London Road	Southend-on-Sea	E199/F4 TQ877859
PF1205/R	1 Kelsey	Airport Express 17 Gordon Road ?	Southend-on-Sea	E199/F4 TQ879857
\\\\\\\\\\\\	\\\\ \ Southend Bus Stn.	\\\\ Southend B.St. Heygate Avenue	Southend-on-Sea	E200/A4 TQ884853
\\\\\\\\\\\\	\\\\ \ Southend Co. Pk.	\\\\ Southend C.Pk. Chancellor Road	Southend-on-Sea	E200/A4 TQ887852
PF1254/R	1 Autorad Express	Autorad Express GlenSer.Stn, 343 Southchch.Rd.	Southend-on-Sea	E200/A4 TQ889859
PF0175	3 Whitwell	Southend Coaches GlenSer.Stn, 343 Southchch.Rd.	Southend-on-Sea	E200/A4 TQ889859
PF0194	1 Hayden	Hayden/Blue Dia.c/o Unitruc, 59 Vanguard Way	Shoeburyness	E201/F4 TQ937853
PF0151	7 Jones M.E. & F.A.E.	M & E Coaches c/o Unitruc, 59 Vanguard Way	Shoeburyness	E201/F4 TQ937853
PF0198	2 Kemp	Kemp Bros. c/o Unitruc, 59 Vanguard Way	Shoeburyness	E201/F4 TQ937853
PF1257/N	2 Hutchison	Presidential c/o Woodgate, 5A Vanguard Way	Shoeburyness	E201/F4 TQ939855

CHELMSFORD District

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PF0642	11	Jackson M.J.	Jacksons	Bicknacre House, Leighams Rd.	Bicknacre	E153/F4	TL783013
PF6205	4	Nicholls	P & M Coaches	Birkett Hall, Main Road	Woodham Ferrers	E154/A2	TQ798998
PF1305/R		Andrews	SWT Private Hire	Whalebone P.H., Old Wick.Rd.	S.Woodham Ferrers	E165/D4	TQ799979

(Application)

PF0494	7	Ferrers Coaches	Ferrers Coaches	117B Hullbridge Road	S.Woodham Ferrers	E165/E4	TQ808973
PF1305/R	2	Andrews	SWT Private Hire	Unit 29, Drapers Rd.	Ind.Est. S.Woodham Ferrers	E165/F4	TQ812979

(Application)

PF0449	24	WHM (Brentwood) L.	Chelmsford Trav.	"Rolphs House", Blasford Hill	Little Waltham	W 98/A3	TL708120
PF0031	5	Dines	Way Minis	120 Plantation Road	Boreham	W 99/F1	TL759103
PF0599	250	Eastern National	Eastern Nat.[L]	57 New Writtle Street	Chelmsford	W111/D1	TL705064
PF0599		Eastern National	Eastern Nat.(CF)	Duke Street	Chelmsford	W111/D2	TL704071
PF1116/N	6	Chelmsford Cab Co.	Chelmsford Cab	Unit 4, Rivermead Ind. Est.	Chelmsford	W111/D2	TL709079
PF0811	1	Adams P.(Ex.Police)	Adams Travel	St.Margaret's Rd, Springfld.	Chelmsford	W111/F2	TL723073
PF0478	12	Boon	Boon	29 Church Road	Boreham	W112/C4	TL753098
PF1347/I	4	Webb	Webbs Coaches	Pools Lane	Highwood	W121/F2	TL639035

(Application - to replace PF0708)

PF0708	5	Webb	Webbs Coaches	Pools Lane	Highwood	W121/F2	TL639035
PF0994/I		Goodlad	Octopus Travel	Pools Lane	Highwood	W121/F2	TL639035
PF0804	4	Grainger & Merriday	Fourways Cs.	Pools Lane	Highwood	W121/F2	TL639035
PF1356/I	4	Lodge & Ferrier	CI Coachlines	Pools Lane	Highwood	W121/F2	TL639037

(Application - to replace PF0646)

PF0646	4	Lodge & Ferrier	CI Coachlines	Pools Lane	Highwood	W121/F2	TL639037
PF0994/I	3	Goodlad	Octopus Travel	8 Wood Street	Chelmsford	W123/F4	TL699054
PF0990/R	2	Reis	Fox Line Travel	41 Loftin Way	Great Baddow	W124/B4	TL716053
PF6198	11	Wood	Woods Coaches	63 Downham Road (ceased)	Ramsden Heath	W150/B3	TQ716961

MALDON District

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PF0475	5	Vaughan	Knights Coaches	"Sunnymede", Braxted Park Rd.	Great Braxted	E 99/D1	TL854149
PF0078	7	Porter	Stan's Coaches	Coach House, Beckingham Road	Great Totham	E116/C3	TL870124
PF0622	34	Osborne VM BE & GW	Osborne	62 New Road	Tollesbury	E119/E1	TL958106
PF0599		Eastern National	Eastern Nat.(MN)	148-152 High Street	Maldon	E132/A1	TL854068
\\\\\\\\\\\\	\\\\	Maldon Coach Pk.	Maldon Co.Pk.	Mill Road	Maldon	E132/A1	TL857066
PF0572	2	Wright & Marshall	Arrow P.& F.Ss.	Station Road	Maldon	E132/A2	TL852075
PK1439		Cowie	Grey-Green	Galliford Road	Maldon	E132/A2	TL852079
PF0855/N		Morley	Brian's Car He.	c/o Sibthorpe, Promanade	Maylandsea	E146/C1	TL906024
PF0855/N	3	Morley	Brian's Car He.	"Shahdaroba", 23A Katonia Ave.	Maylandsea	E146/C1	TL907021
PF1176/R	2	Knightbridge	S. Woodham Cars	Meadow View Farm, Burnham Rd.	Latchingdon	E157/E2	TQ897998
PF0041/I	29	Ford	Ford	Three Ways Gar., Farnbridge Rd.	Althorne	E158/A1	TQ911988
PF0917/N		Whent	Whent & Sons	"Sunnyside", Grange Avenue	Mayland	E158/B4	TL922010
PF0050		Hedingham & Dist.	Hedingham (BM)	Springfields Industrial Est.	Burnham-on-Crouch	E170/A3	TQ941964