

EDITORIALOxford Coach Tour - Sunday, September 20th.

A booking form for this tour is included with this news sheet. Please book seats as early as possible to avoid disappointment - our tours are very popular !

Southend Meeting - Tuesday, September 8th.

An evening meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at the Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend commencing at 1930 hrs. The Group's Administrative Officer, Paul Harvey, will present a slide show on the theme of 'A West Country Journey', and all members are invited to what should prove to be an extremely interesting evening.

New Publications

Two new Group publications will be available in September. These are E.P.33 (Eastern National - Allocation of Vehicles to Services) and E.P.34 (Southend & District Joint Services - Allocation of Vehicles to Services). Full details regarding these new publications will be published in next month's news sheet.

Eastern Counties Omnibus Society Bus Rally - Sunday, September 13th.

This rally is being held at the Royal Norfolk Showground, Costessey, Norwich on Sunday, September 13th, and the Group's sales stand will be present with a range of publications, photographs and other items. In connection with this event members may wish to take advantage of a special excursion which has been organised from Hadleigh to the rally. A bus will depart from Eastern National's Hadleigh Depot at 0800 hrs. and travel direct to Norwich. It may be possible to arrange additional picking up points along the route, and members who wish to join the tour en route are asked to contact the organiser (see below) as soon as possible. The excursion fare is £2-00p, and all bookings should be made to Paul Harvey at Eastern National O.C. Ltd., Traffic Office, Hadleigh Depot, London Road, Hadleigh, Essex by September 1st. Please include a stamped addressed envelope with your bookings, and all cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to P.W. Harvey Esq.

Essex County Council Publications

A new timetable booklet for the Basildon/Thurrock area dated September 1981 has recently been published by Essex County Council. Copies are available from the Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq., 37. Warren Chase, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex. SS7 3DZ.) at £0-30p each plus £0-30p postage and packing for each timetable.

Advertisement

The Group has been asked to publicise a tour organised by the 713 Preservation Group which may be of particular interest to members living in the South Wales area. The tour is being held on Sunday, September 26th and will use City of Cardiff Transport's last Guy Arab open-top vehicle which is scheduled for withdrawal on October 1st. The vehicle will tour the Cardiff area including Penarth, Newport and Caerphilly, and full details can be obtained from the 713 Preservation Group, 'Ty-Trappa', 1. Ty-Trappa Road, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran, Gwent. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your enquiry.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.New Vehicles

1055	TJN978W	Bedford YMQS	LW451885	Wadham Stringer DP33F	8668	Delivered 24.7.81
1301	XHK214X	Leyland PSU3G/4R	8130412	Duple C53F	133/5188	Delivered 11.8.81
3110	XHK215X	Bristol VRTSL6G	3/3026	E.C.W. LD43/31FD	24895	Delivered 5.8.81
3112	XHK217X	Bristol VRTSL6G	3/3028	E.C.W. LD43/31FD	24897	Delivered 10.8.81
3113	XHK218X	Bristol VRTSL6G	3/3029	E.C.W. LD43/31FD	24898	Delivered 24.7.81
3118	XHK223X	Bristol VRTSL6G	3/3034	E.C.W. LD43/31FD	24903	Delivered 28.7.81
3121	XHK226X	Bristol VRTSL6G	3/3041	E.C.W. LD43/31FD	24906	Delivered 3.8.81

Will members please note that the correct chassis designation of the two new Leyland Leopard coaches (1300/1) is PSU3G/4R and not as shown last month. The delivery of 1055

and 1301 complete the current orders for these types of vehicle. 1301 was delivered on August 11th and entered service very quickly at Colchester (CR) on August 14th. A further five Bristol VRTSL6G's have been delivered; however, this batch of vehicles is being delayed due to the need to carry out certain modifications at Leyland Vehicles, Nottingham following completion by Eastern Coach Works at Lowestoft. It is confirmed that the rear number blind on this batch of vehicles will not be used by the Company and the aperture is being panelled or painted over, but still retaining the rubber surrounds. The body numbers of the forthcoming six Bristol VRTSL6G's which have been diverted from the Thames Valley & Aldershot Omnibus Co. Ltd. (Alder Valley) (3124-9) are 24925-30 (see NS208).

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Vehicle on Loan

Leyland Leopard coach 1819 (RUF819H) is still on loan from Southdown Motor Services Ltd., and following the closure of Prittlewell (PL) depot it is now operating from Southend (SD). It is not known when this vehicle will be returned to Southdown.

Allocations & Transfers

8.81 1101 D/L (P)-D/L (D), 1214 PL-SD, 1300 D/L-PL-SD, 1301 D/L-CR, 1404 PL-SD, 1405 PL-SD, 1406 PL-SD, 1407 PL-SD, 1408 PL-SD, 1409 PL-SD, 1410 PL-SD, 1411 PL-SD, 1416 PL-SD, 1417 PL-SD, 1419 PL-SD, 2303 D/L (P)-D/L (D), 2383 D/L (P)-D/L (D), 2384 D/L (P)-D/L (D).

It will be noted that three of the Company's open-top vehicles have been delicensed for disposal during August including one of the Bristol FLF6G's. Leyland Leopard coach 1300 spent its first week in service from Prittlewell (PL) depot, and, indeed, the vehicle is still carrying PL depot allocation plates. Its first journey was on Saturday, August 1st when it operated the 0830 hrs. express service 124 from Southend to Ramsgate. A full fleet allocation appears on page 4 of this news sheet.

Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks and this continues from the information published in NS208 :-

August : w/e 1.8.81 - 1518 at CW, 1854 at PL.

w/e 8.8.81 - No vehicles repainted.

w/e 15.8.81 - 1517 at CW.

Leyland National 1854 was the last vehicle repainted at Prittlewell Works before its closure.

Temporary Loans

Routine loans of Chelmsford (CF) vehicles to other depots during August have included 1513 (CR), 1516 (BS), 1700 (BN), 1701 (ED), 1708 (BD) and 3019 (HD). 1819 was at Great Dunnow (outstation) on August 9th, whilst on the same date 1851 and 1855 were at Central Works.

Only two Southend (SD) vehicles have been noted on loan during recent weeks. On July 16th 1721 was noted operating for BN on service 233, whilst on August 11th 1729 was noted operating for MN on service 31.

Clacton (CN) vehicles which worked on temporary loan to DT during July were 1217, 1504/23/9/37, 1751/68/79/89/91, 1803, 1911 and 3031. However, perhaps most interesting was the loan of 1053 from CR and open-top FLF6G 2300 from CN for use at a local fete in Harwich on July 4th. 1053 was on loan to DT from July 3rd-5th, whilst 2300 was on loan from July 3rd-7th.

Unusual Workings

Details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members are as follows :-

16.7-3072 SD noted on service 2.	2.8-1939 CF noted at Thorpe Park on a
27.7-1210 CN on Highwayman service 803.	private hire working. 3007/14/20 (all HH)
28.7-London Country SNB526 DT noted on	noted at Broadstairs on a private hire
service 402.	working.
29.7-1.8-1937 SD and 1938 SD both noted	4.8-3057 SD noted on service 402.
regularly operating on service 609.	9.8-3070 SD noted on service 61.
29.7-3071 SD noted on service 402.	15.8-Eastern Counties RE060 noted on
31.7-1210 CN on Highwayman service 803.	Highwayman service 804.

Service Developments

The major service development during recent weeks has been the introduction from Saturday, July 25th of a new service between Brentwood (Robin Hood & Little John) and Romford (Mercury Gardens) jointly operated with London Transport. The service is numbered 347 and operates on Weekdays and replaces the Brentwood to Romford section of the now withdrawn London Transport service 247. It follows the same route as the former 247 except between Gidea Park (Rail Station) and Romford where the route is now via Balgore Lane and Main Road. Because of the different ticket arrangements of the two operators, London Transport pre-paid tickets are not valid on Eastern National journeys. Return tickets are not issued on service 347, but return tickets from Brentwood to Romford or vice versa on services 151, 226 and 251 are valid for the return journey on service 347.

From Monday, July 27th the frequency of service 461 from Blackmore to Romford was increased from Wednesdays only to Mondays to Fridays inclusive, and a slightly revised timetable was also introduced from this date. Service 245 was discontinued after operations on Friday, July 24th, and East Tilbury is no longer served by Eastern National. From Tuesday, August 18th a number of changes were made to the Limited Stop services from Mid Essex to Romford, including the introduction of a new service. Service 431 (Maldon-Romford) now operates direct from Great Baddow to Romford and not via Chelmsford, whilst service 435 (Braintree-Romford) also now operates via Silver End and operates direct to Romford from Hatfield Peverel. Both these services have revised timetables which allow additional time at Romford. Service 451 (North Springfield-Romford) now operates on Wednesdays and Saturdays with a revised timetable, which also allows additional time in Romford. The new service which was introduced on August 18th is numbered 452. This operates on Tuesdays and Fridays from North Melbourne (Copperfield Road) to Romford via Chignall Estate, Melbourne Avenue, North Avenue, Chelmsford Bus Station, Galleywood, Margaretting and Ingatestone.

The Company has recently applied for a number of revisions to stage services, and brief details of these proposed changes are as follows :-

- 17 - Revised route via Chalkwell Avenue and London Road in Westcliff, and revised timetable.
- 24A - Revised route via First Avenue, Chalkwell Avenue and The Ridgeway in Westcliff, and revised timetable.
- 32A - Revised turning point at Blackmore.
- 75A - Two journeys to be extended from Fingringhoe to Rowhedge (Taylors Road) on Weekdays.
- 87/A - Revised terminals to be Colchester (Bus Station) and Mistley (Rigby Avenue) and revised route for both services, with revised timetable.
- 97X/98X - The condition restricting the use of these services to CEEB employees to be removed and the services to be available to the general public.
- 337/40/1 - Journeys to and from Powershall End to operate via Humber Road Estate (Humber Road, Tamar Avenue, Humber Road and Spa Road) with two minutes additional journey time.

Other proposed revisions to stage services will involve minor timetable changes to services 103, 115, 116 (including a route revision), 156 (one journey to be retimed and to operate on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays only), 236 and 503.

General

Prittlewell (PL) depot and Prittlewell Works both closed on Saturday, August 8th as planned, and the coaches previously allocated to PL have now all been transferred to Southend (SD) depot. At the time of writing a number of these vehicles continue to carry PL depot allocation plates. The depot premises are still being used for the storage of delicensed vehicles (see NS208).

Bristol VRTSL6G 3002 (CPU981G), which was extensively damaged in an accident during March, is still at Central Works. Repairs to the vehicle are now almost complete, and it will shortly be repainted before re-entering service.

Four Bristol FLF6LX's (2886/8/91 2916) remained in service during August all at CF. However, the vehicles have seen little use during recent weeks and it is expected that they will be replaced by new Bristol VRTSL6G's during September.

EASTERN NATIONAL fleet allocation - August 1981

Basildon (BN) : 1550/4 1704/9/11-7/23/32/6/8/40-2/6/55/63/7/72/6/86/94/5
 1808/18/20/2/30/43/4/7-9/52-4/74/7-80/3/4/6/7/9/91/6/8 1904/6-9/18/9/22/34 3065/7-9
 3074/6 (68)
 Bishops Stortford (BS) : 1057/8 1202 1525/33/4/51 1759 1914/6 3005/41/7 (13)
 Braintree (BE) : 1051 1200/5 1542 1748/77 1813/57/63/82 1902/29/30/2 3004/43
 3046/56/63 (19)
 Brentwood (BD) : 1055 1203/16 1530/1/5/40/3 1722/54/60/85/96/7 1809/10/23/37-40
 1845/6/59/76/81 1903/12/3/33 3021/91-4 3100 (36)
 Chelmsford (CF) : 1209 1412 1500/8/16/49 1718/24/30/4/52/62/71/4/5/8 1801/2/4/5
 1811/5/9/27/9/32/41/2/50/1/5/6/60/6/7/9/70/3/85/97/9 1905/15/39 2886/8/91 2916
 3029/33/5/45/77-82 3106/8 (60)
 Clacton (CN) : 1050 1213/7 1402/3/15/8 1504/19/20/3/7/9/37/53 1750/1/6/61/8
 1769/79/80/9/91/2 1800/3/25/6/34/58 1911 2300-2 3003/31 (38)
 Colchester (CR) : 1053 1207/10/5 1301 1414 1501/7/12/7/26/8/36 1790/3 1816/28
 1865/72/88/92 1923/8/35/6 3001/11/7/22/3/32/50/95 (33)
 Hadleigh (HH) : 1541/6 1719/25/6/33/5/7/9/43/53/7/65/84 1817/21/35/64/71/90
 1900/25 3007/14/20/4/60/1/96-9 3102/3/7/9 (36)
 Halstead (HD) : 1206 1401 1544 1782 1924/6 3048/58/9/66 (10)
 Harwich (DT) : 1056 1204/8 1510/21/2/32/45 1781/3 1901/20 3000/27 (14)
 Maldon (MN) : 1052/9 1201/12 1413 1539 1728/58/64 1806/31/3 1921/7/31
 3015/30/8/40/9/51 (21)
 Silver End (SE) : 1054 1211 1400 1727/31/45/9 1812/61/2 3037/9/55 (13)
 Southend (SD) : 1214 1300 1404-11/6/7/9 1547/8/52 1744/7/66/70/3/87/8/98/9
 1807/14/36/68/75/93-5 1910/37/8 3008/10/2/3/6/25/6/8/34/6/42/4/52-4/7/62/4/70-3/5
 3083-90 3101/4/5 (70)
 Central Works Docking Spares (CF-CWDS) : 1506/13 1700-2/5/7*/8/10 1824 1917*
 3018/9 (13)
 Prittlewell Works Docking Spares (SD-PLDS) : 1505/18 1720/1/9 3006/9 (7)
 Licensed Waiting Allocation (LWA) : 2382 (1)
 Delicensed For Maintenance (D/L) : 3002 3110-3/8/21 (7)
 Delicensed Pool Vehicles (D/L (P)) : 11511/4/24/30 (4)
 Delicensed For Disposal (D/L (D)) : 1000-4 1100/1/3 1502/3/9/15 1608/10 2303/83/4
 2874/5/7/84/5/7/9/90/2-9 2900-15/7-27/9-31/43-6 (67)
 Driver Training Vehicle : 1102 (1)

Notes - Chelmsford (CF) allocation includes Great Dunmow outstation (DW) - 1 sd,
 and Clacton (CN) allocation includes Walton-on-Naze (WN) - 4 sd. 1707 and 1917 are
 accident pool vehicles.

The next full fleet allocation will be published in the December news sheet.

Allocations of D/L (D) and D/L (P) Vehicles

There are no additional allocations of delicensed vehicles to report this month.
 However, by personal observation 2005 2902/5/19 are no longer at Chelmsford (CF),
 whilst 2903 was the only delicensed vehicle at PL (Yard) on August 1st. Also on
 this date 1003, 1502, 2303/82-4, 2839/92/7 and 2943 were amongst the vehicles
 noted at PL (Depot). It is believed that a number of the vehicles previously in
 store at PL may have been moved to other locations.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORTNew Vehicles

The body numbers of new Leyland Fleetlines 235/6/9 are now known and are 2008/9/11
 respectively. 242 (MRJ242W) is the last production Leyland Fleetline to have
 been built, and was present at the London Bus Rally at Purfleet on Sunday, July 19th.
 The five vehicles of this batch which were listed in last month's news sheet
 (233/5/6/9/42) all entered service on July 31st. However, none of the vehicles
 have been fitted with their correct destination blinds to date, as they are
 having to be made specifically for this batch of vehicles. Most of the vehicles
 are at present operating with Eastern National terminal blinds as a temporary
 measure.

This batch of Leyland Fleetlines (231-42) are broadly similar to the previous
 batch (221-30). The only outward differences are that the door surrounds are all

cream, and also that the vehicles are fitted with a one-piece glass destination layout which carries a three track number blind and smaller terminal and intermediate destination blinds than normally associated with Southend Transport. All of the vehicles have hopper style window openings and are fitted with tachographs. Similarly, all of the vehicles with the exception of 231/7/40/1 are fitted with Videmat ticket machines. It is intended that 231/7/40/1 will be used more often on private hire work.

Two Leyland Tiger coaches are due for delivery in late September. They will carry fleet numbers 209/10, and it is understood that the vehicles are now being bodied by Duple Coachbuilders Ltd.

Withdrawn Vehicles

As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet it can now be confirmed that Daimler Fleetline 357 was not withdrawn in June; however, 358 was withdrawn in June in addition to the other vehicles listed in NS208, although only temporarily as this vehicle was reinstated on July 6th and is still in service.

Other vehicles withdrawn since last month's news sheet have been as follows :-

7.81	347 (MHJ347F)	350 (WJN350J)	354 (WJN354J)	363 (WJN363J)
	348 (WJN348J)	351 (WJN351J)	359 (WJN359J)	366 (WJN366J)
	349 (WJN349J)			

The last Leyland PD3 347 was withdrawn after service on July 31st, when it operated in normal service on routes 1, 4, 6 and 29.

General

Further to the notes published in NS207 regarding the refurbishment of Daimler Fleetline 301 there have been some other subsequent changes to this vehicle. The vehicle re-entered normal service in late June, but the livery (as described in NS207) was revised and the front and rear are now painted blue. The revised livery is designed to facilitate broadside advertisements. Other modifications to the vehicle include a new electrical and heating system, red upholstered seats and a new windscreen. The bus was also given a complete mechanical and body overhaul with particular attention being paid to the body panels and frame as this batch of vehicles is suffering from some bodywork corrosion. This vehicle is the first in a planned series of refurbished Daimler Fleetlines and at present similar vehicles 302 and 305 are being treated.

Two other Daimler Fleetlines from the 1972 batch, 377 and 379, are at present on extended loan to Lesney Products & Co. Ltd., Rochford to cover a shortage of staff buses.

The second Daimler Fleetline to be converted for use as a driver training vehicle, 387 (JTB387P), has now re-entered service and the conversion work is similar to that described for 386 in NS207.

Leyland Leopard 200 (GJN508D) has been re-seated with 51 bus seats which have been removed from 215 (MJN215F). These replaced the coach seats which originally came from an Eastern National Bristol RMLH6G (16XX series).

It has recently been reported in the local press that the limited stop X1 service from Southend to Reading is now operating profitably, and, indeed, duplicate vehicles are now often required for certain journeys, especially the 0830 hrs. departure from Southend. On June 23rd there was a vehicle breakdown on this service, and the replacement was a former London Transport Daimler Fleetline (DMS) owned by Brakell of Cheam.

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), P.J. Snell (M32), R.H. Palmer (M105), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), S.D. Barham (M313), L. Thorington (M352) and G. Huggins (AM1). Notes and information for the September news sheet should be sent to the News Sheet Editor (address below) by Wednesday, September 16th.