

ESSEX BUS NEWS

AUGUST 1992

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

340



The new Chelmsford Bus Lane came into operation on 26.7.92. The first vehicle to use it was CF1428 seen here being overtaken by Southend Transports 726.

(D Kershaw)

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY- An Announcement

With immediate effect all matters concerning membership details, subscriptions, change of address, non delivery of magazine, etc. should be sent to Derek Stebbing at 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0TP. Bob Palmer has stepped down from this task after 14 years, but remains a 'back-room' member of the committee as Treasurer, a job he has held since 1987. So REMEMBER all communications regarding membership should now be sent to Derek Stebbing, who retains his job of timetable subscription manager.

On behalf of the committee and membership, I would like to thank Bob for all the dedication and time he has devoted to the groups membership over the last 14 years. Although membership has had its ups and downs, Bob has always provided a first class service.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

The first meeting of the Winter 1992 season will be held at The Freight House on the 8th September (not the 3rd as given in EBN 339). Doors open at 1945 for a 2000 start and we are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Mr Alan Barrett of Thamesways Hadleigh depot.

All members are welcome to attend, what should be a most interesting evening.

The October meeting will be held on 20th of the month, details next month.

GROUP COACH TOUR TO SUSSEX COAST- SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 1992

A booking form for this tour is enclosed with this months magazine. Full details of this tour are given on the booking form, which must be returned by Friday 18th September.

ALANS FAREWELL TOUR- SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 1992

By Leyland Titan TD5 FEV 178, starting from Luton and visiting Luton & District garages. Accomodation strictly limited, booking form and further details from: A. G. Osborne, 7 Farley Drive, Seven Kings, Ilford, IG3 8LT.

HISTORICAL TRANSPORT POSTCARDS

A new series of three colour postcards depicting Southend Corporation Transport scenes has been published, featuring paintings by G S Cooper (well known for his work in TPC books and elsewhere) which were specially commissioned by Richard Delahoy. Card 1 shows Tram 44 at the White Horse, Southchurch in 1938 (this view appeared on the rear cover of the 1986 book on SCT); Card 2 is a 1938 view of the Leigh tram terminus, featuring tram 48 and AEC regal bus 203, both in green livery; Card 3 reflects the early postwar bus scene, with SCT 259, a Massey bodied AEC Regent at Victoria Circus under trolleybus wires.

The cards normally cost 30p each but are available to group

members for only 20p (plus postage) if ordered direct from Richard Delahoy at 272 Shobury Road, Southend, SS1 3TT.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Allocation Changes

7/92 3060 CN-D/L(D)
8/92 0715 BS-POOL; 1110 CR-CF; 1811/19 CF-D/L(D); 1851 MN-CF;
3069 CN-CR; 3204 CR-D/L(D)

1811/19 are to be used for spares at Chelmsford, 3204 is to be used for spares at Colchester.

Services

31 Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
31A Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
36 Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
43/A Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
45 Withdrawn with effect from 10.8.92.
53/B Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
91/92 Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
95/96 Revised timetable with service 95 withdrawn, introduced from 10.8.92.
97A/B Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
119 The 0745 Maldon to Colchester has been withdrawn.
333 Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.
433 Revised timetable introduced from 10.8.92.

The new Chelmsford Bus Lane came into operation on 26.7.92. This is as a result of the closure of the High Street and services now operate via Tindal Street, New London Road and Parkway. The first bus to enter the new route was CF1428 with a ceremonial party at 0955, driven by group member Andy Rook. Having stopped at the new bus stops in New London Road it was overtaken by Southend Transport 726 (GGE 174T) which on STs only weekly visit to Chelmsford became the first bus to cover the new route! For the record the last bus down the High Street was CF 607 on the 0935 service 44C from Melbourne Farm Estate.

Initial Disposals

1754 (LJN 662P) 1764 (MAR 786P) 1782 (PEV 694R) 1790 (PEV 702R)
1793 (PEV 705R) 1812 (VNO 735S) 1829 (VNO 731S) 2203 (XOO 878L)

All sold to A. H. Hardwick & Sons (AJS), Carlton, (breaker) in 6/92. Most remained on EN premises in 7/92.

THAMESWAY

New Vehicles

901-17 K901-17 CVW Dennis Dart Plaxton Pointer B35F

These vehicles are for LT service 214. All were delivered in full Thamesway livery, with the addition of a Badger on each side, similar to that on the new Badgerline livery. This of course reflects the company's connection with Badgerline Holdings. 903/10/13 were delivered to Basildon depot in late July. LT services 214 and D8 will be operated from Ponders End. It had been intended to open a new depot in the Tuffnell Park area, but this has now been decided against.

Vehicle On Order

There are 7 Mercedes Benz 811 with Reeve Burgess Beaver bodywork on order for LT route D8.

Acquired Vehicles

The following information updates that published in the last EBN, regarding acquired coaches.

508 ex United Welsh 125 registered A125 XEP, then re-registered in 1985/6 to MKH 89A.

509 ex United Welsh U117 registered RCY 117Y, then re-registered in 1985/6 to MKH 893A.

510 ex United Welsh U122 registered A122 XEP, then re-registered in 1985/6 to MKH 68A.

508-10 carry Duple Caribbean C46FT bodywork.

511 ex National Travel (South West) 192 registered AFH 192T a Leyland Leopard Duple Dominant, acquired by South Wales in 1981 as 194 and re-registered to MKH 487A in 1986. In 1989 this vehicle was rebuilt with new Duple Caribbean bodywork and a Leyland TL11 engine and was re-registered again to AEP 253T as fleetnumber U194. On re-entry to service it was re-registered again to 999 BCY. When acquired by Thamesway re-registered again to 278 TNY.

Allocations

6/92 1911 BN-BD

7/92 1788/1801 POOL-D/L(D); 3115/18/25 POOL-D/L(D)

Only 1820 is in the reserve (Pool) fleet now.

Repaints

Noted in fleet livery are 231 ex Eddy Grimstead advert and 714,

General

Leyland Tiger 506 is now named 'Sir Teddy Taylor'. All the CitySaver coaches will gain names in due course. 9 coaches are

required for service with 2 spare.

Crew changes for LT service 193 now occur at Romford Station, with BD small Mercedes used for staff shuttles.

Service Revisions

- 214 This LT contract commenced on Saturday 15th August, between Parliament Hill Fields and Liverpool Street. Uses Dennis Darts.
- D8 This LT contract is due to commence on Tuesday 1st September To clarify, only the Monday to Friday daytime service was tendered and awarded to Thamesway (using Mercedes 811's). The Monday to Friday late evening (after 2130) and all day Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday service is operated by East London as a DLR replacement service using double deckers.

It is understood that LT service 362 will be withdrawn between Little Heath and Hainault and will operate from Barkingside to Ilford Town Centre from early 1993.

Unusual Workings

10.7.92. BN 1410 on service S1 (London Service).

24.7.92. BN 371 noted on service 152 (1000 ex Chelmsford).

HH Transit 721 has been on loan to Basildon for driver route learning.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicles

No further Bristol VRs have entered service, with 353 (GTX 740W) still being prepared for service. All VRs in service are now in fleet livery.

VRs VHB 679S and RCH 155R were noted on 21/7 both marked sold. The latter will not, of course, become 307 as thought. GRF 694V is being used for spares.

The RM repainting programme has restarted with 108 due in during August.

Fleetline 212 has received a full repaint and retrim. This is the first dual door bus to be treated and has blue upper deck window surrounds.

News of dealer stock vehicles is that three further Routemasters are for resale. These are ex Burnley 180 (CUV 180C), 183 (CUV 133C) and 186 (CUV 156C). The earlier batch of ex Burnley vehicles (see EBN 338) have been exported to Hungary.

General

AEC Regent 594 was scheduled to be used as a mobile stage for a jazzband on 1/2 August. Other special events are planned.

Mark Howarth, Commercial and Traffic Director is to leave ST during Mid-August to join the Badgerline Group in South Wales.

The group would like to thank Mark for the time, help and information he has given us during his time with ST. We would like to add our best wishes in his new appointment. At the time of writing no replacement for Mark had been announced.

Subsequent Disposals

Former 347 (MHJ 347F) a Leyland PD3 still survives as at 25/7 as Plymouths last half cab trainer in a red and cream livery-different from other trainers now departed.

It still sports adverts inside the lower saloon for the new X1 Southend to Reading service! Two new trainers in the form of Alexander Y bodied vehicles have now arrived. So if you wish to see 347 do not delay your visit.

Traffic

An RM (probably 107, which once ran from Hounslow) is to work service 111 (Heathrow Central- Kingston) on Sat 12th September on loan to London Buses. This is part of the open day at Hounslow garage planned for 1991 but cancelled. Other vehicles of interest will also be operating, with takings going to charity.

Seafront service 67 recommenced on 27.6.92. but has been disrupted by severe traffic congestion, caused by traffic calming measures (at least they work!) in the Pier Hill/Kursaal area and by the reduction of the seafront to one lane. Diversions to service 67 via Shorefields have/will occur as a result of special events.

A series of concerts on the seafront on 24-26 July saw ST providing a park and ride service between Central Southend and the Cliffs Pavilion.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

No contributions received this month.

HEDINGHAM

Vehicles

A further Leyland Lynx has arrived, in the form of J295 TWK a Lynx 2 seating 51 and currently operating in allover white. The Dennis Dart/Alexander Dash should have arrived by the time these notes are read. It is however now expected to be delivered in red and cream and used from Kelvedon depot on the 90 group of services.

Atlantean L188 (CBV 307S) has been noted on service 84 in Hedingham livery. It is thought that all Atlanteans are now in red/cream and based at Hedingham. The Saturday service on route 82 now appears to be worked by vehicles in Norfolks livery.

OTHER OPERATORS

AVRO Service 231 was revised from 21.8.92. and now starts from Stanford-le-Hope.

FREEMANS Service F11 between Blackmore End and Braintree was withdrawn at the end of the school term.

GALLANTS TRAVEL Are using former Midland Fox C537 TJF a B16F Ford Transit on their Stanford circular service.

GRAHAMS On the morning of 29.7.92. fire broke out at this operators premises in the portable main office. The fire which is thought to have been caused by an electrical fault was contained to the office by the prompt action of the fire brigade. The only vehicle to suffer damage was a minicoach, which although driven to safety suffered a scorched roof. Two DAF coaches are on loan at present from dealers.

HARRIS A new service 300 between Grays and Lakeside, commenced operation on 3.8.92. Service 372 was re-routed to service Chafford Hundred from the same day.

NELSONS Further to EBN 335, GCL 341N has not been acquired but is on long term loan from Wests. Former Nottingham ETO 182L has been acquired for spares. Ford R1014 BIL 4710 (new as ATW 584L) has been sold, following a long period out of use. The registration BIL 4710 has been carried by the ex GM Buses Dodge for sometime.

PULLMAN TRAVEL Operation of service 860 passed to Golden Boy from 10.8.92.

ROUTEMASTERS Service H29 was revised from 20.8.92. to operated between Harlow and London. It also operates on additional evenings with a revised timetable.

STEPHENSONS Details of the 10 VRs acquired from Berks Bucks in a dealer capacity can now be given, together with details of subsequent sales:- KKK887V, GGM 104W, GGM 106W, VPF 281/282S, CJH 121V all sold to Brentwood Coaches; CJH 123V M&E Southend; LPF 596P Cedric Wivenhoe; OPL 215R unknown Leicestershire operator; TPE 155S to be retained by Stephensons to replace JWW 255N. TPE 155S has been on loan to Supreme, while VPF 281S has seen use with Cedrics.

Service news is that the 60 is to be withdrawn from August 10th, while from 7th September service 3B will have a reduced timetable, 7B schooldays journeys from Rochford to Hullbridge (previously 22C) now run via Ashingdon, Hockley and Folley Lane, 22C journeys to Park School are withdrawn, 63B new schooldays only service Southend-Temple Sutton Cecil Jones School, 224 certain depot runs will run in service to/from Nevendon, 225 new ECC contact Brock Hill to Beauchamps (replacing Nelsons) with a morning positioning journey from Rochford to Brock Hill as service 222.

VANTAGE From 27.7.92. additional journeys on service 364 at 0931 ex Grays and 1100 ex Uplands were introduced. From the same date a new service 366 from Uplands (0815, 0945 & 1515) to Lakeside (returns 1045, 1245 & 1530) was introduced.

WINDMILL Some of the front line Bovas appear to be promoting another venture called Festive Holidays.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MONTHS MAGAZINE WERE RECEIVED FROM:-

D Harrison, A Meadows, S Menzies, A Rook, P Snell, D Stebbing, Eastern National, Essex County Council, Southend Transport and Thamesway.

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Contact Tom Sangster

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Southend Transport now operate a variety of VRs,
including former Potteries YBF 688S, seen here
leaving Central Bus Station on service 9A.

(A Meadows)