

EDITORIAL

Subscription Renewals for 1986 - A Reminder

If you have not yet renewed your subscription for 1986, then please do so as soon as possible using the renewal form enclosed with last month's news sheet. All subscriptions should be paid no later than January 11th to ensure prompt delivery of the January news sheet. Please remember that you can now pay for two years (1986/7) together and gain a small discount.

News Sheet Envelopes

The News Sheet Editor is grateful to those members who have taken the trouble to return news sheet envelopes during recent weeks. This is a useful way of making some small financial savings, and you can help the Group by returning envelopes to any Committee member at Group meetings, at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting or by posting them back to the News Sheet Editor with news sheet contributions, etc.

Annual General Meeting - Saturday, January 11th, 1986

Full details are now available regarding the Group's twenty-first Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday, January 11th, 1986 at Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford. The meeting will be held in the Carriage Room at Freight House and the doors will be open at 1330 hrs. Tea and biscuits will be available from 1330 hrs. and the Annual General Meeting will commence at 1430 hrs. The Group's sales stand will be at this meeting, and a full range of publications and photographs, including many new black and white photographs, will be available for sale. Please make every effort to attend this meeting, which provides an opportunity for all members to put forward comments and suggestions on the Group's activities.

Rochford Meetings - Dates For Your Diary

Preliminary details of the programme of Rochford meetings during the first half of 1986 are now available, and details are as follows :-

Tuesday, February 4th - Slide Show by Richard Delahoy - 'Review of 1985'.

Tuesday March 11th - Talk by Geoffrey Clarkson, General Manager of Eastern National O.C. Ltd. - 'Eastern National under deregulation'.

Tuesday, April 1st - Talk and slides - 'Better Bus Photography'.

Tuesday, May 13th - Details to be announced.

Tuesday, June 3rd - Details to be announced.

Tuesday, July 1st - Details to be announced.

Please mark these dates in your diary now.

Exhibition of Memorabilia of J.W. Campbell and Sons Ltd. - Saturday, February 22nd.

Eastern National acquired the business of J.W. Campbell and Sons Ltd. of Pitsea on February 19th, 1956. To mark the 30th anniversary of this event, the Group is making arrangements to hold an exhibition of memorabilia of J.W. Campbell and Sons Ltd., including photographs, tickets and timetables, in the foyer of Pitsea Leisure Centre on Saturday, February 22nd, from 1000 hrs. to 1600 hrs. Details are still subject to final confirmation, and it is also hoped to organise a tour of Campbell routes at a later date. However, it is hoped that members will support this event, which will be of particular interest to all members in the Basildon area.

This news sheet being the last before the festive season, the Committee would like to convey to all members the Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 1986. The Committee would also like to thank everyone for their interest in the Group, and we look forward to having another successful year in 1986.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

At the time of writing, 23 of the Mercedes-Benz L608D/Reeve Burgess B20F mini-bus vehicles had been delivered. As expected, the vehicles are being delivered in a

yellow and white livery, and after initial inspection at Central Works the vehicles are being moved to Prittlewell (PL) depot for storage. Full details of the 23 vehicles delivered to date are as follows :-

0200	C200HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-690678	Reeve Burgess B20F	15418
0202	C202HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-701154	Reeve Burgess B20F	15420
0203	C203HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-700655	Reeve Burgess B20F	15421
0204	C204HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-700741	Reeve Burgess B20F	15422
0205	C205HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-696123	Reeve Burgess B20F	15424
0206	C206HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-696370	Reeve Burgess B20F	15429
0207	C207HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-696578	Reeve Burgess B20F	15430
0208	C208HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-700466	Reeve Burgess B20F	15423
0209	C209HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-695914	Reeve Burgess B20F	15425
0210	C210HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-696189	Reeve Burgess B20F	15426
0211	C211HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-696266	Reeve Burgess B20F	15427
0212	C212HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-696132	Reeve Burgess B20F	15428
0213	C213HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-700001	Reeve Burgess B20F	15431
0214	C214HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703154	Reeve Burgess B20F	15432
0215	C215HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703167	Reeve Burgess B20F	15433
0216	C216HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703411	Reeve Burgess B20F	15434
0218	C218HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703416	Reeve Burgess B20F	15435
0219	C219HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703442	Reeve Burgess B20F	15436
0220	C220HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703547	Reeve Burgess B20F	15437
0221	C221HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703561	Reeve Burgess B20F	15438
0222	C222HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703572	Reeve Burgess B20F	15445
0223	C223HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703437	Reeve Burgess B20F	15443
0224	C224HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703570	Reeve Burgess B20F	15444

Delivery dates : 0200-November 23rd; 0202-November 23rd; 0203-November 26th;
 0204-December 2nd; 0205-November 26th; 0206-December 11th;
 0207-December 12th; 0208-November 25th; 0209-November 28th;
 0210-November 25th; 0211-December 3rd; 0212-November 18th;
 0213-November 28th; 0214-December 11th; 0215-December 2nd;
 0216-December 10th; 0218-December 4th; 0219-December 3rd;
 0220-November 29th; 0221-November 29th; 0222-December 10th;
 0223-December 10th; 0224-November 27th.

Details of the two outstanding vehicles, which had not been delivered to the Company at the time of writing, are as follows :-

0201	C201HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-699925	Reeve Burgess B20F	15419
0217	C217HJN	Mercedes-Benz L608D	310327-20-703563	Reeve Burgess B20F	15439

Delivery of these two vehicles is expected to occur in the very near future.

There are certain minor detail differences between the vehicles. For example, 0200 (C200HJN) is the only vehicle delivered to date to have the front fog lamps positioned below the front bumper; other vehicles have the fog lamps above the bumper. The vehicles are being delivered to Central Works with a small Mercedes-Benz badge on the bonnet cover, but this is being removed by the Company presumably to allow future signwriting or livery details. 0212 (C212HJN) was the first vehicle to be delivered, and this vehicle was at Clacton (CN) depot from November 26th-28th for inspection by engineering staff with a Mercedes-Benz representative. This vehicle has not been moved to Prittlewell (PL) depot, and is currently parked in the driver training vehicle yard at New Writtle Street, Chelmsford. At the time of writing, 0202/3/5/6/8/9/14/5/8-21 had been moved to Prittlewell (PL) for storage, with the other vehicles still at Central Works. 0218 (C218HJN) was noted arriving at Southend (SD) depot on December 4th, prior to moving to Prittlewell (PL) later that day.

No official information is yet available regarding the future use of these vehicles. However, the East Essex Gazette newspaper published a detailed report on the vehicles in its edition on November 29th, being accompanied by a photograph of 0212. The report states that the vehicles will be used in the Clacton area, and that 'they will replace 13 of the older single and double-deck vehicles'. The report goes on to state that 'the major advantage of the new fleet is that the frequency of vehicles on some routes will be doubled or even trebled', and that 'there will also be services on days and at times not presently covered by Eastern National'. The report describes the proposed livery of the vehicles as blue with yellow and white

bands, and suggestions for a marketing name have been invited from Clacton residents. Possible names mentioned in the report include Embus, Coaster, Whippet, Road Runner, Coastline, Villagers and Shopper Hopper. Finally, the report does not state a definite commencement date for mini-bus operations in Clacton, beyond an indication that it will be 'possibly by the Spring'.

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Vehicles On Order

Further to the information published in NS259, it is now possible to provide details of the booked registration numbers for the vehicles on order for delivery during 1986. Details are as follows :-

1130-3 C130-3HJN Leyland Tiger/Plaxton Paramount 3200 coaches
 4007-21 C407-21HJN Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. double-deck vehicles with dual-purpose seating.
 4510-2 C510-2HJN Leyland Olympian/E.C.W. double-deck coaches.

Members will note the matching fleet and registration numbers, which is an unusual feature for Eastern National vehicles.

A report in Commercial Motor magazine on December 7th also indicated that the Company has a further 50 Mercedes-Benz mini-bus vehicles on order for delivery during 1986, but it should be noted that this report is still subject to confirmation.

Re-built Vehicles

As a correction to previously published information, it should be noted that the seating capacity of the three Leyland National disabled persons' vehicles (2200-2) is officially described as DP20F + 8 wheelchairs or DP24F + 6 wheelchairs, depending upon circumstances. All three vehicles have ramped centre doorways in addition to the front entrance. The conversion dates for the vehicles are listed as 5/82 (2200), 3/85 (2201) and 8/85 (2202).

Leyland Leopard coach 1307 (LMT342V) had its seating capacity increased from C47F to C51F during late-November, and this vehicle has also now been fitted with Webasto heating. It is understood that similar vehicles 1302-6 will also be fitted with Webasto heating in due course.

The tachograph fitted to Bristol VRTSL6G 3003 (CPU982G) has been removed recently, and it is now fitted to Bristol VRTSL6G 3126 (XHK231X).

Allocations & Transfers

12/85 0200 D/L, 0202 D/L, 0203 D/L, 0204 D/L, 0205 D/L, 0206 D/L, 0207 D/L,
 0208 D/L, 0209 D/L, 0210 D/L, 0211 D/L, 0212 D/L, 0213 D/L, 0214 D/L,
 0215 D/L, 0216 D/L, 0218 D/L, 0219 D/L, 0220 D/L, 0221 D/L, 0222 D/L,
 0223 D/L, 0224 D/L, 1536 D/L (P)-BS, 1652 BE-D/L, 1911 CN-CR,
 3024 PL (P)-BE, 3066 CF-CR, 3078 CR-CF, 3095 BE-CN, 3105 SD-CF,
 3115 CR-BE, 3119 CF-SD.

The Bristol RELL6G Survey Vehicle 1548 (WN0537L) was delicensed (D/L) during December, and this vehicle is still in store at Chelmsford (CF) depot where it is being used as temporary staff accommodation during re-building works.

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, Bristol RELL6G's 1545/7, Leyland National 1652 and Bristol VRTSL6G 3001 are all currently in store at Clacton (CN) depot.

A full fleet allocation is published on page 9 of this news sheet, and the next full full allocation will be published in the April 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 NS260 :-

November w/e 23.11.85 - 1755 at MN, Ford Transit van A295UYT at CW (livery changes).
 w/e 30.11.85 - 1836 at CW.
 December w/e 7.12.85 - 1307 at CW (National Express livery).
 w/e 14.12.85 - 1050 at CN/CW - base livery painted at CN, and livery stripes added at CW.

MCW Metroliner coach 1601 (B458WHJ) is currently in the paintshops at Central Works being repainted in National Holidays livery (see also NS259).

Bristol VEMSL6G 3108 (UAR598W) is also currently in the paintshops at Central Works, and it is understood that this vehicle will be repainted in an experimental new fleet livery style, which has been described as middle green and middle chrome yellow. Further details will be published as soon as they become available.

As noted above, Leyland Leopard coach 1307 (LLT342V) has been repainted in National Express livery.

General

Leyland National 1652 (KCG609L) sustained serious accident damage on November 28th, whilst operating on service 70 between Braintree and Colchester. The vehicle was towed to Central Works on November 29th, and it was later towed to Clacton (CN) depot on December 6th. It seems likely that the vehicle will be withdrawn from service.

Leyland National 1923 (JHJ149V) sustained minor accident damage on November 30th, whilst operating on service 38.

Further to the information published in NS259, MCW Metroliner coach 1603 (B460WHJ) remains at Central Works, where accident damage repairs have now been almost completed.

A number of vehicles from other operators have received attention at Eastern National Engineering's Central Works during recent weeks. These have included Southend Transport Leyland Leopard coach 326 (XHU 326), an Army (REME) Bedford TK lorry with registration number 03 GJ 19 and a Leyland Freighter lorry of L. Wallis, Chelmsford with registration number A182MJN.

A recent report in Motor Transport has indicated that the management of the National Bus Company's 63 subsidiary companies can now prepare plans to purchase their companies. The National Bus Company has to prepare proposals by January 31st, 1986 to reorganise its companies to meet competition and for disposal, as part of its privatisation programme. The opportunity for management proposals to buy their companies represents an early stage in this programme, which it is suggested in the Motor Transport report could begin to take effect in Summer 1986.

In a very interesting development, Hants & Dorset Motor Services Ltd. (trading as Hants & Dorset Distribution) has recently applied to the Traffic Commissioners of the Eastern Traffic Area for an operator's licence to operate five motor vehicles from Eastern National Engineering's Central Works. This is believed to be in connection with a National Bus Company plan to establish regional stores and spares facilities in Southern England.

The Company increased fares on its stage services from Sunday, December 1st. On the same date, day return fares were introduced on the majority of the Company's services. Special day return fares remain available, although most of these were also increased in price from December 1st. Other price increases introduced on December 1st have concerned Explorer tickets (now £3.00-adult, £2.00-child and £6.00-family), the Basildon FairCard scheme (now £6.60 for 7 days and £26.40 for a calendar month), the Chelmsford ChelmerCard scheme (now £5.75 for 7 days and £23.00 for a calendar month in the Inner Zone, and £7.35 for 7 days and £29.40 for a calendar month throughout the area) and the Southend & District Travelcard scheme (now £7.85 for 7 days and £31.40 for a calendar month). Other fare revisions have affected children's fares, with certain local variations, and full details are available from the Company's offices.

Explorer tickets continue to provide very good value for money, and members may be interested in the following itinerary recently undertaken by Group member John Rugg from Basildon. The Explorer ticket (then £2.75) saved £16.30 on the normal fares for these journeys, and the trip represented 10 hrs. 17 minutes travelling time within a total period of 12 hrs. 48 minutes. In an unofficial competition for members, the News Sheet Editor would be pleased to hear from any member who has made an Explorer ticket trip on Eastern National services which improves on the financial savings and journey times (timetable times) achieved in this particular itinerary.

Saturday, November 16th - 0812 hrs. service 403 Laindon-Romford (1714 BN); 0904 hrs. service 151 Romford-Brentwood (1907 BN); 0929 hrs. service 360 Brentwood-Chelmsford (1719 BD); 1015 hrs. service 53 Chelmsford-Colchester

(3060 SE); 1135 hrs. Eastern Counties service 93 journey Colchester-Ipswich (VR287); 1239 hrs. Eastern Counties service 123 journey Ipswich-Mistley (VR256); 1333 hrs. service 123 Mistley-Clacton (1834 WN); 1505 hrs. service 119 Clacton-Colchester (1803 CN); 1605 hrs. service 70 Colchester-Braintree (1882 BE); 1705 hrs. service 311 Braintree-Chelmsford (3056 BE); 1733 hrs. service 11A Chelmsford-Rayleigh (3071 SD); 1835 hrs. service 8 Rayleigh-Southend (Southend Transport 310); 2000 hrs. service 400 Southend-Basildon (4507 LN); 2047 hrs. service 504 Basildon-Laindon (1889 BN).

Members may be interested in the following observations of Eastern National and Grey-Green vehicles operating the joint commuter services at Victoria (Artillery Row) on November 21st (evening departures). In order of departure, the vehicles were 1303 BE (service 195), Grey-Green PYE842Y (service 204), Grey-Green FYX815W (service 197), Grey-Green EYH804V (service 198), Grey-Green PYE838Y (service 191), Grey-Green FYX819W (service 204), 4503 CF (service 192), 1309 BE (service 194), 1300 CF (service 196), Grey-Green CYH768V (service 205), 1126 SE (service 193), Grey-Green FYX818W (service 190), Grey-Green PYE844Y (service 204), 4500 SE (service 194), Grey-Green OHM831Y (service 199) and 1301 CF (service 195).

Temporary Loans

Bedford YMQS 1059 (TJN982W) moved on temporary loan from Brentwood (BD) to Bishop's Stortford (BS) during late-November, where it replaced initially 1050 BS, and latterly from December 13th 1058 BS which is now being repainted at Clacton (CN).

There have been a considerable number of vehicle loans at Silver End (SE) during recent weeks. Vehicles on loan to Silver End (SE) depot have included 1309 BE (20.11-26.11), 1866 CF (5.12-11.12, being noted on services 337 and 353 on 5.12, service 335 on 6.12, service 337 on 7.12 and service 53 on 10.12), 3029 BE (being noted on service 353 on 23.11), 3056 BE (being noted on service 53 on 14.11) and also 3054 BE (16.11) and 4503 CF (6.12/7.12, being noted on a football excursion from Ipswich to Manchester on 7.12). Silver End (SE) vehicles on loan to other depots have included 1747 (to BE on 11.11), 1812 (to BE on 16.11), 3060 (to BE on 11.11) and 4500 (to BE on 27.6 and to CF on 10.12, when it was noted on commuter service 192).

Bristol VRTSL6G 3021 (OWC294K) was on loan from Chelmsford (CF) to Bishop's Stortford (BS) on October 7th, when it was noted on services 49 and 58B, whilst similar vehicle 3106 (UAR596W) was on loan from Chelmsford (CF) to Southend (SD) on November 21st.

At Harwich (DT), there has been a fewer number of temporary loans during recent weeks. 1650 CR, 1790 CR and 1872 CR operated on loan for various periods during November and early-December, whilst 1117 DT was at Colchester (CR) from November 1st to November 29th for mechanical repairs, after which it moved to Clacton (CN) to be fitted with a replacement engine.

Service Developments

The Company has applied for a number of service revisions during recent weeks, and brief details of these changes are as follows :-

- 20A - Revised terminal at Shoeburyness is the Osprey P.H.
- 321 - Mondays to Fridays : 1635 hrs. journey from Springwood Industrial Site to Goldingham Drive withdrawn from November 25th, and replaced by an additional journey from Springwood Industrial Site to Goldingham Drive at 1705 hrs.
- 406 - NEW SERVICE (introduced from November 18th) to operate on Weekdays from Southend (Central Bus Station) to Basildon (Bus Station) via Prittlewell, Eastwood, Rayleigh Weir, North Benfleet and Basildon (Marconi's). On journeys from Southend, the first setting down point is at North Benfleet (Dick Turpin P.H.), and this is also the last picking up point on journeys to Southend.
- 473 - Fridays only : return journey from Romford to Colchester is operating this year 15 minutes earlier at 1345 hrs. (see NS260).
- 812 - Route in Luton is via Guildford Street, Church Street and St. Marys Road to Luton Airport, and via St. Marys Road, Church Street, Bute Street, Guildford Street, Church Street, St. Marys Road, Inner Relief Road (Park Viaduct), Castle Street and A6 on return journeys.

Members may be interested to know that London Regional Transport has recently invited tenders for operation of services 107 (Brimsdown-Queensbury), 142 (Watford Junction-

Brent Cross), 259 (Hammond Street-Manor House), 263 (Archway-Potters Bar) and 298 (Turnpike Lane-South Mimms) (with the closing date for tenders being December 23rd), and also for a twelve routes in the Orpington area (with the tender closing date being January 20th).

Publicity News

New publicity material published during recent weeks has been as follows :-

Timetable leaflets - new timetable leaflet for service 406 (dated November 18th).

Christmas/New Year leaflets - the first Christmas/New Year timetable leaflet has been published by Brentwood & Havering District. It contains details of certain half-price travel bargains, local timetable variations between December 24th and January 1st and operation of an open-top Bristol KSW5G in Brentwood on Christmas Eve.

National Express leaflets - timetable leaflets for services 081 and 083 (both dated October 27th), a summary leaflet of principal coach services from Chelmsford and a pocket timetable leaflet for service 081 (Ipswich-Chelmsford) (both dated October 27th).

Unusual Workings

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

- 5.10-former Southend Transport Volvo/Berkhof coach 300 (B300BTW), which is now on lease to London Country, was noted at Gallowgate Coach Station, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and this vehicle still carries Ensign Bus Co. legal lettering.
- 6.10-3039/55 (both SE), 3056/9 (both BE) and 3080, 3110/3/26 (all CF) noted on rail replacement work at Hatfield Peverel.
- 7.10-1540 BS noted on service 58; 1542 BE observed on service 70; 1919 BN noted on service 402.
- 8.10-Southend Transport 301 noted on the 1337 hrs. service 7 journey from Shoeburyness.
- 2.11-4503 CF observed on National Express work at Chelmsford.
- 3.11-3108/10-3 (all CF and 3123 SE operated a rail replacement service between Witham and Chelmsford.
- 6.11-1126 SE observed on service 53 (and again on 8.11).
- 9.11-1552 DT, 1650 CR and 1653 DT operated a rail replacement service between Harwich and Colchester via Manningtree (and again on 10.11).
- 11.11-1542 BE observed on service 330; 1750 DT operated two rail replacement journeys between Harwich and Parkeston Quay.
- 12.11-1118 HH noted on service 21 (and again on 14.11); 1552 DT observed on service 80; 1790 CR noted on service 423; 1793 CR operated a rail replacement service between Marks Tey and Sudbury.
- 13.11-1653 DT operated a private hire journey from Harwich to Clacton.
- 14.11-3105 SD noted on service 152, and this vehicle was noted on service 44B on 16.11 and 2.12.
- 15.11-1123 CR observed on service 118.
- 16.11-National Travel (East) 36 (B36 UNW) noted at Chelmsford (Bus Station); 1750 DT operated a rail replacement service from Manningtree to Harwich; 3003 CN noted at Chelmsford (CF) depot, presumably in connection with the transfer of its tachograph to 3126 CF.
- 17.11-1653 DT and 1750 DT operated a rail replacement service from Harwich to Colchester via Manningtree.
- 19.11-1790 CR observed on service 423.
- 20.11-1123 CR noted on service 88; 1126 SE noted on service 53 (and again on 25.11).
- 21.11-1536 D/L (P) noted running dead at Southend (Victoria Circus).
- 22.11-3072 SD noted on service 11A (and again on 30.11); 9016 CF noted on driver training work at Rayleigh.
- 23.11-1115 SD noted on service 402; 1726 CR noted on Colchester area Countrycar services; 1750 DT operated two rail replacement journeys between Harwich and Manningtree; 1872 CR noted on service 423.
- 24.11-1750 DT and 1920 DT operated a rail replacement service from Harwich to Colchester via Manningtree, whilst 3055/9 (both SE) and 3066/9/82, 3112/3/25 (all CF) operated a similar service between Chelmsford and Witham.
- 26.11-1554 CN noted on service 119; 1750 DT operated a rail replacement journey from Harwich to Manningtree and return; 1920 DT noted on service 423.
- 27.11-1118 HH noted on a service 5A schools journey; 1920 DT operated a private hire journey from Harwich to Clacton; 3021 CF noted on service 53, having replaced

- 1862 SE which failed at Chelmsford; Midland Red (Express) 543 (LOA843X) noted on National Express service 109.
- 28.11-1650 CR noted on service 53, again having replaced 1862 SE; Southend Transport 232 operated a rail replacement service from Wickford to Woodham Ferrers.
- 29.11-1123 CR noted on service 83.
- 30.11-1552 DT and 1750 DT operated a rail replacement service from Harwich to Parkeston Quay; 1872 CR noted on service 423; 3021 CF noted on a private hire working at Doreham; 4500 SE operated a private hire journey from Braintree to London.
- 1.12-3059 SE, 3123 SE and 3077/82/91, 3125/6 (all CF) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Witham, whilst 3110/2 (both CF) operated a similar service between Wickford and Billericay.
- 2.12-1866 CF noted on service 311, having replaced 1932 SE which failed at Chelmsford; 3021 CF noted on service 31; 3035 CF noted on service 38; 3063 SE noted at Witham Railway Station having failed whilst operating service 335.
- 3.12-3103 HH noted at Wickford Railway Station.
- 6.12-1304 SD noted on service 795 at Grays, whilst National Travel (London) HBP331X was also noted at Grays on service 402; 3111 SD noted on a private hire working at Rayleigh.
- 7.12-Heddingham & District Omnibuses Ltd. operated former Eastern National Bristol FLF6G L102 (OPU322D) on services 88, 89 and 89A, and this represented the first use of a Bristol FLF on these joint Eastern National/Heddingham & District services for several years. It is hoped to repeat this workings, with more notice for enthusiasts, during 1986. 3066 CR was noted on service 119, together with 3095 CM. Southend Transport 357 (on hire to Venturer Travel) operated an excursion from Southend to the Bluebell Railway.
- 8.12-3041/55/9/60, 3123 (all SE) and 3077/82/91, 3105/6/10/2/25/6 (all CF) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Witham.

COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

General

Leyland Olympian 41 (C41 HHJ) was involved in a head-on collision on November 15th at Mersea Road, Colchester, whilst operating service 7 (see NS260).

Vehicles out of service at the time of writing were Bristol RELL6L's 18, 21 and 25, Leyland Olympian 41, Leyland Atlantean's 48, 56, 61 and 76 and Leyland Leopard coach 101 which has now been out of service since June 20th. Vehicles returned to service during recent weeks have been Bristol RELL6L 24 (by November 27th) and Leyland Atlantean's 64 (by November 20th), 65 (by November 14th), 74 (by November 23rd), 85 (by December 5th), 87 (by November 16th), 89 (by November 23rd) and 90 (by November 23rd).

Leyland Atlantean 74 (TPU 74R) has been repainted into the new livery style by Eastern Coach Works, Lowestoft (see also NS260).

The Essex County Standard reported on November 15th that a bus turning circle will be built at Rectory Road, Rowhedge, thereby removing the need for buses to reverse along Rectory Road.

Colchester Borough Transport has announced its timetables for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. On Christmas Day (December 25th), Boxing Day (December 26th) and New Year's Day (January 1st) no services will be operated. A normal Tuesday service will operate until 2030 hrs. on Christmas Eve (December 24th) and New Year's Eve (December 31st) whilst a normal timetable will operate on December 27th to December 30th inclusive.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

The second new Van Hool Astromega double-deck coach has now been delivered, and full details are as follows :-

257. G257FHLJ Van Hool Astromega TD824 YE282400NOM114054 CH57/27F 14054

This vehicle was delivered on November 29th, and it entered service on December 10th. Both 256/7 have ZF 6HP600 gearboxes, and they have been fitted with speed limiters

by Van Hool, without which the top speed would be considerably in excess of that which the tachograph could record. Both vehicles have a fixed trailing axle, and the older Van Hool Astronova's (243-5) are now having their trailing axles fixed; previously, they were self steering up to 50 m.p.h., at which speed they locked.

Rebuilt Leyland Leopard coach 254 is currently back with Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet, where it is being fitted with Taperlite springs, and the fuel tanks are being repositioned. Similar vehicle 255 is believed to be almost complete at Berkhof's factory at Valkenswaard, Netherlands (see also NS260).

Vehicles On Hire

Bristol REEL6L 303 (JEH179K) was hired to Ipswich Borough Transport from December 9th. As a replacement at Southend, Ipswich Borough Transport's Leyland Atlantean 40 is on hire to Southend Transport, and is being crew operated on service 1. This hire also commenced on December 9th, and details of this vehicle are as follows :-

40 RGV 40W Leyland Atlantean AN68C/1R 8003364 East Lancs H46/27D 1604/4 New 5/81

The former Parks of Hamilton Leyland Leopard coach mentioned in last month's news sheet will also be taken on short-term hire from Caledonia Coach Sales and Services Ltd. following the completion of MOT work and the installation of a power door. It is currently in a silver livery, and will be numbered 359; details are as follows :-

359 MDS242V Leyland Leopard PSU5C/4R 7802506 Van Hool C57F 310007 New -/80

General

As a correction to last month's news sheet, Leyland Leopard coach 213 (LAK303W) is currently at Bus Engineering Ltd., Aldenham, where it is being fitted with a DAF DKTL engine.

Leyland Leopard coach 208 (BTE208V) is currently being fitted with a naturally aspirated DAF DKDL engine by Southend Transport, whilst Leyland Leopard coach 347 (XWX184S) has been fitted with the Leyland 0680 engine from 213 by Eastern National Engineering at Chelmsford. Leyland Leopard coach 326 (XHU 326) is currently with Eastern National Engineering for an engine rebuild.

DAF MB200 coach 253 (B253CVX) has been returned to Duple Coachbuilders Ltd. for repairs, following an accident with a lorry on the A13 on December 3rd.

Other vehicle modifications have involved the fitting of a spring parking brake to Leyland Leopard coach 323 (YHG 3N), the fitting of a one piece coach style door to Leyland Tiger 209 (DHK209X) after accident damage and the fitting of a front bumper to Daimler Fleetline 387 (JTD387P).

Daimler Fleetline's 317/9/86 and Leyland Fleetline's 229/31 have been repainted recently, and all former London Transport Daimler Fleetline's now have dark blue lining separating the blue and cream areas.

Plans for the formation of Southend Transport Ltd. are proceeding through the various Council Committees. It is understood that the company, which will operate all buses and coaches and the bus repair/overhaul works, will have a Board of Directors of eleven persons, comprising four officers of the company (Managing Director, Financial Controller/Company Secretary, Operations Director and Engineering Director), four Councillors and three outside businessmen. The Board is to be set up in shadow form shortly, in advance of the actual transfer of assets to Southend Transport Ltd., in order to lay plans for operations under deregulation.

Southend Transport fares were also increased from Sunday, December 1st, and this also saw the reintroduction of day return fares. Local publicity refers to the introduction of half fares for 15/16 year old children on production of a photocard, but this scheme is not yet operational.

European Airways, the company which ran the Miracle Bus contract service, went into liquidation in West Germany during late-November. Operations are continuing in this country on a very limited basis, being operated by Miracle Bus Company, the company which operates the British end of the service. There are now very few weekend workings, and amongst the recent weekend workings have been the use of Leyland Tiger's 246 (November 23rd), 247 (November 10th), 248 (November 17th) and 249 (November 30th), and Leyland Leopard 357 (November 24th). During late-November, flight delays and diversions made return workings by Southend Transport vehicles impossible, and transfers from Gatwick Airport were covered by Stephenson's Coaches, Hullbridge.

EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET ALLOCATION - DECEMBER 1985Basildon & Thurrock District

Basildon (BN) : 1124 1704/11-7/21/3/32/6/8/40-2/4/6/8/63/7/72/6/86/95
 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 2200 3068/74/6 3116/7/20 4501/7-9 (72)

Braintree & Uttlesford District

Braintree (BE) : 1119/20 1303/6/8/9 1542 1794 1812/63/82
 1902/24/6/9/30/2 3024/6/9/48/56/63/7 3115/8/28 (27)
 Bishop's Stortford (BS) : 1050/6/8 1127 1536/40/53 1739/49/59 1914/6 (15)
 3039 3114 4502
 Silver End (SE) : 1126 1310 1659 1745/7/83 1813/61/2 3041/55/9/60 (15)
 3123 4500

Brentwood & Havering District

Brentwood (ED) : 1055 1122/8 1700/19/22/54/60/85/96/7 1809/10/23/37-40
 1845/6/59/76/81 1903/12/3/33 3080/1/92-4 3100 (35)
 4005/6 (5)
 Enfield (ED) : 1051-4/7

Chelmsford & Maldon District

Chelmsford (CF) : 1114/21/9 1300/1 1654/6/7 1701/7/30/4/52/62/71/4/5/8
 1801/2/4/5/11/5/9/24/7/32/3/42/50/1/5/6/60/6/7/70/3/85/97/9
 1905/15/7/39 2201/3 3021/33/5/69/77/8/82/91 3105/6/8 (65)
 3110/2/3/25/6 4503 (1)
 Great Dunmow (DW) : 1890
 Maldon (MN) : 1059 1708/28/55/64 1806/29/31/41 1921/3/7/31 (20)
 3018/38/40/9/51/70/9

Colchester & Tendring District

Colchester (CR) : 0120/1 1123 1302 1650/8 1705/18/26/82/90/3 1816/28
 1872/5/88/92 1910/1/25/35/6 3020/2/3/32/50/66 3124/7 (33)
 4003/4
 Clacton (CN) : 1110-3 1307 1554 1602/3 1651/5 1751/6/61/8/9/79/80 (29)
 1791/2 1803/25/6/58/65 2202 3003/30/1/95 (9)
 Harwich (DT) : 1117 1552 1653 1750 1901/20 3027/58/61 (3)
 Walton-on-Naze (WN) : 1789 1800/34

Southend & District

Southend (SD) : 1115/6/25 1304/5 1600/1 1702/24/9/66/70/3/87/8/98/9
 1807/14/36/68/93-5 1937/8 3025/8/34/6/7/52-4/7/62/4/5
 3071-3/5/83/4/6-90/6/8 3101/2/4/11/9/21/2/9 4000-2 (65)
 4504-6
 Hadleigh (HH) : 1118 1703/9/20/5/7/31/3/5/7/43/53/7/8/65/77/81/4 (33)
 1817/21/35/57/64/9/71 1900/28 3085/97/9 3103/7/9

Delicensed For Maintenance (D/L) : 0200/2-16/8-24 1652 (24)

Delicensed Survey Vehicle (SV) : 1548 (1)

Delicensed Pool Vehicles (D/L (P)) : 1539/41/5/7/9 3000/1/4 (8)

Licensed Open-Top Vehicle (L) : 2383 (1)

Licensed As Private Vehicle (LP) : 2384 (1)

Driver Training Vehicles : 3002 9016/8/21 (all allocated to Chelmsford (CF)) (4)

Notes - 1110-5 and 4500/3 are at present attached to the Coaching Department.

1110/2/3 and 1307 carry National Express livery.

1128/9, 1300/1, 1601/3 carry National Holidays livery.

1111/4/5 carry Highwayman livery.

1051-4/7 carry W9 'W-Niner' livery.

3071-6 carry City 400 livery, and 4500-9 carry City Commuter livery.

2200-3 are Disabled Persons' vehicles.

Initial Disposals

- 3014 (SMS 40H) - Still at Central Works, Chelmsford, 12/85, and has not yet been cannibalised and broken up for scrap (see also NS259/60).
- 3019 (SMS 45H) - Allocated to Wantage depot by South Midland Ltd., and now carries maroon and cream livery. Fleet number remains unknown. (additional information to NS256/8).
- 3047 (OCS576H) - Allocated to Wantage depot by South Midland Ltd., and now carries maroon and cream livery. Fleet number remains unknown. (additional information to NS256/8).

Subsequent Disposals'National' numbering scheme

- 3889 (KHK 513) - Dealer, London, S.W.9., 10/63, thence to dealer, London, S.W.18, 11/63, ex. John Laing Construction Ltd. (N-PSV), 1020.

1954 - 1964 numbering scheme

- 1026 (JVX 555) - Chassis still with Eastern National Preservation Group at Castle Point Transport Museum, Canvey, 11/85. (additional information to NS245/51).
- 357 (CFD777B) - This vehicle is used to transport Society members and is not therefore preserved as such. Accordingly the disposal should correctly be recorded as (N-PSV). (correction to NS252).
- 390 (11 DLY) - Dealer, Carlton, by 9/85, ex. Costain Mining, Fife, (N-PSV), B2.
- 9427 (TWC976J) - Dealer, Carlton, by 9/85, ex. Continental Pioneer, Richmond.
- 1356 (MOO 177) - Still with 5th Bradford South (Horton Grange) Scout Group, 6/85. (additional information to NS260).
- 1504 (CVW858G) - Noted in service at Ipswich, 12/85, carrying operator disc of Bickers, Coddenham, ex. Felixstowe Omnibuses Ltd., Ipswich.
- 1550 (WNO539L) - Seating capacity with Ulsterbus Ltd., Belfast, 795, is B53F + 22 standing. (additional information to NS259/60).
- 1551 (WNO540L) - Seating capacity with Ulsterbus Ltd., Belfast, 796, is B53F + 22 standing. (additional information to NS259/60).
- 2700 (AHJ142A) - Went to Omnibus Promotions (dealer), London, W.10, 11/84, and still present there in 12/85. (additional information to NS251/2/5/7).
- 2710 (90 TVX) - Ireland, Hull (for preservation), by 9/85, ex. King's Wood County Middle School (N-PSV), High Wycombe.
- 2747 (E00 589) - Withdrawn by Bird, Ongar, by 7/85. Vehicle was not transferred to Bird's new premises at High Laver.
- 2867 (RVW393D) - Numbered N5DT and now owned by Northern Scottish Omnibuses Ltd. (further information to NS255).
- 2886 (WNO974F) - Still with London Torah, London, N.15 (N-PSV), 12/85. (see also NS244).
- 2923 (AEV817F) - Was used by Norths (dealer), Sherburn as a source of parts for the repair of former Alder Valley Bristol FLF6G 692 (PBL 60F) (which is now owned by Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5) (see also NS258).
- 2931 (AVX973G) - Exported to British Promotions, Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A., ca. 10/85, ex. dealer, London, W.10.
- 3017 (SMS 43H) - Breaker, Carlton, by 9/85, ex. Crosville Motor Services Ltd., DVG562. Reported to have passed to breaker, Carlton via dealer, Middlewich.
- 3042 (LFS287F) - Withdrawn by South Wales Transport Co. Ltd., 904, 9/85, and placed in disposal pool.
- 9020 (LFS299F) - Had not entered service with Top Deck Travel Ltd., London, S.W.5 (N-PSV), by 11/84. Had been partially converted into a playbus by Gwent Probation & After Care Service, although not completed. Date of acquisition by Top Deck Travel Ltd. has again been reported as 7/84. (see also NS246/53).

News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), M.L. Weyell (M10), P.J. Snell (M32), V.J. Cooper (M128), R. Delahoy (M180), J.S. Wilby (M298), S.D. Barham (M313), W. White (M320), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), J. Rugg (M443), C.D. Sigston (M523), C. Pretty (M524), F.G. Spence (M545), S.J. Barnes (M576), R.W. Searle (M584), P.D. Ashton (M599), D.R. Hall (M601), S. Coates (M603), G. Huggins (AM1), the Grey-Green Enthusiasts Club and the P.S.V. Circle. The deadline for contributions to the January news sheet is Wednesday, January 15th.