

ESSEX BUS NEWS

JUNE 1992

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

338



Former Southend Transport 261 (F261 RHJ)
an Olympian/Alexander is now 553 in the
East Yorkshire fleet.

(P Scoote)

EDITOR:

Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0XU

SUB EDITORS:

Southend Transport:

Edward Cecil, 59 Abbs Cross Lane, Hornchurch, RM12 4XW

Thamesway:

Paul Harvey, 19 Watkins Way, Shoeburyness, SS3 9NX

South Essex Independents:

Mark Lloyd, 4 New Cottages, Wakes Colne, Colchester, CO6 2BY

Other Independents:

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 7NR

PUBLICATIONS:

Andy Meadows, 10 Harvard Court, Boston Avenue, Rayleigh, SS6 9ST

PHOTO ORDERS:

Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, SS7 4LB

MEMBERSHIP:

Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Ilford, IG2 7NQ

MAY ESSEX BUS NEWS

Our apologies for the incorrect order of last months magazine, which was the result of a page numbering problem on the editors PC causing confusion at the printers.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

Former East Kent AEC Regent/Park Royal GJG 757D is being offered for sale by Oak Hall Expeditions. The vehicle is in good condition and serious offers should be made to:- Ian Mayo (0732 63131).

EASTERN NATIONAL

Acquired Vehicle

4012 C412 HJN Leyland Olympian 6LXB/1R ECW DPH42/30F

The above vehicle was acquired from Thamesway, 5/91.

Allocation Changes

5/92 0706 Pool-BE; 2202 Pool-D/L(D); 4004 CR-D/L(D);
4012 Acqd-DT.

Vehicles

During most of May, Olympian 4018 has been restricted to service 7 as the entire destination system has failed. Cut out blinds reading 7 Service have been applied. 4512 is suffering a similar problem with the destination display out of use and a strip of white paper covering it. Very technical! By the end of May 4018 had been converted to roller blinds.

It is reported that 4512 had been out of use following a collision with a rail bridge at Rivenhall on 31.1.92. Following service revisions on 16.2.92. the Walton allocation was reduced to three minibuses.

Repaints

The following vehicles have been repainted:-

March 0703,0721,1924
April 0720,1870,3091
May 0205

All are in fleet livery, except 0205 which is now in Coastline livery ex Coronation Garages overall advert.

Unusual Workings

22.4.92. MN 3112 on service 119 (Normally MN Lynx).
29.4.92. DT3076 on service 77 (CR operated).

General

With effect from 5.4.92. Season Tickets were relaunched. They are available for most journeys and are available in weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual format. In addition they are colour coded depending on the month of expiry to prevent fraudulent use. The prices of Essex Ranger tickets were reduced from 5.4.92 and these tickets remain valid on all Eastern National and Thamesway commercial services, as well as on evening services operated under tender to ECC, where EN/Thamesway operate the daytime service. Tickets can now be purchased from the driver after 0900 on Monday to Friday and all day Saturday. Plans submitted for the redevelopment of Chelmsford Bus Station have been rejected by Chelmsford Borough Council. The plans included a new bus stationan office block ,car park and were submitted by the new site owners. Eastern National whose maintenance facilities would be moved elsewhere under the scheme are still looking for a new site. Plans have also been submitted to redevelop the former Central Works site in New Writtle Street, Chelmsford for housing. However the existing EN Head Office would not be affected.

Services

97A/B Slight timetable revisions introduced from 28.6.92.

The Clacton Heritage Tour using one of the Bristol KSWs will operate on Wednesday afternoons from 26.5.92. to 4.9.92.

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for services 133 dated 18.11.91; 11 dated 9.12.91; 87/A,133 dated 19.1.92; 118/119 dated 9.2.92; 31/X, 95/96,97A/B dated 29.3.92; 31/X, 36 dated 19.4.92; 74/77/78/A/119 dated 24.5.92; 53/B, 100/200 dated 24.5.92; 97A/B dated 28.6.92. Timetable booklets for Buses Serving Stansted Airport dated 18.11.91 and 19.1.92; Your Buses in Clacton dated 16.2.92; Your Buses in Maldon dated 29.3.92; Your Summer Buses in Clacton, Frinton and Walton dated 24.5.92.

Leaflets for Buses serving Takeley dated 18.11.91 and 19.1.92; Your Buses to The Tollgate Centre dated 19.1.92; and updates to Your Buses in Chelmsford and You Buses in Bishops Stortford, both dated 19.1.92.

Leaflets for Essex Ranger, Season Tickets and Eastern National Spring/Summer/Autumn Days Out 1992.

Booklet covering The Carriage of Passengers and The Issue of Tickets dated January 1992.

My apologies for the non appearance of this section in recent months.

Initial Disposals

1782	(PEV 694R)	Brokern for spares by 5/92.
2202	(WNO 559L)	London Borough Of Wandsworth, 5/92.
3058	(LJN 653P)	Kilo Health Club, Clacton, by 5/92.

4004 (B699 BPU) Thamesway, Basildon, 5/92.

Subsequent Disposals

1052	(TJN 975W)	Servisair, Stansted, by 9/91.
1308	(ANA 92Y)	Repainted white by Brewer, Maesteg, 5/92.
1309	(ANA 93Y)	As 1308.
1310	(ANA 94Y)	As 1308.
1411	(XOO 880L)	Sold by Harty, Cosham, 10/91.
	(CSV 231)	
	(WEU 73L)	
1417	(GJD 196N)	Bissett, Westbury (N-PSV), 9/90, ex. Light,
	(CSV 995)	East Stour.
	(JEU 508N)	
	(MIB 4194)	
1418	(GJD 194N)	As 1417 but in 4/90.
	(CSV 524)	
	(JEU 509N)	
1500	(PJT 255R)	Numbered 708 and repainted all white, 3/92, by
		Brewer, Maesteg.
1501	(PJT 256R)	As 1501, but numbered 709 and repainted, 5/92.
1502	(PJT 257R)	Being used for spares by Brewer, Maesteg.
1712	(WNO 561L)	Taj, Walsall, 1/92, ex. Brown, Blackburn.
1725	(NEV 682M)	Silver Coach Lines, Edinburgh, ET404, by 1/92,
		ex. Paterson, Bannockburn.
1726	(NEV 683M)	Solent Blue Line, 428, ex. Southampton City
		Transport, 428.
1749	(JNO 198N)	As 1726, fleetnumber 430.
1753	(LJN 661P)	Wigley (dealer), Carlton, by 1/92 (T).
1755	(LJN 663P)	Allocated fleetnumber LN 663 (but not carried)
		by Sovereign Bus & Coach.
1772	(MAR 794P)	As 1753.
1774	(MAR 796P)	Tellings-Golden Miller, Cardiff (t/a Rhondda
		Buses), ex. National Welsh, N660, 2/92.
1778	(PEV 690R)	Numbered 718 and repainted into white livery,
		3/92 by Brewer, Maesteg.
1781	(PEV 693R)	As 1753.
1784	(PEV 696R)	As 1753.
1791	(PEV 703R)	As 1753.
1797	(TJN 496R)	As 1753.
1814	(VNO 737S)	As 1753.
1818	(VNO 741S)	As 1755, but numbered LN641.
1827	(VNO 729S)	Numbered 717 by Brewer, Maesteg.
1838	(WJN 558S)	As 1755, but fleetnumber LN658 is carried on
		nearside only.
1848	(YEV 306S)	As 1755, but numbered LN606.
2903	(WVX 530F)	Hospitality vehicle, owner unknown, Twickenham
		5/91.
3108	(UAR 598W)	United Welsh Coaches, 4/92. (T)
3121	(XHK 226X)	Western National, Truro, by 3/91. (T)
3207	(RRP 857R)	Ford, Althorne, by 4/91. (T)
3211	(XNV 884S)	As 1753.
3212	(YVV 896S)	Numbered 763 by Cambus Ltd.
3214	(FRP 905T)	Numbered 764 by Cambus Ltd. Also quoted as
		being numbered 724.

4507 (B695 BPU) Cullinan, Birkenhead, 4/91 (T).

THAMESWAY

Acquired Vehicle

4004 B699 BPU Leyland ON6LXB/1R ECW H45/32F

This vehicle was acquired from Eastern National in mid May in overall advert for Auto Trader. It has been noted on service 251 still in advert livery.

Allocations

5/92 1822 D/L(D)-POOL(HH); 1823 BN-HH; 1911 BD-BN; 4004 EN-BD;
4012 BD-EN

Disposals

Olympian 4012 has passed to Eastern National in exchange for 4004.

Vehicles

Publicity vehicle 2200 was present at the Southend Airshow over the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend.

Repaints

Noted repainted in fleet livery are 250, 255, 803 and 1421.

Service Revisions

Basildon and Southend area revisions effective from Tuesday 26th May are:-

- 3/A/C Minor timetable adjustments.
- 20 Diverted to operate via Lifstan Way and Woodgrange Drive instead of via Southend Kursaal.
- 30 Revised timetable introduced on Saturdays.
- 31/32 Revised timetable.
- 35 Revised timetable, with new route 35A operating via Burnt Mills Road.
- 36 Revised timetable and route, to operate from Laindon Station and Lincoln Road.
- 37/A Revised timetable introduced on Saturdays.
- 154 Revised to operate via Willowfields, Laindon and minor timetable adjustments.
- 211 From 1.6.92. the 1550 ex King Harold School was advanced to 1535.

Revisions to services 26/A, 27/A, 28 and 28A cannot yet be explained owing to a lack of publicity.
Further revisions to Southend area services will be introduced on 5.7.92.

Thamesway have gained a further LT tender D8 (Stratford to Isle Of Dogs) commencing in September with new Mercedes from PD depot.

General

ECC services 211/3 are operated from PD using one Mercedes (noted on 27.5.92 was 255). PD have 21 minibuses to cover the following:-

13 for 379,W9,W11,W12

5 for W13

1 for 211/3

2 spare

Publicity

Timetable leaflets for services 11 dated 2.4.92; 2 dated 8.4.92; 152-4 dated 26.5.92. and 2/3/20 not dated.

Leaflets for Southend Hopper, Basildon Faircard, Bus Network in Southend, A concise history of Thamesway and value for Money Tickets in Southend all undated, plus Basildon Minibuses dated 26.5.92.

Unusual Workings

8.5.92. BD 237 on service 193.

HH 1835 on service 15.

10.5.92. BD 4009 on rail replacement service Pitsea to Tilbury.

18.5.92. HH 1869 on service 27.

HH 1852 on service 15.

20.5.92. BD 231 on service 193.

21.5.92. BD 3113 on service A1.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Vehicles

The appearance of Colchester United in the final of the FA Trophy on 10.5.92. , resulted in a large number of vehicles transporting fans to Wembley. Along with most of the Coaches, Lynxes and Olympians, CBT used Ford R1114/Plaxton driver trainer 93. In addition vehicles from Hedingham, Osbornes and Cedrics were noted together with vehicles hired in from as far apart as County Travel of Leiston and Brentwood Coaches. Most of the local small operators were present, however only four EN vehicles were noted.

Services

The open top tour will operate three times a day from 29.6.92. to 5.9.92.

CBT have lost ECC tendered services 13,14,16,75,77,82A and 83 from early September. The 14A has been retained and services 11 and 15 will be operated commercially.

Further to EBN337 the revisions to service 6 took effect from Tuesday 12th May.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT NEWS

VEHICLES

BRISTOL VRs

Further to EBN337:- Notes about 305: Andy Meadows has kindly written that the differences between the Gardner 6LX and 6LXB are negligible and in time interchange between the types was commonplace and impossible to detect. Andy also advises that National 787 is type 1035V1R/SC.

VRs continue to arrive. Recent acquisitions make the VR fleet complex. For clarity, use of LH(Lowheight) code will continue. (Older members may remember the LD code used by Buses Illustrated after the Lodekka was introduced!).

ALREADY IN SERVICE(End May/Start of June).

LOWHEIGHT (some ultra-lowheight 13.5')

301-6 AS ALREADY ADVISED.

308 (SNN159R)VRTSL6LXB	ECWLH43/31F	1977 0723	Ex Ribble
311 (CBV15S)	-do-	1977 1031	Ex CircleL

351 (YBF686S)VRTSL501	ECWLH43/31F	1978 1353	Ex PMT
352 (FTU380T)	-do-	1978 1502	Ex PMT
353 (GTX740W)	-do-	1980 2566	ex Nat Wel
354 (WTU494W)	-do-	1979 2812	ex PMT*

(* former Crosville DVL494)

381 (BUH233V)VRTSL501	ECW DPLH)	1980 2169	ex Nat Wel
382 (HTX751W)	-do- 40/27F	1980 2613	ex Nat Wel

HIGHBRIDGE

401 (LHG440T)VRTSL6LXB	ECW H43/31F	1978 1582	ex Rib1440
402 (LHG441T)	-do-	1978 1583	ex Rib1441
403 (LHG447T)	-do-	1979 1824	ex Rib1447
404 (LHG448T)	-do-	1979 1825	ex Rib1448

NOT YET IN SERVICE

307 (RCH155R)VRTSL3/6LXB	ECW	Details to come.
309 (RYG386R)	-do-	-do-
310 (UNW928R)	-do-	-do-
- (GRF694V VRTSL3/501	do	-do-

30/5 308 noted in full ST livery. 311 part new livery (may now be in full livery).

IMPORTANT NOTE: The influx of VRs are intended to 1) cover the extra work introduced with the 7/6 revisions and 2) replace Leyland Nationals with priority to trunk services. Indeed, double-deckers have started to hold sway on services 2,22 and 250(now 50).

SOLD/FOR SALE (ST DEALER STOCK)

BRISTOL VRTSL/501 ECW VHB679S VHB672S URF666/70S
AEC ROUTEMASTERS RM2087 (ALM87B): RM2114 (CUV114C):
RM1911 (YSL76B)
Also noted is ALM87B ex Burnley &
Pendle 187. It's status not known.

DEMONSTRATOR noted on Service 62A (probably other routes too) on loan from Plaxton.
754 (J454JRH) Dennis Dart Plaxton B40F.

594 (KTF594) AEC Regent Mark3 Open Topper.

This fine bus appeared at the beginning of June looking very smart in the new ST livery with 1892-1992 Southend Centenary celebrations signwriting. It is to be used on special events and was noted on 4/6 at Southchurch dressed in balloons promoting the Newington Avenue promoting the new services there. 594 was due to appear at the Southend Bus Rally on 7/6.

RADIO. The new Band III radio system was being installed in early June after extensive testing. Most Routemasters have now been fitted.

TRAFFIC

SOUTHEND AIR SHOW (Sun/Mon 24/25 May)

The first two X2s ex London were duped from Aldgate (0915 & 1015) with double decks. The 1830 ex Southend was also duped. Morning ex London and evening ex Southend journeys were double decked. Coach & bus seated Olympians featured along with coach seated VR 381,

PUBLICITY

Maps. Blue on White Local Bus Map dated Summer 92
Your Guide to Southend,Rochford&Castlepoint.
Dated Summer 92. Superb full colour map and
service guide with RM on Service 29 on cover.
First class production on glossy paper.

Services New leaflets on 7/6 changes for all town
services plus guide(printed in blue) to the
changes.

SERVICE CHANGES Effective 7/6.

There was due to be a major relaunch of services effective 7/6/92. This was backed up with a widespread marketing initiative and radio advertising.

1. More journeys Mon-Fri & Sun mornings. Every 15 mins Mon-Sat daytime otherwise 60mins. Extra peak runs.
- 1A As 1A to Hadleigh then to Daws Heath. Mon-Fri between peaks, every 30mins. Direct link for residents faster than TWs circuitous 24.
2. More journeys
3. Extended to Canvey(Leigh Beck) Mon-Sat shopping hrs
- 3A. Runs all day replaces 5 evenings & Suns.
- 3B. Runs evenings & Suns Shoebury(East Beach)-Leigh Beck replaces 5 & runs via Leigh Church & Hadleigh Rd.
- 4/A Minor Changes
- 5/A Now runs Southchurch(Newington Ave)-Hadleigh(Vic Hse Cnr) extended from Highlands via London Rd. At the Southchurch end stops short of former Golden Goblet terminus and diverted into Newington Ave loop.
- 6 Replaces Town Lynx. Southchurch(Newington Ave) - Eastwood(Kent Elms) via Southend, Westcliff Stn, Prittlewell Chase. Mon-Sats.
- 6A As 6 to Westcliff Stn then Chalkwell Stn, Grand Dri, Leigh Church, Marine Parade to Highlands(Thames Dri) Mon-Fri Shopping hrs.
- 6B As 6 to Westcliff Stn then Chalkwell Ave, Elms, Elms-leigh Drive, Coombes Cnr to Belfairs. Mon-Fri shopping hrs. Replaces service 17.
- 7/A New timetable with improved Mon-Sat daytime headway
- B/C along Woodgrange Dri, but reduced evening service on
- 8/A this section.
- 9 Renumbered from 9A. Journeys ex Southend will run via Nobles Green Rd to avoid buses passing in Dandies Dri with overhanging tree problem. Mon-Sat daytime headway 30mins & 60mins eves & Suns.
- 10 No change*
- 12 Rerouted away from Seafront via Woodgrange Dri, Delaware Rd, Asda to Shoebury(Renown). Hourly Mon-Sat daytime service. Local Sun hospital journeys Rochford-Southend introduced.
- 13 Renumbered 3C
- 14 No change
- 16 16A withdrawn. Slight timing changes
- 17 Withdrawn. Replaced by 6B
- 18 No change
- 20 Extra buses during peak hrs. Evening & Sunday service extended to Hullbridge.
- 21 Minor timing changes.
- 22 22A withdrawn replace by extra journeys on 20/22. Runs every 30 mins Mon-Sat daytime offering combined headway (with 9) of 15mins between Rayleigh & Hullbridge.
- 23/ 23B is withdrawn. Replaced by extra journeys on 23/A.
- A/B Evening & Sun 23 operated for E.C.C

- 29 Short workings to Belfairs(Woodcutters) extended to Belgrave Rd. Now 4 RMs an hour! Mon-Sat day time.
- 50 Renumbered from 250. Diverted in Basildon via Whitmore Way instead of Broadmayne. Timetable improved.
- 61/9 Additional journeys.
- 62/A Rerouted From Prittlewell Chase via Blenheim Chase & Vienna Roadhouse to Belfairs; section via Bridgewater Drive to Kent Elms withdrawn (replaced by 6).
- 63 Improved evening service with extra Mon-Fri peak hr journeys.
- 64 No Change
- 65 No Change.
- 66 No Change.

ST now offer a regular service along Delaware Rd, Thorpe Bay. Marine Parade, Leigh receives its first non-open top service since Westcliff-On-Sea days if my memory (suspect) is correct. Letters please. Hadleigh to Daws Heath via Rectory Rd is also new ground as is Whitmore Way, Basildon.

NEW

621 - 630 J-621 HMH Optare Metrorider Optare B28F 3/92
 these are for route 236 ex N.P. depot.
 631 - 633 J 631 HMH Mercedes Benz 811D Alexander B28F 4/92
 these are for route D4 ex NP depot.

ACQUIRED

100 GNF 13V Leyland Titan TNL111RT Park Royal H47/26F
 new 1980 to Greater Manchester Buses, 4013 - ex Wrights,
 Wrexham, 4/92.
 172 - 174 C372-374 CAS Leyland Olympian Alexander CH47/25F
 ONLXB/lrH
 180 A980 OST Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R " H45/32F
 new 1986/84 to Highland Omnibuses, Inverness, J572-4, J6, 4/92

On Hire

The Red Admiral Mercedes were returned to Portsmouth on 21st March

On Option

One Optare Spectra double decker.

Repaints - to the new Yellow livery -

111(ULS 621X), 112(GRA 102V), 122(G122YEV), 127(G127YEV), 299(JWF499W)
 127 ex the yellow/silver livery & 299 ex Nelmes Garage overall advert.
 Clarification - driver trainers 904/8/9 are light green on the front
 & rear and mid-grey on the two sides.

Rail Jobs

From March 9th to 10th April a replacement service for the Docklands
 Light Railway was run between Island Gardens and Canary Wharf stopping
 only at DLR stations. It ran every six minutes Monday to Fridays
 while Mudchute and Island Gardens stations were having their platforms
 extended.

NEW ROUTES - all LRT contracts

236 Finsbury Park Station - Hackney Wick, from 25/April/92 -midibuses.
 D6 Isle of Dogs Asda - Hackney Central, Daily, from 9th/May/92.

The contract has been won for route 257, presently Stratford to
 Chingford (Fantaseas), starting in October next. It will be cut back
 from Chingford to Walthamstow Central and route 97A extended from
 Walthamstow to Whipps Cross to maintain the link from Chingford Mount
 to Whipps Cross Hospital. A further 12 buses will be needed.

RUNNING NUMBERS - Dagenham (DM depot)

DM 1 + = 123 route
 41 + = 165
 51 + = 365
 71-74 = 246
 75 = 345
 76/77 = 550

DM 78 = 446 route
 81 + = 252
 101 + = 248
 121 + = 348
 141 = 565
 142 = 323

Northumberland Park (NP depot)

NP 21 + = 97
 41 + = 158
 61 + = 97a
 71 + = 215
 81 + = 212 mon-sat

NP 201 + = 153 mon-sat & 321 sunday
 211 + = 299 & W10
 221 + = 298
 231 + = W6 mon-sat & 212 sunday
 251 + = D4

HEDINGHAM

Vehicles

L178, the Norfolks VR made a number of appearances on service 82 during early May.

All three ex Norfolks Leyland Nationals have been repainted in the new Norfolks livery. This is similar to that used by Maidstone & District. In contrast one of the ex Norfolks ANs L186 (CBV 305S) is to be repainted into Hedingham livery and re-allocated to Hedingham depot.

Suffolk CC Sunday service 640 (Hadleigh-Yarmouth) is scheduled for operation from Nayland with AEC Reliance L180. All other services are operated from Hedingham.

General

Burnham depot will open as an operational depot in September with an allocation of four vehicles. This is a result of a number of tenders for ECC routes being won.

Vehicles at Sible Hedingham are now using electronic ticket machines.

OTHER OPERATORS

ADTAX SAFFRON WALDEN Have acquired H545 EVM a Sherpa minibus. AIRPORT COACH SERVICES Further to EBN 331, the editors records show the following as being owned, H370 GRY Toyota/Caetano minibus, LIW 4078 Bova, A114 KBA MCW Metroliner, D626/7 MJO Dodge S56/Reeve Burgess and E568 DPU a non PSV Ford Transit. Operations are based on Stansted Airport.

APT Three further acquisitions are Bedford/Caetano AAL 521A, SFH 694W a Volvo/Plaxton and Neoplan Skyliner 2803 PK, the latter being ex Oak Hall Expeditions and still named Zophar (the book of Job in the Bible refers). Also noted is JIW 6873 a ?/Plaxton is this a reregistration or an addition?

ASSOCIATED COACHWAYS The service operated under contract to Herts. CC on service 347 were withdrawn after 29.5.92. Essex CC journeys operated by EN are unchanged.

BJS TRAVEL MAN SR280 KDN 593 has been sold to S&P Coaches. Volvo/Plaxton F983 HGE ex Parks, Hamilton, Toyota/Caetano F697 PAY and AYS 899S a Bedford VAS5/Plaxton the latter ex Clintona have been acquired. Bedford YMT FIL 6279 was sold in the early half of 1991.

BLACKWELL ABBESS RODING Have sold Ford Transit JMJ 132V.

BOONS Two more Setras are now in use RSU 231 and WSU 225.

BRANDONS A further Bova not recorded before is HIL 2325. To correct EBN 328, the ex Harris Bova was re-registered HIL 2921. Other re-registrations are A251 SBM to HIL 2922 and A398 VML to HIL 2923. Volvo/Plaxton 57 FGC was sold last Autumn.

BRENTWOOD COACHES Whilst the majority of Colchester supporters were well behaved, one vehicle sub-contracted to Cedrics was damaged, with the toilet broken, cigarette burns on seats and the driver abused. A search of the vehicle by Police discovered alcohol and the driver was advised to return empty, leaving the

party to return by rail.

CARTERS News of a further Suffolk CC contract, is that two round trips on Sunday are operated on service 649 (East Bergholt)-Ipswich-Ely. From 20.6.92. service 755 will operate to a revised route. Loans of vehicles from Ipswich BT continue with Dodge 208 being noted on service 247 on 7.5.92.

CEDRICS A recent arrival is Plaxton bodied Volvo HIL 2645. Also acquired is Mercedes/Optare F313 TLU. Ex Reading VR NRD 64M is in use as a storeshed. Volvo/Jonckhree KIW 7812 has been sold to Ridgeon, Stanford-le-Hope.

CHAMBERS BURES Following ENs withdrawal from the "disabled" market, two of this operators vehicles have been downseated to 37+8 wheelchairs and fitted with lifts. One of these is Bedford YNT B792 MG, the other vehicle has not yet been identified.

CHANNEL COACHWAYS Have sold the pair of Bedford YNT/Duple coaches CJU 110/1Y, Bedford YRT/Plaxton CNP 83N and Bovas A737 HFP and 893 PTJ. Acquisitions are E737 LHX a Toyota/Caetano, VW/Optare D917 XUF, whilst new in 6/91 was H301 VWJ a Volvo/Ikarus.

CHARTERCOACH Have acquired Mercedes 0303/Jonckhree 448 DAE. Vehicles sold include Tigers F132/3 UMD and Sanos F752 SPU.

CHELMSFORD CAB Were operating Ford Transit EUS 793X a Ford Transit for private hire work. This has not been seen for some time and may have been replaced by the ex Clintona example.

CLINTONA Transit D943 MBM is now with the Chelmsford Cab Company.

COUNTY BUS The late evening journeys between Romford and Debden on service 502 are to be withdrawn from 20.6.92.

CUNNINGHAM Have acquired VYB 704 a Volvo/Van Hool and have sold Ford/Duple HFM 805N. Further to EBN 335 it is confirmed that TND 101X has been sold to a Bedfordshire based operator.

DINES BOREHAM Purchased in mid 1991 was Ford Transit H821 HVM.

DISTRICT BUS Service 112 was withdrawn after 12.6.92.

EASTERN COUNTIES Services 92/3 will have slight route and timetable revisions from 29.6.92.

FOURWAYS CHELMSFORD Have acquired Leyland Leopard/Duple DKE 530Y from Smith, Brenzett in whose livery it was initially operated. Ford/Duple RFC 563T has been sold.

FREELANCE CANVEY Acquired A39 HDU a Ford Transit/Dormobile ex Coventry Social Services by 11/91.

FUNSTON CHRISHALL Acquired C413 DML a Bedford YNV/Van Hool during 1991.

GLEW COLCHESTER Acquired ex Plymouth Dodge B348 VTA, but has ceased operations by 10/91.

GREENHAM Have sold LNT 671W a Ford R1114/Duple to March Travel< Southend.

HIGHWAY LEIGH Have sold Ford/Duple GHK 812Y to Crown, Thundersley and Ford/Plaxton EDD 437T has also left the fleet.

IPSWICH BUSES Dennis Dominator 82 (B82 NDX) operated the first service 605 of the summer. This journey is advertised as a through Ipswich-Walton service by Suffolk CC and displayed Walton throughout.

KINGS Ford/Duple XPP 421S has been sold to Flagfinder, Braintree, with whom it has been re-registered TXI 8748.

KNIGHTS GT BRAXTED Have acquired B344 PDG a Mercedes minibus by

12/91.

LINKFAST Have acquired a further AEC Reliance/Plaxton MRR 808K ex DGB Products, Lawford.

LODGE HIGH EASTER Have acquired C396 DML a Tiger/Van Hool. Duple 425 C294 HRN passed to Flagfinders, Braintree last summer.

LONDON CENTRAL Services to Lakeside from South London were revised from 3.6.92. Service 701X operates on Thursdays instead of Wednesdays and on Saturdays from October to December. Service 702X has been withdrawn between Lakeside and Romford.

MARCH SOUTHEND Have withdrawn Ford R1114/Duple LNT 671W, the only vehicle in the fleet. Has it been replaced?

M&E Have acquired HOI 7624 a Tiger/Berkhof ex Bourne & Woodhall. Also acquired is E563 MAC a Talbot Pullman, but ENJ 956V a Bedford YMT/Duple has been sold.

NELSONS Revisions to services 7,21,41,42,43,44,44A were made from 11.5.92. Service 122 will be revised from 22.6.92.

PRIORY Acquired is A221 PBM a Ford Transit/Dormobile.

ROADRUNNERS CANVEY This new operator has C85 HDT a Fiat minibus with Coachcraft borywork.

RUFFLES Have acquired a Bedford YMP/Plaxton C35F D35 XNV. The two Leyland Cubs OWJ 480X and C924 DKR appear to have been withdrawn. Bedford VAS5/Duple has been sold to Morley, Maylandsea.

S&M HARLOW Acquired during 10/91 was A319 HFP a Bova/Duple.

S&M HADLEIGH Atlantean JFG 355N and Bristol VR OCD 763G have been sold, as have the remains of AEC Reliance MRR 807K.

SIMIEN To correct EBN 336 the recent acquisition is RNK 317W.

STEPHENSONS A number of service revisions to commercial journeys were made from 8.6.92.

SUPREME Further to EBN 332, MRP 840Y is a Volvo B10M-61 fitted with a new Plaxton body, after the original Jonckhree was burnt out with O'Neill, Gillingham. This vehicle has been re-registered HSK 836. Other re-registrations include E696 NNH to HSK 835, F919 YNV to HSK 844 and F918 YNV to HSK 845. Scania/Plaxton NSU 181 (new as B547 CHJ) has been sold. Ford/Plaxton LHK 644V has been withdrawn.

UPSON AND HOPES Two further LAG Panoramics arrived during 1991 and not previously recorded are F677 BBD and F24 WNH A change of entity saw the fleet transferred to Hopes ownership during 12/91. To correct EBN 335 the LAG integral is registered J323 HVV.

UPSON Acquired ADC 322A a VolvoB58/Van Hool during the summer of 1991. However this was sold during early 1992.

VENTURER ROCHFORD MAN SR240 608 HX has been sold.

VICEROY Have sold Fleetline MLK 650L to Conner & Graham, Easington.

WALKERS Additional journeys to service 152 at 1555 ex Stanford and 1635 ex Basildon from 11.5.92.

WARDS A new service of which no further details are yet available will operate between Elmstead and Tollgate.

WESTS Two new vehicles are J6 BUS a 9m Dennis Dart seating B35F and J9 BUS a 9.8m Dennis Dart seating B40F, both have Wrights bodywork. Optare Delta G259 EHD has been re-registered A10 BUS. Leyland National GEU 363N is no longer in use.

WICKS BRAINTREE DAF/Jonckhree WRK17X has been re-registered PIB 2344.

WIFFEN Mercedes minicoach B44 LBU has been sold.
WRIGHT SOUTHEND Have acquired Sherpa minibus D173 LNA.

THE FLF STORY

PART 6 DRIVER TRAINING VEHICLES

In 1976 the last Bristol LDs were withdrawn from Eastern National service. It was therefore decided to replace the LD Driver Trainers with Bristol FLFs. The first two FLFs into the driver training fleet were 2942 (AVW 401F) and 0668 (BVX 668B), the earlier history of these two vehicles having already been covered. 2942 was numbered 9006 was used generally for driver familiarisation of the semi-automatic gearbox, consequently no modifications were made to the vehicle. Livery applied to this and all other Driver Training vehicles was dark blue with a single white waistband, blue mudguards and white NBC fleetnames. The destination box was panelled over with the legend 'Caution Driver Training In Progress' in white letters on that panel with a red and blue double N symbol in a white box each side of this panel (9006 had only one double N on the nearside). 'DRIVER TRAINING VEHICLE' appeared in large red letters along each side below the upper deck windows and a small L plate was fitted to the front and rear of each vehicle.

0668 (BVX 668B) was numbered 9005 in 2.77 after some extensive modifications had been carried out. Firstly the rear luggage compartment was completely removed and a full set of glazed windows fitted, although the space created inside the vehicle was left. Further forward, the staircase was removed and the upper deck isolated leaving all seats in place, an instructor's seat was mounted on the base of the staircase with an air brake to the off-side of the seat. The panel covering the outside wall of the staircase was replaced with a standard size window thus altering considerably the appearance of the off-side of the vehicle. The panel behind the driver was also removed and an intercom fitted to allow the instructor to speak to the trainees without having to shout (too loudly!!). Another seven FLFs were adapted in this way over the next two years. The complete list is:-

9002	81 TVX	8.77-11.80	ex 2701
9003	84 TVX	6.77-11.80	ex 2704
9004	85 TVX	7.77-6.80	ex 2705
9005	BVX 668B	2.77-5.79	ex 0668/2606
9006	AVX 401F	12.76-11.80	ex 2942/2610
9007	95 TVX	11.77-11.80	ex 2715
9008	RHK 347D	9.78-11.80	ex 2862
9009	OPU 823D	2.79-5.81	ex 2858
9010	RHK 346D	2.79-3.81	ex 2861

(9001 was a Bristol MW saloon M00177)

9008-10 did not have the double N symbol either side of the former destination box due to their CBC radiator air intakes.

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Former Thamesway 4508 (B696 BPU), is now 909
with South Wales. It is seen in Cardiff about
to depart for Swansea in June 1991.

(B Gilbert)

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE JULY ISSUE IS 3.7.92.