

EDITORIAL

North Essex Tour - Advance notice

This tour will take place on Sunday April 25 and will visit Eastern National garages at Maldon, Colchester, Clacton and Harwich. Visits will also be made to Osborne, Tollesbury, Colchester Transport and to Rule, Boxford. A booking form will be included with next month's news sheet - in the meantime keep the date free.

New Publications

The following new publications are now available :

E.P.5	Fleet List of Premier Travel Services Ltd.	price ...	5p
E.P.25	A Short History of Eastern National	...	12p
E.P.26	Fleet List of City Coach Co. - 1951	...	8p

Postage on the above items is extra. E.P.25 has been reprinted from BBF 4 (1967) with additional later notes kindly supplied by G. W. Watts.

Additional Photograph List

A revised edition of E.C.7C is included with this news sheet. This replaces the previous E.C.7C issued in May 1975. Please note the increased price of all colour prints and also the revised postal charges. Views C19, L2 - L9 are not yet available, please do NOT order these until they are announced. (expected April)

Stour Valley Railway Preservation Society Southend Branch - Railway and Transport Exhibition - Saturday 27 March 1976

At Argyll Methodist Church Hall, London Road, Westcliff from 1000 until 2000. The Group will have a small stand at this event.

EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

New Vehicles

1000	MAR775P	Ford R1014	BC04RK66846	Duple Dominant	B43F + 10	625/4750
1001	MAR776P	Ford R1014	BC04RK66847	Duple Dominant	B43F + 10	625/4751

Delivery dates: 1000 - 25.2.76 1001 - 25.2.76

The batch will be 1000-4 (MAR775-9P). O.M.O. equipment is being fitted by Eastern National. These are the first Fords to be added to the fleet for many years, for the record the last example was a Ford T, 2267 (NM 4053) new in 1924 which was acquired from Road Motors of Luton in 1925.

Contrary to reports elsewhere, there are no E.C.W. bodies Fords on order.

Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

Re-built/Re-seated Vehicles

2608 (KN0949C) has now entered the body shop at Central Works, Chelmsford for the next stage of conversion to a stage carriage vehicle.

Allocations & Transfers

2.76 1310-D/L, 1315-D/L, 1323-BD, 1327-D/L, 1330-D/L, 1331-MN, 1506-BD, 1722-MN, 2519-D/L(D), 2524-D/L(D), 2533-D/L(D), 2743-BD, 2930-SD, 3043-CW, 3056-BN, 2535-MN.

The Ford saloons, 1000-4, will all be allocated to BS. (Since they have former Hertfordshire C.C. registration marks this seems most appropriate)

Service Revisions

The following revisions to services have recently been applied for :

- 54 To be withdrawn on Sunday.
- 152 All journeys to be diverted to operate via Billericay Rail Station.
- 245 Mid-day journeys also to operate when Bata Factory is closed.

261 Terminal at Blackmore to be Bus Terminal.

314 To operate via Boreham Road and Russell Green between Great Leighs and Fuller Street.

The revisions to services 79/86 detailed in NS142, came into operation on 5.1.76 and 4.1.76 respectively.

General

3025/63 (WNO545L, LJM658P) have been fitted during 2/76 with fully automatic transmission employing the Sevcon unit. It will be recalled that Leyland National 1743 (HAR489N) is also similarly fitted. The above conversions will thus afford comparison of the performance of the Gardner and Leyland engined Bristol VRT's.

A Bristol MW5G of the 1300 class was recently inspected by London Country Bus Services Ltd. with a view to hire of such vehicles. Further details would be welcomed.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New Vehicles

201	(LBN201P)	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton Panorama Elite Express 3	DP51F
202	(LBN202P)	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton Panorama Elite Express 3	DP51F
		Delivery dates:	201 - 21.2.76	202 - 21.2.76

These vehicles were delivered unregistered but are expected to carry the above marks, once again from the Bolton L.V.L.O. After thoughts that they would be numbered 250/1 (NS140) and 200/1 (NS141) they eventually appear as 201/2 !

The vehicles are in a livery of two shades of blue, neither of which appears to be the standard Southend blue. The basic overall colour is light blue with a dark blue waistband. They have an enclosed drivers cab, but are not fitted for O.M.O. operation. They incorporate a destination blind and a three track number blind located below the windscreen, two piece folding doors are also fitted. Further details will follow.

Withdrawn Vehicles

2.76 325 (7089 HJ)

Vehicles on Lease

204/5 (432 FXX, VDB 915) are now in Southend Transport livery, the painting is thought to have been carried out by Ensign. 204 (432 FXX) has its destination screens painted over and has a non-power operated door and is hence unlikely to be used on stage carriage work. It is expected to enter service from 1.3.76. 205 (VDB 915) is now in use, it is not fitted for O.M.O. operation. Although mainly employed on school contracts it has been noted in normal stage service, crew operated. A Southend Transport destination blind has been fitted and the original N.W.R.C.C. three track number blind is still used.

Vehicles on Hire

After the hire of Leyland PD3's to London Transport Executive has been completed (28.2.76) it is expected that nine Leyland PD3's will be hired to London Country Bus Services Ltd. and be based at Harlow (HA) garage. One vehicle is already reported to be at Harlow for driver tuition purposes. Only nine vehicles are to be hired to allow for the withdrawal of the Albion Lowlander. The vehicles would be employed on route 339 (Harlow - Epping - Ongar - Brentwood - Warley) thus affording photographic opportunities alongside Eastern National vehicles.

General

327 (7091 HJ) is now in use as a duty crew rest room at London Road garage. (see also NS142)