

ESSEX BUS NEWS

The monthly magazine of the

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

November 1987

(Formerly the *EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GROUP*)

ISSUE No. 284



Southend Transport Optare City Pacer 402 (E402 BHK) in Oaken Grange Drive, Prittlewell, on a Sunday duty on the 9A, September 13th. (Richard Delahoy)

ROCHFORD MEETING

The next meeting at the Freight House, Rochford, will be on 8th December and is the group's Christmas Meeting. Members are invited to bring their own slides and the meeting commences at 20:00.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will take place at the Freight House on February 20th, 1988, and full details will appear next month.

EDITOR: Ian Ransom, 102 Bradford St, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0XU

Sub Editors: Southend Transport and Southend area small operators

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road, Southend SS1 3TT

Small operators - rest of Essex

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

PUBLICATIONS: Andy Meadows, 52 Ferndale Road, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 9NW

PHOTO ORDERS: Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way, Thundersley, Essex SS7 4LH

MEMBERSHIP: Bob Palmer, 67 Perkins Road, Barkingside, Essex IG2 7NQ

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS FOR 1988

Members who have subscriptions starting in January will have received a renewal advice with this magazine. As many of you will have noticed the rates are somewhat higher than last year's. This is, of course, to pay for the superior quality product that we publish each month. It is to be hoped that you found the magazine to your liking and will continue your support by renewing your subscription.

MAGAZINE TYPIST STILL REQUIRED

If anyone is willing or has a wife/girlfriend/mistress/etc who is willing to spend a few hours a month typing the magazine will they please write to Mr.A.Osborne at 7 Farley Drive, Seven Kings, Ilford IG3 8LT.

NEW BOOKS

Available now from Andy Meadows:- (Address on front cover)

Essex CC Chelmsford Area 7 timetable (10/87) - 65p inc.p&p.

London Buses in Exile - £2.95 post free.

The Editor has FOR SALE copies of Railway World 11/76-6/81 (minus 3 issues), Modern Railways 8/74-12/80 and Railway Magazine 11/76-9/80 (except 9/77). Please send offers to me and all proceeds to group funds. Delivery within 20 miles of Chelmsford can be arranged.

On receipt of an A4 SAE the Editor can supply a list of all ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL contract services giving details of routes and operators.

EASTERN NATIONAL LIMITEDALLOCATIONS & TRANSFERS

OCTOBER (Additional to last month):-

1133 HH-BE-DT; 1304 HH-D/L(D); 1306 BE-D/L(D); 1600/1/3 CF-D/L(D); 1655 BS-Pool; 1701 CF-Pool; 1722 BD-CF; 1862 SE-BE; 1865 HH-SE; 1866 MN-BN; 1870 CF-MN; 1871 BE-HH; 1874 BN-CF; 3020 DT-D/L(D); 3022 CN-Pool(DrT); 3061 DT-CR; 3084 CR-DT.

Despite being officially D/L(D) 1600/1/3 remain in use at CF in early November. 1711 reported as a pool driver trainer has now been transferred into the driver training fleet and re-numbered 9011. 1132 has been fitted for opo work and should now be in use on local services. 1309 is reported as being at BE ex-CF, although official confirmation is awaited. 1890, the Dunmow outstaion bus, has been refitted with DW plates in the same style as those at Ponders End.

ON HIRE

Two interesting vehicles have been on hire recently for evaluation, details of which are as follows:-

D634 BBV a Leyland Lynx seating 51, hired between 16th & 30th October from Leyland Bus Ltd and in their demonstrator livery. It was used from Basildon depot mainly on the 151 although it operated the 722 on 21/10 during the first week, and from Hadleigh depot mainly on the 2 and 27 during the second week.

D163 WTV a Scania K92 with East Lancs 51 seat bodywork has been in use from Chelmsford from 8/11 (on service 451 on that day) and was still there on 15/11. The vehicle is in Kettlewell's of Retford livery and is No.39 in their fleet. (A photo of a very simmilar bus appeared on page 217 of May 1987's "Buses" magazine.)

VEHICLE REPAIRS

w/e 24.10.87 1917 at CN; 1926 at MN; 3093 at ENE.

1917 is in all over livery for Springfield Motors whilst the date for 3093 corrects last months entry.

DRIVER TRAINING BUSES

9021 (LFS 300F) moved from the rear of Chelmsford depot in early November to ENE where it is expected to be converted to a playbus.

The driver training fleet itself is now as follows:-

9000(CPU 979G); 9001(CPU 980G); 9003(CPU 982G); 9011 (WNO 560L) together with pool vehicle 3022(OWC 295K).

Although all are based at New Writtle Street, Chelmsford, 9000 & 9011 were re-allocated to Maldon for maintainance purposes. The rest are allocated to Chelmsford.

SERVICE VEHICLES

A new vehicle to report is **ES0** CEV a Ford Escort Van.

It is hoped to publish a complete list of service vehicles in the near future.

GENERAL

Secretary of State for Transport and Local MP Paul Channon formally opened the new Southend (SD) depot on Friday 30th October (five months after it became operational). After unveiling a plaque on the front of the building, he was shown round the new buildings by Company Chairman Harold Taylor, Director of Engineering Bob Iles, Area Manager Maurice Jordan and a large gathering of staff and press.

Having completed this tour of inspection and met staff working in the Traffic Office, Canteen and Maintainance areas, Mr.Channon and the entourage climbed aboard the Company's ex-Westcliff Bristol K5G for the short trip to the Erlsmere Hotel, Westcliff where a buffet lunch had been laid on.

Opening the depot Paul Channon said "I am very pleased to open this brand new depot, with space for 60 vehicles and employing 140 drivers. It shows clearly the confidence and the faith in the future of the Eastern National Company, which became an independent part of the private sector last December." He continued: "I was particularly interested to note that Eastern National have now taken over Voyage National, the former NBC subsidiary based in France. Clearly they see a bright future ahead of them."

There have been a number of items in the Colchester Evening Gazette on bus matters recently:-

Both EN and Coastal Red appear happy with the situation in Clacton. EN manager Michael Holden is reported as saying: "Passenger wise it has affected us to the better and made us think a little more about the service". He added that the mini-bus service on Harwich "has been a phenomenal success". Derek Bett of Coastal Red said that all round more people were travelling by bus and that the public had gained as there were more buses and fares had decreased. He said his company had 17 buses on 8 routes compared with 6 on one this time last year.

The replacement of 6th forms in Colchester's comprehensive schools by a sixth form college in the Town Centre coupled with the closure of the Wilson Marriage School which results in pupils having to cross the town to St.Helena's is reported to be causing severe overloading on many services. Despite the fact that some service 7 journeys are already duplicated between Cherry Tree and the Town Centre in rush hours, consideration is being given to enhancing the morning service. Complaints of overloading have also been reported on services 88/88A with passengers from Fordham and Eight Ash Green being left stranded. The press reports that two buses leave Halstead at 07:40 & 07:55 (although the timetable says different) Michael Holden is reported as saying that the 07:40 is now duplicated but the service could not be guaranteed as the buses used were allocated for maintainance.

A new bus station opened at Walthamstow Central on 9/10 adjacent to the old one; however a tree blew down and blocked the exit on 16/10 resulting in the old one being reopened for the day.

SERVICES

- 2 18:45 Southend to Hadleigh withdrawn and the 19:38 Basildon to Hadleigh Church terminates at Hadleigh depot from 30/11.
- 22A/22B 16:42 & 17:12 journeys withdrawn on Sats only after 28/11.
- 27 Minor revisions to timetable from 30/11.
- 62 NEW SERVICE Elmdon-Bps.Stortford (ECC contract) on Sats only from 7/11 departing Elmdon at 09:30, returning at 13:00.
- 88/88C The former Saturday evening journeys operated commercially by Hedingham have been won on an ECC contract by EN from 7/11. Contract journeys no longer operate via Dugard Avenue in Stanway.
- 151 New timetable introduced from 1/11 and service rerouted via Harold Hill Estate between Brentwood and Romford from 2/11.
- 268 NEW SERVICE Schooldays only from Warley at 08:40 to Sawyers Hall Lane returning at 15:35 from 2/11.
- 350/1 New timetable introduced from 2/11 and rerouted direct between Brentwood High Street and Romford, with a further diversion in Romford via Mercury Gardens to terminate at the Rail Stn. (Buses still serve St.Edwards Way in the Chelmsford direction)
- 352 Withdrawn after operation on 31/10.

Essex County Council have ceased to produce timetable ammendment booklets and are instead publishing alterations in the Yellow Advertiser and Harlow Star in the first edition of every month.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

- 7/10 BN 4500 on 250.
- 8/10 SD 1116 on 9.
- 15/10 SE 4015 & BE 4017 on rail replacement service between Witham and Braintree.
- 17/10 BS 1113 in CR yard showing X70
- 20/10 PD 1055 on 206 (and again on 21/10).
- 22/10 BE 4016 on 330; ED 1054 & BD 1903 on LRT 20; BD 0235 noted on driver training work in Chelmsford.
- 24/10 HH 1713 on 250.
- 27/10 CR 3029 on 353.
- 31/10 HH 1784 on 250.
- 10/11 TDL 65 of LCNE noted in Chelmsford Bus Station.
- Owing to storm damage to trees etc service 11A was worked by Leyland Nationals during the second part of October.
- Changes at Braintree have meant their dp Olympians operating the 311 whilst the X70 is now Leyland National worked.

DISPOSALS

This information is not available yet due to pressure of work; however all details will be published next month.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflets for 31/31X; 32/452; 40/40A; 41A/B; 42; 43; 48/48A/56B/56C; 55/55A/56/56A/56B/56C; 151; 152/3/4/5; 350/351/450/451; all dated 1/11 or 2/11.

Timetable leaflets for 251/551 dated 16/8; 341 dated 5/9.

Leaflet advertising Highwayman Christmas Holiday.

Coastal Red timetable leaflet dated 1/11.

Essex County Council timetable leaflet for 53A/56C.

National Express leaflet for Felixstow, Ipswich, Chelmsford to Londond services dated 1/11/87 to 30/4/88.

EASTERN NATIONAL, ENGINEERING

ENE have won a contract to maintain the Britvic company's lorry fleet at New Writtle Street. Their vehicles will also visit ENE to refuel.

Vehicles noted on the premises during October were:-

Brentwood Coaches FUA 390Y (ex-Wallace Arnold and still in WA livery).

London Buses T680, V43.

The Bee Line 1112.

Hedingham Omnibuses L143.

Maidstone & District 5022, 5120 & 5871.

G.W.Osborne 17.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

Because of the storm on 16/10 no buses ran until about 10:30, when an 'ad hoc' service was started. Output was gradually increased during the day. Service 5A was still being diverted away from Lexden Road on 17/10, going out via Maldon Road and Straight Road and in via Cymbeline Way and Balcerne Hill. (EN services on the 5A/53A etc on 18/10 were using Lexden Road but were diverted via St.Clare Road and Fitzwalter Road for a time). Because of low branches and telephone wires etc there were many instances of single deckers substituting for double deckers, such as REs on the 6/6A and Leopard coaches on the evening 7/7A on 19th & 20th. The first journey at least on the 25 on 17/10 was covered by Leopard 102.

The rail replacement services on Sunday mornings use 19 'deckers with each showing its running number on the blind (X1 to X10 and C1 to C9). Each non-stop journey between Colchester and Shenfield uses 3 buses, the all stations journey involves one through bus and an extra between Witham and Shenfield. Spare buses are held at Colchester, Witham and Shenfield. The fact that CBT vehicles are two-way radio fitted is believed to be one reason for CBT's winning of the contract for these journeys.

Christmas shopping specials are being operated as follows, using coaches:-

- X24 Highwoods-Town Centre-Lexden to Romford:
Weds 11, 18, 25 November and 2, 9 & 16 December leaving at 09:05 and returning at 15:00.
- X26 Osborne Street to Norwich:
Sats 7 & 21 Nov., 5 & 19 Dec. Dep 09:30, return 17:30.
- X27 Osborne Street to Milton Keynes:
Tues 10/11 & 8/12. Dep.09:15, return 18:00.
- X28 Osborne Street to Brent Cross:
Thurs 26/11 only. Dep.09:15, return 17:30.

The publicity leaflet for these services implies that service 25 will not run after 19/12. Loadings have been very low since Easrtern Counties started its 190 with departures 5 or 10 mins in front of the CBT service.

Lynx 32 has been out of use since mid-September and Atlantean 70 has been off the road now for several months. Open-top Atlantean 48 was used for tree lopping after the storm on 16/11.

Finally on the evening of 4/11 the rail service between Marks Tey and Sudbury was operated by various vehicles including 31, 101, and 102. "It never happened when we had Cravens DMU's" one passenger was heard to comment!

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LIMITED

These notes are correct to November 8.

VehiclesNEW/ON ORDER/WITHDRAWN:

There is no more news yet to hand about City Pacers 404-6 or the withdrawal of 201/2, 326.

304 (UNH 7L) was hit by a skip lorry on 21/10 and may be withdrawn.

ON HIRE:

To ENSIGN BUS SERVICES: coaches 204/15/9/52-5 were hired to Ensign on October 17/8 for excursions to the Blackpool illuminations. Southend DMS 312 (MLK 620L) was noted at the Southend garage on 4/11 having apparently been on hire to Ensign; it carried LRT service stickers, PT depot plates and an additional fleetnumber (232) which would fit into the Ensign series. It also appeared to have operated to Southend on service X21. Further details of this hire would be appreciated.

To FORD MOTOR CO: because of non availability of the regular vehicles (coaches A500 NWC and A600 NWC, both Ford R1114/Duple C45F + tables), Southend coaches were hired in October to operate the staff service linking Trafford House (Basildon), Dunton, Warley and Stansted Airport - 325 on October 5/6 and 352 on October 7-9 and 12.

General

Coaches on layover in London ceased to be parked in the Rolls Road lorry park in South London after November 6; from 9/11 they will be parked in the London Buses Ltd garage at Walworth (which is not an operational garage at present).

To correct the notes in last month's magazine on blind displays, coach 343 *does* have a three track number and destination display (above the windscreen); the lists on page 283/11 should be amended accordingly.

The enquiry office in the London Road garage now has a National Express ticket agency.

All services operating via the London Road from Southend ceased to use Victoria Bus Station from 26/10, being diverted that day into a temporary layby off Queensway, as a result of the redevelopment of the former EN garage by Sainsburys. Unlike EN crews (who initially blacked the new stop), STL served the new layby from its opening.

The hurricane force winds on October 16 caused serious disruption to services for much of that day. There were numerous diversions, two of the more significant being the closure of Victoria Ave from the Blue Boar to Victoria Circus (diversions via East St and Sutton Rd) and the closure of the northbound side of Southchurch Boulevard (diversions via Lifstan Way, Woodgrange Dr and Thorpe Hall Ave; we presume that terminating 8's ran via Hamstel Rd to turn). Sporadic road closures for tree clearance and/or inspection of dangerous buildings continued for at least two weeks after the storm.

Unusual Workings

- 15/10 - 365 on the 19.
- 24/10 - 367 on 9A & 12.
- 6/11 - 371 on the 1.

With the introduction of the reduced winter Culturebus timetable from 8/11, it is expected that the Cardiff Olympians will be used mainly on local services. Prior to this, to cater for additional passengers due

to the lack of rail services in the aftermath of the hurricane, X1's on Saturday 17/10 were largely operated by Olympians and Astromegas.

Publicity News

Two items this month - both folded to 100 x 210 mm size: one yellow/blue leaflet advertising Culturebus (in 4 languages, with a map and adverts for places of interest en route); the other in yellow giving the full winter Culturebus timetable.

An A4 size brochure has also been published by the Engineering Department to promote their car care services (note that the Sub Editor does *not* have stocks of this item).

News about Southend Transport should be sent directly to the Sub Editor, Richard Delahoy at 272 Shoebury Road, Southend, SS1 3TT.

OTHER OPERATORS - Southend area

ENSIGN BUS SERVICES' RT 3232 was apparently operating a railway replacement service between Grays and Barking at lunchtime on 30/10. Any further details would be welcome.

SIMIEN COACHES, Canvey: a second peak hours route to Benfleet station has been registered, to start 6/11: Point Road - High Street - Central Wall Road - Sommes Ave, operating M-F except bank holidays and 'company holidays'. It was noted on 5/11 operating as a free service. From 25/11 the original service will no longer serve the High Street on morning journeys.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS: a potentially very significant service registration is for a circular service to commence on 26/11, Rochford Square - Hockley - Rayleigh - Eastwood - Rochford, running M-S, 0900-1800, every 20 minutes each way, using up to 8 seaters.

STEPHENSONS COACHES, Southend: a further County contract commencing 2/11 is the 403, Basildon to Romford, 4 jnys M-S, previously operated by London Country North East.

T V TAXIS, Southend: it seems that this operator might at last be forced to play by *some* of the rules (the Commissioners seemingly not being prepared to enforce the service registration details) - the local press report that, after 12 months of operations, the company has discovered that it is liable for VAT on all of its fares! VAT had not been charged, but it is applicable to public transport provided by vehicles with under 12 seats. The size of the potential VAT bill has not been disclosed.

NON PSV's IN SOUTH ESSEX; a few corrections to the last issue:

Southend Sea Scouts Bedford is EJA 471R; Tilbury Majorettes EWS 168D is an RELH6G, not a Reliance; Basildon & Thurrock Health Authority BBC 985X should read YBC 985X. The Sub Editor would still like to receive more information on psv based vehicles with the local Heath Authorities.

OTHER OPERATORS - Rest of Essex

ASSOCIATED COACHWAYS ECC contract on the T10 passed to Pullman Travel from 2/11 whilst the T15 was withdrawn completely after 30/10.

CARTERS COACHES Service 247 has a revised timetable from 2/11 plus additional journeys on school and college days at 07:50 from Langham returning at 16:45 from Colchester.

CLINTONA - Service 223 was withdrawn after 31/10 with operation passing to CROWN COACHES from 2/11 with a revised timetable and route. Brentwood town service 262 was also withdrawn after 31/10.

COASTAL RED - Clacton town service 80 was withdrawn from early November, although evening journeys on the 101, 102 & 174 were registered commercially to revised routes and timetables from 2/11. As noted last month no ECC contracts are now operated on Sundays. Revised timetables have also been introduced on the 10 & 50 and a revised route on the 70A, all from early November.

FARGO - took over operation of the 316 Chelmsford-Stebbing from 6/11.

LONDON COUNTRY NORTH EAST - New Service 338 on Sats only commenced on 31/10 between Harlow and Hertford via Ware and Roydon with 3 return journeys. Late evening journeys on the 500 now only operate Bps.Stortford-Epping whilst the 23:48 service on the T31 has been withdrawn, both from 2/11. Lastly service 403 passed to Stephensons Coaches from 2/11.

NATIONAL EXPRESS - As a correction to last months notes service 405 in fact operates from Southend to Birmingham with one trip each way every day.

NIBS - Further to last months entry service 242 in fact passed to Eagle Coaches from 2/11 whilst the 243 is withdrawn without replacement. Services 02 & 10 have revised timetables from the same date.

PARTRIDGE - Operation of Colchester School service 16 passed to this operator with effect from 2/11.

WALKERS - A revised route in Basildon Town Centre was introduced for the Stanford-le-Hope service on 14/9.

VEHICLE NEWS

HEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES have aquired the following from Sth.Wales Trnspt:-

L139 FCY 287W Bedford YMQ-S Duple B43F

L140 FCY 288W Bedford YMQ-S Duple B43F

G.W.OSBORNE have aquired the following Fleetline:-

? OUC 38R Leyland FE30AGR MCW H45/32F

This bus was new to London Transport and was last reported as being with Solent Blue Line, Southampton.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS EDITION WERE RECEIVED FROM:-

J.Collins, I.Hardie, J.Simpkin, R.Dennis, G.Toon, M.Bullock, C.Sigston, P.Harvey, D.Arnold, D.Stebbing, R.Delahoy, R.Palmer, Grey-Green Enthusiasts Club and Essex County Council.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:-

4th DECEMBER

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