

ENOC* Cricket

text and pictures by Peter Carr.



and Cardiff. Our transport was almost always RE coach 1610 (GW 980H). The accompanying photo shows us in a pub car-park where we had stopped for liquid refreshment on our way to play Eastern Counties at Norwich in May 1979 (we lost – wonder why ?!). By the door are the writer together with team-captain Lloyd Allen, a driver from Chelmsford. Sadly, Lloyd, a great character, died of cancer in the late 1980s.



On the cricket trips I usually managed to get some bus photography in. The photo above shows Cardiff Corporation Guy Arabs at Cardiff Central bus-station on the above trip, and on the next page, Eastern Counties LFL 61 at Surrey Street bus-station, Norwich, in April 1978 on the first occasion we played there. The two FLFs behind are both ex-Eastern National, but as both were in shade, the photos I took of them aren't really good enough for reproduction here.

* For the younger readers, ENOC stands for Eastern National Omnibus Company and EN for Eastern National.

In the late 1970s EN fielded (pun intended!) a company cricket team, playing a mixture of friendlies and competitive games in the National P.S.V. Knockout Trophy. About a third of the team were from Head Office, another third from Chelmsford depot, and the remainder from other depots. The latter group included Bob Brace and myself from Bishops Stortford. We played all over the south of the country, including at far-away Plymouth

The trip to Cardiff for the Knockout Trophy semi-final in July 1977 was particularly memorable – we tied (both sides were bowled out for 80) but Cardiff were awarded the tie on a faster scoring-rate. In the evening we were entertained by Cardiff Corporation at their social club, where we foolishly accepted their challenge of a yard-of-ale drinking contest. I have only hazy memories (!) of it, remembering just that they drank us under the table!



I'll finish by remembering that when LT Chiswick works came to play us at Chelmsford, they came in a Routemaster, which the driver unfortunately tried to take under Duke Street railway bridge. After it got jammed there, sniggering E.N. fitters came out and freed the bus by deflating the tyres! I managed to photograph the bus at the match at Marconi's sports ground, with a badly dented roof at the front!

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