

HRR NEWS



1986

EASTER EDITION



General News

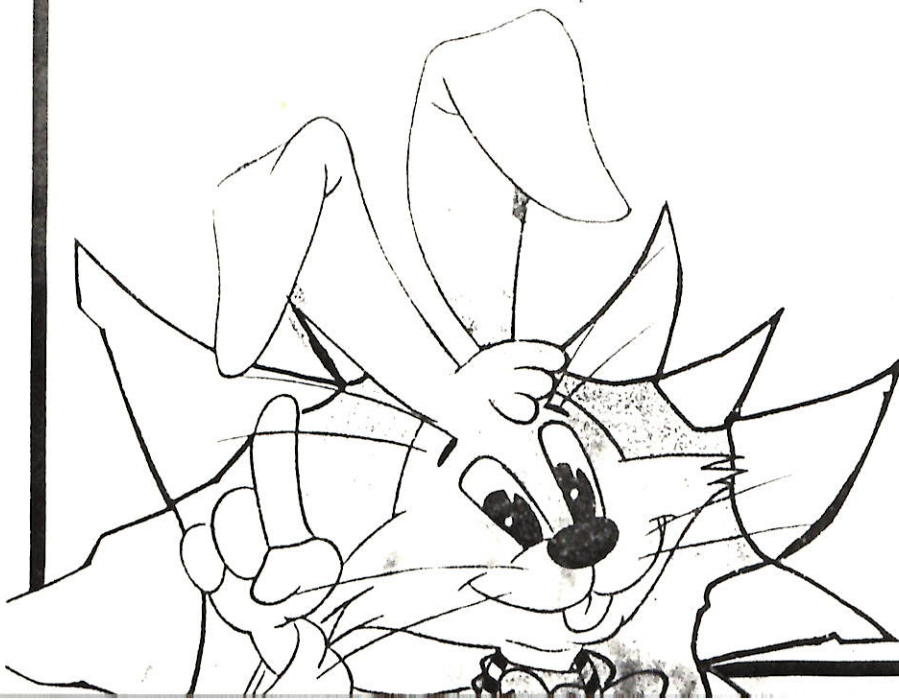
We were sorry to say goodbye to Brian Judge who was our Financial Controller for just over two years. Amongst other things, Brian introduced the fully computerised accounting system. He will be joining a company in north London. At his leaving party, Chris Foale presented Brian with a model 'Epsom Coach' and some Boots gift vouchers.

Brian has been replaced by David MacDonald who returned to Britain after working for a number of years in Nigeria. Also on the accounts front, Gaye Wilson has joined the Company to control the Tours Departemnt Agents Accounts. Debbie Roberts has joined the Private Hire Department to replace Cathy. We wish them all a long and happy time at Epsom Coaches.

Although we have already taken delivery of five new coaches for the coming season (1 x 50, 2 x 36, 2 x 20) there are two more Volvo 50 seater coaches due for delivery in April. The new coaches have aircraft style interior lockers, carpeting to the centre aisle, reclining seats, double glazed tinted side windows, fully automatic gearbox and will later be fitted with full air conditioning.

From April 1st Epsom Coaches will have a new look drivers uniform. The Red Blazer image has gone and will be replaced by a smart grey suit without a Company logo. The drivers will also be issued with white shirts and red ties with a woven Epsom Coaches horse symbol. The emphasis is on quality and smartness and will hopefully leave the Butlins Red Coat image behind.

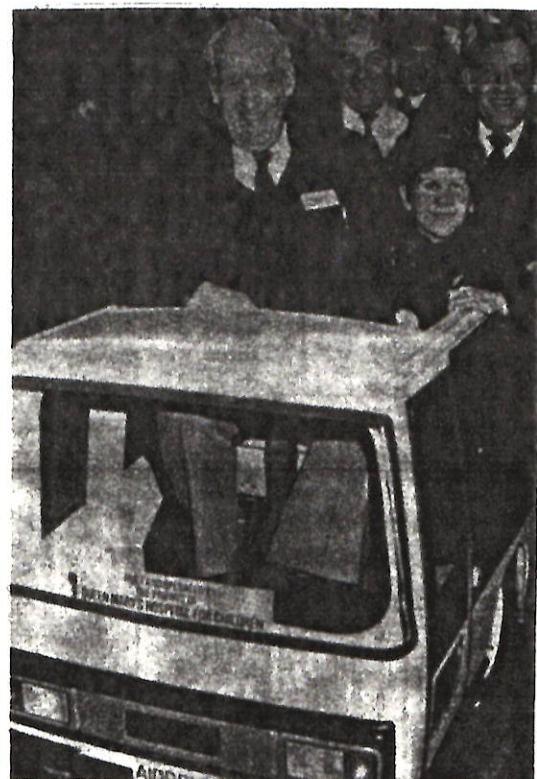
We are going to retire 'Big Bertha' the AEC Militant Recovery vehicle that has been with the Company for ten years. Times have changed and we need a faster and more efficient machine. The replacement is based on a Volvo F10 tractor unit and will be fitted with a hydraulic accident free lift for cars and commercial vehicles. The vehicle will be on 24 hour call-out for use by the emergency services and other commercial vehicle operators.



EPSOM COACHES INDIVIDUAL DARTS TOURNAMENT

Epsom Coaches first individual darts tournament was held on Friday 28th February at the Epsom Conservative Club who had kindly given us permission to use their Oaks Room duly equipped with two darts boards for a speedy knock-out competition. Sixteen brave employees of Epsom Coaches had volunteered to take part and with a couple of rounds of straight-off knock-out style darts, the number had soon been whittled away to four players in the Semi-Finals:- Peter Tribe, Martin Wells, Dave Broughton and Tim Lever. After a couple of good matches (Tim Lever throwing the highest score of the evening - 132), it was clear that Martin Wells would be taking on Dave Broughton in the final play-off for the much coveted title. It was no walk-over with Dave Broughton putting up a good fight, but Martin Wells (a 3-1 shot, second favourite at the beginning of the evening!) emerged the worthy winner. Mr Roy Richmond (the Guv'nor) was on hand to present the trophies to the winner, runner-up and highest scorer. Although all three players go home with one more ornament for the mantelpiece, the winner's shield will be 'up for grabs' again next year when Martin looks forward to taking on 15 more challengers. In the meantime, the drivers' mess room has become the scene of much practice - next year 180 will no doubt be the highest score of the evening. Thanks are due to the Epsom Conservative Club (for the use of their room, the cheap drinks and the lovely spread of food!), and to Dave Shearring and Tim Lever for organising the event, and last but not least all the lads on the Committee of the Red & Cream Social Club for compering the show and for putting on such an excellent raffle. Let's hope that next year, more people will turn out to show their support at what is a most pleasant sociable evening.

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Holiday booking

EPSOM'S first ever Holiday Fair, held on Thursday at Bourne Hall proved so immensely popular that its organisers, Epsom Coaches are to make it an annual event.

The event which attracted over 2,000 people featured a variety of holiday destinations in this country and abroad, with displays by numerous organisations including Tourist Boards and

performances by the Young Epsom Singers and St Mary's Morris Dancers, pictured here.

Christopher Richmond, a director of Epsom Coaches, said: "We were delighted with the response. The hall was alive with people all afternoon and well into the evening, and several of the stands ran out of brochures before the close."

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EPSOM COACHES INDIVIDUAL DARTS TOURNAMENT

RESULTS

1st Round

Barry Harding vs. Peter Tribe

Harry Rozier vs. Ron Miles

Martin Wells vs. Peter Cooper

Peter Rust vs. John Reeves

Tony Cuckow vs. Dave Broughton

Bob Bushaway vs. Leigh Richards

Chris Andrews vs. Eric Lack

Tim Lever vs. Jason Kerbey

One game only - 501 straight-off

2nd Round

Peter Tribe vs. _____

Ron Miles

Martin Wells vs. _____

Peter Rust

Dave Broughton vs. _____

Leigh Richards

Chris Andrews vs. _____

Tim Lever

One game only - 501 straight-off

3rd Round

Peter Tribe vs. _____

Martin Wells

Dave Broughton vs. _____

Tim Lever

Best of three games - 301 straight-off

FINAL

Martin Wells vs. _____

MARTIN WELLS

WINNER

Winner - Martin Wells

Highest score - Tim Lever (132)

Runner-up - Dave Broughton

Best of three games - 401 straight-off

Dave Broughton

THE DAY WE WENT TO BANGOR!

From an account in the County Down Spectator of a new one-way system in Bangor: "Essentially the scheme as envisaged will make Lower Main Street one-way, going down; Bridge Street will be two-way; High Street will be one-way going up, as far as Springfield Road when it will become two-way. A new link road between High Street and Hamilton Road will also be one-way towards Hamilton Road. Hamilton Road itself will be one-way between this road and Main Street and two-way in the other direction."

Drivers please take note!

MORE COMMERCIAL ADVANCED DRIVING TEST PASSES

The following have recently passed the I.A.M. driving test and this now brings the Company total to 48 passes.

Barry Harding, Brian Mutter, Ron Miles, Graham Bath, David Broughton, Graham Abrahall, Alan Lewis, Ashley Crouch, Peter Stephens, Mike Tattersall, Mike Justice, Phil Wedlake, Geoff Hobbs, Andrew Richmond, Mick Sayers, Jason Kerbey, Cliff Steemson.

OUR DRIVERS PASS THE TEST

The following letter was published in Travel News recently:-

Further to Michael McDermott's letter (Travel News, last week) and your own feature on coaching safety in the same issue, I feel that it must be stressed that one company in particular, Epsom Coaches, considers driver safety to be of paramount importance.

Believing in quality over quantity in all aspects, we have for the last year successfully encouraged our drivers to obtain the Institute of Advanced Drivers' Commercial Vehicle award. In 1985 31 of our drivers passed this highly-valued test and in the first two weeks of 1986 seven entrants were expected to pass.

As an independent British coach company, we firmly believe that a British driver and a quality British coach are an unbeatable combination inspiring confidence in not only Epsom Coaches but the industry as a whole.

Obviously some companies have to lease foreign vehicles and drivers, but for those which put their trust in British drivers I can only urge them to follow our lead and promote the highest possible professional standards.

Timothy J. King, Epsom Coaches, Blenheim Road, Epsom, Surrey.

Letter from Alan Trotter

Alan wrote in January to tell us the good news that Benjamin Gregory Trotter, 8lbs 4oz, arrived 17.00 hrs, Saturday 11th January 1986, good looking, bright, intelligent - just like Alan.