

# HRR NEWS



## 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Brian has been replaced by David MacDonald who returned to Britain after working for a number of years in Nigeria.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 if 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***

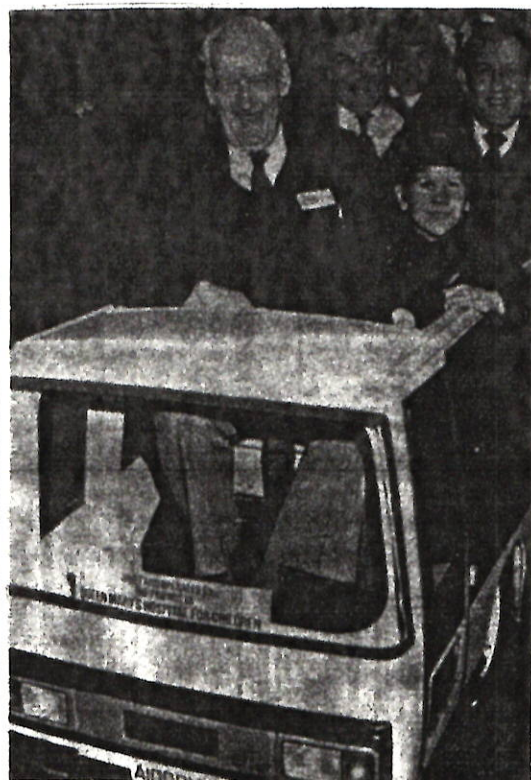
**EPSOM'S** first ever Holiday Fair, held on Thursday at Bourne Hall proved so immensely popular that its organisers, Epsom Coaches are to make it an annual event.

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 - Martin Wells

Highest score - Tim Lever (132)

Runner-up - Dave Broughton

Best of three games -  
401 straight-off



### 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.

### WORKING TOO HARD?

There aren't as many people working as you may have thought. At least not according to a recent survey. The population of the Country is 200 million, but there are 80 million over the age of 60, leaving 120 million to do the work. People under 21 total 71 million, which leaves 49 million to work.

Then there are 24 million who are employed by the Government and that leaves 25 million to do the work. Ten million are in the Armed Forces, leaving 15 million to do the work. Deduct 14,775,000 the number of State and City offices, and that leaves 225 thousand to do the work. There are 142 thousand in hospitals, insane asylums, and so forth, and that leaves 83 thousand to do the work. But 70 thousand of those are bums or others who will not work, so that leaves 13 thousand to do the work.

Now it may interest you to know that there are 12,998 people in jail, so that leaves just two people to do the work, and that is you and me, brother, and I'm getting tired of doing everything myself!

### LIMERICK COMPETITION

There were only three entries to the competition and they were as follows:-

A lady coach driver called Dot,  
was in a bit of a spot,  
whilst in a swerve,  
she radioed Merve,  
and Merve replied - Do What? (Bob Shaw)

A lady coach driver called Dot,  
today took her coach for a MOT,  
the wheels and the brakes,  
were of the best makes,  
and it passed with distinction - the lot! (Lynn Richmond)

A lady coach driver called Dot,  
one morning said she'd had her lot,  
she gave in her keys,  
and despite all our pleas,  
went home again - quick as a shot! (Lynn Richmond)

The winner of the above competition was Bob Shaw's entry.

### MAY - DECEMBER DAY TOURS PROGRAMME

Our latest and most varied day tour programme is now available and supplies have been distributed to all our agents. Fares are still very competitive, with only marginal increases on last year's prices. Over 150 destinations, including 20 brand new excursions such as Dick Turpin Country and Doomesday 900, the National Garden Festival and Country House Restoration.

### NEW CROYDON PROGRAMME

Epsom Coaches have introduced a new programme especially for the Croydon area. With pick-ups in Purley, South Croydon, West Croydon, Thornton Heath Pond, Norbury and Streatham, the catchment area is very large. There will be an advertising campaign in strategic newspapers and possibly on the radio. This will have a knock-on effect for all areas covered by Epsom Coaches and will benefit all of us.



# News

## Danger warning to keen gardeners

DESPITE a cold, wintery afternoon, there was a good attendance at the January meeting of the Morden WI.

The president wished all members a Happy New Year. She welcomed most warmly a new member, Miss Bremner giving her a membership card. Members were glad to hear that Mrs Warren is better, though still in hospital. She wrote thanking everyone for the flowers, brought to her by Mrs E. Locke.

The president drew attention to the important exhibition, sponsored by Marks and Spencer "Feather Fillings and Food" to be held in July (at Dorking Halls). There is to be an Art Exhibition in May and a Health Day. A resolution selection meeting will be held this month to decide what may be on the agenda at the A.G.M. at the Albert Hall. On a quite different topic: at the start of another year, the many keen gardeners of the WI are strongly advised to be sure they have kept up their antitetanus injection.

The speaker this month was Mr H. R. Richmond, owner of Epsom Coaches. This family business was founded by Mr Richmond's father in 1920. They owned one canvas topped bus and were housed in very modest premises in Epsom High Street. The business prospered steadily and in 1935 they moved to larger premises.

The war came and, once again, they then ran one bus only until the war ended. Then, with much hard work and great tenacity, the Richmonds built up their business once more. In 1965 they were able to move to purpose built premises on Longmead Estate, Epsom. They now run 42 coaches, these comprise 20, 36 and 50 seater vehicles. The performance of every coach is computer tested on the premises, where all repairs and automatic washing are also carried out. All drivers are re-assessed annually. MoT tests are carried out during the winters months. Mr Richmond's two sons are now in business with him and his daughter is also concerned. They also have 3 retail travel shops.

Mr Chris Foale, the firm's commercial manager, showed slides of various beautiful places visited on day trips and longer tours. They also visit the continent on a more limited scale. A day's shopping in Boulogne is a popular trip.

It was a great tonic to hear, at first hand, such a real success story, told with quiet strength and great modesty.

Mrs Burton gave a vote of thanks to Mr Richmond and Mr Foale for such an interesting talk. She also thanked them for kindly insisting on helping to hand round the tea and cakes. The competition, for shortbread, was won by Mrs Burton.

Opinion

**COACHING**  
JOURNAL AND BUS REVIEW

## Time to sell safety

THERE used to be a saying in the automotive industry: 'safety doesn't sell cars', which might have been true at one time but certainly does not apply now. Safety features figure prominently in car advertising and perhaps it is time the coach industry adopted the same tactic with its customers, especially after the past year. Some operators make a point of the various safety features of their coaches in the tour brochures and it could be used in other publicity material to keep passengers' minds in peace.

This is European Road Safety Year, which might well be regarded as a publicity stunt, but is still a chance to show what we all are doing to make our sector of transport even safer. This journal is running a series of articles on vehicle safety as its own contribution. We report in this issue that 31 drivers from Epsom Coaches took the IAM test for commercial vehicles last year and more are going to. This has a twofold benefit: it makes for better drivers and shows the rest of the world that we care about standards. It is to be hoped that more operators will follow the example.

Our own Department of Transport might also consider improving the rapidly deteriorating standards of driving in this country by placing greater emphasis on after training. The DTp might also look at the way the Germans feed traffic onto an Autobahn and learn that simply letting vehicles blast in without let or hindrance is not conducive to safety. In safety we can all contribute to the common good.

■ Many tour companies hold open house as part of their selling-in operation for the season's programme and one that has decided it is to become an annual event is Epsom Coaches of Surrey. It has had open days in the past but last month staged its first-ever Holiday Fair at the local Bourne Hall. The English and Scottish tourist boards, National Trust, Epsom Travel and various other organisations laid on displays to highlight destinations and entertainment was provided by the Young Epsom Singers and St Mary's Morris Dancers. Over 2,000 people turned up, many brought by the free coach service laid on from strategic points in the district, and Epsom director Christopher Richmond commented: "We were delighted with the response. The hall was alive with people all afternoon and well into the evening; it soon became clear that there was more than enough support for it to become an annual event". Of course local people need no telling that Epsom Coaches has a fine reputation, and this was further underlined by the fact that no fewer than 31 of the company's drivers passed the Commercial Vehicle Test run by the Institute of Advanced Motorists last year. The drivers concerned were congratulated personally by the Mayor of Epsom and several more of the company's drivers plan to take the test this year and earn the right to wear the badge on their coaches.



This is a sad and cautionary little tale, about the days when, more often than now apparently, we used to take the patients from one or other of the Epsom hospitals on a day trip. Quite often this task fell on the less experienced of the drivers, because one presumes it was relatively easy to find Brighton or Hastings, if you were going there, you simply needed a fairly basic reading skill.

One day it fell to me!

I should briefly explain that when I joined; the Epsom/Ewell area was a pretty closed book to me. Not living in the area, I was appalled by such well-meant phrases as:- "You fling a left at the Organ" or "Come back on yourself after the Woodstock". They meant very little. The 3 M's, Merton, Morden and Mitcham were hard to separate, and the publicity-conscious Rose Hill, which seemed to announce itself at every corner as being "1¼ miles" was a bitter disappointment when I found it, because all it was, merely a large roundabout which sucked all the traffic in from everywhere, with the intension of halting it, and succeeding very well.

Anyway, I found the right hospital, it doesn't matter which one. I was about 45 minutes early, because I didn't want to be late. I immediately was greeted by several extremely amicable people of each sex, but these, I discovered, had nothing to do with the excursion.

After a long time, a very small bustling jet-black sister appeared. "You fo' Hastings?" she enquired, displaying lots of large white teeth. After much business with picnic boxes, the patients about 30 of them, of both sexes and all ages, were settled in the coach. Spread amongst them were 6 nurses (ie 5 patients to each nurse) and the little black sister who obviously was a kind of Oberfuhrer. There was a good deal of giggling, and much waving from the amiable non-excursion patients, and finally the little black sister bared her teeth at me:- "Doan you worry, deh all very quiet; we can go now".

It was very quiet at first. I had just emerged from the hospital gates, when from immediately to the rear came, worthy of "The Vampire Strikes Again", and the best of Peter Cushing, the most violent, blood curdling scream, followed by "Dig for Victory", this last delivered at the same decibel level. I do not know how I remained at the wheel. There was a dead silence, and then the little black sister addressed herself to me, with a giggle. "Doan you worry, dat Emmy; she doo dat alla time. Yo' jes keep quiet Emmy".

I am sure everyone knows the calming sensation when all the adrenalin is re-absorbed, and the heart-rate slowly subsides to something like normal. It wasn't until we had just started on the M25 that the second burst occurred.

"Everyone must do their bit," Emmy screamed.

By this time, subtly and without appearing to do so, I had had a good look at Emmy. She must have been 80, a tiny shrivelled figure like a female troll, wearing a heavy tweed cape, (although it was June and about 75°) with a strange fringe of grey hair almost covering her eyes.

This last sally brought giggles and shuffling from the other patients, and maybe some of the younger nurses. All was quiet for a while, until we were about half way down the A22. My left shoulder was suddenly thumped hard; the blow had surprising strength. "Is your Best Boy wearing Khaki?" Emmy thundered at me. "Emmy, yo' doan do dat, he driver." This from the little black sister.

continued over/

"SHE DO DAT ALLA TIME" - Continuation

I was, of course, ready for the next time, but it didn't occur, and we entered Hastings in a peaceable manner, drove slowly along the front, and parked in the old Fish Market. Emmy was the last person out of the coach. I knew it was going to happen again when she stood at the top of the steps and slowly raised both arms like Caesar addressing the Praesidium. There were a lot of people milling about, alighting from coaches, all well behaved, very English and quiet. "Your Country Needs You!" Shrieked Emmy, the last syllable being held in a long B flat. More embarrassed giggles and stares, and then turning away, and not looking at Emmy.

It was agreed that I would be ready at the coach at 4.30 pm when everybody would return, and the 6 little parties (5 patients + 1 nurse + 6 picnic boxes) drifted off to do their own thing in Hastings.

4.30 arrived, and promptly back came the Oberfurher, 6 nurses and 29 patients. "I don't know how she got loose, Sister" said a worried, red-haired Brunhilde of a nurse "She disappeared after our picnic." It was, you will have guessed, Emmy. She was A.W.O.L.

It was decided we would drive slowly round Hastings looking for Emmy. I didn't think this was a very good idea, because we could not see inside the shops, but it must have appeared very odd, a large coach with strange people inside, all staring anxiously sideways. It was all to no avail, so I went to the Police.

At 5.30 pm precisely, a Police Rover arrived at the Fish Market with a large tired looking Sergeant, another P.C. and Emmy.

"As a matter of fact, Sir, we're quite used to this sort of thing. She was at the Holiday Camp; must be all of 2½ miles. They often wander up there. Don't know where they get their energy."

It was a fairly uneventful journey home by comparison. I was waiting for a shouted "Careless talk costs lives" but nothing came from Emmy; there was no more recruiting, in fact it was quite peaceful.

Emmy had had a great time. As she emerged from the coach she was softly singing "Green grow the rushes - o" to the tune of "There Always be an England." She gave me a wicked sideways look from under the grey thatch.

There is no moral to this tale, except perhaps beware of little old ladies with grey fringes, but I have often wondered what she got up to in that Holiday Camp.

Warden Miller

EPSOM TRAVEL WEDDING

Our congratulations go to Kay Field who married Leigh Higgs in February. We wish them both all the best for the future.



## 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

**L**ORD Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

**K**EEP my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

**I** dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessing cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

**K**EEP me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint—some of them are so hard to live with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. AMEN

The Title of this Prayer is Traditional, although the source is Unknown