

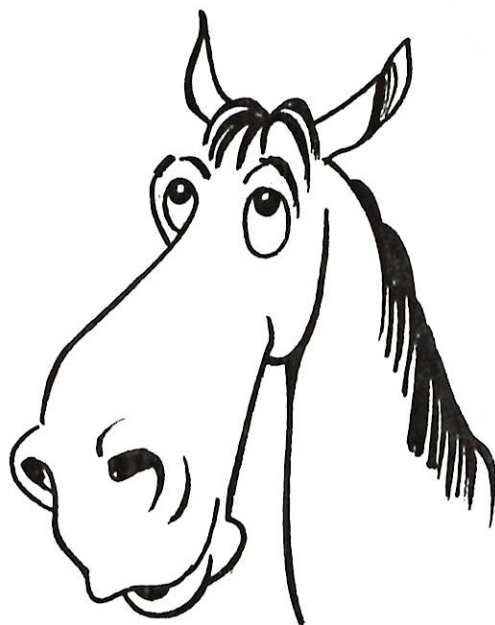
HRR NEWS



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HAPPY



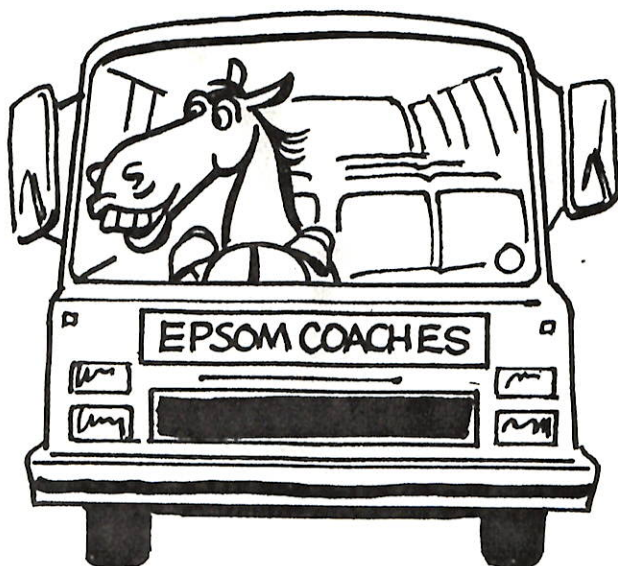
EASTER

NEW DRIVERS

We welcome as new drivers: Dave Shearing, Wyn Thomas, Paul Thomas, Angus Scott-Knight, Paul Harrison, and as part-time drivers: Peter McDermott and Cliff Steemson. The start of the season saw the return of June Locke, Ken Banks, Tony Auletta and 'Ferdy' Fernandez. Our congratulations to Jason from the Paintshop who recently passed his PSV test too.

ADVANCED INSTITUTE OF MOTORISTS

Unfortunately, pressure of work at the end of March meant that several drivers allotted a test date in March were unable to take the test; however, the two drivers - Chris Andrews and Mervyn Tonkin - who were able to take the test passed with flying colours.



Do you know this Woman?

Our Film Shows at the Bourne Hall have attracted a number of 'interesting' characters, not least the man who brought along a photograph he had taken on a trip to the Blackpool Lights last year. Apparently, it was a photograph of a woman being chased by a sheep at the 'Cat and Fiddle Inn', and the man in question is anxious to track her down to give her this photo. He asked if an announcement could be made at the Film Show but unfortunately the woman in question was not forthcoming - does anyone know who she is?

Have you heard the one about the drunk from Dagenham?

If not, you'll have to ask Bernard Kelly, but it goes something like this. One Saturday night, out with a wedding party in Dagenham, a somewhat beddraggled gentleman joined the coach. Bernard couldn't remember bringing him so he checked with the man that he should be on the coach. "Oh yes," came the reply and as the rest of the party seemed to accept him as one of theirs, they came home. Back at Cheam, the gentleman, rather worse for wear at this stage, enquired if they had reached the Dagenham Working Mans Club yet. If you noticed anyone sleeping rough in Cheam that night, now you know what he was doing there.

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HORSE CARTOONS

In case you are wondering why we have gone horse-crazy in this edition, the cartoons have been reproduced from a recent Epsom Coaches advertisement which appeared in the local Guardian and is soon to appear in the Sutton Borough News. They were the idea of our very own Warden Miller and by giving the advert a 'fun' approach it is hoped to attract some younger passengers!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Naming no names, which coach driver with a 42" bust (remember Bourne Hall!) took an 18-seater out of the garage instead of a 55! (first time in 12 years, we're told).... the same driver later had a 'Man at Work' sign fall on her.....the public film shows at the Bourne Hall have been well attended and have proved very enjoyable, likewise the Agents' "do".....Mary at Epsom travelled in style to the Grand National aboard the Orient Express (did she back the winner? - come to that did anyone, and what's happened to the office sweepstakes these days?)....Brian took a break from working with figures and managed to weather the storm on a somewhat turbulent trip to the Loire Valley....Brenda has been away polishing up her Franz Klammer impersonation and Mary and Kay have been exploring Dunkirk as guests of the Sally Line....what's this about Ivan has been seen with a Hoover, dressed in a boiler suit?.....Colin continues to sort out the Watercress Line in his spare time (nice bacon sandwich was it?).....June at Epsom recently celebrated her 21st...did anyone else find feathers and blood in the tap water?.....Epsom Coaches has been in the news quite a bit recently - there was a page article in the Travel GBI and then a mention on "County Sound" with reference to the Riviera Express and then we received a note in "The Times" in connection with wine-tasting/buying tours (Rhine and Moselle Valleys and Day Trips to France).....Alan McT got a taste of the work to come when he was diverted to take on a party of prisoners on their way from Pentonville to Fords Prison when their Woods of Littlehampton coach broke down....and how many brandies did Alan knock back at his leaving 'do' (answers on a postcard to Yvonne please)....who sends telexes to themselves....Sally is now working at Dixon Hind, the estate agent in Sutton, so if you're looking for a furnished flat!!....Irene took up an invitation to see Kelly Monteith and Andrew and Lynn are going to see "Two into One" as guests of the theatre.....Tom and Daisy Pratt have been having a well-earned rest at Littlehampton following Tom's operation last year...Arthur Boswell paid a visit to the office last week, he is still living locally....Mick and Jason were entertained to lunch in the Board Room at Plaxtons when they went to collect one of the new coaches.....the Private Hire department has no news to report because they are perfect and nothing ever happens to them (their words, not mine!).

(Contributions always gratefully received - anonymity assured!)

From the papers.....



■ I HEAR that 'The World's Favourite Airline' has a Japanese stewardess who is famous for her enigmatic smile. They call her the *Kimono Lisa*.

Ultimate excuse

A CAMBRIDGESHIRE headmaster has sent me a photocopy of a note from the mother of one of his pupils. It says: "I am sorry Susan did not attend school yesterday. We buried my Father and she stayed behind to help."

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WORKSHOP REPORT

Harry Rozier and Ashley Crouch took the Cotters Coach Express to Glasgow on 25th March to attend a four day training course on the Volvo B10M coach chassis. The course was very informative and covers the servicing and overhaul of all major components fitted to the Volvo chassis.

Jason Kerbey and Roy Miles attended an Abrasive Wheels Day Course at Kingston College in March. This course is a legal requirement for companies employing workshop staff.

Mick Sayers and Jason Kerbey combined some training with the collection of a new coach from Scarborough on the 29th March. Plaxtons had arranged for them to see over their factories at Seamer and Scarborough and receive advice from their staff on repairing and maintaining Plaxton coachwork. They completed the day by driving one of the new Volvo/Plaxton coaches back to Epsom.

On 2nd April Jason Kerbey achieved a first time pass of his psv test. He is the youngest member of Epsom Coaches to have a PSV. Although Jason is not 21 yet he was entitled to take the test early on a full size vehicle although the licence will be restricted in use until he is 21.

NEW COACHES

Five new Volvo B10M / Plaxton Paramount 3200 Mk2 coaches are now in service. They are the first vehicles in the fleet to feature Plaxtons new interior which includes aircraft style lockers. The whole interior is soft trimmed in grey carpeting and the new style reclining seats are grey with contrasting red stripes. Although the new coaches are not as high as the previous years coaches they have exceptionally large lockers and do not have wheel arches in the the passenger compartment. They are fitted with 50 Plaxton reclining seats with glove pockets to each seat and carpet is fitted down the centre aisle. An additional step automatically comes out below the normal entrance step to assist the infirm getting on the coach. A feature which is not so obvious is the direct glazed windows which are glued into position. This method of glazing is a continental idea and adds 30% to the overall strength of the coach. The only snag is that it takes 24 hours for a replacement glass to be fitted. Apart from being direct glazed they are also tinted and double glazed to eliminate condensation and increase the warmth of the interior.

FUEL MONITORING

A new fuel monitoring system was put into operation on 1st March. The system is a fully computerised system made by Tri-Scan. The previous system had to be replaced because the information produced by it was too inaccurate to be of practical use. This was mainly caused by drivers swapping or losing vehicle keys but also from inaccuracies within the machine. Apart from this, the Company who produced the system was no longer in business and it had become increasingly hard to obtain service. The answer had to be a system without keys and the only operational system was produced by Tri-Scan of Blackburn. The vehicle type and registration number is identified by a plate fitted to the side of the vehicle which has to be connected to the fuel monitoring cable before the fuel pump operates. The driver also has to enter the odometer reading before he can obtain fuel. After the transaction is complete a print-out is made in the office console of the vehicle, fuel drawn and current M.P.G. figure. This information is then used to see if vehicles are performing properly and any vehicles that are returning a low MPG can be rectified. With an annual bill of approximately £250,000 a strict control is needed.

FLEET MILEAGE

Mileage for the first three months of 1985 is down by 12.5%. The vehicle with the highest mileage so far is 343 with 11,974 kms. and is normally driven by Ron Chandler.



LETTERS

The following are extracts of two letters received recently:

Fistly, from Patricia Hall, guide and lecturer:

"I was delighted to see page 21 of 'Travel GBI' (March 1985), Graham Smith's admirable and deserved praise of your firm and you.

I can support from practical experience of working with your coaches and coach drivers, the courtesy, competence and understanding your coach drivers offer!

All your coach drivers, including those part-time, are so first class."



and secondly, from a passenger on the recent "French Riviera" trip:

My wife and I returned on Sunday evening from the French Riviera. Although I completed the questionnaire, I want to write separately to say how very much we enjoyed ourselves and to pay tribute to the way in which Martin looked after us, assisted very much by his co-driver Ron.

Martin had done a great deal of preparation and kept us not only well informed but amused regarding the places through which we were passing. A long journey could be unnecessarily tiring due to boredom and as most of the passengers were over the age of retirement, this was a very real risk. The stops on the way were appreciated but the refreshments served on board were a boon.

GLOSSARY OF ENGLISH/GERMAN MOTORING TERMS

The following may be of some help to those of you driving through Germany this year:

Indicators.....	Der Blinkenlighten Tickenfurturnen
Bonnet.....	Fingerpincer und Knuckelchoppen
Exhaust.....	Spitzenpoppenbangentuben
Speedometer.....	Der Egobooster und Linenshooter
Clutch.....	Der Kuplink mit schlippen und schaker
Puncture.....	Der Phlatt mit Bludyfuchen
Learner.....	Der Twatten mit Elplatz
Estate Car.....	Der Bagzerroomfurshagginkin
Power Brakes.....	Der Edbangeronvindschreen und Stoppenquicken
Gear Lever.....	Der Pickensticken fur Kangaroochoppen
Fuel Gauge.....	Der Walletemptyingmeter
Breathaliser.....	Der Puffintem fur Pistenarsen
Seat Belt.....	Der Klunkenklicken Frauliner Trapper
Exhaust Fumes.....	Der Koughundschipit Polluten
Bus Driver.....	Der Panzer Komandant
Policeman.....	Der Adolf Hitler
Traffic Warden.....	Der Herr Hitler und Gott
Flat Tyres.....	Der Flattazbludypharts
Backfire.....	Der Loudenbanger Makenjumpen
Juggernaut.....	Der Fuchengratt Trucken
Accident.....	Der Bleedinkmess
Near Accident.....	Der Bludynearschittenselfen
Service Station.....	Der Highwayrobberung
Cyclist.....	Der Peddallpushink Pilloken
Double White Lines.....	Overtaken und Krunchen
Accelerator.....	Der Pedal fur Makkitgoquicken
Footbrake.....	Der Peddal fur stoppen

(reproduced from the Royal Insurance 'Guide to Continental Driving') - blame them!

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HRR NEWS QUIZ - MAY TO DECEMBER EXCURSIONS PROGRAMME

Answers to all the following questions can be found in the new May to December Excursions programme:-

- 1) Climb aboard the 'John Pinkerton' for this trip _____
- 2) Will we need the speed of Concorde for a fleeting visit here on 13 August?

- 3) Date to go a-broad on a Mississippi Paddle Steamer _____
- 4) Where they will be messing about on the river on 18 August _____
- 5) The world's smallest public railway _____
- 6) Ring out the old on this Mystery Tour _____
- 7) Cathedral with the famous "Christ in Majesty" by Epstein _____
- 8) 12th century home of Queen Catherine Parr with a beautiful Elizabethan garden

- 9) We hathaways of getting people to take this tour on 16 July _____
- 10) Home of Lady Astor _____
- 11) Where to go on 23 June if you have green fingers _____
- 12) Its attractions include Lady Bangor's Fairground Selection and paper making by hand

- 13) The "Venice of the North" _____
- 14) Home of the British Airways collection _____
- 15) On 7 October you have a chance to visit Swiss Cottage but its not in London, where
is it? _____
- 16) London street market where the people are often as interesting as the wares

- 17) Its casino is open on 2 May for a flutter _____
- 18) They're certainly not dead on 11 May _____
- 19) Besides Winnie the Killer Whale you can watch a Parrot Show here _____

- 20) Anagram: Enid, grab her doll (Attractive destination) _____

Answers please to Rosemary by Friday 10th May

1st Prize: £10 2nd Prize: £5 3rd Prize: £3 4th Prize: £2 5th Prize: £1