

Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. APRIL 1983

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WHITE METAL BEARINGS

After reading in the Stationary Engine Magazine about restoring white metal bearings, I wondered if Wessex members would be interested in yet another method which has been used on big-end and main bearings on an 8 hp Ruston Hornsby AP that Bill Appleby and myself acquired last year.

First of all we found some good quality plumbers metal, which was put into a cast-iron melting pot with a gas torch underneath, and the ladle to be used for pouring resting across the top to keep warm. (NOTE: A cold ladle put into hot molten metal can cause a nasty EXPLOSION within the pot and you could get a bad BURN...). While the metal was slowly melting, a piece of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " angle iron about 2ft long had been cleared up to bright on the inside, and laid on the two bricks with the 'V' uppermost. The molten metal was poured gently along the groove to make 1ft lengths of metal just a bit thicker than a drinking-straw; about thirty of these rods were made, if you find that they won't come out nice and straight and slim, melt them down again until you get the hand of it. Keep on skimming off all the impurities from the top of the pot. A good temperature guide for the metal is to place a piece of paper into the molten metal, if it catches fire, the metal is too hot.

The next stage was to be done by a local engineer who laid the split bearings in a steel tray with about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of water in the bottom and packed muslin cloths around the shells to keep the outsides of the shells cool so that they would not distort when the metal was 'run'. Using an oxy-acetylene torch with a very gentle flame, he warmed up the surface of the shell and began to weld on or 'run' the rods onto the surface, gradually building up as he went and being careful all the time not to burn the shell. About 8 or 9 passes up and down had the shell covered with approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ " of new metal. When all six halves had been done, they were held together with jubilee clips to keep them in their pairs. Next, onto the lathe, where they were skimmed out gently in a four-jaw check to the measurements required. The oil-grooves were done on a milling machine but with care could be done by hand, if one never had access to a machine. When the bearings were installed back into the engine, very little hand scraping had to be done as the lathe was a great help in getting down to a fine tolerance. We have run the engine now for about 20 hours, and all seems to be O.K.; the time involved to rebuild these six shells was about three days. I hope this may be of some help to anyone wondering what to do about worn white metal bearings.

Robin Lambert

NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

In order to encourage Club members to participate in the Newsletter by sending in Rally reports, articles, etc. it has been proposed to award a small, but worthwhile, prize for the best article submitted. This will be on an annual basis and will be presented at the AGM. Members of the Committee will still be encouraged to submit articles but will be excluded from the competition. Come on Lads and Lassies...just a short report on your favourite rally, it WILL be printed. Send to Eric G. Brain, 5 Greenridge, Clutton, Bristol. Tel. Temple Cloud 52633.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

WSEC Hon. Secretary	Mrs. Diana Emery, 'Odstax', Wells Road, Hallatrow, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Temple Cloud (0761) 52939
Chairman	Ian Skuse, 12 Southlands Way, Congresbury, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Yatton 834943
Treasurer & Membership	Stuart Ashman, Moorledge Farm Cottage, Knowle Hill, Chew Magna, Nr. Bristol. Tel. Chew Magna 2655
Events Secretary	Tony Jones, 59 Marsh Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Tel. Trowbridge 5351
Vice-Chairman	Robin Lambert, 15 Beechwood Ave., Frome, Somerset. Tel. Frome 63526

REPORT OF THE 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - February 28th 1983

The meeting was opened by the President, David Edgington. The minutes of the last AGM were read and approved and signed by the President. The only 'matter arising' concerned insurance. Drag saws, providing adequate safety precautions were observed, were now covered by the policy. No engine or machinery was covered by insurance outside the UK.

President's Retiring Speech. After six years as President, David now wished to retire. He remarked on how membership had grown in the six years he had held office and it was encouraging to see so many founder members still taking an active interest in the Club. He complimented the Club on its friendliness and how we went out of our way to welcome any newcomers. Our Newsletter was still regular, informative and interesting. Thanks for this must go to Tom Randall for putting it on the high plane on which it now stands and to Eric Brain for continuing to

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to keep it there. He hoped members would continue to support the Editor by contributing material for the Newsletter.

Commenting on the Annual Rally, David suggested we should join another organisation for this event in order to attract the public and make it a more enjoyable occasion for all.

The Annual Dinner & Dance had once more been an enjoyable evening, irrespective of the volume of the music and the fact that a toast to the Queen had been overlooked.

David concluded by thanking the Committee for their work and wishing us well for 1983.

Election of New President. David said that after a lot of thought, the Committee had approached Tom Randall and asked him to fill the position of President. He thought Tom was the perfect person, being a founder member, ex-chairman and someone who had put such a lot into the Club. He had taken over as Chairman at a difficult time and had put the Club back on its feet. Tom was officially proposed by Eric Brain and seconded by Michael Cannon. All members present agreed. David then presented Tom with the President's badge and handed the meeting over to him.

New President's Speech. Tom said he had been honoured when asked to fill the position of President. He hoped to be able to give as much to the Club as it had given him over the past years. He thanked David for holding the position and for all his help in the past.

Chairman's Report. Ian thanked David for all his help over the past years and also thanked Tom for accepting the position of President.

He was pleased to be able to report a successful year with all functions well attended. Due to excellent organisation, both by the Committee and by individuals, over £400 had been donated to CLIC and it was good to know we were helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Thanks were due to Tony Jones for arranging the majority of our monthly speakers enabling meetings to be organised several months ahead.

Ian presented David with a pen and Doreen with a pot plant as tokens of thanks from the Club.

Treasurer's Report. Balance sheets were distributed and Stuart explained the figures to the meeting. The Club Rally and the Jumble Sale had been the main fund raisers helped by raffles organised by Herbie Gane and Tee-shirt sales by Tony Jones. Thanks were due to Sylvia and Ivor Yeo for keeping our Newsletter costs to a minimum. A balance of £579 was shown for the end of the year. Tom thanked Stuart for his set of figures and for his work during the year.

Election of Officers: Two members of the present committee would not be standing for re-election this year, Adrian Stride and Ivor Yeo. The remainder were willing to be re-elected and Tom asked for a proposal from the floor that they be re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Bill Appleby, seconded by Claude Lowther and unanimously approved by members present. Two new members were needed. Brian Munt was proposed by Roy Cox and seconded by Phil Wookey and Claude Lowther was proposed by Gerald Atherton and seconded by Eric Brain.

A.O.B. 1. It was asked if the Newsletter would publish the names and addresses of the Editor and Chairman. Eric said these would appear in future Newsletters.

2. Terry Heath remarked on the volume of the music at the Dinner/Dance. Tom said he had spoken to the group who had apologised and explained that in a small room distortion can occur if the volume is turned too low.

3. Claude Lowther remarked on the Annual Rally which, although an enjoyable event and good fund raiser, could be improved. Tom explained that arrangements were being made to combine our Rally with the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Lions Family day on July 17th. This should prove more interesting to both visitors and exhibitors and he hoped members would give their support.

There was no other business so Tom closed the meeting, thanking all for their attendance. After the formalities, subscriptions were received and Herbie 'caught' all who had avoided him earlier and sold them raffle tickets. The lucky winners were: J. Dixon - Gollywog, P. Williams - wine, J. Cannon - goggles, B. Hallam - eggs, Tony Jones - waste paper basket.

Once again a well attended AGM and it seems as though you'll have to put up with me for another year. Happy Rallying.

Diana Emery

W.S.E.C. JUMBLE SALE - MARCH 26TH

Saturday morning dawned fair and dry; around 9 o'clock the Wessex Jumble Sale Brigade began to assemble at the Midsomer Norton Community Hall. The jumble arrived by car, van and trailer; in bags, boxes and anything else that wouldn't hold petrol or engine spares. A few interesting items were spotted as the stalls were laid out. These included a patent exhaust purifier, which remained unsold even though there were many Petter 'M' owners present, a battery powered window box lawnmower...!! and several Teach Yourself Russian books! A good supply of clothes, books, shoes, and general odds and ends were on sale and the doors opened promptly at 10.00 a.m. to a sea of eager bargain hunters, just like Harrods in January...!! Trading was brisk to say the least, especially the books in brown paper covers, these were a very popular line. Our Chairman was seen to purchase a set of six one pint beer-mugs, an obvious collector's item; he was seen later heading for the High Street, no doubt to give them a road test?

During the Sale, several members revealed hidden talents as salesmen...or salespersons... sorry ladies, so beware at the next 'bring and buy' sale! At the end of the proceedings, several of the young bloods in the Club were spotted testing their strength against the local Judo Club's

weights; it seemed as a results of this the Chairman will have to go back to light training, starting with a few smaller quantities.

The eventual grand total was £94.86½, and Bill Appleby was the closest in the 'guess the takings' raffle. This was a grant effort and will certainly help to put the Club's activities this year on a firm financial footing. Thanks to Tom, Ian and all the rest of the Committee and their wives and friends who gave up their Saturday morning to take part, and all the members behind the scenes who donated to the sale....and anyone else who I may not know by name or have forgotten.

Rob Lowther

FORTHCOMING W.S.E.C. EVENTS

- May 23rd 'Going Dutch, a talk on the pleasures and pitfalls of rallying in Holland, last year. By Grahame Escott and Pete Steele.
- June 27th Crank-Up and Bring and Buy Sale in the Old Down car park, starts at 7.30 p.m.
- July 8th, The Wessex Garden Party weekend at 59 Marsh Road, Trowbridge
- 9th & 10th
- July 16th The Club Rally. This will take place this year at Radstock in conjunction with the
- & 17th Midsomer Norton & Radstock Lions Club. Early negotiations are still proceeding, so book the date and wait for a full announcement as soon as details are finalised.
- July 25th A Club evening visit to John Huish's collection of machinery, mostly steam, oil & gas engines at Worle, near Weston super Mare. Very easy to find, meet outside the Nat.West Bank in Worle High Street at 7.15 p.m. for a prompt 7.30 p.m. start.
- August 22nd (Note: This is NOT the last Monday in the month, due to the Bank Holiday). The SS Great Britain Project, an illustrated talk by Mr. Gander. The restoration of Brunel's famous ship.
- Sept.26th Villiers Engines by Mr. Terry Sanger, Sales Director
- Oct.31st Another of the popular Verne Kindschi audio slide shows. Engines at rallies across the Atlantic, presented on Verne's behalf by Tony Jones
- Nov.28th The Munt Magic Lantern Show. Full details still in the pipeline...or do I mean Sausage Machine..?
- Dec.3rd The Club Dinner & Dance, this will, as usual, be the only Club Meeting in December. Full details in due course.
- Jan.30th The Trowbridge Camera Club with a Slide Show featuring Steam Rallies, Fair Organs and related items
- Feb.27th Annual General Meeting
- March 26th Michael Cannon with a Slide Show, "The Narrow Gauge Railways of North Wales"
- ALSO A coach trip has been arranged to the last Steaming Weekend of 1983 at Crofton Pumping Station. This will start from the Old Down Inn (car parking facilities) and agreed pick-ups en route. The date?? NOVEMBER 13th. More details later, put it in your diaries.
- AND YES - another Jumble Sale , sometime in November, probably the 19th or 26th
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THE WESSEX GARDEN PARTY

Will be held this year on the 8th,9th and 10th July in Tony Jones' garden, 59 Marsh Road, Trowbridge. TelTrowbridge 5351 for enquiries, details,etc. or see last month's Newsletter.

Tony says....'Owing to the cost involved to prospective family exhibitors, I have been rather concerned as to the effect this may have on the number of engine entries. Please purchase in advance as many tickets as you can afford, one at a time of you like, and one ticket per two children. On the Saturday night, only ticket holders will get food, but extra food may be available subject to demand later in the evening, at small cost.

Please bear in mind that this event is a CHARITY fund raiser, obviously it is in my best interests to sell as many tickets as I can in order to donate the largest sum possible to CLIC, There will be plenty of room at the site for caravans and camping alongside the picturesque K & A canal, so please enter your engine as soon as possible, make every effort to come along and enjoy the very relaxed atmosphere of this family weekend and make it a party to remember. The scent and taste of our now famous Hot Dogs will really reflect on the true wealth of Wiltshire".

THE BRISTOL DOCKS RALLY

This popular event is specially laid on for our Club by South Bristol Tech.College in conjunction with the Institute of Plant Engineers. This year it is on the weekend of May 14th & 15th at Bristol Industrial Museum on the quay-isde at the City Centre.Entry forms were given out with last month's Newsletter; entries are limited to the first 50. Entrants are requested to try to be in position by 11.00 a.m. each day. Engines can be stored quite safely overnight in the Museum.

IN PASSING

Welcome to the Wessex Stationary Engine Club.....to our latest, and farthest distant member, Andrew Mercer from Lauder, Berwickshire, Scotland. Those of us who attended the Saturday evening social, at the 1981 Great Gathering of Stationary Engines at Longleat, may remember Andrew confronting David Edgington with a large wooden spoon (S.E.Mag., Issue 90, p.7). During the

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summer months, Andrew is a regular exhibitor at rallies in the West of England, rumour has it that he has the largest collection of 'long haul' trophies in the UK! We can now say that the Wessex covers the country from Truro to Berwickshire..!

Doug Newton of the C.O.E.P.S. (Cotswold Oil Engine Preservation Society) sends best wishes to all W.S.E.C. members through the medium of the newsletter of which he is Editor. Hearty reciprocations Doug and all the C.O.E.P.S. Happy and safe rallying to all.

The Science Museum Open Day at Wroughton, Nr. Swindon, is on September 11th. Entries are limited, so anyone intending to come, please let Diana know as soon as you can please. The Club are normally asked to put on a WORKING display so your exhibit must be powering something. If you enter, and then find you can't turn up, please tell us as there will be a queue for this popular event.

The West Somerset Railway Rally, hitherto advertised in this Newsletter, was apparently, not at the venue given us. Certain W.S.E.C. members, up from sunny Cornwall, spent some considerable time looking for the event itself, albeit as spectators. This, coupled with the ENTRANCE FEE to exhibitors, made it not a very attractive proposition. We hope this trend towards entrance fees dies an early death.

FOR SALE

Sawbench, 24" blade, cast-iron construction. Offers please to Brian Lewis, Tel. Nailsea 852027.

SERVICES

Welding of all metals, including cast-iron. Contact D.J. Lyons, Hillview, Cheddarcombe Lane, Star, Winscombe, Somerset. Tel. Winscombe 2102.

Title Your Exhibit. (see Ern "Brassplate's" article in the December Newsletter). A brief description of your engine in Art Script to turn your immaculate restoration into a Rally Exhibit which could draw crowds! Contact Joanne Penny with full details as required. c/o Stephen Emery on Temple Cloud 52939, or Secretary's address (see page 1). Cost, around £3, negotiable.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Bradford on Avon Lions Charity raft race and show, Barton Farm on May 30th (Bank Holiday Monday). All entries and enquiries to Tony Jones (see page 1).

Sedgemoor Vintage Rally, May 21st and 22nd at the Old Morganians Rugby Ground, Bath Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. Entries to Dave Squire, 17 Grasmere, Bridgwater.

Preston School Fete and Engine Rally, Monk's Dale, Yeovil, May 14th. For full details telephone P.T. Goldring, 15 Westfield Crescent, Yeovil. Tel. 28650.

West Dorset Rally at Puncknowle, Nr. Bridport. 21st and 22nd May. Contact Mr. H.J. Cook, Springfield, Longbredy, Dorchester, Dorset.

Cricket St. Thomas Rally, Sunday, 29th May. Come on Saturday and stay over the weekend and browse around the Wildlife Park and other attractions at your leisure. Details from Bill Foster, Fourways, Sandley, Gillingham, Dorset.