

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1994



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 28TH FEBRUARY 1994.

The President opened the meeting at 8.15pm and the minutes were read out by our Secretary Anne Carney, and as there were no matters arising out of last years AGM these were proposed and seconded by Derrick Watts and Herbie Gane. During his speech Eric praised the committee for the introduction of the club being formed into a limited company thereby safeguarding everyones property. The committee had worked very hard over the past year to ensure safe rallying for everyone. He expressed that there seemed to be a lot of interest in the smaller one day rallies as subsequently not everyone could attend a two day event. Specifically mentioned were Bill Coombs for his splendid rally and acknowledged how it had grown over the years to become a special event in the Wessex calendar. The Full Quart Crank-Up run by Roy and Ivor Cox and families had also been a huge success with over £10,500 being raised for CLIC since this crank-up began 13 years ago. Brian Bakers winter Crank-Up is getting very popular and thanks was given to the ladies who distributed hot drinks and mince pies. The day trips and outings had a mention and it was thought that Priston Mill had been a success as was the full day trip to The Black Country Musuem at Dudley. Eric congratulated Rob Lambert on receiving the Best Newsletter Editor award for which he received a cup from the Stationary Engine Magazine and a cheque for £50 towards club funds, Robin was thanked for all his hard work on the newsletter and also to Mary Butler for the final type up of the newsletter before printing and to Marg and Bill Appleby for the distribution of the newsletter each month.

Next came the Chairmans report, Brian Verrall thanked everyone for the work done and put into the club by everyone during the past year. He also explained that the club will be shortly be formed into a Limited Co. and hopefully everyone would benefit from the release of uncertainty regarding possible insurance claims. He also thanked the President Eric Brain for all the articles he had submitted for publication in the Stationary Engine Magazine along with other club members like Patrick Knight and Philip Thornton-Evison. Brian also thanked Gerald Atherton for his continued support and expressed that he was sorry that he had decided to leave the committee this year.

The Treasurer read out the statement of accounts in detail to the floor, all members had been handed a copy of the balance sheet, Eric Brain added that the clubs insurance only covers stationary engines on the rally field and their ancillary equipment. There was no cover therefore for tractors, vehicles and such like. The presentations were then made to Marg Appleby and Mary Butler, each received a basket of fruit and extended thanks, the Land-lord Gordon received a framed Old English map of the area of Chilcompton to hang in his new restuarant, hopefull to be named the Wessex Bar!!!!

Election of Officers remained the same:- Brian Verrall - Chairman, Eric Gay - Vice-Chairman, Anne Carney - Secretary, Jackie Lambert - Treasurer. All other committee members were elected 'en bloc' and are as follows: Ted Routley, Steve Routley, Alan Carney, Brian Baker, Vic Walton, Roy Pointing, Brian Reakes, Roger Pike and newly nominated Ray Baker.

Any other business: En bloc was explained to the membership although it may have to be done individually when we are a company and all rumours regarding further increses in sub-scriptions were dispelled, any future increases would be notified in the newsletter, but

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nothing more is planned for this year. It had been decided that there would be no pens for stationary engines and associated machinery at this years rally, and hopefully we should see an increase in exhibitors. Vehicles would be allowed to park a safe distance behind the engines. This decision had been made as members had requested the committee to review this as the majority did not regard the pens to be very popular on the whole. A safety code of practice was in the process of being written and a copy will accompany all exhibitor passes for the rally this year. Vigilance and safety was a top priority and of prime importance. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

ANNE CARNEY.

BEN AND THE BUTTER.

Yoy've heeard this tale avore. Well, I ain't surprised at that, of the man who stole the butter, and put it in his hat.

But maybe you'll excuse, if I tell thic tale again, for the varmer were me vather and the very man were Ben.

Ben 'ad bin churning and churning all day, but the veather were coold and his vingers were numb and the butter uncommonly lorth to come.

Slow and sure loike a miser's cash, and the churn went splashity splash, the day went on and the tay time passed, and the butter went flumpity flump at last.

Now Ben I saay - were as hungry as a wolf, and more'n a match at a quartern loaf, but vether the bread were white or brown, Ben loiked some butter to tole it down.

The coast were clear and the missus were out, so Ben Opened the churn and looked about so Ben took of the butter, a biggish patch and stuffed it into his old felt hat.

But he'd hardly popped his head on to it, when vather comes in an se'ed un do it, now the day was passed and the work were done, and vaither were up to a bit of fun, he did'nt cuss, nor he did'nt swear, but he knowed what old Ben's weakness were.

"Ben, I saay, sit thee down in thic ther chair, and Betty shall draw thee a mug 'o' beer fer the veather's enough to charm the cat, we'll maake up the vire, so take off thee 'at, "Thank ee" says Ben "But if I might be so bold I'll keep on me 'at - ver I got a bad cold" Thee 'ast' said vaither "Then draw up nigher, yer girt vool, git 'andier the vire.

Ben drank his beer, at once outright, "Thank 'ee maister, now I'll wish 'ee goodnight, "Stop, stop me honest ben, and Beety shall vill thee mug again, and warm it up wee a drap 'O' gin, and put some sugar and nutmeg in.

Then Ben licked his chops as he thought 'O' that, but felt uneasy bout his old velt 'at. The vire blazed up and the drink went down and ben felt more uneasy about his crown, and the drink went down and the vire blazed up and Batty, a third time villed his cup.

Ben got rather shiny about his face and down his smock front ran the grease, his waistcoat abd britches were soaked like oil but his clothes were such 'ooden spoil, say vaither to Ben, "The 'art all a flutter thee's caught thic coold 'a' churning butter.

I hope thr'art cured from this yere bout I've done my best to sweat thee out, so taake my advice me honest Ben do'nt never thee catch such a coold again, an when thee hast done wi churning butter an thee ast ad a longish bout thee let missus od dair maids vingers take it out.

An if thee steals butter or anythin fat then swaller it down, not put it in thee 'at vur thee puts it there - a pla-ace I do-ant admire do'nt thee go drinking gin and beer - nor sit by thee vire.

TALK ON MONDAY 28TH MARCH BY FORMER BRISTOL DOCKS DIVER.

Mr. Bob Brome, a former navy trained diver gave a very informative and enjoyable evening to a crowded meeting.

The slides began when Bob was a young lad, during his training sessions at H.M. Dockyard in Gibraltar. The suit and accessories which were worn looked very cumbersome and terribly heavy. Each boot weigh 18lbs, the helmet was 12lbs and the breastplate weighed 12lbs. The whole suit totalling a mighty 180lbs!! He explained that first off it was found to be impossible to lift his feet let alone walk but he soon got the hang of it and began to learn his trade sometimes even diving in the dry dock, which seems a funny place to dive, but they did fill it with water on occasions.

He came back to his home in Bristol in 1945 as the war was finishing and by chance managed to secure his job with only two days home leave, arriving home on Thursday and starting his new employment on the Monday morning, after being away from his wife and family for almost three years. His salary was the princely sum of 2/6d an hour and his wife collected 10/0 shillings a month for his laundry.

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There is a five man team working on the boat, with two dressers, three men working the pump, taking it in turns. His work took him to Portishead Power Station to go down and investigate leaking gates, he has recovered two bodies and seen many things that the person 'up top' never gets the chance to. The River Frome runs underneath Bristol City Centre island and Bob worked under the road many times. Although working in the docks where the water is always dark and muddy, he never liked being called out to work at night. The only explanation he could give was that he always felt safer if the men aboard the boat could see what they were doing even if he couldn't.

Bob dived for over 20 years and loved every minute of it, but although the job looked interesting enough I doubt if he managed to convince many of the members.

A donation of £25.00 was given to Bob to pass to his particular charity at Frenchay Hospital dealing with skin cancer.

ANNE CARNEY - SECRETARY.

- FOR SALE - 3½hp Lister CS1L Diesel engine circa 1947, mounted on trolley with cooling tank, but fuel tank missing £250. Contact Clive Fletcher 0458 840745 (Street).
- FOR SALE - Frome Engineering Co. Hobbs engine 1¾hp c 1922 on trolley - £550.
 Lister A type - hopper cooled. Spec CH reverse rotation, heavy duty flywheels, industrial type 5hp 1935. As found, needs an exhaust pot - £100.
 Lister A type - tank cooled Spec A69 3½hp 1941 - needs fuel tank and exhaust £60.
 Wrigley type Auto Truck - dismantled. All wheels, chassis and engine present, easy restoration - £60.
 Power Hacksaw - 14" blade, good working order but needs a motor - £35.
 For all 5 items above contact - Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath. BA3 2TL or Tel: 0761 418926.
- WANTED - Stationary Engine Magazines No's. 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,15,16,17,18,19,23, 24,28,31,34,44,48,49,57,58,59,60,61,62,64. Please Tel: 0458 860287.

MARK HARVEST HOME - 17th August.

It was a beautiful morning when we set off for Mark and when we arrived a few more engines were there, in total about 15 engines, 10 tractors, 6 motorbikes and a steamer and thresher. It was a really good day, plenty of people who were interested in engines. Refreshments were provided at the end of the day which was really appreciated after a hot day. Quite a few Wessex members turned up.

WEDMORE HARVEST HOME - 20th August.

Well what can I say about Wedmore Harvest Home. John and I arrived at about 10 am we told the man that was there that we had a stationary engine, he said how many are coming?, we didn't have a clue. We asked if they had posts and rope, and the reply was no but we will get some, the rope came from the marquee so did the posts. Well just two engines turned up, it was disappointing, we thought that more would have come. Weather wise the sun shone all day, and we enjoyed ourselves after everything was set up. Lets see more there next year and make a show not just two and both were Wessex members.

RUTH RUSSELL.

COMMITTEE NEWS.

The winner of the poster competition for this years rally was decided upon at the last meeting to be Mr. Stan Kerley of Middle Woodford, Salisbury. His prize was one years free subscription to the club, but as he had already paid his money has now been refunded. The committee wish to congratulate Stan on his winning entry. Ray Baker has been elected as a new committee member for 1994. Ray replaced Gerald Atherton who wished to stand down this time. The club shop has been a bit dreary of late and this year we have decided to spruce it up by stocking more items. A variety of pens, notelets, tee shirts and white china mugs, all with the club logo inscribed have been ordered. Other suggestions would be welcome - within reason! We still have an empty slot on our calendar for the August club meeting. Does anyone have any suggestions on what the club could put on or arrange, bearing in mind a fair amount of people are on holiday? Your ideas would be appreciated. Please contact our Secretary if you can help. A day trip to visit Gloucester Docks and all its exhibitions nearby has been suggested. More news on this will be announced later with exact date and time when arranged.

DID YOU SPOT the deliberate mistake in last months 'All screwed up' article, which read a ¾" threaded component would need a 7/16th spanner!!! The component should have read ¼". Apologies to Eric - the mistake being caused by continued misting up of editors bifocals whilst soaking in a hot bath.

ROB.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sims of Bath and Mr. David Cook from Wells.

EVENTS DIARY FOR 1994.

- MAY 1/2/29/30th - Westonzoyland Pumping Station in steam days.
MAY 8th - Hazelbury Bryan Rally (well supported by club members last year) All members welcome, just turn up on the day.
MAY 15th - Amberley Museum 15th Annual Stationary Engine Working Day. Details from Ian Sampson, Amberley Chalk Pits Museum, Amberley, Arundel, West Sussex.
JUNE 4/5th - NVTEC Kent Group 2nd Engine & Tractor Rally, Whitbread Hop Farm, Beltring, Nr. Paddock Wood, Kent. Details from 13 Swanscote Street, Swanscote, Kent. DA10 OBQ with SAE.
JUNE 25/26th - Bath Festival of Steam. Exhibitors contact Malcolm Fleet on 0934 743921.
JUNE 25/26th - Cornish Traction Engine Club Rally at Higher Pennace Farm, St. Stephen, Cornwall. St/Engines - Mr. R. Rowse, 'Pengover House', 78 Gover Road, St. Austell, Cornwall. Tel. 0726 63424.
JUNE 25/26th - Holesworth Vintage Vehicle & Engine Rally. Auction on Saturday. Contact: Mr. Edwards, 1 Beacon View, Shop, Morwenstow, Bude, Tel: 028883 306.
JUNE 25/26th - Tatton Park Rally, Knutsford. M6 Junction 10. St/Engines - Mr. P. Gallimore, 17 Chelford Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire. SK10 3LG.
JUNE 25/26th - Bournemouth & Poole Preservation Club Rally - Sec. Len Maloy, 3 Nightingale Drive, Totton, Southampton. SO4 3UL. Tel: 0703 666931.
JULY 2/3rd - Heddington & Stockley Rally. Contact: Mr. G. Hyde, 34 Goatacre, Calne, Wilts. Tel: 0249 76681.
JULY 9/10th - Wales International Kite Festival & Family Fun Day. Vintage & Specialist Rally in aid of N.C.P.C.C. at Monmouth Showground (Vauxhall Fields) Monmouth Contact for S/E Mr. K. Sargent, 18 Tufthorne Close, Coleford, Glos.
JULY 9/10th - Wincanton Steam & Country Fair, Brains Farm, Moor Lane, Wincanton, Som. Contact: Tel: 0963 34107 or write to above address.
JULY 10th - Castle Cary Cavalcade of Motoring, St/engines Contact: Miss B. Laver, 'Cobblerslast', Market Place, Castle Cary, Somerset. BA7 7AG (with S.A.E.)
JULY 16/17th - Somerset Traction Engine Club Rally at Low Ham, Nr. Langport, Somerset. St/Engines - Mr. B. Hitchings, 9 Crown Lane, Creech Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset. TA5 5EU. Tel: 0823 412469.
JULY 23/24th - National Vintage & Engine Club Rally, Old Morgonians Rugby Ground. St/engines - G. Weedon, 22 Grange Road, West Huntspill, Nr. Highbridge, Somerset. TA9 3SB Tel: 0278 781764 or 780513.
JULY 30/31st - Rushmoor Steam & Vintage Show, Rushmoor Acrean, Aldershot, Hants. Contact: Mr. P. Knight, 10 Upper Elms Road, Aldershot, Hants. Tel: 0252 317327.
JULY 30/31st - Woodlands Rally, Nr. Dartmouth, South Devon. Tel: 08042 598 or 680.
AUGUST 6/7th - Torbay Steam '94, Windy Corner, Churston, Nr. Brixham, Devon. Contact: M. Stabb, 12 Sun Valley Close, Brixham, Devon TQ5 8JG. Tel: 0803 857687.
AUGUST 7th - Mendip Crank-Up & Car Boot Sale at Mendip Garage. Contact: Bill Coombs, Belvedere Cottage, Gurney Salde, Nr. Bath. BA3 4TG. Tel: 0749 840868.
AUGUST 6/7th - West Somerset Steam Rally, Darby Fields, Bishops Lydeard Station. Entry Forms Contact: John Pearce Tel: 0823 335565.
AUGUST 13/14th - Yeovil Festival of Transport - Sorry no Details.
AUGUST 20/21st - Bleadon Steam Fayre. - Sorry no details.
AUGUST 19/20/21st - The West of England Steam Engine Society - Tywarnhayle Farm, Nr. St. Agnes Cornwall. St/engines Contact: Mr. C. Leverton, Cuth Kerensa, Rose Meadow, Stithians, Truro, Cornwall. Tel: 0209 861406.
AUGUST 28/29 - Honiton Hill Rally. Tel: 0404 41115.
AUGUST 28/29th - DTEC Rally, Chapelton Barton, Devon. Contact: Mr. G. Ellis 0647 432270.
AUG 31 - SEP 4th - Great Dorset Steam Fair St/engines Contact: M. Oliver on 0258 860361.
SEPT 3/4th - Countryside Cavalcade. Contact: Mr. Walt Cox, 22 Langport Road, Long Sutton, Somerset. TA10 9ND. Tel: 0458 241578.
SEPT 10/11th - SSAPC Yesterdays Farming, Leaze Farm, Hazelbury Plucknett, Nr. Crewkerne.
SEPT 18th - Vintage & Specialist Rally in aid of Leukaemia Research Fund, Tredegar House, Newport, Gwent. S/engines Contact: Mr. E. Williams, 6 Sward Close, Rogerstone, Newport, Gwent NP1 0AZ (with SAE).
SEPT 25th - Full Quart Crank-Up, Hewish, Nr. Weston-super-Mare. Would last years exhibitors who wish to attend this year please contact: Roy Cox Tel: 0934 419826.
CLUB NIGHT - MONDAY 23rd MAY - David Harris on Listers.