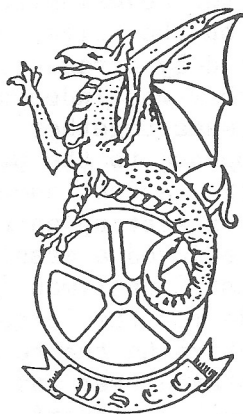


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1996



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**** EDITORIAL ****

It has been brought to my attention that some rally organisers operate a discrimination against some more common makes of engine such as Listers, to get a more upmarket selection of engines such as Rustons, Blackstones, Bamfords etc. I have seen proof of entries returned as oversubscribed despite being returned as soon as the entry forms were available, yet other entries of more exotic engines that were sent much later were accepted. I had an entry refused by one engine steward and I know for a fact he rang the owner of a large Blackstone engine many weeks later to see if he would bring it to his rally. This practice should be discouraged, entries at any rally should be on a first come first served basis. I can only advise any exhibitor who knows of rally's who operate this practise not to enter, there is always other rally's to enter.

**** CHAIRMANS REPORT ****

All the Wessex events seem to be well supported lately, the Crank-Up at the Old Down on Monday 29th July was no exception, with a good display of engines running, bric-a-brac for sale, and lots of spectators and a very successful raffle, the event really was well supported, helped along this time with a really warm, sunny summer evening. To all the Wessex members who patronised it - thank you. A few years ago this event was going to be cancelled due to lack of support, it just goes to show how things can turn around.

STAUNTON COUNTRY FAYRE & SHIRE HORSE SHOW - Sunday 30th June

This is the first time we have exhibited at this particular show. There were public already looking round the stalls when we arrived (no we weren't late).

For the shire horses there are eight different classes - gelding, mare with own foal at foot to harness show and working and pairs turnout. There are some beautiful gentle giants on show.

Coleford Silver Band are playing in the beer tent. Outside the ring events started at 10.00 am with shire horses until noon then followed by the Ross Pheonix Drum Majorettes, fancy dress, parade of Cotswold Vale Fox Hounds and a dog show is also taking place in another part of the field.

The tractors of which there are about 25, motorcycles, 5 commercials including a 1966 A.E.C. double decker bus, and a Foden 1963 flat bed lorry did not parade in the ring but stayed static. The cars also stayed in their compound but with these the commentator interviewed each owner. Some of the cars on display included a 1932 Morris Minor, a 1939 Austin 7 Ruby, in all about 30 vintage and classic cars were on display.

There was a good line up of stationary engines about 50 all together. Amanco's from 1904 to 1917, Lister Models 'A', 'D' & 'L', some nice Rustons, a couple of Fowlers, Petters, J.A.P.'s, Stuart, Wolseley, Fairbanks and a Bradford which was rather nice.

For a one day show there is so much to see and plenty of stalls and a large craft tent full to capacity and outside is a Venison B.B.Q.

A very well organised show, we shall be back next year.

MARY BUTLER.

**** FORDSON '500' AT NEWARK ON TRENT - JUNE 29/30TH ****

Travelling with Ray Phillips and his family, we set off at about 7 a.m. on Friday 28th on a journey that was to take us 7 hours. Having arrived at 2 p.m. after covering 214 miles, we settled down for the weekend. All tractors had to be put in place on the Friday night as they came in. On going to see where we had to be, we were confronted by acres of parked tractors all parked in line by age. To see so many Fordsons all together was indeed a sight to behold. There were so many variations it was hard to find two the same together.

Saturday saw the final touches put together before the show was opened to the public. Despite the cold wind and some showers the public came in large numbers. A continuous parade was conducted all day for those able to move. Three commentators kept up an unending talk about everything that came before them. Saturday evening we all enjoyed a massive hog roast while being entertained by country band 'Denver Spur' and our West Countryman 'Fred Wedlock'. On Sunday a count was taken to see if a record had been made for the largest number of one make of tractors at one time. The announcement came confirming the record with a total of 1,002 tractors and things derived from tractors. We stayed over and came home early on Monday morning arriving home at about 11.20. This had been a wonderful experience and will not happen again.

BRIAN LOVELL.

**** TATTON PARK 1996 ****

Yes I know I said I wouldn't visit Tatton Park again, but I was talked into it by my son Paul. The difference was this time we took plenty of food and drink. We left home just after lunch on the Friday and experienced dreadful holdups on the motorway which meant the journey took 5 hours instead of three hours. Nevertheless we arrived, set up camp and went exploring the site. This time because we went prepared with food there was a fish and chip van, a Kentucky chicken bar and a burger bar. The engine pens were all practically full on the Friday evening and all the traders had their stalls set out and were trading. We left the site and visited a couple of pubs looking for one suitable for a steak supper the following night. The second one was ideal and we had a good meal there on the Saturday, as did Jackie and Robin Lambert who we told about the pub after our recce. Saturday was cloudy and windy but dry, and with about 700 engines on display, and with an auction, trade stands and their club shop there was plenty to see and do. I was busy taking slide films of engines I hadn't seen before. One of the first Wessex members I bumped into was Terry Heath from Yeovil "I thought you were not coming to Tatton again" he said, "Well even Governments do 'U' turns" I replied. Also there was Keith Reader, Jackie and Robin Lambert and Mary and Reg Butler. It's nice to see familiar friendly faces when you're visiting 'foreign' parts. The highlighted engine this year was Bamfords, and these were exhibited in abundance. The standard of some engines were outstanding but there was also dozens of small 'junk' engines displayed most of which had no one in attendance and were truly 'stationary'. Sunday morning I visited the large display of tractors and took plenty of films of very early rare machines, these will be shown at a club night later in the year. We packed the gear in the car at lunchtime and headed for home, this time towing a trailer Paul had purchased in the club shop. The journey home took only 3 hours and was uneventful until we got to Bristol when one of the mudguards fell off the trailer. I think the Manchester Artisans need to travel south for a crash course on welding. Tatton Park - I may be back. Just watch this space.

B.J.B.

**** SEMINGTON RALLY ****

When I arrived on site Friday morning people were already banging in posts and putting up rope. Everyone there had jobs to do and they all got stuck in and by early afternoon the main work was done, thanks to all concerned. By this time exhibitors were beginning to arrive and our secretary on the gate had her work cut out trying to sort out everybody's problems, where to go, where is so and so, etc. ect. Things did quieten down eventually, but I understand a refrigerated lorry parked all night in the layby with its fridge diesel engine running, so sleep was hard to come by. Saturday and Sunday were both glorious days and if only we knew which buttons to press we will have the same again next year. The weekend appeared to go without any major problems or trouble, during the day anyway, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, but almost before you knew it, it was time to start taking everything down and clear up and thanks to everyone who worked so hard it did not take too long.

VIC.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - Mr. J. Gurd from Fawley, Southampton, Miss A. Miles, West Knoyle, Nr. Warminster and Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Williams from Pilton, Nr. Shepton Mallet.

**** SEMINGTON SNIPPETS ****

Once again the Wessex Rally at Semington has come and gone I think I most people enjoyed themselves, the weather was quite superb with a good selection of various exhibits etc. Whilst manning the pay gate I was approached by a gentleman with his identification card this was the area health and safety inspector, the same gentleman has visited us for a few years now. When he came back through the pay gate to leave the field I enquired of him what he thought of the rally. His reply was very pleasing he said that the catering van was very clean and safety around the field was very good, he was most impressed with the safety code sheets that were handed out by our secretary Mrs. Ann Carney. Altogether a feather in our cap for Wessex Stationary Engine Club.

RAY BAKER.

**** COSTA DEL SEMINGTON 15TH/16TH JUNE ****

The only way to describe the Wessex Rally was 'HOT'. The engine lines were as full as ever, nearly reaching right around the field. In hind sight, perhaps the trade should be back against the boundary fence, bringing the over spill engine space in front of the market in such a way to allow the vans, trailers and cars to back to back with engines all around the outside edge of this so-called 'compound'. In doing it this way the stationary engine line will gain a lot of display space as it would be 4 sided as against 1 side at present. There is only one complaint. We are a nation of dog lovers and so take the four legged members of the family to all functions and events. The majority of them take great care to clean up after the dog has been to the toilet. I thank those who do this so others do not have to walk in it. But there are a few who take their dogs to do its toilet in areas where children play and late comers have to camp. This practise must be stopped by the inconsiderate owners, who when challenged about cleaning up, make some sarcastic remark and walk away. I suggest that any person seen to be allowing their dog to foul the field and not cleaning up, they should be asked to leave the field as these indiscriminate people are a disgrace to what ever club they claim to be representing, or simply do not accept their entry for next years show. The latter would have a more sobering effect knowing that they are not welcome at our show, or any other should a general code be accepted. In general, the show was good, friendly and entertaining and the Chairman and all his committee and helpers should receive a hearty congratulations for a job well done.

B. LOVELL.

**** SEDGEMORE RALLY - JULY 27/28TH ****

This rally put on by the Sedgemoor Club at the Morganians Rugby Club at Bridgwater always attracts a good entry, and this year was no exception, despite a number of other rallies and events on the same weekend. A large number of engines were exhibited around the edge of the rally field, including a selection of large engines, two nice Blackstones and Pete Moore's superb Petter 'S' among them. A large entry of cars and tractors were displayed plus some commercials and a couple of steamers. The selection of trade stands was poor this year, probably due to so many venues available. It was since last years rally that the chairman of the Sedgemoor Club, George Weedon suddenly died, his widow Jenny and son and daughter came along on the Saturday afternoon to present the George Weedon Memorial Cup to the winner of the best engine. this was won by Pete Moore with his magnificent Petter 'S', a worthy recipient indeed. The rally started off on the Saturday morning with a little rain which cleared away and left the rest of the day dry and warm. Sunday started alright but the afternoon was really wet with torrential down-pours that cleared the field instantly. Most of the exhibitors were packed up and ready to leave when the plaques were given out at 4 o'clock. However despite this small setback I shall be back next year.

B.J.B.

**** HINTS AND TIPS ****

Quite often when working on engines or other machinery you come across the problem of a bearing that is either loose in it's housing or loose on the shaft. There is a product on the market made by several firms including Loctite called "Bearing Fit". This really works. The parts must be clean and grease free. Next time you are faced with this problem - try it.

B.J.B.

THANK YOU from the Newsletter Distribution Team to the people whom send stamps to help with postage.

**** CRANK-UP AT THE OLD DOWN INN MONDAY 29TH JULY ****

After a wet morning the day ended in a lovely sunny evening. On arriving at 6.30 p.m. we found 6 engines already in full swing, these being Don Rogers with his Bulldog, Mike Bevan with his Stuart Turner, John Brookes with a Wolseley, Brian Baker with his Ruston Hornsby, Phil Marshall and his Amanco and Edward Carp with his Lister. We set up our Stuart Turner lighting set and the evening began to take shape. The public came in steadily and with the arrival of a few more engines it turned out to be a very pleasant gathering. Gloria Carp did the raffle and the winners were as follows: Rob Lambert - basket of fruit, Colin Baker - tray of eggs, Colin Busby - gallon of oil, Mike Parfitt - two bottles of wine, Andy Gale - bottle of wine and Edward Carp a torch, thanks to Gloria the raffle realised the sum of £50.50 for club funds. Mr. Griffiths from Frome brought a trailer load of auto-jumble and seemed to do a good trade. A steady flow of people were in and out of the pub and our thanks go to the landlord for the use of his car park. We finally left for home at 10.15 after a very enjoyable evening.

LINDA & ROGER PIKE.

Thank you Linda for this report which I received only three days after the event, also thanks to all the other contributors to this months newsletter. However I still do not receive enough material each month to fill the newsletter without writing a lot of it myself. So come onmake the effort, send me something to print.
ED.

**** LOW HAM STEAM RALLY ****

On Saturday the 20th July Brian and myself visited Low Ham Steam Rally, this turned out to be a very pleasant day, a nice collection of steamers, tractors, motorcycles and classic cars together with a good selection of stationary engines, these were much better sited than last year, Brian Lovell was doing his usual duty seeing everyone had water, well done Brian. There was a very large amount of stalls well laid out in avenues, a large fair and a very good craft tent. Altogether a very good rally with some very good weather.

RAY BAKER.

**** CLUB NIGHT MONDAY 24TH JUNE ****

The first club night after the rally is where members are given the opportunity to air their views on the Rally, hopefully with ideas to improve it in the future. A general discussion took place for about an hour or so and the only serious complaint was that one section of the engine line up was obscured by the trade stands, and no general public bothered to visit them. This problem will be resolved next year by having the trade stands face the engines. The committee introduced a new idea - an auction. To complete the evening, this took place after a break for refreshments and the raffle. About 50 lots were on offer, comprising of a diverse collection of goodies ranging from mags, books, wheels, tools to light bulbs. The auctioneer for the evening was yours truly. Bidding for the goods was brisk with most items selling. Most members went home with something. John Brooks started off the bidding on most lots and ended up with quite a lot of them, but he made me work hard by bidding in 50 pences. I think this will turn out to be an annual event.
B.J.B.

***** EVENTS *****

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| 14-15th SEPT. | Berwick St. John Country Fair, Nr. Shaftesbury. Contact Sam Hacker (01747) 830484. |
| 29th SEPT. | Full Quart Crank-Up, Hewish, Nr. Weston-Super-Mare. Enquiries ring Roy Cox on (01934) 419826. |
| 6th OCTOBER | Mendip Crank-Up and Car Boot, Mendip Garage, Nr. Oakhill. Contact: Roger Pike on (01761) 233028. |
| 12th OCTOBER | Wessex Socal Evening, Skittles, supper and grand raffle at Cheddar Football Club. Contact: Jackie Lambert on (01373) 463526. |
| 20th OCTOBER | Preservation Rally, Forest of Dean Railway, Lydney, Gloucestershire. |