



WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

FEBRUARY 2000

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NEWSLETTER



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******* EDITORIAL *******

When the Finlake Rally introduced an entry fee for their Rally about three years ago, I warned members this would be copied by other rallies unless they refused to pay by not entering. Now members who have received entry forms for the Bishops Lydeard Rally in August find they are also charging an entry fee. I also have six entry forms for different classic car shows that invite stationary engines etc. all held in Devon and all organised by the same individual, all these events are charging an entry fee. The strange thing about all these events is that they all charge the same, namely three pounds. I feel that we incur heavy financial expenses in getting to events and running engines for two days without organisers adding to these costs. I can only advise members to prevent this practice spreading further by refusing to enter these events.

******* CHAIRMANS REPORT *******

For about 16 years the Club has had a glass fronted display cabinet fixed on the wall of the room we use at The Old Down Inn for our meetings. This wall was used to display items that the Club had acquired over the years. Sadly the Landlord has requested its removal. His excuse was that people could knock their heads on it (in that 16 years I've never known anyone suffering from concussion at The Old Down yet). No Crank-Ups and no glass cabinet at The Old Down Inn anymore. What a hospitable host we now have. Through the Newsletter we wished Hazel Atherton a speedy recovery after an operation on her foot, well Hazel has sent me a very nice letter thanking all Wessex Members for their good wishes, she goes on to say things are progressing well and she is now walking short distances without her crutches. We all hope your recovery will soon be complete Hazel, and we look forward to seeing you at future events. Take care.

******* THE MARKET PLACE *******

FOR SALE. LISTER 'L' 5hp, 1922, tank cooled on trolley, full history £285 ono.

FOR SALE. PETTER 'UNIVERSAL' 3hp, tank cooled on trolley, 1930, full history £285 ono.

FOR SALE. LISTER 'D' 1.5HP, Anti-Clockwise engine £35 ono.

FOR SALE. MODEL ENGINEER MAGAZINES from 10p each Stationary Engine and Old Glory magazines from £1 each. For further details ring 01747 840835. Mere, Wiltshire.

FOR SALE. RUSTON HORNSBY PB 3.5hp on trolley, 1946 £250. 01934 517322 Weston-Super-Mare area.

FOR SALE. RUSTON HORNSBY 1.5pb with climax water pump, mounted on brand new trailer with spare wheel and lights, only used once £500 the lot. Contact Mrs Stonebridge, 27 Colliers Lane, Wool, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6DL.

FOR SALE PETTER 'A2' - COMPLETE AND RUNNING, ON SKIDS, READY TO RALLY £40.00 RING :-
PERCY ON 01373/812641

******* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *******

I would like to express my disappointment in having yet again a total lack of response to my appeal for advice on one of my engine prospects. It amazes me that out of 300 members not one knows anything about an over head valve four stroke engine, or more to the point is not prepared to pass on any such valuable information that they might have, I only asked for advice, not for help of any kind, perhaps this time I should have offered to pay for advice, I know there is help within the Club for certain chosen members, I've seen it happening and heard the discussions before and after. For my part I've prepared woodwork for Club members. Maybe I should wait till we have been in the Club the number of years required to be accepted into one of the groups. In past years we have been in a model flying club and model railway club, in both clubs someone was always prepared to come to the aid of a fellow club member in any kind of trouble. Let this be a warning to any new members, who like me thought they would join a club and get help, it will not happen! Please don't phone now as the answer you get may offend.

TONY DAVIS.

***** **MORE RAMBLINGS FROM THE HAMPSHIRE SCRIBE** *****

Well folks here we are again at the end of another Rally season, and I hope enjoyed by most if not all rally goers. The season started for us with a wet week leading up to the Three Oakfords and having experience of the site decided not to go, next came the Abbey Hill Steam Rally, the following weekend is my favourite and I am not alone judging by the support it gets is the Hazelbury Bryan one day event. Rally and car boot, brilliant, thanks Dickie Plumber and helpers, well done, keep going. Next came the Wiltshire County Show at Warminster Showground, already reported on by Robin Lambert (the exhibit from Basingstoke was my Avon Bradford, hope this puts the record straight). Personally I feel this show is very good but would appear not to have any interest in the vintage part other than to help fill the space available. Next came our trip to Norfolk and the Strumpshaw Rally, this year we took a weeks holiday to have a look around a small part of Norfolk before moving on to our next rally in Suffolk. A new venue for us called the 'Hoolpit Steam Weekend' a most enjoyable rally with all the usual attractions, plenty of junk stalls (lovely) and others, a point of interest this rally is held on the top of an old rubbish tip and has a methane gas burner at its lowest point burning the gas produced by decaying rubbish and has been burning continuously for the last twenty years, from there we headed back home having had a very enjoyable early weeks holiday. Next came the West Dorset Club Rally at Westbay, Bridport, a nice site, lovely setting, nice friendly atmosphere, good auction and fish & chips. Unfortunately this year due to ground conditions no ring events here possible but did not appear to deter the paying public. Many thanks to West Dorset for a good weekend. Next came our Club Rally at Winchester Farm, Cheddar, the first rally on this site after several years at Semington, Nr Trowbridge, Wilts. The site set at the foot of the Mendip hills rendered itself willingly to our needs apart from one or two problems which our Committee have already sorted, the weekend went very well apart from one that is, as already mentioned by Linda Pike of a Club member being stuck up Cheddar Gorge. I was that member, and have been the button of banter ever since but did I care? No, because I believe in the saying 'If you can't take it don't give it out!' Two weeks later we were at the Heddington and Stockley Rally, Nr Calne in Wiltshire followed by the Somerset Traction Engine Clubs Rally at Low Ham, Langport where this year there was on The Kings Transport of Bishops Lydeard and the progress being made of derelict vehicles purchased at the dispersal sale several years ago (very interesting). Next came the Nettle Marsh Rally, Nr Southampton, not too far away for us, this rally is held over three days, the first day being recognised as invalid day so that our less fortunate enthusiasts can see the show before Saturdays & Sundays crowds arrive. Friday 6/8/99 saw us heading in the direction of Bishops Lydeard at the West Somerset Railway Rally, smashing rally this one, section controlled by Ted Scott a well-known engine man who loves his engines and rallies. Next came the Purbeck Rally and auto jumble, a three day event Nr. Wareham in Dorset, smashing little do, very well supported, lots of junk to sort through with an auction on the Saturday with many useful bits on offer plus the normal skip junk still well worth a visit. August Bank Holiday Weekend saw us heading towards Wiltshire again for the Neston Park Rally at Atworth, Nr Melksham. This year being they're 21st one. This little rally always seem to do well with both exhibitors and visitors alike, let's hope it continues. The following weekend we were in Dorchester for the Dorchester Show another first this year, we were invited to this one by our friends Edward and (Somerset Belle) Gloria Carp and are very pleased that we went, our first agriculture show and hopefully a return for next year, very enjoyable. 11th-12th September took us back into Somerset and the Countryside Cavalcade at the Bath & West Showground, before we set out we had a phone call from Glo Carp telling us that they were back home and would see us Saturday. Not having encountered any problems myself (this year) it would appear that many other exhibitors did (comments like) I quote 'Too many chiefs and not enough Indians', 'Couldn't organise a p*** up in a Brewery', 'Right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing', 'One rule for one and one for another', 'If you face fits you can camp with your engine', sadly the last comment has been the downfall of this one by the organisers or the site owners not to allow camping behind engines, or any auto jumble on site, a great shame that this years show ended leaving and unnecessary atmosphere among exhibitors, some I believe refused to shake hands and not accept their plaque in protest (well done boys) I didn't get one (not bothered) anyway.

ALAN VICKERY

***** **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** *****

The Club would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Brian Verrall on reaching the milestone age of 60 recently. Brian was Committee Member and Chairman for a number of years and is still very much involved in helping with the annual Rally. A very Happy Birthday Brian from us all. P.S. remind me to buy you a Scotch next time we meet. BJB.

***** **THE WESSEX RALLY - A REPLY** *****

It was with much sadness that I read the reply to my request I wrote in the Newsletter for help with the rally at Cheddar. I did not do this to offend or criticise anyone, nor did I expect to be criticised in the way I have been. I only put into writing the views stated by the Committee at a previous meeting, with the letter I enclosed a note saying only print if you agree. The letter was printed with consent of our editor/Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight on points raised by Mr Verrall in his reply, to say I have not my share while I have served as a Committee member is far from correct. I consider that I have always done my share and more, I list just a few of the tasks I have carried out for the benefit of all Club members not just those that attend the rally. I have always given up two days of my Christmas break to type and send 140-180 letters to traders, caterers, ice cream vendors, bar supply, fair ground and other clubs. I also sent out entry forms for all static displays, as well as arranging all steam exhibits when we had them. I arranged deliveries to site, made all arrangements with the landowner and made payment to him contacted the Police, always contacted local radio so that they would broadcast from the site at Semington. Until 1997 I arranged sponsorship from H.J. Knee of Trowbridge, this was not a lot, but every little helps. 1998 I contacted Wadworth of Devizes and obtained a small amount of help from that Company, this alone involved me making four trips to Wadworth all at my expense. I do not look for thanks or self-gratification I do this for the good of the Club and to help the memberships. Every year I contacted the local council trying to get a grant (we were lucky one year). Who was it that distributed most of the poster advertising around the local area each year? 1998 saw me having to get the artwork and printing done for the poster, this alone took six hours of my working time at Trowbridge College as well as getting most of the colour printing done free of charge by firms I worked for. This alone saved the Club a great deal of money, there are also many other things like writing reports for the local papers etc., getting the Club storage for equipment at the farm, and at my late mothers property in Trowbridge, maybe not the best storage but it was free. So please Brian don't tell me that I HAVE NOT DONE MY SHARE. I am also criticised for not aiding fund raising for the Club, this is not correct, over one two day stint I alone through my own efforts and outlay of approximately £230 I collected the sum of £600 for the Club this I did for four or five years until I was told I was doing TOO much and someone else would take over the job. In 1998 I carried out all the jobs for the rally I always did, but sadly on the Friday my mother passed away, this meant that I did not help all day Friday (but I still went to Wadworth for you) Saturday & Sunday I was around and gave help as and when I could only to be told I did not do enough over the weekend. I am still a Committee Member, still Vice Chairman and mean to remain a Committee Member and do my part to help the Club and its members, I have offered to step down, but no one wanted the job, so sorry you are stuck with me. I know at present I cannot attend all the Club activities I would like to, I did not attend Cheddar Rally (the only one I have missed in 16 years), but not one person asked me why. In all the years I have been a Club Member and a member of the Committee I consider I have done my share and always worked for the benefit of the Club and its members. The year 2000 I have already done a little, the local paper has a full listing of all Club activities to be printed in their Club spot. Wiltshire Sound Radio has a full listing for their What's on broadcast, as well as a request to visit the Club at The Old Down Inn and record a feature on the Club. The bar for this years Cheddar Rally has also been arranged along with other small items.

E.J.GAY.

I would like to clarify one point about Eric's letter that was criticised by some members, I did not 'consent' to print it in the Newsletter. I just printed it. My policy since being Editor is to print everything sent to me by the Members. I am the Editor, not a censure. This policy will continue as long as I am Editor.

BJB.

***** **DEVON HOLIDAY PLUS FINLAKE RALLY** *****

This year we had a late holiday and spent a week in Devon with Ed and (Somerset Belle) Gloria Carp, we had a very enjoyable week visiting places like Polperro, Padstow, Lands End and general sightseeing all over Dartmoor. We also visited the Dingles museum where we had tea and cake. We were also very honoured to meet Mr Richard Dingles, who obliged us by starting the machinery in the centre of the museum into motion and gave us a taste of his vast knowledge of vintage, a real pleasure to listen to. Finlake Rally appeared to be exceptional this year with all sections well attended. This years rally incorporated for the first time an auction, which had a good number of interesting lots, several engines, auto jumble and general crap. I think most lots sold with price being favourable. The rally itself enjoyed a dry weekend, which brought in the public, which appears to be increasing each year. Long may it continue. Unfortunately this year some moron chose to carry out wilful damage in the gent's toilet block, not satisfied with that somebody chose to remove the rinsing hose from the elsan tip which resulted in a blockage of the drain. I hope whoever is responsible is not a Wessex Member, if they are perhaps they would like to put pen to paper and explain their reasons for doing such stupid things and possibly ruin enjoyment for others.

A.K. VICKERY.

***** **HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED** *****

I have had a letter from Geoff Chantler who is the President of 'Trachmach', which is the name of the vintage tractor and machinery association of Western Australia Incorporated (I'm glad our title isn't that long when I'm doing the Newsletter). He tells me they have acquired a 'Galloway' open crank, hit and miss governed engine, 5.5 inch piston, 9 inch stroke, 34.5 inch flywheels x 2.5 inches wide. The number on the end of the crankshafts is 44151. It is fitted with a series A Wilco magneto and has an igniter not a spark plug. When viewing from the cyl head end the left-hand flywheel turns anti-clockwise. Would any member be able to give any information on this engine such as date of manufacture, horsepower or any other information? This is the only Galloway that I or any of our members have seen or heard of. Well that's the details, can anyone offer this information, and if you can would you please get in touch with me, as I shall be writing to Geoff soon.

BJB.

***** **EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY** *****

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH. The Wessex Stationary Engine Clubs 'Engine Jumble' at Winchester Farm, Cheddar, 8am onwards, pitches £5, buyers £1. For further details ring 01749 342671.

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH. Visit to Foster Yeomans Quarry. Coach now full. Would members who have booked please ensure they are at the Quarry by 2.45 for the conducted tour. The Torr Works Quarry is on the main Shepton Mallet to Frome road.

If anyone booked on the coach finds that they cannot make it on the day please ring Jackie as she can probably fill the seat. We have to fund the coach ourselves so need a full bus.

SUNDAY 9TH APRIL. Spring Crank-Up at Nunney Catch Transport Café.

MONDAY 24TH APRIL. Mells Daffodil Rally at Mells, Nr Frome. For details ring Robin on 01373 463526.

MONDAY 27TH MARCH. Club Night at The Old Down Inn. Andy Westlake talk on Route 66 across America.

MONDAY 17TH APRIL. Club Night at The Old Down Inn. Terry Sanger talk on his exploits during Motor Racing. Terry was booked for January but was unable to come so the date has been re-arranged. Please note early date due to Easter Holiday.

***** **ANSWERS TO BRAIN TEASERS** *****

ANAGRAMS

ONE APPLE	PELEPONE	HE MARRY'S SASI	MASSEY HARRIS
LOAN TINA	NATIONAL	N.ZOREL	LORENZ
RED GRAN	GARDNER	DAB MORF	BAMFORD
STARE	ASTER	TRIVIA CO.	VICTORIA
NOBS TACKLE	BLACKSTONE	ELIE MOTH	HOMELITE
STILER	LISTER	V.TOSER	STOVER
FLOWER	FOWLER	HELL! NO WAND	NEW HOLLAND
SAM OWED	MEADOWS	O FARMER BAN KISS	FAIRBANKS MORSE
E.Y.GNAT	TANGYE	DRAB ERN	BERNARD
TIMER SPAN	PRIESTMAN	AQUA BEAN	ANANAQUE **

** Abanaque as spelt in 'Reprints Service' of Stationary Engine Magazine. Some of you have suggested that the underlined a should be an e. Both spellings have been accepted.

***** **WORDSEARCH** *****

The missing word was HOBBS and everyone got that right.

**The lucky winner of the Brain Teaser, drawn at the January club Night was:-
Mr & Mrs A Miles of Alveston, Nr Bristol.**

Thanks to all who entered, if you didn't win this year try again next time.