



WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB LIMITED

JULY 2000

*The Editor : Brian Baker
27 Wickham Way
SHEPTON MALLET
Somerset BA4 5YG
Tel: 01749 342671*

NEWSLETTER



Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. All rights reserved

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

At the start of the Rally season this year members were reminded to observe the common sense safety rules on the Rally field, despite this it has been brought to my notice that members have been observed filling their engines with petrol while the engines are running. Just picture the scenario, you are pouring in the petrol, it spills, it ignites from the magneto spark or the hot exhaust, in a panic you drop the can, the petrol goes over you or someone near you and you are now on fire, I sincerely hope you stop this dangerous practise, yes it's you I'm talking about, you know who you are.

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

Well that's our Rally over for another year. Someone somewhere answered my prayers, we had the hottest weekend of the year. Everything went like clockwork. The field was set up and ready by Wednesday thanks to a brilliant, small but willing workforce, and when the exhibitors started to arrive, everything was ready for them to move into place. This year we enlisted the help of Coleford Army Cadets, what a blessing that turned out to be, they helped on the Auction, the pay gate, raffle ticket sales and numerous other duties. These are the jobs we normally have difficulty getting people to do. They will definitely be invited back next year. The only disappointment of the weekend was the entertainment we had booked for Saturday evening, the group turned up, set up their equipment and then dismantled it and loaded it in their vehicles, they said their 'amp' had blown up, but they never even checked it or looked at it, I'm sure they were off to another gig. The general public numbers were down, I think this was due to the hot weather, which had people rushing off to the seaside. The general feedback we got from the rally was very complimentary, with things like 'Best Rally yet', being said by visitors and members alike. I would personally like to express my entire gratitude and thanks to everyone who helped out in anyway whatsoever in setting up and taking down the rally and also helping over the weekend. Grateful thanks indeed to you all. Due to the lack of general public we have probably lost approx. £100 on the rally this year but that really doesn't matter as the rally is for the benefit of the members, not the public. Sometime ago I introduced the engine Jumbles as insurance for the rally, so if we have to subsidise the rally slightly, so what, what will we spend the money from the Auto Jumbles and raffles on anyway? As a result of getting no complaints about the Rally the Committee have decided next years rally will be, same place, same format, watch this space!

BJB.

******* ANNUAL ACCOUNTS *******

At present our Annual Accounts have to be 'audited' by a chartered Accountant and then submitted to Company House in Cardiff. This costs the Club about £300 annually. This is required by Law under the Companies Act. However we could opt out of this requirement under the 'Small Business Act'. We would still have to audit our yearly accounts and keep these accounts should the Company House require to see them. We could get this done considerably cheaper than at present probably saving about £200 per year. It is a legal requirement that all members are notified of the Committees intention to carry this alteration out. If any member has any objection or require further information please give me a ring on 01749 342671.

BJB. CHAIRMAN.

***** ANSON MUSEUM *****

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club Ltd. Is to donate the sum of £50 to The Anson Museum appeal which was set up after their disastrous loss of engines due to a break in. The Committee hopes this meets with member's approval.

***** CHEDDAR RALLY 2000 *****

I was pleased to be able to attend this years rally at Cheddar and give help with a few jobs around the site, I must say that it is a nice location for our rally and I hope that we can build on this years event. It would be very nice to be able to use the lake with a display of model boats this would add another attraction to the rally perhaps with a bit of work I can arrange this for next year if we are still on the same site. Now can I appeal to any member knowing traders, autojumbler, etc., can you please let me have any names and addresses that you may have so that I can contact them for next years event. Now my second appeal goes out to all exhibitors not only engine owners but anyone displaying any type of machine. This year I was asked to judge the engines and this I did to the best of my ability and we did have a wonderful display of engines on behalf of all the committee, I thank you all for attending the rally and putting on such a fine display. Now my appeal PLEASE will all exhibitors display a write up with your exhibit as Mr & Mrs Visitor much of the time do not know what they are looking at, nothing to say when it was made, nothing to say who or what company it was made by and when it was found and what was involved in the restoration. As I did the judging this year I saw one engine with what I would call a full write up so please exhibitors do a write up to go along with your pride and joy it does make things so much more interesting if those on the other side of the ropes know what they are looking at.

E.J.GAY.

***** ASTLE PARK 1000 ENGINE RALLY - 24/25th JUNE *****

Held by Five counties Vintage Machinery Organisation Ltd and supported by Stationary Engine Magazine. As most engine enthusiasts will know this is the Old Tatton Park Rally held at a new location not too far away from the old site, and very close to the giant Todrell Bank telescope, for exhibitors who travel north its one junction less on the m6 turning off at 18 rather than 19. I am sure most who went would agree this show has maintained all it had to offer on its old site with lots of other improvements as well. Many more food outlets, this was always A criticism of the Tatton Site, that there was never enough, more toilets and more stalls. The usual auction took place on Saturday and again the Club stall area had lots of engines and spare parts for sale with the club taking 10% for handling the items, this is always a popular area to visit and is always crowded with people in search of items they need. The 'office' which is a tent also houses the smaller, more valuable items, such as magnetos, books etc. This has always been a free and easy show to exhibit, just check in and choose your own camping area (lots of space here) and choose which pen you like, 12 in total and park your engine. On Sunday I overheard a stallholder answer a customer asking if he had had a good trading day on Saturday. The stallholder replied 'it was quite a good day of steady sales but you have to remember that this is a specialist type event and I would not expect to be swamped by public'. I thought this was a good answer as we tend to be a bit disappointed with our own club rally, visitors not arriving in their thousands. There was over 500 engines entered in the programme and I'm sure lots of late entries, enough to quench the thirst of any engine collector, 50 tractors, 57 motorbikes and around 100 lorries, cars and other exhibits. Astle Parks equivalent of 'Brian Lovell/Rueben Smith' brought the water around in a vintage chain driven Scammell Ballast lorry, how nice it was to see this nicely restored lorry put to a good use. On Saturday evening the usual coaches left for the annual trip to Anson Museum, around 100 people went on this trip including a dozen Wessex members, so much to see here with two huge buildings packed with exhibits, and many running. If you travel north and you have never been to this museum its well worth a visit, the curators Les Cawley and Geoff Challenor will make you very welcome. The museum is situated in a wooded area above what was once a working coal mine, there is also a café for light refreshments. Back to the show, where do you start with around 600 exhibits, I would say nearly every make and model must have been represented, with many makes I have never heard of, some left in original working condition and others just like they had emerged from a showroom, its always nice to meet up with people you only ever see once a year and catch up with all the chat. All too soon Sunday teatime comes around and the show is packing up, long journeys for some and for others like us, no rush, we are leaving on Monday morning for a few days holiday somewhere. 'Now where shall we go - Derbyshire Dales? Lake District?, North Wales?, spoilt for choice!'

P.S. I heard on the radio that a person without a hobby only leads half a life!!.....comments to the Editor please.

ROBIN.

******* ANNUAL SCOUT FETE, SOUTHWICK – SUNDAY 26TH JUNE *******

The weather for this show was cloudy, with a brisk wind. Fortunately, the expected rain held off, although it did try to rain in the late afternoon. Only five engines turned up out of the expected dozen or so, which is a poor turnout. There was a wide selection of vintage vehicles and commercials, and also two full-size traction engines. There was also, in with the stationary engines, a display of memorabilia and very detailed model traction engines, one of which was made entirely of wood and cardboard. A collection of stalls were selling household goods, clothes and books. Inside the hall there was a wide range of cakes, drinks and sandwiches on sale, which exhibitors could choose from free of charge. The Scout Band played in the ring, and there was also a dog agility demonstration. There was a good turnout by the general public, but overcast and cloudy weather kept some away. At the end of the Show the Scoutmaster presented exhibitors with plaques. This was a well-organised little show, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended.

JONATHAN HOCKEDY – AGE 12 – JUNIOR REPORTER.

******* CLUB HELPLINE – ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS *******

I would be happy to help with such – in particular, precision measurement of resistance, capacity, coil inductance. Useful for questions like ‘Is this condenser any good?’ ‘Is this magneto armature usable?’ ‘Is there damage to this dynamo armature?’ Sorry, no rewinding – life’s too short! Or try me for other electrical worries. Contact Rob Armstrong at most Club meetings or on Bradford-on-Avon 862687.

******* WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB – JUNIOR MEMBERS *******

As a long time member of the W.S.E.C. I wonder at times what will happen to our engines as we get older. I do not see many junior members joining the club. I feel that we should encourage anyone that is interested in vintage machinery in anyway we can so that our engines that we own now may be shown and cared for in the future. Now to give encouragement to our junior members or any young person who would like to rally an engine but at this time does not own an engine themselves I will loan an engine to them for one year. You must be a Club member and be able to take the engine to rallies and shows and be insured (this can be done via parent or guardian and through the Club). That is my offer so girls and boys if you want to go to vintage rallies and take part this is your chance, I have only one engine that I can offer so I will put all names into a hat and maybe you will be the lucky one I pull out. Please write to me at 21 Rutland Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0NX. Other members may have a sleepers under the bench and would be willing to help encourage junior members along the same lines, we all had to start somewhere and I hope this will get someone started and enjoy and great hobby and join a great Club.

E.J.GAY.

******* BRIDPORT RALLY – SUNDAY 4TH JUNE *******

Brian and myself paid a visit to the West Dorset Tractor and Engine Clubs Rally at Bridport in Dorset. This was quite a good rally with plenty of interesting exhibits which included a large selection of commercial vehicles with a good show of steamers, a large amount of tractors, classic cars, motorcycles and of course the usual amount of stationary engines, also a good selection of stalls selling a wide variety of products. In the afternoon there was a display in the ring of log cutting and splitting by a small group of men called the ‘Ace Men’, this was a very good display and attracted rather a large audience all around the ring. On the previous day (Saturday) an auction was held with about six hundred lots. This is a very good rally to attend especially being a stones throw from the sea front and harbour.

RAY BAKER.

******* NEW MEMBERS *******

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members, may your membership be a long and happy one. Mr B Hembrow of Taunton, Mr B Hill of Churchill, Winscombe, Mr & Mrs D Selway from Bridgwater, Mr I Harris of Bridgwater, Mr & Mrs A Cawley of Middle Chinnock, Crewkerne, Mr C Williams of Wincanton and Mr Paul Warren from Pill, Bristol.

******* GET WELL SOON *******

We would like to wish a speedy recovery to Reg Butler who has just come out of Hospital after major surgery, we all hope to see you out and about soon Reg.

Our Best Wishes for the future to Pam Hancock of Weston-super-Mare who is receiving treatment for a serious illness, our thoughts are with you Pam.

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

SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST. Coach Trip to Kew Pumping Station. Leave Nunney Catch Transport Café 7.30am, picking up in Frome and Trowbridge. Adults £12, children £6. A few seats left, ring Jackie on 01373 463526 to book your seat. Ring now to avoid disappointment.

SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST. Clutton Flower Show. Engines etc. wanted ring 01761 452565 for details.

MONDAY 21ST AUGUST. Club Night at The Old Down Inn. A talk by Roger Halse, a pictorial journey of The Somerset Coal Canal, usual raffle.

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER. Crank-Up and Car Boot Sale at Mendip Inn Garage. Ring Roger on 01761 233028 for entries.

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER. Social evening at Cheddar Football Club. Skittles, supper and grand raffle. £2 per head. Faggots, chips and peas or ploughman's supper. If you wish to attend please let Jackie know on 01373 463526 your food requirements.

SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER. Engine Jumble at Winchester Farm, Cheddar. Buyers and sellers wanted. All pitches only £5, buyers £1. Ring 01749 342671 to book your pitch. 8am onwards.

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

FOR SALE. Webster magneto model R in excellent condition would suit 5hp or larger engine. **WANTED.** For Amanco 2 1/4hp magneto bracket. Exhaust valve, push bar, crankshaft gear, have you any other parts? Ring Cecil on 01458 445790 Street area (evenings).

FOR SALE. Transit 'Rally Van'. MKII, A reg, MOT October, taxed, fully equipped with full cooker, cupboards and shelves, tool cupboard, fully equipped with tools, winch, ramps, tow bar, good condition £500 Ring Brian on 01749 342671 for details.

FOR SALE. Lister 'L' 5hp, 1922, tank cooled on trolley £250 ono, full history available. Petter Universal 3hp, 1930, tank cooled on trolley, full history £250 ono. Lister 'D' 1.5hp, anti-clockwise rotation £35 ono. Stationary Engine Magazines from No. 82 up to 273, from £1 each. Model Engineers Magazines from 8p each. For further details ring 01747 840835 (Mere area).

FOR SALE. Compressor, small upright model made by Broomwade, automatic shut off and start, 100 P.S.I., suitable for spraying etc, 240v, 13 amp plug, perfect working order. Lister domestic pump £35. Tel 01749 342671.

***** **NOW I REMEMBER EARNIE** *****

Now I remember Earnie from when I were just a boy. Me and my friend Clive had our own name for Earnie 'The Flip Flop man', well Earnie gave himself this name one-day when we asked him what he was doing. Well you see Old Earnie worked for the local council as a road man with his grey painted barrow he would walk the streets around where I then lived on his barrow would be shovel, two brushes, one hard, one soft, two large iron hooks and his flip flop tool – this was a long pole with a scoop fixed at right angles to it and this was used to clean out the road drains, the two iron hooks would be put down through the heavy drain covers and he would lift them out with his pole and scoop he would clean out all the muck in the bottom of the drains and this would be put into his barrow. No tanker lorry in those days with suction hose and lifting gear no just a lot of hard work. Well you see we gave him that name when he told us that he was cleaning the flip flop out of the drains, this of course was not the only work he did the roads and pavements were kept spotless as he did not only sweep them but any weed that grew was soon pulled out and into the barrow, this went with the other road sweepings. We loved old Earnie, he always had time to talk to us two lads Clive and me but best of all was that Earnie also helped when along came the road gang to resurface the local roads, Barnes of Southwick with their Aveling and Porter steam rollers and the tar pot pulled behind the roller. Many hours passed just watching the rollers and the men spreading the chippings over the hot tar ready for the steamrollers to roll it in. It was in the evenings when the work was over for the day and the engine sheeted down for the night that we would go and look on the rear plate at the outlet of the tar pot and sure enough we would find some thick tar left to cool on this plate, and what did we boys do with that, well we made tar marbles with it and when cold and hard we had fun playing with them, no TV, no computers, just good fun and games we made up as we went along. Now the tar came in large blocks covered in thin white paper and I remember Earnie telling us that it came from 'Tar Lakes in Trinidad'. I still do not know if this was true or was old Earnie pulling our legs, perhaps some one may know, so if you do please let me know. Well there you are I said I would tell you about Earnie, passes and gone now but Earnie Parsons you are not forgotten.

E.J.GAY.