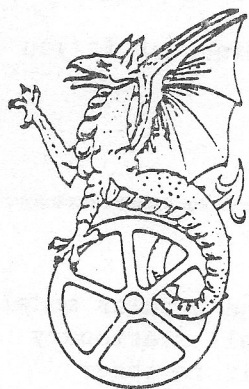


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1989.

EDITOR

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THE SPANNER.

I am disappointed, that's not unusual you will say, but let me explain. On Monday, 27th February we held our Annual General Meeting and as usual it was well attended. Our past President, Tom Randall, opened the meeting with what I thought was an extremely erudite and well considered address. He did not dwell on the past but looked to the future of the Club and while I cannot reproduce his speech verbatim let me see if I can give you the gist. I am sure our Secretary will give the official version for next months Newsletter.

The President, as he then was, noted that the Club covered a wide spectrum of interests, all broadly based on stationary engines. On the one extreme there are those members who are dedicated engineers knowing every make and mark of all stationary engines. To them Item 3 of the WSEC's constitution is sacrosanct, and I quote OBJECTS "To further the knowledge of all aspects of the preservation of all stationary engines over 25 years old and to provide members with opportunities for the interchange of ideas and experience". 'Nothing wrong with that' he said.

At the other end of the spectrum are those members whose interest lie mainly with the Club's social activities, and see their stationary engine as a means to weekends of camping with free entertainment thrown in. Nothing wrong with that either. It's a free world, in the stationary engine movement at least.

Tom went on to suggest that perhaps the time was now ripe for us to take stock of our position and to consider if we should broaden the base of our Club. If necessary to change our objectives, far better to take positive action if it was deemed to be desirable, than to drift into a situation which satisfied no one.

I don't think for one minute that Tom was advocating change, but, and here he has my unstinted support, we should think about it. If it is thought that the Club is veering to either extreme let's discuss the problems openly and in a constructive atmosphere. Even decide that there is a place for all views, the happy compromise.

Now for my disappointment. All 300 members were asked to give their opinions in the February survey so that the Committee could gauge members wishes. What happened...only 30 odd members bothered to reply. Then the last item of the AGM agenda was 'Any Other Business', an ideal forum for discussion as Tom had hinted. What happened... absolutely nothing. Not one member voiced any opinion what so ever. So our AGM wrapped up 45 minutes after it started. Can you wonder that I'm disappointed.

Are members so well satisfied with the Club that there is nothing more to say, or is it that we are so apathetic we have given up. I fervently hope it isn't the latter.

Our Committee do I think look to members for support and guidance and we have not responded. Hopefully members will have some views, which will be willingly published in the Newsletter.

Now to something completely different.

I have heard of Car Boot Engines, but the latest episode is going to far. Tom Randall was sitting in his office recently gazing out of his window to seek inspiration when a lorry passed by laden with scrap iron. He thought he saw a pair of fly wheels on top of the load and with a frantic dash managed to stop the lorry. Sure enough there was a Petter 'M'. Money changed hands and the lorry driver helped Tom load the Petter into the back of his Astra. Tom got the engine home and examination showed that the engine is probably beyond redemption but will never the less be a useful source of spares. Tom was highly delighted until he came to lift the engine

ut of his boot. As you know Tom is not exactly a second Geoff Capes so the engine is still here. So if you see an Astra going along with a distinct list towards the rear you will know it's the ultimate in Car Boot Engines.

The inclusion of more Rally Dates in this months Newsletter has forced out other articles which have been received but I hope this will be a treat in store.

Please remember if you have any views or comments my address is in the heading, or if you prefer give me a ring... I'll do the rest.

Cheers,

Claude Lowther.

CLUB DIARY.

- Mon 24th April. Talk and demonstration by Stuart Turner on their well known and popular model engines. This meeting is a must for all modellers and indeed all stationary engine enthusiasts. Incidentally it may be possible for a visit to their Cheddar factory to be arranged next year.
- Sun 21st May Steam train journey on the West Somerset Railway from Minehead to Bishops Lydeard followed by a conducted tour of the CEG Power Station at Hinkley Point. Booking forms were included with the February Newsletter, but if you missed it all Committee members have details. Book early as places are limited.
- Mon 22nd May. Talk and demonstration of products by Loctite Ltd. on their range of adhesives etc.
- Sat & Sun 17th & 18th June. THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH. WSEC RALLY at Cheddar. Although an extra field has been obtained this year to accommodate caravans etc. space for engines will still be at a premium, so if you want to exhibit get your entry form in early. There is a danger that late entries will be told "Sorry, full up".
- Sat 24th June. Wedmore Football Club Funday, at their Football Field on the Wedmore to Blackford road, and will include sideshows, car boot sale and games etc. A Pig Roast and dance will follow in the evening. The club has asked the WSEC to participate by supplying a display on engines. Those interested please contact Phil Harris on Wedmore 712048.
- Sun 6th August. The WSEC sponsored Tencrest Rally on the A37 near Gurney Slade. The format will be as in previous years ie a good social day out with the proceeds being divided between CLIC and WSEC funds. Stationary engines/ Tractors / Cars / Motor Bikes contact Bill Coombes on Oakhill 840868. Car Boot pitches at £3 a time contact Phil Harris on Wedmore 712048. The Draw and prizes for same Brian Verrall on Cheddar 743460.
- Fri-Sun 6th-8th October. Weekend trip to York. Cost £60 including coach and two nights B&B at an Hotel in the centre of York. For further details contact Brian Verrall at Club Meetings or on Cheddar 743460.

CLUB ACTIVITIES.

Monday 30th January Foden Films.

The evening did not go quite as planned as the Foden Films did not turn up, but we were saved by Rob and Jackie Lambert who together with Jeremy Adams provided alternative entertainment. Huge sighs of relief from the organisers....

The first film, from Rob and Jackie was a tour around the 1972 Stourpaine Rally which by some miracle was dry. Micheal Oliver was our guide and showed us the actual setting up of the threshing machines, saw benches etc. as well as interviews with their owners. We did in fact see a few seconds of stationary engines just to show that they were there. This film concluded with interesting shots of a beautiful set of Golden Gallopers which, if I am not mistaken were owned by Mr. W.H. Dorman.

The second film, from Jeremy Adams, was introduced by Anthony Burton and picked out some of the high lights of last years Stourpaine Rally. For me the most intersting item was watching Harry Lee and partners building up his "Steam Yachts" using the original equipment as available 50 years ago. This film showed how the Rally has expanded over the years and how visiting Stourpaine now is almost like taking several steps back in time.

During the interval Herbie performed with his Raffle and distributed the prizes as follows, Henry Esain - wall chart calendar, Derrick Watts - a bottle of wine, Paul Martin - spirit level, Bob Hallam - a mirror and Denis Hodges - a bath kit together with moreribald comments from the audience.

Club Activities con'd

Our final film was the ever popular Fred Dibnah, one minute hanging on a line up on a high chimney, and the next trundling along at 4mph on his Aveling and Porter road roller. Fred must be a very enterprising fellow as when we saw the inside of his sheds he had his steam roller coupled by belts to line shafting from which he powered his collection of tools and equipment. We also saw how Fred builds a working platform on the top of a tall chimney. During this part of the film many preferred to look elsewhere.

Once again my thanks to Rob and Jackie for their video, and thanks to Jeremy Adams for videos and equipment.

A final thank you and apologies to a gentleman who some time ago gave a talk and display on toys and attending this meeting with some model Foden lorries and books and photographs.

GERALD ATHERTON.

COMING EVENTS.

These Rally details are listed in good faith, but please check with the organisers before committing yourself. The assistance of Brian Crudge, Editor of the SSAPS Newsletter, in compiling this list is gratefully acknowledged.

- 30th April. Motor Cycle Show, Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet. 9.00am to 9.00pm
 Tractors and stationary engines invited.
 Enquiries to Roy Pointing, 6 Elm Way, Shepton Mallet. BA4 5JX
- 13 & 14th May. Castle Combe Rally. Enquiries to Mr. C. Hughes, Hillside Farm, Malmesbury Road, Chippenham, Wilts. Tel. Kington Langley 221.
- 28th May. Grand Funday and Wheelbarrow Race at the Wells Recreation Ground. Silver St., Wells. 11.00am to 4.00pm. A handful of engines and tractors required.
 Contact Mike Andrews. Tel. Wells (0749) 870482.
- 27,28 & 29th May. Selwood Preservation Society Rally at Longleat. Enquiries to A. Billet, 25 Westerleigh Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5JE.
- 14th May. North Dorset Rally. Enquiries to Dickie Plummer, Silly Hill Cottage, Woodrow, Hazelbury Bryan, Dorset. DT10 2AH.
- 10 & 11th June. West Dorset Vintage Tractor and Stationary Engine Club Rally. Gore Cross, Beaminster Road, Bridport. Engine enquiries to Mr. F.J. Butt, 153 St Swithens Road, Bridport, Dorset. DT6 5DS.
- 10th June. Limington Fete & Engine Rally. Enquiries to Mr. M.G. Woods, Flat 2, Ilchester Garage Northover, Ilchester, Som. BA22 8LD. Tel. Ilchester 840426.
- 25th June. Loyal Order of Moose Fund-raising Day, Yeovil Showground. Engines Wanted.
 Enquiries to K. Wharton, 35 The Mead, Ilchester, Yeovil.
- 2nd July. Watchet Carnival & Fete. Enquiries to Nick Tapp, 38 Swain St. Watchet, Som. TA23 OAE
 Tel. 0984 31375.
- 23rd July. East Somerset Railway Rally, Cranmore Railway Station, Shepton Mallet. Tel 0749 88417
- 5 & 6th Aug. West Somerset Railway Rally, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton. Enquiries to John Pearce, 51 Wordsworth Drive, Taunton. Tel. Taunton 335565.
- 12 & 13th Aug. Festival of Transport, Barwick Park, Yeovil. Engine Enquiries to Mrs M. Angel, 148 Monk's Dale, Yeovil, BA21 3HS. Tel. 0395 22405.
- 27 & 28th Aug. Honiton Hill Rally, Enquiries to Frank Down, St. Andrew's, Jesu Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon. Tel. Ottery St. Mary 2067.
- 30,31 Aug. 1,2,3, Sept. The Great Dorset Steam Fair, (Stourpaine) Enquiries to Michael Oliver, Dairy Mead, Child Okeford, Blandford, Dorset. DT11 8HD.
- 9 & 10th Sept. Yesterday's Farming, Manor Farm, Long Sutton. Entry forms from (mid April)
 Yesterday's Farming, 22 Stoke Road, Taunton. TA1 3EJ.

BOOK REVIEW

'Classis American Farm Gas Engines' by Dave Arnold and Charles Wendel. Published by Motorbooks International, distributed in the UK by MRP Ltd., Croydon, Surrey. CRO 3RY.

The Tractor Enthusiast should not immediately dismiss this 128 page volume as just more stationary engines. In tracing the history of American gasoline engines, Messrs. Arnold and Wendel progress into the realms of early tractors - 'engines on wheels' such as Oliver, John Deere, Minneapolis Moline, Rumely Oil Pull, Caterpillar, Titan etc.

The illustrations are really excellent, sharp, clear photographs; some full page, even more double page - their quality cannot be faulted. All the better known American engines are represented, such as Novo, Rock Island, Galloway, Fairbanks Morse, Monitor, Ideal etc., along with examples of early engine powered machinery. Unfortunately the beautiful Stickney 5hp engine is bisected by the fold of the page and the Fairbanks Morse on page 15 sports a nasty modern plastic fuel line filter but this does nothing to detract from a book which should be on every engine and tractor enthusiasts bookshelf.

Priced at only £12.95 from any good book shop, it is an excellent 'thank you very much' gift or a birthday present suggestion. A limited number of copies are available at a discount price from Tom Randall.

EMERSON BRANTINGHAM.

THE MARKET PLACE

- FOR SALE. Honda 90. Good Runner. Complete with windscreen, panniers. MOT & Taxed until Dec '89. £50.
Manchester Mechanical Hacksaw. Good Working Order. Complete with electric motor. £100. 'Phone Robin Lambert, Frome 63526.
- FOR SALE. 1932 Lister Junior 3hp. mounted on original trolley but which needs slight repair. Complete with toolbox, oilcan and starting handle, only needs a silencer. Open to any reasonable offers. Terry Filby, 5 Claremont Gardens, Nailsea. Tel. Bristol. 854053.
- WANTED. 8", 9" or 10" Pulley. 4" wide with 2" bore.
David Gillham, South View Farm, Drynham, Trowbridge. Tel. Trowbridge 752738.
- FOR SALE. Fairbanks Morse 3hp Open crank, 1920. Rally condition. £350.
Mr. P. Willan, Weston super Mare. 516606.
- FOR SALE. 1971 MkI Capri 1600 £250. 1979 MkIII Capri 2.0S Offers over £1000.
For more details telephone Rich on Trowbridge 761795.
- FOR SALE. Small trailer £45. Petter Handyman £350. 1½hp Ruston Hornsby £50. 2¼hp Ruston Hornsby o/c £200. Wolseley £65. Wolseley £50. 130 volt Traffic Lights converted to 24 volt £20. Villiers with pump and spares £20. Trolley wheels. Lister 'D' gaskets £8 each. Pumps various.
W. Hull. Tel. Axminster 33153.
- WANTED. DC Voltmeter, 0 - 50 volt scale. 4" diameter and 2" deep.
Bill Coombes Tel. Oakhill 840868.
- FOR SALE. Bentall Hand Mill £20. Bamford Root Pulper £20. Blackstone Root Pulper £20.
Lister 'D' complete but unrestored £20.
Sid Plummer Tel. Stratton-on-the-Fosse 232025.
- FOR SALE. Two Godwin Water Pumps. £30 each.
John Brooks. Tel. Timsbury 71194.