

WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1991

Please send newsletter material to:-
Robin Lambert,
15 Beechwood Avenue,
FROME,
Somerset.
BA11 2AX.

Tel: (0373) 463526

The material in this Newsletter shall not be reproduced without prior consent and due reference to the Wessex Stationary engine Club. Opinions expressed herein so not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. All rights reserved.

CLUB MEETING - Monday 28th October - Models.

After a very dismal and damp day the fog cleared and the club room filled with some thirty people. Some of these came laden with their models of all shapes and sizes. Bob Hallam produced a John Deere model all of matchbox size from his pocket, while Rob Lambert trundled in with a steam boiler on a pair of trucks. He made this at College at night school after an idea three years ago at the Full Quart Rally, it caused wide interest, even to some trying to warm their hands!

Don Rogers brought two Stuart engines mounted on a display which belong to young William (my nephew) who was at home in bed. Mary Verrall had a selection of models made from kits which included a Steam hammer, while Brian brought a half finished model of a James Coombes engine which is still waiting to be completed after three years. Wally Camp displayed a vertical gas engine 50 c.c. made from scrap and using his own castings. Peter Holloway brought a model in the process of being made, its an E.S. Hindley 1864 which had its working life at Gillingham Brickworks but was worn out and rested in 1956. Peter is looking for any information about this engines, if anyone can help please contact him. Finally Eric Gay came in with two model boats, one of which he made from a kit thirty years ago.

After a few talks on their models Eric was on the raffle again. The winners were Mary Verrall - Book, Mrs. Townsend - Torch and Don Baker - Burglar Alarm.

A very enjoyable evening came to a close after everyone had wished everyone else a pleasant winter and looking forward to the rally season next year.

ROGER PIKE (Assisted by the Wife).

NEW MEMBERS.

Welcome to our two newest members Mr. P. Caudle of Larkhall, Bath and Mr. & Mrs. Alan Gumm, of Frome. We hope to see them at events in the future.

AN ODE FROM "UPHILLS".

1. The rally seasons at an end
Isn't it a shame
Winter weekends stuck at home
Never seem the same.
2. No hurrying through those country lanes
Up hills and round the bends
To have some fun and lots of laughs
With all our rally friends.
3. No bouncing across the farmers field
A camping place to find
With shovels out - its frisby time
With what the cows have left behind!
4. No struggling with the toilet tent
Its four legs pointing west
Even the good old thunder box
Can have its winter rest!
5. Then with Christmas and New Year over
Entry forms will keep us sane
Soon its.....heave the engine from the shed
AND OFF WE GO AGAIN

FROM A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Looking at a Rally with a Judge's eye.

When asked to judge engines in the past I have refused but caught in a weak moment by Ted Scott of South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Society, I agreed to partner President Herb Gane at Yesterday's Farming to judge the engine classes.

We arrived at Thurlbear for our briefing over a coffee and a delicious piece of home-made cake, then set off around the engine line-up for a first look and see if any bribes were forthcoming. There were none! One hundred and forty engines look pretty daunting at this stage but our walk made us decide that plastic ducks, garden gnomes, fish and indeed any plastic impedimenta would trivialise the display and hence lose points. At this point too, we realised that we had a difficult task on our hands as there were many very nice exhibits on show, not forgetting those in the working display area.

The categories seemed pretty straightforward; the 'Best Restored Lister' for example - but how many Listers were there? In truth, we had little difficulty with this one, a nicely restored P-type.

'The Best Working Exhibit', here we remembered the Lister L-type in the working area but what about the Bamford and mill display with all the good detail, sacks, oil cans, petrol can, all the tools laid out and running like a top? Studious inspection revealed the Bamford to be rather over-restored, plastic plug lead, resistor plug cap, loose copperpipes, etc., so reluctantly it fell by the wayside.

Next, the 'Best Junior's Exhibit'; not an easy one this. Who are the juniors? We both agreed that inevitably Dad would have performed most of the restoration so after careful selection, decided that we would chat to the junior concerned and try and gauge his knowledge of his engine. The winner was a lad dressed the part in bowler, cords, neckerchief and waistcoat - on a very hot day! - who freely admitted that he was trying to get a proper silencer for his Lister D, only the proper one would do. We only hope his Dad was so pleased with his son's achievement that he went to Magowan Engineering and bought him one.

The worst category was 'The most original engine display'; what do they mean by 'original'? Here we sought guidance from Ted Scott, the engine Steward, who said they had never been asked that before. Herb wondered if it was the engine with the most original paint from new. Then we decided that the display had to be original so Ted agreed and this made another problem. Two sheep shearing sets, side by side, with all the original bits and pieces. They were both beautifully restored to exactly the same standard; they were both owned by the same person. End of problem - joint equal....! Now to the classified awards.

We had each independently selected our own engines for awards in these classes, so any which were common to both our lists were in for a chance. How do you judge a rare and esoteric Webster inverted vertical engine against a Petter M type, or an air-cooled Bamford spoilt only by a polished brass magneto against a Hartop or a Saxon? Suddenly it was four o'clock and Wendy and Ann had seen all the rally field twice, so it was decision time. We checked our categories, no verticals in the classes for horizontals, all under 3hp, allover 3hp present and correct, and back to Ted with our decisions. I'm sure we pleased a few, equally as sure that we disappointed even more but, SSAPS, we did our best and it wasn't easy.

Even now, I know that best for me personally was the 5hp Victoria which never even had a exhibit number so couldn't be included; what a really super engine in true original condition and I still lie awake at night worrying about why we never included that impeccably restored Ruston PT.

Trouble is, Herbie and me, we like them all.....!

ERIC BRAIN and HERBIE GANE.

A TRUE HAPPENING,

Whilst strolling down the main street of a pretty little Welsh town, stopping and browsing in all the antique and second hand shops, just in case something related to our hobby was offered for sale. My pal and I stopped at the entrance to a womens institute hall which looked full of interesting stalls. "Come on in lads" shouted the man collecting the entrance fee. "It's only a shilling to come in". "Whats inside" said my mate. "What are you looking for" said Taffy. "Well have you any old mags?". "What sort" said Taff. "Any sort really, Bosch, Lucas, Wico or B.T.H." "Don't think so" said the confused doorman. "But I think they have some Playboy, Penthouse and Men Only" !!!

OVERHEARD IN THE LADIES LOO '....when I want the skirting boards painted I think I'll ask for Mid. Brunswick Green. At least I will get a decent finish.....!'

LAKESIDE RALLY, CROCKERTON 7th & 8th September.

It was only by a visit to a garden centre to buy a water lily that we saw a poster advertising this rally which was organised by the Crockerton Garden Centre to raise money for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal.

As it was, it turned out to be one of the best weekends this season, the weather was perfect, there was lots of things to do and see. The rally was held in fields adjacent to a small shopping complex, supermarket, furniture store and the garden centre, which is set around a lake with ducks and fishing. On Sunday a car boot sale was held which attracted a good crowd.

Events going on in the field included a fuchsia and orchid show, majorettes display, many raffles, vintage tractors and cars, a steam engine and about a dozen stationary engines. On both days was a display by the band of the Irish Rangers.

Of course, the main attraction was the Air Ambulance helicopter, on Saturday it managed to spend quite a long period of time on site for members of the public to have a look at and talk to the crew. Sunday it was quite a different story, it was announced during the morning the helicopter would arrive at noon - the helicopter was called to an incident. At 2 o'clock the helicopter is on its way, I can see it in the distance, we were told - I'm sorry it has been called out to an accident (back injury at some War Games at Witham Friary) - will be back here as soon as possible. Then it was called to another accident in the New Forest - take casualty to Salisbury Infirmary. It was then free to join us at the rally for a while at the end of the day. It just proves what a vital service it is for us all.

Saturday evening exhibitors were entertained by the ever popular John Forward and his disco, many of you will remember John from previous Wessex social events. Music from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's was played - even a request for Vera Lynn was granted much to the delight of Dave Clack.

I think a nice weekend was had by all, often these small rallies prove to be much more enjoyable than the larger ones, I shall certainly be back next year. The sum of £5,500 was raised for the Appeal.

MARY BUTLER.

FOR SALE

Lister 1½hp 'D' type - complete. HA type spares new. Single cylinder and twin air cooled diesel spares.

Petter Air cooled Petrol engine. AA1 Diesel (needing rebuild). PAZI and AVAI diesel parts new.

Villiers single cylinder MK10. Assorted Villiers spares.

BSA 5hp Petrol Engine complete.

Briggs and Stratton single cylinder - needs piston rings.

Various JAP and Villiers hand books and various Lister hand books from generator sets to cement mixer engines.

'Odd Ball Stuff' - Ring gear for Coventry Climax Diesel - Circa 1930's also Dynamo to fit said engine + Recon starter for International Tractor.

For all the above items contact - 0373 826271 Connor Engineering or after hours 0373 865173.

Four Wheel Steel Trolley, suitable for engine and water pump. Rubber tyres on wheels £15.

Contact Graham on Trowbridge 0225 764579.

Small Lister Diesel with a close coupled pump, used to water the Thamesdown putting green at Coate Water. This engine is not as big as the usual Lister Diesel. Age unknown.

No. 05026LT 125-07. Part of the starting gear is missing £20. Tel. J.P. Miller 0793/740711.

1933 'N' Type Stuart Engine and Lighting Plant, with hand book. £180 or swap for Bedford Lorry Wheels and Tyres. Tyre size 10/50/16 or other bits to fit a 1942 Lorry.

Early A1 Petter Engine £45.00 or swap for Bedford Lorry bits.

Telephone Ted Routley on 0749 840322.

In the July issue of the newsletter I asked for volunteers to help start a club helpline, and to date I have only had one reply, it would appear that there is no one in the club with any skills to pass on to others or help or advice, or perhaps you are all too busy restoring your latest find. If we could get this help line underway I am sure it will be a great help to all. We can also start a spares hotline to run along side, so I am going to stick my neck out. I can undertake simple lathe work and engine painting, so if anyone is in need of a bush to a Petter fuel needle, give me a ring. Our other volunteer is Mr. David Griffiths on Frome 64808, for stocks of metal, bolts, washers, nuts, unions, adaptors, cocks and valves. He can also help with diesel injectors, setting and testing etc.

This is a small start, don't be shy let me know what YOU can do to help others in the club, even the ladies can help, what about woolly hats and gloves to keep us warm at the winter crank-up. Don't forget the date - Sunday 1st December at the Old Down Inn, see you all there. Cheers for now.

ERIC GAY.

WHAT'S ON IN 1992.

If you would like your event, Fete, Crank-up, Garden Rally etc. advertised in our newsletter please send all information to Ed.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE - As usual there will be NO club meeting in December.

GOOD NEWS

Bath Steam Rally will once again take place next year in June, lets hope the sun will shine for them to make-up for the atrocious weather that ruined their show this year. ED.

FULL QUART CRANK-UP.

The day before the Crank-Up the weather was awful and Ivor, Don Rogers and myself were drenched as we staked out the site. It didn't make us feel any better when it rained all night. It was still raining the next morning when at 8.30 a.m. the first faithful exhibitors began to arrive, and a quarter of an hour later the rain stopped and suddenly everything was go - the Crank-Up was on.

We had a marvellous array of vintage exhibits, everything from stationary engines to steam rollers and traction engines. Some exhibitors travelled from as far away as Cornwall and Hampshire to be at the gathering.

The raffle table groaned under the weight of all those super prizes that kind ralliers brought - 49 in all and we even had a naughty one to end with! Oh! by the way did you know Brian Munt has a new woman in his life, she's a real doll, she is a fluffy little number with a loo roll shoved up her skirt and she gazes at him in the bathroom, but don't worry Brian her lips really are sealed!!

Well, you all helped to make it a splendid day as it was the most money we have given to C.L.I.C. The raffle made over £400 and Eve, Linda and Roger's stall made £252. We had £230 from the Tencrest rally and £255 from our C.L.I.C. box which was collected throughout the rally season. We auctioned a bedspread made by a group of ladies from the Shepton Mallet area and that added £21 to the total. Terry Heath, Tom Randall and Tony Jones each sent £10 as they couldn't be with us on the day.

So the grand total was £1,243.82 which we handed over to a delighted C.L.I.C. representative who would like to say, on behalf of all the children, many thanks.

Ivor and I feel the whole show is a brilliant joint effort from members of many different preservation clubs, who come together to help raise funds for C.L.I.C. Thank you all again for your support each and everyone of you.

ROY COX AND FAMILIES.

MONTHLY MEETING 30th September - 30 Questions

I was nominated to do this report in the absence of the official scribe for the night and although it was a very good night there's not a lot to actually say about it but here goes. With approximately 24 people in attendance Brian opened the meeting with the usual reports and events forthcoming, then after handing around paper to everyone who wished to join in, he then preceeded to fire 30 questions at us. Some were very easy, like who is the current Editor of the Stationary Engine Magazine and who is starting up a help line for the club - easy, then came some more technical questions, which all in all weren't too difficult. The person with the most correct answers won a bottle of wine and then after a short break our usual raffle was drawn and the lucky winners were:- Ted Phillips - Wine, Stan Holmes - Lamp and the last ticket to David Griffiths - A sponge. The rest of the evening was left to chatting amongst oneself.