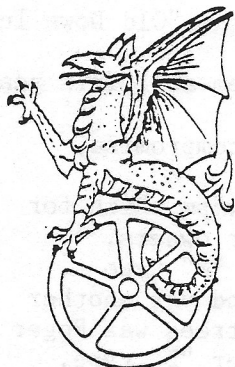


WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1988

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"THE SPANNER".

No sooner is one Rally over than arrangements must be started for the next. The Committee has begun the process and decided that the 1989 Rally will be held on the 17th/18th June and after considerable deliberation, at Cheddar Football Ground again. It was generally thought that this site had adequate facilities which it is hoped will be further improved for next year. Plans are afoot for additional toilets and a better water supply. Efforts will be made to site caravans in an adjacent field thus allowing more space to be devoted to exhibitors, especially stationary engines. Cheddar does appear to have a fair number of visitors who are prepared to pay an entrance fee. Not a minor item as staging such a rally does involve some considerable expense.

However the view was expressed that we should look for a larger site which would allow more space for stationary engines, the whole purpose of the event, while at the same time allow ring events to be organised. Not all thought this to be desirable as the more action there is the more marshalls are required. Currently most of the Rally organisation is undertaken by the Committee alone. This fact was sadly illustrated at Cheddar this year, when an appeal over the PA system for assistance in manning the entrance gates only brought forth a disappointing response.

There tis - you pays yer money and takes yer choice. But don't forget you the members are paying the money, so let the Committee know your views, or perhaps drop me a note for publication.

Changing the subject, our engine expert has suggested a cure for those smutty Petters. Instead of using normal 20/50 oil for lubrication he maintains that 2 stroke oil will banish the smoke forever. Sounds reasonable to me and he tells me it works. Has anyone any experience I wonder. Again a note would be appreciated as perhaps you will recall that our Chairman, Brian Munt was the founder member of the "Ban th Smutty Petter Society".

I hear also that some of our Committee members are deviating from the path of righteousness by restoring motor-cycles. Derek Watts has just about completed the restoration of an LE Velocette. That makes me very envious as I've always fancied myself purring along on a Noddy Bike. Phil Harris is however more macho having just flight tested his 350cc Matchless with Audrey on the pillion. Thinking about it, that makes me envious also... Audrey's only comment was that she was disappointed that Phil didn't stop during the run as he once used to. Happy days.

Finally, could I ask contributors to bear with me please as I have some super articles and reports in the pipe line but I find that this months space is at a bit of a premium. Some of the reports I have received will be out of date, unless I get them in this month. Keep 'em rolling though.

Final finally... A comment which amused me concerned the state of the toilets at a recent rally which I think must be nameless... "The flies were so big they tried to bite your bum off".

Cheers,

Claude Lowther.

CLUB EVENTS".27th June WSEC Crank Up.

The Crank Up is a small rally event that takes place in the car park of the "Old Down Inn" at Emborough.

I have exhibited and attended this event on many occasions and enjoyed them all. This year there was a snag... I had to do the write up.

After a beautifully hot Saturday and a soaking wet Sunday, Monday was a compromise, dry but not too warm.

Hazel and I arrived at home, had a quick tea and were at Emborough by 6.45pm which for me was very early, but we had already been beaten to it by 5 engines and their owners. Already we had a good variety of engines, Don Rogers with his as found Petter "M" type puffing away in the corner. Next to him was Phil Harris with an Amanco 2½hp and yet another Petter "M" type brought by Ray Love. Across the car park area, under the big trees was Roger Pike working up a thirst, swinging his reluctant to start Ricardo Patent Lister "D" type. Just to rub salt in the wound so to speak, Mr. Nash was right along side with his 1946 Wolseley WDII which had no handle, but just a flick of the flywheel and the engine burst into life.

By this time engines and members were starting to arrive from all directions. Eric Brain brought his horizontal enclosed crank International and Bill Coombs showed his son's 2½hp Amanco. Brian Verrall had his 2 stroke Stuart on show, a nice compact little unit, ideal for this event.

Dennis Hodges arrived a little later on with a Bamford EV3, 3hp still used from year to year to drive his saw bench. Dennis had in fact set up his engine next to Roger Pike whose "D" was still not running but was under going "running" repairs.

Down the line a little further we had Jeremy Adams and crew complete with Lister "D" and anonymous vertical displacement pump. Moving right to the other end of the row Roy Pointing was seen to be "kick starting" his Petter Universal 2hp air cooled engine. (No starting handle, just a touch of the foot on the drive pulley and "kick").

Engines were by this time arriving thick and fast, so just a quick listing:-

Pete Holloway, International open crank, still undergoing restoration/repair.

Roy Cox, Ruston Hornby 2hp PR open crank.

Simon Stacey, Ruston Hornsby PB 1½hp.

Paul Martin, Wolseley WDII.

Eric Gay, Bamford 2½hp open crank.

Ted Phillips, Petter A1 and Lister water pump.

Derrick Watts, Enfield engine and 240 volt ex WD generator.

Arthur Smith, Lister A.

A fairly new member, Bert Barton was showing a very well presented Bernard (French) 1½hp. Last but by no means least Herbie Gane with his Fairbanks Bulldog engine and his favourite catch phrase... "Would you like to buy some raffle tickets?"

At about 9.30pm Herbie's raffle was drawn with 1st prize of a box of chocs going to John Tottle. 2nd prize was won by Alan Evans, a bottle of wine, while 3rd prize of coffee mugs went to Dot Watts.

After the raffle, a quick look around saw the lamps from the generating sets picking out the steam issuing from the hoppers and tanks of the engines.

All in all a good evening, a selection of 21 engines, all runners, a good chin wag and best of all no rain. Just a quick reminder of the next crank up at the same place on 4th December, '88.

Gerald Atherton.

25th July Guess the Object.

With well over 50 members in attendance our Vice-Chairman Brian Verrall opened the meeting in the absence of Brian Munt who was on his holidays with wife Clas enjoying the fabulous Iron Bridge Gorge and it's museum.

Brian started on a sad note with news that Club member Wally Hull had not been keeping well and we wished him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back in action on the rally field soon.

A huge collection of artifacts were brought along by many Club Members, thirty-one in all and Brian brought them round one by one for all to see, and this year they seemed harder to guess as was reflected in the final highest score of 19 correct answers by Ted Phillips who won a bottle of wine for his efforts. The lowest score was made by Jeremy Adams' father who only managed one correct.

The objects ranged from a Crossley exhaust port cleaner to a cows suppository inserter. or at least that's what we were told. Other unusual items were a boiling milk alarm. glass razor blade hone, ditch cutter, boot puller, South Pacific currency, and two items that someone said had fallen off an 'Old Tom Cat' but were in fact battery lug moulds.

Our usual raffle took place during the interval and the lucky prize winners were Brian Reakes (Duck eggs), Dianne Emery (Tool Box), Jeremy Adams (Bottle of Wine) and finally Cecil Giblett (Box of chocolate mints). The evening turned out to be a very entertaining one, with all able to participate.

Robin Lambert.

CLUB DIARY.

Saturday 8th October. Coach Trip to Morwellham Quay, Nr. Tavistock. Morwellham, on the upper reaches of the River Tamar was once a prosperous mining centre, exporting copper and tin world wide. The Morwellham Trust is now restoring the village to it's former glory. Well worth a visit. Tickets from Shirley Gale, Trowbridge (0225 767095) or Jackie Lambert Frome (0373 63526).

Sunday 23rd October. WSEC Car Boot Sale at the Lowcost Supermarket (formerly Presto) CarPark, High Street, Worle, Weston Super Mare. 10.00am until 3.00pm. Cars £3, Vans £4, Club Members £1.50. Here is your opportunity to unload last year's unwanted Xmas gifts and to stock up with fresh ones.

Saturday 29th October. The high spot of the years programme.. The WSEC OOMPHAH EVENING.. Chilcompton Village Hall will be alive on this night with the music of Karl Wilhelm and his Oomphah Band. Bavarian music at its robust best. Come along and join in the fun, but don't be modest, dig out those Bavarian costumes complete with leather breeches. Supper has been laid on as well as a bar serving beers, foaming lager, and soft drinks. For those needing something stronger, no objection to you bringing your own bottle(s). It will certainly be different from the traditional Christmas dinner. Hope you will be there, it starts at 7.30pm and goes on until midnight. Tickets are £4 per head and includes supper, children 14 and under £2. Tickets obtained from Shirley Gale Trowbridge (0225 767095) or at any Club Meeting.

Monday 31st October. WSEC Monthly Meeting. Members Models. A repeat of the event held last year when members brought their models to the Old Down Inn (No 36-28-36 type models allowed.)

RALLY REPORTS.

Netley Marsh Steam Engine Rally, 22nd/23rd/24th/ July

Despite the weather the show must go on. The conditions were ideal for Mud Wrestlers but they were not on the list of attractions. To entertain the exhibitors and public on Friday and Saturday evening are a country and western duo and The Wurzels. It was raining most of the day on Friday but the fireworks went ahead, many oohs and aahs could be heard around the arena as each firework exploded in the sky, all in all a very spectacular display.

Saturday also started wet and the ground had got worse. All movement of vehicles was stopped. None of the mobile exhibits had their parades in the arena which was a great shame, this is always a very good value for money show for the public as the ring events go on until nearly seven o'clock each night. But they did manage to put on the Sheepdog Stars and the Moto-Equestrians Display Team.

Both days saw the appearance of a group called the Groovers Steel Orchestra. They are the largest steel band in Britain and were formed in 1975. They play any sort of music from The Beatles to Beethoven. It was truly a great sound and worth trudging through the mud to listen to.

The longest travelled exhibit was a 1949 Dutch Showmans Living Van towed by a 1958 Fordson Super Major Tractor. It is owned by G. Boelens of the Netherlands and he is touring England this summer with his family. As well as packing their clogs they had not forgotten their wellingtons. A couple of steamers worth a mention were an Aveling and Porter Showmans Type Tractor called 'Amelia' and a Garrett Suffolk Punch Ploughing Tractor. the only one of its kind left and was built in 1919.

Sunday dawned dull and wet but being the Sabbath we duly said a prayer and low and behold the sun shone on us for the rest of the day. Then the crowds arrived, but how short were their memories of the last two day. Ladies in high heeled shoes, (saves the worms having to make holes) while others wore sandals with mud squelching between their toes (cheap beauty treatment). Also

on show were a large selection of models, vintage motorcycles, tractors, stationary engines, steamers, cars and commercial vehicles.

After the show came the packing and loading ready for the journey home. and the thought in everyone's mind was I hope we don't get stuck in the mud. A few Wessex members stayed an extra night and moved out on Monday; which is what we did. After a windy night I awoke just before 7o'clock in need of a quick visit to the toilet, you don't spend much time in there when it is so windy for fear of being exposed. On leaving the caravan I spotted the cows that had been the other side of the fence all weekend being herded back through the collapsed fence by a... well all I could make out was a dark jacket with a fluorescent strip across the shoulders with ARC written on it. Could this be one of the jobs his wife would like him to do now he is retired or was he doing it for exercise. Here's praying for better weather, it rained all the way home.

MARY, REG AND STEPHEN BUTLER

Rushmoor Steam and Vintage Show 30th/31st July.

Having visited this show last year for the first time and found it to be excellent in every way, we had hoped to enter this year with an engine but time did not permit so we left home early on the Sunday and paid a most enjoyable day visit.

The setting of the rally, in the artificially created bowl of the Rushmoor Military Arena near Aldershot, Hants., is perfect for a show of this type and thus it attracts large numbers of people who certainly get very good value for their entrance fee.

For the steam buff, there was an entry of 62 steamers including many not normally seen at our local shows. especially Sentinel wagons. There was a huge entry of motorcycles, military vehicles (naturally), vintage and old cars and tractors. The variety of stationary engines set in a prime position, rather than hidden away in a distant corner or trailing around the perimeter, kept me engrossed for most of the day. I particularly fancied a 1903 Gardner I HV, fully documented as an early experimental model and restored to absolute perfection and a 1919 Worthington Simpson 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hp Ingeco driving a Worthington Simpson pump. Rarities were a Wheatley gas engine, a nicely restored Barker, a Monitor, and rarest of all, an East Wind diesel made in the People's Republic of China which had originally found it's way to the U.K. for evaluation by R.A. Lister of Dursley. Other interesting exhibits included an International Famous an early Barnard-Concord, no less than three B.C. & W.W. Victorias and three Robinsons all different.

The Wessex Club was well represented by the Butler family, Rob Lambert and Bill Appleby, Terry Heath, Arthur Smith, Patrick Knight of course, who was the rally steward, whilst Paul Martin was seen lurking around the rally field. The restoration of a large percentage of the entry was to a very high standard although it was advisable to keep well clear of one Amanco in particular which made the average Petter M seem a paragon of cleanliness. It was well summed up by another spectator who remarked that the only thing about it not dripping oil was the drip feed lubricator...

Towards the end of the day, when the reluctance to depart of the enthusiastic majority is always matched by the anxiousness to leave of the plaque-grabbing minority, we set off for home before the gathering clouds broke after a most interesting and enjoyable day out. Thank you Patrick, on behalf of all participating Wessex members.

EMMERSON BRANTINGHAM.

FOR SALE Petter AV2 8hp Diesel and Lister 200 volt generator. Offers to Chris Hucker Weston Super Mare 510118.

FOR SALE 4 man Ridge Tent. Hardly used. £100 ono. Dave Tuffley, 15 Gradwell Close, Worle, Weston Super Mare or next Club meeting.

FOR SALE Lister A. 1933 £50. Tel. Faulkland 580 (Sorry no other details available).

FOR SALE Petter AA1 3hp Air Cooled Diesel engine, with 6-1 reduction gearbox. Working order £50 Stihl Chain Saw. 21" bar, in working order £50.

Carburettor for Lister A Type. Large flange type with four hole fixing, 2" spacing between holes. £8.

200 Nuts, bolts and washers. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " long x 5/8" Dia. Ideal for steel construction £15.

Brian Hann. Tel. Frome (0373) 71467.

FOR SALE Rally outfit suitable for a car boot. Chore Horse self starting generating set 12 volt 300 watt. (Ex 1942 WD Tank battery charger) comprises generating set, boxed battery, ground stand, cover and two wheeled hand trolley with display lights. Plus a spare engine. £80 or offer. Tony Adlington. Baltonsborough (0458) 50715.

Cast iron silencers, Wolseley WD exact replica silencers, small castings to pattern. R.J. Kings, 56 Birch Coppice, Brierly Hill, West Midlands. DX5 1AP. Tel. 0384 638947.