

THE NOVEMBER '81 CLUB MEETING.

This meeting was opened by Rod Dring at the "new" Old Down Inn at Emborough, where extensive alterations have been carried out on our meeting room. Eric has often said that our Club could bring the house down and it has finally achieved it, well, the ceiling anyway!

A capacity crowd, even spilling into the hall, came to listen to Eric Brain who presented a slide show on the Highlights of the 1981 Longleat Rally. Eric spoke with confidence on the wide and interesting range of engines at what must have been the rally of the year. Although beautifully illustrated with his thoughtfully taken slides, it was Eric's knowledge and feeling for his subject that people came to hear, in particular on Victoria and Emerson Brantingham engines. It is a fact that Eric not only knows the history of the manufacturer, but often the history of many individual engines, some of which he has restored himself. Photographs of the rows of engines brought fond memories of the summer flooding back to the people in the room. The sun really did shine at Longleat on everything from the small model Petter 'Handyman' to the largest of Blackstones, and even on - could it be? - the very first jet engine to be rallied, the 1956 60 h.p. Rover gas turbine!

The new lights came on for the interval when Herb Gane quietly and efficiently moved about the room extracting money from us all for raffle tickets! He always does it so pleasantly! In the second half of the evening, Eric mingled some of Adrian Stride's slides in with his own and the Longleat atmosphere once more filled the room. Eric's slide box also included some pictures from the Club's visit to Eastwood Manor Farm last May, and a few other rallies, including Camerton, where we saw the first outing of our Chairman's engine, which runs on hot water, or something!

We also saw some nice slides of Eric's own Petter collection, including his black Petter which someone suggested had painted itself!

The new lights were tested once again and Herb drew the raffle.

First prize, a bottle of wine - Roy Cox.

Second prize, a box of Christmas Crackers - Mrs. Sweet.

Third prize, a box of chocolates - Alan Burdge.

It was a most enjoyable meeting and was closed by Rod, who wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

"Everso Rantingham."

CLUB DINNER & DANCE, MASONIC HALL, FROME. December 5th.

Unintentionally, we were amongst the last to arrive at the gaily decorated hall where our President waited to greet us. Then a glass of sherry, and we took our seats.

We had time before the soup was served to have a chat with some of our friends, a few of whom we had not seen since Fairford.

After the main course and the sweet, etc., came the speeches, but not before a certain member had enjoyed mashed banana with brown sugar!! Not me, I hasten say, although I did enjoy two portions of Christmas Pudding, one of which was donated by a member of the police force! Thankyou Sid!

Our Chairman, Rod Dring, made the opening speech and was followed by our President who then introduced his guest, whom some of us thought rather resembled the comedian Norman Collier, don't you agree? He certainly made us laugh!

After the tables had been cleared and some moved aside to make room for Captain Hippo, we retreated! Sorry, but the music was much too loud for our sensitive ears! Still, we thoroughly enjoyed our evening and after making our 'farewells' we left for home, arriving by 1.30a.m.

May we wish all our friends a very happy New Year, 1982.

Len & Rene Fry.

CLUB DINNER & DANCE, FURTHER COMMENT.

Apart from the excessively loud music, which upset some to the point of their fleeing the building for fear of permanent ear damage, and the old jokes, which provided several others with the perfect excuse for a post-prandial forty winks, I think that most of us really did enjoy our night out. The meal and service were certainly good, nay, excellent value for money and the helpings were more than generous. A certain person who wishes to remain nameless (but whose mother, Mrs. Goodesmith, decided to call Nigel!) thought that he would play a prank on our waitress by placing a rather revolting looking plastic fly in his soup. However, one apparently has to get up pretty early to get the better of that breed, for she promptly went and called for the Head Waiter, who returned with a gigantic black spider on the end of a length of elastic, and proceeded to dunk it several times in an attempt to capture the offending bluebottle! There's no flies on some people. Ho! Ho! The discussions at one table were centred on Victoria engines and Eddy May's wife was eventually heard to ask, "What's a Victoria?"

[illegible]

David W. Edgington.

Don't forget, please
send a stamped,
addressed envelope
for entry forms.

AUG 14/15
AUG 30

YEOVIL Festival of Transport. } Bill
MECCARI RALLY, Melksham. } Foster.

Harry Champion.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

[illegible]

SITUATIONS VACANT.

P.S. THOUGHT SOME OF YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THIS

Rallying round

Camerton School, Hilltop School for the disabled, Hilltop Gateway Youth Club, Midsomer Norton, the Southdown Community Project, Bath, and Cancer Research have each received £200.