

NEWSLETTER

June 1977

Somervale School - May 28th and 29th

We were invited to stage a display of the W.S.E.C at the South Wansdyke Leisure Activities Weekend at Midsomer Norton. An adequate turn-out of members really enjoyed the two day event; it was noticeable that the Ladies Keep Fit Display attracted more W.S.E.C. members than vice-versa!

Running engines on display were:-

5hp Lister Type L - Roger Parsons,
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hp Amanco and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hp Lister type A - Eric Brain
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hp Bamford - Phil Lane
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Lister D type - John Spear
4hp Bamford open crank - Tom Randall
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hp Ruston Hornsby type PT - Tony and Mike Andrews.

Mike also had his model Meccano Showman's engine and Fairground Organ on display. David Chapman's Ruston Hornsby CPR 6hp was a static exhibit in the main hall and looked a real showpiece. The weather was kind to us and a good deal of interest shown.

Bath and West Show - May 31st - June 4th

This five day event was attended by a good proportion of W.S.E.C. members, both as entrants and visitors. All present admitted to glorious week mechanically, socially and weather-wise. Certain aspects of the organisation however, left a lot to be desired but thanks to the efforts of Rally Steward Geoff Cullen and W.S.E.C. "Shop-Steward" Mary Chapman, most of the snags were ironed out. It would be hard to find a random group of engines such as those on display, with more variety. There was something for everyone - from Delco Light to "Lamp Start" Crossley N.N.

It was noticeable that nearly all present took as much interest in each others exhibits as did the general public. The filling of each others "drip feed" oilers was the rule rather than the exception.

We rounded off the week with a small club party in honour of Mike and Ailene's Wedding and presented them with gifts appropriate to the occasion.

Camerton Steam Rally - 18th and 19th June

The stationary engine section was organised by the Wessex Stationary Engine Club, this was the first time the club had run its own section at a large event such as this.

We were allocated a very favourable site in the field, on which there was a display of some forty seven engines, including two 'steamers'.

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The club Secretary started the Show on a bad note with an accident which injured her hand, but after treatment she was able to continue her duties, together with other members of the Committee.

Saturday passed as a dull day with temperatures more suited to mid winter but this had no affect on 'engines or drivers' as information, chit chat and jokes (all clean!) were exchanged throughout the day.

Many well restored engines were present including a 1920 Hobbs engine owned by T Randall, which ran well after ist trial run at the Royal Bath and West Show. Mr H Ganne brought along his newly restored 2¼ hp Amanco which had been in his family from new. D Farenden's 2 hp Petter settled down to run well after a temperamental start. Among the Lister engines was the not so often seen single flywheel Lister 2½ hp of Mr R Saunders of Dursley. The larger engines were well represented by the two Ruston Hornsby engines of D Chapman and J Bennett. A special metion should also go to R Dring and family of Bristol who brought along their Lister 7 hp N type which is superbly resotred and runs beautifully.

The club held a social get together and barbecue in the evening with most entrants enjoying themselves with hot dogs and cider.

Sunday got off to a slow start, but during the afternoon things brightened up and the engine section held an excellent audience, who showed great interest in our machines.

When the crowds cleared we left with the feeling that it had all been very worthwhile.

Finally I think we should thank our Committe who worked hard to make the 1977 Camerton Rally a 100% success.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Mike Harris, and Red Lister for the report on Camerton, it was very nice indeed.

If anyone would like to write a report on a Rally they have attended, or a report on how they restored their engine, please send them to Mrs A Cannon, 29 Easton House, Grosvenor Bridge Road, Bath. We are very anxious that this newsletter should involve all members, so howabout a report.....

Chairman's Report

With the Rally season now well under way, W.S.E.C. members are already telling 'travellers tales' from rallies near and far, so if you, as a club memeber, have attended or will be attending any rallies, please help to attract new members and also if possible a brief rally report to the newsletter secretary, Ailene Cannon, would be much appreciated.

Whilst on the subject, I am sure all club members would like to join with us, the Committee, in wishing Ailene and Michael Cannon all the very best happiness together for the future regarding their recent wedding. May the Tangye never come between them !!!

The club has been presented with a fine trophy by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. It was given to us at Ailene and Michael's party at the Bath and West Show and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again Mr X.

Also at the Bath and West, it was arranged with the East Somerset Railway Co to hold a two day 'members only' rally at Cranmore Station on October 1st and 2nd. See Mary Chapman for details and entry forms. Please would all members try and enter this rally to make it a success and a possible annual event. Butlers have agreed to sponsor us with fuel and sign-posting.

Finally with a view to publicising the W.S.E.C., I was invited to do a live broadcast on Radio Bristol at the BBC stand at the Bath and West and in spite of being cut short at the end, I am told it was quite successful although I have heard of only three people who actually heard the broadcast - two of them complained that I never mentioned their names - the other was my Mum!!

Eric Brain

Next meeting Aug. 1st. at,
The Old Down Inn.
Emborough.
7-30 p.m. for 8 o'clock.