

Wessex Stationary Engine Club. Newsletter. *June 1982*

THE NEWSLETTER

The recent resignation of Tom Randall from both the committee and Newsletter Editor's chair makes a vacancy which is hard to fill. Tom has been a committee member from the first AGM, was Club Chairman for two years, and has edited the Newsletter for four years without a break. His interpretation of a multitude of handwriting styles into a readable, informative news sheet has set a standard for other clubs to follow, and recently, even copy, absolutely verbatim! The W.S.E.C. recognises that the Newsletter is of paramount importance in a club like ours which covers such a wide area, and thus we extend to Tom our grateful thanks for his past efforts and for his many other "behind the scenes" activities.

Temporarily the post of Editor has been taken by Eric Brain to whom all articles, adverts, poems, bits of news, etc. should in future be addressed, for a trial period of three months. Please send copy as early as possible in the calendar month following any Club meeting. Any member, not necessarily from the Committee, aspiring to the post of Newsletter Editor, don't be shy, please volunteer, your club needs you. How about a couple of evenings work per month doing an interesting and rewarding job for the W.S.E.C.?

The other committee vacancy formed, has been filled by co-opting Jackie Lambert. Jackie has always been a great asset to the Club, on the rally field, Club Stall, Jumble Sale; in fact, whenever there is a job needing "the feminine touch". Also for her frequent, interesting Rally Reports. Welcome to the Committee Jackie; now you can help Diana keep the men in order!!

Ian Skuse.

HAWKCHURCH VINTAGE RALLY, May 1st and 2nd

Held at Scouse Caravan Park.

With ice-cold, high winds lashing this hillside rally site, we set up camp and exhibits on the first day of this two day event. Nearly 150 exhibits in the programme, most were stationary engines with a few tractors and old tool exhibits. Also there were a few stalls scattered around the field to keep the bargain hunters on the move. Around the perimeter of the field stood about 200 items for the auction, which started at 11.00 a.m. The few engines in the line were not sold as they never made reserve price. A lot of old farm implements, old mowers and tools made this a most interesting sale. Saturday evening came around very quickly, and at 7.30 p.m. everyone made their way to the site bar and hall, where, to a packed audience, a film of a rally held at the Bath and West Showground, and another, of Oxo and Bisto, the two famous oxen which pulled the Western Pioneer Wagon, were shown.

A very interesting film of the restoration of "Cindy" the steam engine had all the men leaning forward in their seats when the star of the film, a very buxom young lady, applied for the job of engine cleaner. The heat in the workshop proved too much for the poor girl so she had to remove most of her clothing.. (just a minute, why can't WE borrow this film for OUR club meeting??? Ed.).... the antics of this lovely creature tended to steer ones eyes away from the actual engine restoration!! (Where can WE get this epic bit of celluloid from then?... Ed.). After the film finished with rapturous applause for "more", we were treated to part two which I won't go into details about now as its getting quite late and I ought to be off to bed. (Sounds like pages and pages of VERY interesting material coming through the mail next month!... Ed.). This only leaves me to say... a super weekend, a lovely site, plenty of facilities, including a bar and washrooms, very well organised, and many thanks to Wally Hull, Petra, and all the helpers.

Aster Power

OVERHEARD..... at Bristol Docks Rally!!

Steam engine entrant at group of Stationary Enginememen....

"Hey, anyone got a match to light my fire?"

The multitude of replies were unprintable.....!!!!

BRISTOL DOCKS RALLY

In marked contrast to last year, the weather gods of Wessex looked favourably on the I.Plant E. Gas-Up Rally at Bristol Docks on the 15th & 16th May. The venue as usual was adjacent to the Industrial Museum in an enclosure bounded by bollards and chains which must rank as one of the strongest safety barriers to be currently found on the rally scene.

Whilst those attending on the Saturday settled down to preparing their exhibits, accompanying wives disappeared towards the shops followed by pensive looks, as thoughts of possible new aquisitions evaporated in the face of various shopping expeditions. Despite such dreary thoughts the relative peace was soon shattered as engines were started and curious passers-by gathered in front of reluctant starters with unexpected problems!

BRISTOL DOCKS RALLY (cont.)

A total of twenty-two engines were exhibited over the two days comprising:- Amanco Hired Man, Bamford 4 hp. open crank, Bentall Pioneer, Blackstone 10 hp. (a most impressive lorry mounted exhibit), Fairbanks Z 3 hp., three Lister D's, Lister Junior, Petter M 1½ hp. New Model, Powell 6 hp., Ruston Hornsby IP, 5 hp., Stuart Lighting Set, Thorneycroft 10 hp. (ex-marine Sausage Machine??), Victoria 5 hp., Villiers WX-II, Wolseley WD2, Stationary steam being represented by Merryweather and Bryan Donkin (the owners of which were noted to be enviously eyeing up the local coal yard nearby!!). All in all, a fine selection of engines, several of which were driving associated equipment. During the weekend were were joined on the dockside by a gathering of Military Vehicles and Vintage Cars - predominantly American; all of which attracted disdainful glances from the "weekend commodores" in the docks.

Sunday brought voting for the I.Plant E. award; the winner this year was John Emery with his superbly restored and presented Ruston IP on its first outing. The award was presented by Don Govan (Chairman of the I.Plant E., Western Branch) who had driven up from Exmouth especially to present it.

To sum up, a most enjoyable event for which thanks must be made to Eddie May for his excellent organisation.

Barrie and Sue Thomas

SEDGEMOOR VINTAGE RALLY, May 22nd and 23rd

The stormy weather did nothing to deter exhibitors and members of the public from attending this, the second rally organised by the Gremlins Carnival Club at Bridgwater. The site was very similar to the one we use at Yatton. This, too, was a rugby field. With well over 100 exhibits of vintage motorbikes, cars, stationary engines, tractors and traction engines, together with trade stands, local charity stalls and children's roundabouts, there was plenty of entertainment for all.

The stationary engine section was sited down one side with ample room behind the engines for tents, trailers, cars, etc. About 70 engines were on show and it was unusual to see 3 Powell engines and 4 Blackstone lamp-starts at the same rally. I think all stationary engine enthusiasts would agree that this was the best example of engines we have seen at a small rally for a long time. Not only was there a good selection, but without exception, restoration was to a high standard. Other than the Powells and Blackstones already mentioned there were Ruston and Hornsbys, varying from 2 to 7 hp. Various Listers, Petters Bamfords, Crossleys, Amancos, JAPs, Wolseleys, Fairbanks, a Stuart Turner, an Ingeco and a Duzgo (and it did!).

During each afternoon entertainment was given by the Bridgwater Sapphire Jazettes, the Caledonian Majorettes, the local Sea Cadets Band and we were treated to a demonstration of Karate for anyone interested in this art of self defence (now I know how to protect myself!).

At one point the whole area was blotted out with thick smoke, "who's ***** Petter's that?" was heard as we all peered thro' the fog - but this time we couldn't blame a Petter but a neighbouring house with a chimney fire.

The weekend ended far too soon with the parade of Vintage bikes, cars, tractors and traction engines and it was time to receive our plaques, which were a credit to any club, being cast brass picturing an oiler.

Congratulations to Dave Squire and Messrs. Ed and JohnThorne for the superb organisation at this rally.

Diana Emery

SALE REPORT - Limebrook Farm, Wick

This recent sale of equipment at Wick proved to be an interesting one. Those of our members who attended were not disappointed at the amount of engineering tools and accessories for auction, neatly done up in reasonably sized lots. A vast amount of vintage electrical items were available, also modern dynamos and motors. In addition was what could best be called a conglomeration of "odds and sods" to delight those who love to poke about in boxes to see what is at the bottom.

Of course what we were most interested in were things to assist us in maintaining or restoring our stationary engines, and there were plenty - most of us came away with something.

There were a few engines which sold at the following prices; List D £30, Lister Ricardo 6½ hp. £52, Crossley e/c 2½ hp. £160.

True to form the auctioneers kept the piece-de-resistance until last. This was the 1907 hot tube Crossley which had been the object of discussion throughout the day. Not many people wanted to buy it, but all wanted to see "how much". Age was an asset instead of a liability, and it sold for £775.

3.

SALE REPORT (cont.)

Here are the prices obtained for a few other items:- IXL Lathe £510, Old Drummond Lathe £36, Pulsometer Pump (suitable for rallying) £34, Blacksmith's Anvil £26, Collection of magnetos £22, Slate Switch Board £6, Taps and Dies to £12.

Ems.

Footnote

Another source, who wishes to remain anonymous, also reported from this sale that the auctioneer knocked down a Lot consisting of a selection of lengths of PIPES to a certain Rod DRAIN!! Who is this man????

THE MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

The May meeting was held at the Old Down Inn, Emborough on the 24th but not in the usual comforts within the Inn walls, but outside in the car park complete with a fresh Mendip breeze. This was the annual bring and buy evening which might be more aptly named the "swop-shop" evening. When one enquired as to the price of an article, the usual answer was "what have you got to swop?", the value of the pound best expressed in the terms of part exchange rather than pence! The W.S.E.C's answer to Portobello Road had just about everything on display, from a Lister D to a mangle, and a firescreen to tomato plants. Trading was brisk throughout the evening and everyone seemed well satisfied; whether they bought or sold. Some seemed to fare extremely well, as it was overheard that a certain member from Clutton was trading in his old car for a new one the following day! After our resident 'raffles' Gane did his own turn of business, the successful evening drew to a close over one last pint.

Jane Cannon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- July 3rd SHIPHAM VILLAGE FAYRE on Shipham Football Ground. Rather short notice but come along, bring an engine and have a nice relaxing day in the heart of Mendip. Stalls, Evening Social, Country Dancing, etc. Apply by phone to Ian Skuse on Yatton 834943.
- August 15th BLAGDON GYMKHANA are very keen to have a good display of Stationary Engines this year. Apply to Pauline Purvis, tel. Axbridge 732569 for details and entry forms.
- August 28th, 29th, 30th NESTON PARK VINTAGE RALLEY near Atworth, Wilts. (A365 Melksham to Bath Road). Steam Engines, Fair Organs, Vintage, Veteran & Collectors Vehicles, Stationary Engines, Models & Crafts, Autojumble, Trade & Preservation Stands. Donkey Derby, Tug-o-War. Open 11.00 a.m. daily. Admission 70p adults, 40p children. Ample car parking. Enquiries to G.C. Escott, 21 Forest Road, Melksham, Wilts.
- September 19th "FARMING RESCUED", to be held at Long Ashton by Somerset Vintage Farming Society. Entry forms from B. Gunningham, 33 Marshfield St., Bedminster, Bristol.

CLUB EVENTS

- July 17th/18th CLUB RALLY to be held once again at Yatton Rugby Ground, Northend, Yatton. Open to everyone. Engine entrants may set up stalls adjacent to their exhibits free of charge and all other stallholders are welcome for the modest sum of £3 for the two days. Bric-a-brac, junk, collectors items, tractor, car and engine spares, in fact anything welcomed. Pass the word around. Stallholders apply in advance preferably, to Stuart Ashman, Chew Magna 2655. We shall also be having THE CLUB STALL. Any suitable items to sell on this stall would be most welcome on the day to help defray rally expenses and to help C.L.I.C. If you have not yet entered, HURRY and contact Diana Emery immediately on Temple Cloud 52939.
- July 26th THE LONGHEDGE COLLECTION of Vintage Farm Machinery, including some steamers, Longhedge Farm, Corsley, near Warminster. Commences at 7.00 p.m. and afterwards our evening continues at the nearby Royal Oak, where all the usual refreshments will be available to us. Tony Jones will no doubt be first in the queue!!!!

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CLUB EVENTS (cont.)

August 23rd PLEASE NOTE: this is NOT the last Monday in the month. to be advise
at a later date.

September 27th RAILWAY MISCELLANIA, and evening of "steamy" nostalgia from the
Rev. A.G. Newman.

October 25th FILM NIGHT with John Forward. Films of Steam Rallies, restoration, etc.

November 27th W.S.E.C. DINNER AND DANCE goes live with SIROCCO, a local band with
music and entertainment for all tastes. Venue once again, the Masonic
Hall, Frome, Somerset.

November 29th KENNET & AVON CANAL, a recently updated talk by Bob Scudamore.

SALES AND WANTS

FOR SALE BAMFORD 6hp. Open Crank Engine, restored to near original condition
in perfect running order and mounted on custom built wooden trolley.
Complete with wall-chart and two transfers. Winner of several prizes.
£425.
Also heavily built trailer, complete with winch, jockey wheel, new tyres,
and lighting board. £300 o.n.o.
Phil Harris, 2 Cocklade, Wedmore, Somerset. Wedmore 712048.

FOR SALE KELVIN Marine Engine, petrol-TVO, poppet valve, 4hp, twin cylinder,
complete with marine gearbox and dated around 1922. Last run about 6
months ago, still fitted in a boat at Bradford on Avon. Will exchange for
a good modern diesel twin or open to sensible offers.
Contact Tony Jones, 59 Marsh Road, Trowbridge, to arrange an evening
inspection.

FOR SALE 1914 LISTER 4hp L Type mounted on original sturdy trolley with toolbox.
BOSCM Flick Mag. Complete except for water tank and mechanically in
good order. £110 o.n.o.
E.G.B. Temple Cloud 52633.

WANTED DRAWING of Millars/Bamford engine exhaust for 2½-3hp engine.
P. Holloway, Meadowside, Halfway, Chilthorne Domer, Yeovil, Somerset.

WANTED AIR-VESSEL for Lister H2/H3 water pump (part no. 42).
G. Atherton, Flax Bourton 2393.

PLEASE send all material, sales, wants, articles, poems, etc. for this Newsletter, as
early in the month as possible, following each Club Meeting to:- Eric Brain, 5 Greenridge,
Clutton, Bristol. or telephone Temple Cloud 52633.

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due acknowledgement to The Wessex Stationary, Engine Club.

Finally also overheard, at the Bristol (Appropriately!) Docks Rally..... to our
Secretary, Diana Emery, proudly wearing the first issue of the NEW Club T-Shirt
"COR! Diana, THOSE look nice.....!!!