

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT. February 26th. A.G.M.

A good average turn-out of forty five members was present on this auspicious occasion. The meeting was opened promptly by the President, David Edgington, who introduced the Chairman, Tom Randall.

In his report Tom thanked the Committee for their help and support over the past year and went on to stress to the members that the club is their club and ideas for the running of the club can only come from the members. He also thanked the lady members for their help in fund-raising, especially the rally stalls, selling programmes and at the club jumble sale. Tom having concluded, David thanked him for his hard work for the club during his past year and called for the floor to show their appreciation with a round of applause.

Stuart Ashman, in his Treasurer's report, pointed out the reason for the subscription year being fixed to start on January 1st., was to enable the Committee to plan the club's financial year better by having the subscription money in early on in the year. He went on to explain in some detail how the money had been spent and how it had been raised. The balance sheet demonstrated that the club has in fact, a healthy cash flow.

The President then called for the election of officers, firstly asking for nominations from the floor of those willing to continue in office for a further year. Ailene Cannon having resigned as Secretary, this post became vacant. Diane Emery was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected to fill this vacancy. All the other Committee members except one, were willing to serve again and were re-elected en-bloc. The resignation of Rob Lambert left one last vacancy to be filled, but surprisingly, although there were a couple of nominations, no-one present sought election. A motion from the floor proposed that it be left to the elected Committee to co-opt someone at a later date, as laid down in the Club Constitution. This was carried, and the election of officers being concluded, the President asked for any other business.

Points raised were as follows:-

1. Club Badges - their condition of sale and their price. A motion from the floor that the forthcoming Club badge be sold to members only and not be made generally available was carried by a large majority. It was pointed out by the Chairman that the Committee had originally considered the badge as a fund raiser, particularly since the initial outlay was so great, about £180.00. However the Committee must accept the expressed wishes of the members, but an increase on the proposed price of 75p. would have to be considered. Those present were in agreement that a price of £1.00 would not be unreasonable.
2. Content of Monthly Meetings. There was some discussion over the difficulty of continuing to provide original topics and material for meetings. It was generally agreed that meetings have always been enjoyable, especially the slide and film shows, and 'repeats' were quite acceptable.
3. Club Rally 1979, Cranmore or Lackham? A debate on whether or not the Club Rally was too late in the year got underway. The opportunity to hold a rally at Lackham somewhat earlier in the year opened a further debate on a suitable date. It was generally felt that clashes with other rallies were inevitable and the problem was left to the new Committee to sort out.

(contd.)

EARLY MEMORIES OF A LISTER 'A' TYPE.

My earliest memories of stationary engines were on my late uncle's farm in the heart of the Cotswolds. He had a very old motor cycle on which the tyre was removed from the rear wheel and the belt from the root pulper was attached, the engine started and the food for the animals prepared. Some years later, as I grew a little older, I was allowed to go over the field and help on the local farm that was close to our house. The two tractors, a David Brown and an Allis Chalmers, were only started in the haymaking season as a horse was used for general farm duties all the year round. The tractors, as I recall, were always hard to start. The farmer's son used to wind the starting handle for what seemed like ages but in the end they always started. After the hay was cut and picked up, it was transported to the rickyard where it was lifted onto the rick by an, even then, very old elevator driven by a very dirty and oily Lister 'A' Type, which by contrast with the tractors, always started with ease. As years passed the farm was sold, so were the old machines and the land was swallowed up into a large estate.

Over the years the memories of these early days faded, but some 22 years later they all came flooding back when a local farmer, knowing the interest I had in old engines and that I was looking for one to restore, called in to my works and told me of - guess what - an old Lister 'A' Type, in an old rick yard on his farm, which I could have for the taking away. The following Sunday found myself, my wife and son driving out across the fields to his old rick yard in search of the engine.

The first search in the old buildings revealed nothing. I was just about to give up when I looked over the wall out into the adjoining field and there it was in a clump of nettles, a rusty but complete Lister 'A' Type. After manoeuvring the car round the nettles, the rear seat was removed and the engine loaded with some difficulty. We then returned victoriously home with the memories of those early days still lingering in my mind.

Mike Harris.

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CLUB EVENTS.

- APRIL 30th. A talk on Lister engines, particularly the development of the 'D' Type by Ernie Alford of the Somerset Traction Engine Club.
- MAY 21st. Club visit to Camden Works Museum, Bath. 7.30pm. Refreshments available.
- JUNE 25th. CRANK UP. Open air meeting in the Old Down Inn car park. Bring an engine out for the night!
- SEPTEMBER 1st.& 2nd. CLUB RALLY to be held this year at Lackham College of Agriculture, Lacock, near Chippenham. This is a lovely site adjacent to the very interesting agricultural museum.
- DECEMBER 8th. Club Dinner & Dance to be held at the Star Hotel, Wells.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS!

The Committee has co-opted Mike Harris of Wootton Bassett to fill the vacant position on the Committee.

There is now a CLUB TEE SHIRT available, light blue in colour with a black, five-spoked flywheel on the chest bearing the words, WESSEX STATIONARY ENGINE CLUB around the rim. Price £2.00. from Tony Jones, 59, Marsh Road, Trowbridge, Wilts. Available only in medium size as yet, but other sizes soon.

MAY 19th. Auction of steam engines, tractors, stationary engines etc., at Chilbolton, near Stockbridge, Hampshire.

COMMITTEE.

Tom Randall.....Chairman.
Rod Dring.....Vice Chairman.
Diane Emery.....Secretary.
John Spear.....Assistant Secretary.
Stuart Ashman.....Treasurer(Membership, Insurance etc.).
Eric Brain.
Adrian Stride
Bill Appleby.
Herb Gane.

Secretary:- 'Odstax,' Wells Road,
Hallatrow,
Bristol.

Treasurer:-Moorledge Farm Cottage,
Knowle Hill,
Chew Magna, Bristol.
Tel:Chew Magna 2655.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Joint Membership(Engaged/Married Couples)...£2.00per year.
Individual Membership.....£1.50per year.
Junior Membership(Under 18).....£0.50per year.

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE.

£1.00 per paid-up member per year.(Not available to Junior
Details available from the Treasurer. Members under 16)

MEETINGS.

The Club holds its meetings at the Old Down Inn, Emborough,
(at the junction of the A367 and the B3139, 5 miles North
of Shepton Mallet.), on the last Monday in every month.
It is as well to check meeting dates since the last
Monday is occasionally impractical. Meetings start at 8pm.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS. Send all contributions, articles, adverts., etc.,
to Tom Randall, Welton Hill Cottage, West Road,
Midsomer Norton, Bath, BA3 2TL.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS.

David Edgington.(Club President and Editor of
'The Stationary Engine' magazine.)
Bill Foster.