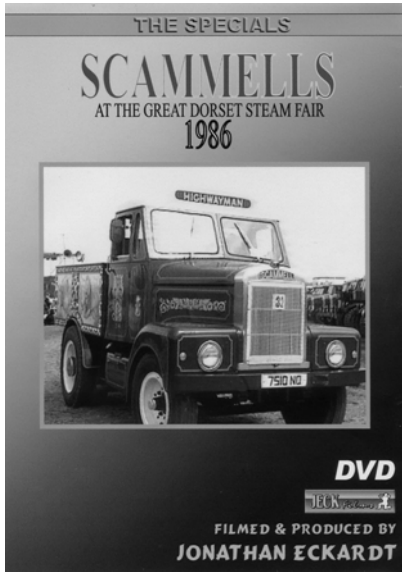


# Scammells at the Great Dorset Steam Fair - 1986

*A review by Brian Carter*



As we enter the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Register, it is nice to look back at the early days. "Scammells at the Great Dorset Steam Fair - 1986" is a DVD filmed and produced by Jonathan Eckardt in 1986, just three years after the Register was formed.

Back in 1986, all I actually owned was a motorcycle and some nice clothes. Life was so simple living at home not realising what it actually costs to run a home and even better, playing with someone else's Scammells and Steam Engine. The following year life was to change dramatically!

Back in those innocent days of 1986, Jonathan Eckardt was running around with the latest technology video cameras and always did the Great Dorset Steam Fair, although most of us in those days knew it just as Dorset or Stourpaine. But it was great and it was a steam fair!

This DVD, which runs for about 30 minutes is mainly showing the Scammell Parade with the adjoining commentary from Reg Griffin, a great Scammell man and one of the Founder Members of the Register. Reg always had a story to tell as the vehicles came around the arena, usually kind but sometimes with a bit of leg pulling. Sadly, like many other characters in this video, Reg is no longer with us.



The DVD has some great shots of Scammells of all types as they enter the arena and park in the middle until told to go. Can you imagine doing that with the number that attend now!



Of particular interest to me is the film of Dave Thorne (current Committee Member) and Dave Edgar towing Dave Hillier's semi low loader with what

became my Pioneer on the trailer. Dave Hillier is also a Founder Member and still serves on the committee today. When you look at the film, the Pioneer only just fits

on the trailer. At other times over that weekend, Dave Hillier's Scammell was also on the front of this combination but as he had to marshal the arena parade, it was taken off when this was filmed.

We see 2 genuine Showtracs in the field, both ex-A&R, Dragon and Lion, plus a couple of Showtrac look-a-likes including some nice footage away from the arena. There are several Highwayman/MUs with 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailers including a very nice 1956 Highwayman coupled to a Dyson 4 in line of 1957 vintage with a 1910 Marshall Steam Engine on the trailer. Very impressive.

Pioneer recovery tractors are well represented with our one mentioned earlier but accompanied by the Boscombe Down vehicle which is still working there today. Geoff Greenfield's Pioneer, which is now being restored again by one of our Members, is also in attendance as well as Les Hinton's Pioneer reg MOW 230R. Les sadly died a couple of years later whilst driving the Pioneer to the Great Dorset Steam Fair from Sussex. Fortunately his son was with him and stopped the vehicle without any further casualties. We've not seen this vehicle for a long time so if anyone knows its fate, please let me know.

Another Member sadly no longer with us is Tommy Rawlins whose immaculate Highwayman is shown in some detail. The vehicle was still rallied by his widow Molly right up until she passed away and was taken to the Crematorium in it. Hopefully their son, Peter, will continue to bring it to the shows.

So as you can see, a huge amount of history for the Register and its members in a half hour DVD. I would thoroughly recommend it as it makes good viewing. The DVD is available, priced £10.00, including P&P from the Register - please contact Carol Cooper, see Scammell Mart.