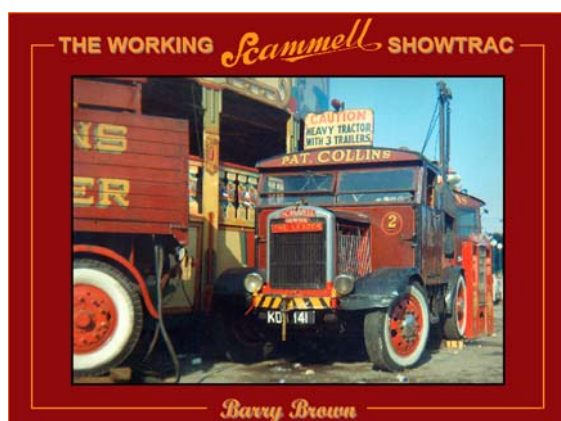


“The Working Scammell Showtrac” by Barry Brown

Book Review by Jim Wells



The second book on fairground Scammells to be reviewed in two issues of the Newsletter, “*The Working Scammell Showtrac*” by Barry Brown, covers the 18 Showtracs built in the 1940s. The title of the book gives a clue of what you will (and won’t) find in this book. It features the Showtracs during their working lives, and does not cover the preservation era. The author has been able to source pictures of all eighteen during their working lives, a feat

that it had been suggested was not achievable.

The book is divided into an introductory chapter, followed by a chapter for each Showtrac. The text on the vehicle is short, but very informative and includes details of owners, options supplied with the vehicle, the operating life and the changes made during that time.

The remainder of each chapter is devoted to well captioned pictures. The book includes in excess of 120 photographs including the ones on the front cover of this Newsletter and right. The pictures come from a wide range of sources: official works pictures (for around half of the vehicles), showland family collections and enthusiasts’ collections, and include pictures that many will not have seen before as well as some famous pictures.



Unfortunately a couple of errors appear to have crept through the checking processes. However, this in no way detracts from the achievement of this book. The introduction chapter states that the Showtrac is based on “a standard 20-ton MV chassis”. I would question whether this should read “MU”. In addition, it has been suggested that the pictures captioned as Mrs John Studt’s Showtrac at the Scammell works (one of those not fitted with a coachbuilt body) are not actually of a Showtrac. This appears to have arisen because the works pictures were mis-labelled. As I said, these errors do not detract from the overall book - a more comprehensive survey of the Showtrac you could not hope to find, and it is highly recommended.

The Working Scammell Showtrac, by Barry Brown. Eighty black and white pages with colour pictures appearing on the inside and outside of the front and rear covers. Published by the Fairground Heritage Trust and available from Carol Cooper of the Scammell Register for £12 plus £1.40 postage and packing, see Scammell Mart.