

Great Dorset Steam Fair 2007

by Carol Cooper

After a somewhat damp season, to put it mildly, it was great for everyone involved to have a completely dry Dorset. The Register lorry was there and attracted a great many visitors, existing Members and new faces. The site for our display had been allocated by Dave Hillier who, together with his wife Pauline, organise the Commercial Vehicle Section of the show. A big thank you must be extended to all of the individuals who gave their time so generously and helped out on the lorry, making this a very successful event for the Register. The impact of the lorry was enhanced by the vehicles parked up by it and a thank you must be extended to the owners, C J Evans for the 1946 chain driven Scammell showman's tractor and Christine Carter for her 1941 R100 Heavy Artillery Tractor displaying its smart new paintwork returning it to the colours of its 1950-1970s RAF service.



Missed by many this year was Jack Kimp who was unable at the last minute to attend. Many people asked after Jack and asked for their regards to be passed on.

For the Scammell enthusiast there was plenty to see with exhibits ranging from the 1926, S10 artic owned by the Hacker family to the 1980 Scammell Crusader 6 x 4 recovery of P Bascombe. Static displays of models and pictorial exhibits were also represented and just along from the Register lorry was the Mechanical Horse Club whose members put on a display of these little Scammells manoeuvrability in the ring every day.

Of particular interest was the 1943 Scammell Pioneer wrecker "Nemesis" entered by Z Lea. This lorry looks like no other Pioneer. It was bought from the army in 1964 by Caffyns who sent it to Autotech at Folkestone for a coach built "chariot" body and a unique bonnet to be fitted. It was sold by Caffyns in 1988 and "disappeared" for some time. I do know that some time after this Peter Webb, an independent showman, stored it in an industrial yard in Hampshire that my father owned. It was acquired by its current owner in 2006 in need of heavy restoration with only two



photographs of the vehicle in its Caffyns' livery to work from. The front end is still being worked on as it is not yet exactly right but it looked resplendent in the Dorset sun and won the Trevor Williams trophy for Best Old Breakdown Commercial Vehicle.

Another interesting example was late entry 365, a 1952 lorry originally owned by Shell-Mex & BP and used as a petroleum tanker unit from 1952 until 1965. It was travelled by West Country showman, Joseph Heal, from 1965 to 1974 and named Bristol City. It is currently being restored by the new owner Mr Andrew Langly and his family. This was one of several Scammells being shown mid restoration, which makes for interesting exhibits which inform the public by illustrating, not only the actual workings of the vehicles, but also the amount of work that goes into running such a piece of machinery. As an observer you can't help but think from overheard comments that many members of the public assume that they need little work or resources.



The Scammell representatives took an active part in all of the commercial vehicle parades as they do every year. The Saturday was particularly memorable as the Walters family and friends decided to get revenge on the commentator John Collins for the Commentator's award of a rubber chicken in 2006 by stringing a number of vehicles including several Scammells together using rigid bars with a Landrover up front "pulling" them in. This caused much amusement in the crowd as well as in the commentary box as numbers were rapidly recorded and an overall commentary ensued. This year's rubber chickens were awarded to Graham Germany and Tina



Williams following a very pink themed Friday parade with decorated vehicle, drivers and passengers.

Joe Freer attended with his 45 ton chaindrive, also seen at Croxley and featured in Kay Townsend's book on the Forgotten Scammells, see Scammell Mart. A familiar face who was not entered into this section but still made it across the site on two occasions for the ring parades was

Peter Rawlins in the showland ballast tractor "The Showman". Peter made the effort to cross the site as a tribute to his Mum Molly



who was the previous owner of this vehicle and a regular exhibitor in the commercial section for many years. Sadly Molly passed away last year shortly after Dorset 2006 which she attended despite her failing health. She made her final journey on her beloved Scammell and is missed by all of us who were privileged to know her.

Once again a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this a

successful and enjoyable Great Dorset Steam Fair for the Scammell Register.

And finally, John Attlee is seen driving the REME Museum Scammell Contractor around the Playpen at the Great Dorset, photo by Gyles Carpenter.

