

Scammells Return to the Commercial Motor Show

by Mike Thomas

In April 2008 issue of the Register Newsletter, I announced that the Register had been invited to exhibit at the Commercial Vehicle Motor Show at the NEC. We did and it was a great success!

With only four weeks notice, the lead up to the show was frantic! Tony Jordan and Parry Davis both pulled out all the stops and had their lorries repainted for the show - for which we are extremely grateful. This meant that, for the first time in over 20 years, Scammell once again had a stand at the Commercial Vehicle Show which was held at the NEC from the 15th to the 17th of April, 2008.

After all the preparation, the two lorries arrived on the Saturday before the show. Tony's is pictured, ready for unloading from his car trailer - an operation closely supervised by his companion Kai.



A photo shoot had been organised outside the Halls before the lorries were moved into place. The photo of the line up, kindly supplied by TransPennine Publishing, includes our two Scammells and the Comber Transport ERF 2KV which shared our stand.



Inside Hall 17, Register Committee Member, Parry Davis displayed his Highwayman, registration 210 GYR, fresh from the paint shop.

This vehicle is very special to Parry, son of Harry, one of the Davis Brothers, as it worked for them from 1963 till 1968. It is seen here with Parry and his elder brother, Reg, posing for the camera!

Originally owned by Shell as an MU, it was rebuilt by Davis Brothers in 1963. They replaced the original Meadows engine with a Leyland 680 and fitted the Highwayman cab. Beautifully restored, it is once again owned by the Davis family and appears in their livery.



Alongside the Highwayman was our photographic display. The stand was very popular, with many commenting on how nice it was to see historic vehicles back at the show and how it brought back happy memories of their early careers or in some cases their childhood when they had been taken out with their father during school holidays!

During the show, Member Tony Jordan displayed his newly repainted Scarab in the Atrium outside the halls. This vehicle was especially relevant as, back in 1948, the Scarab was launched at the Show.



The one which appeared there can be seen clearly on the left of the Scammell stand in the lovely photograph of the 1948 combined car and commercial show, the first one after the war, held at Earls Court. The photo featured on one of a series of postcards printed by

Vintage Roadscene Magazine and handed out at the 2008 show. It is reproduced with the kind permission of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

Sixty years on, Tony's was displayed in the livery of MA Jordan Car Transportation Services and, like the one which appeared in 1948, has a white bonnet.



Tony's Scarab is 6533 UK. He describes it as a lovely little lorry and says it is a real favourite at shows, often getting more interest than the bigger members of the fleet. It was new to Star Aluminium in Wolverhampton.

On behalf of all members, I would like to express my thanks to all those who worked so hard to "man" the stand - we were rushed off our feet. Sue Hanson and Parry and Sheila Davis were with me all three days, Brian and Christine Carter helped on Tuesday, Dave Walker on Wednesday and John Collins on Thursday. Thanks also to Brian for all his efforts in sorting the very popular photographic display.

We are indebted to Vintage Roadscene Magazine for the invitation to attend and to the Managing Editor, Alan Earnshaw, for all his help before and during the show.

After it was all over, he emailed me saying “On behalf of both the CV Partnership and the Roadscene editorial team, may I thank you all for the wonderful effort that each and every one of you put into the display of your vehicles - you were all a credit to the vintage and classic vehicle movement.”

My thanks also go to the Show organisers, and especially, Tony Young (the CV Show Manager) and his team for making it possible. I think the last word should go to Tony when he said: - “We were all delighted with the vintage Scammell lorries at the show as they were a very welcome addition to the biggest and most successful CV Show ever; along with the other heritage displays they really did the business, attracting a lot of interest and comment. They added a new dimension of affectionate enthusiasm from visitors and exhibitors. I hope we’ll see another selection of ‘Golden Oldies’ adding depth to next year's CV Show too.”

Here’s looking forward to the CV Show 2009 and our continued involvement.