

The Scammell Register at the Pickering Traction Engine Rally

by Mike Thomas

It's many years since I was last at the Pickering Traction Engine Rally and indeed three years since I was last on holiday. So this year my wife Bridget, dog Morag and I set off for two weeks in the North Yorkshire Moors to coincide with the rally. Bridget and Morag enjoyed the Moors when I was at the rally.

Member Neil Hamilton had kindly agreed to look after the Register photographic display, ably assisted by his wife, brother in law and sister in law. Parry had generously supplied his gazebo which was set up next to Neil's Junior



Constructor. Also helping was Amos Bodsworth seen here in pursuit of runaway son, Cameron!

Unfortunately, we had appalling weather on the first night - a large area of the showground was flooded - and Parry's gazebo was seriously damaged. As always, Register Members sprung into action to assist with temporary repairs to the twisted legs, notably Ivor, Alwyn and the rest of the Stafford "clan" (I think there were 9 of them in total!) and Dave Weedon. The Staffords adopted the low tech approach - a splint made from wood and blue string to tackle the first leg, while Dave went high tech using angle iron and electricians' ties for the others! The repair held out until the very last day when we performed the last rites on the gazebo - with sincere apologies to Parry!

The Staffords had three Scammells in attendance, all looking superb in their maroon liveries. They were, from left, Alwyn's 1958 Highwayman, originally with BRS



in the West Country. It spent part of its career in America pulling trailers in a circus. Next is Barry's 1954 ex Shell MU15, OLU 302, with Scammell coupling and a nicely matched Scammell tanker trailer from 1937. Finally, in front, is another MU15, Ivor's 1947 drawbar tractor, LTW 419. Interestingly, the plate shows it as an LA15 - see John Fadelle's notes elsewhere. It was originally number 70 in the Crow Carrying fleet. A really nice line up looked after by a great bunch of lads with a superb northern sense of humour - the cheerful banter never seemed to stop!



I was delighted that Dave Weedon, despite bringing his Rotinoff and even wearing a Rotinoff T-shirt had brought one of his collection of Scammells, the splendid Contractor in the green and white livery of Scotts - a proper lorry!

Donald Cook was there with "Septimus" his ex mines rescue 4x4 Mountaineer, 625 HVO, also in green livery. Donald told me he also owns the ex Siddle Cook Constructor, SPT 600 and has kindly offered to write an article for a future Newsletter on Siddle Cook and that lorry in particular.



I really enjoyed the rally, finding 18 Scammells, including those pictured in the colour section. My thanks for everyone who helped "man" the photographic display, but especially to Neil and his relatives for transporting it and setting it up.

Evening Celebration

Prior to the rally, I had written to members whom I thought may be there or who lived within driving distance, suggesting a celebratory "do" in a pub near the showground. So it was that 43 Register Members and their guests met on the Friday evening. After a few beers, a buffet, lots of Scammell chat, a raffle and an auction, we saw the first public showing of the new Register DVD. It proved very popular, with 8 copies sold there and then. Given the huge success of the meeting, I suggested that, as I had started things rolling, all it needed was for someone to come forward and offer to act as Northern Co-ordinator. I'm delighted that willingly took up the challenge! He has various ideas for meetings "up North" and, as a minimum, hopes to make the evening Pickering "do" an annual event. All he needs is your support and ideas. So please contact him on . The best time is between 18.00 and 19.00 and weekends. Once anything is planned, we'll put the details in the Newsletter.

Other Regional Events

It occurred to me that there are other regions where we have clusters of Members who may not necessarily be in a position to travel to Tring or Swindon for the National meetings. So how about some volunteers for other Regional Co-ordinators? All we need are volunteers to act as a focal point and arrange local get-togethers, perhaps coinciding with shows. Areas which spring to mind are Ireland, where we have 11 between the north and the south, Scotland (9), Wales (12) and even individual counties, for example 21 in Hertfordshire, 34 in Kent and 20 in Essex. So what about it as an idea for 2009? Let me know and I'll publish the details.