

Fairground Scammells at Dingles

by Jim Wells

The September 2006 Fairground Weekend at Dingles Steam Museum in Devon, the new home of the Fairground Heritage Trust featured several fairground Scammells.

Showtracs *Dragon* and *Gladiator* were new to Anderton and Rowland in 1946 and are still owned by the firm. They are normally resident at Dingles but still see occasional service with A&R. *Gladiator* is possibly the only Showtrac to have been used every year since new.



Routeman *The Mustang* is now owned by the Fairground Heritage Trust, having been sold with R Edwards & Sons *Joy Car Dodgems* whose floor plates it carried. The 30 car dodgem track (which is big, even by today's standards) has been built up, and is tested and insured for public riders. This picture shows it carrying the track of the Edwards's *Motor Racing on Tour Brooklands Speedway*.



Highwayman showland conversions *The Moonraker* and *The Enterprise* are owned by Register member Frank Edwards, and pictured by Keith Hamilton, in the colour section opposite. *The Moonraker* was purchased around 1974 and was in use when the family firm of

R Edwards & Sons still travelled. It is the third Scammell to carry the name, the first two being a chaindrive and a Showtrac conversion (CHK 652) which was sold to the late Roger Austin. *The Enterprise* was purchased in the late 1970s when the firm was travelling and conversion work begun, but it has only recently been completed.

Rather than carrying a lighting set - a second engine and dynamo, the dynamos on these lorries are driven by the main engine via a power take off in Showtrac style, using parts obtained from Scammell and fitted by the Edwards family. Two sets of these parts were purchased and used to convert two tractors to Showtracs: CHK 652 mentioned above and FEV 585 *Churchill*. When these lorries were retired some of the parts were removed, and were re-used on these Highwayman conversions.



The Rocket, a 45 ton chaindrive is one of ten chaindrives sold into fairground use by Scammell after the end of WWII. This one went to the Heal family of Bristol, and is still owned by them. Restored over the winter of 1979/80 it now lives at Dingles and has recently been joined by Charles Heals's Orton living wagon. When I visited *The Rocket* was parking inside and was difficult to

photograph - thanks to Keith Hamilton for permission to use his picture from an earlier visit. A book on the chaindrives is being researched by showland author Kay Townsend, and is due to be published later this year.

And finally, Highway ballast tractor *Illustrious* is owned by Register member Phil Vanstone and is part of his collection of fairground transport. It was new to Stamps



and subsequent owners include showmen Jimmy Rogers and Mick Goulding who used it with his gallopers.

The museum is now closed for the winter, but re-opens for the on the 31st March 2007 with a new name - the Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre. See the Fairground Heritage Trust website

(<http://www.fairground-heritage.org.uk>) for details.