

# 2003 SACREWELL RALLY

Report by **Peter Jackson** with photographs by **Rudi Michetschlager**

The 7th Miniature Steam and Engineering Gathering, organised by the Peterborough Society of Model Engineers in conjunction with the Sacrewell Farm and County Centre at their site near Peterborough, was held over the weekend of July 19th and 20th. Once again the weather was perfect, plenty of sunshine and a warm breeze. Out of a total of fifty-five miniature engines entered, two were not quite ready for steaming and, with ten absentees, there were forty-four engines in steam. Most of the well-known engine makers were present in model form in scales between 2" and 6".

The 4" scale Garrett 7NHP agricultural engine, using the castings from Robert Whitehead, is proving to be a popular model with five examples on show. Peter Denny and Ken Chamberlain built their engines together, between 1997 and 2000, with T. Landsbury building his engine over a 2-year period as a retirement project, completing in 1998. Frank Johnson's Garrett 'Clipston Belle' was built in 12 months, and the engine replaced the one stolen the previous year. The most travelled entrant was Bernie Fairbank who came down from Lancashire with his Garrett, his first engine and completed in 12 months.

Phil Morgan, Dave Holland, John Cooke and Mike Sanders were keeping the 4" scale Foster single agricultural engine flag flying, while George Toyne and Tony Baldwin had 4" scale Foster DCC road locomotives. Peter Spikines made his 3" scale Foster DCC from 4" scale drawings, machining all parts from the solid.

Burrell Compound road locomotives running were Pip Smith's and Ron Todd's 4½" scale DCC and Chris Smith's 4" scale SCC models. 3" scale models of Plastows' single cylinder design were by Henry Peck, Paul Riley, and Brian Reeve, and in the exhibition shed Tony Edward's 'not quite finished' model. Pete Jackson's

*Pictured is George Toyne's 4" scale Foster DCC Road Locomotive.*



3" scale dredging tractor 'Suffolk' has been on the rally fields for sixteen years without seeing another one steaming, but this year Peter Nixon brought his 'Suffolk' along for its first rally. Four makes of steam lorry were present: John Sanderson's Thornycroft, best outside steamer at the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition at Donington in 2002; Tony Webster's 3" scale Fowler; Mick Wood's 3" scale Atkinson; and Melvin Green's 4" scale Yorkshire.

The 2" scale engines present were Harold Garner's and Doug Crampton's 'Durham & North Yorkshire', while John Lewin had a 2" scale 'Minnie'. Not many 3" scale Wallis & Stevens 'Simplicity'

rollers are seen on the rally fields, but there was one present on the Sunday, brought along by Ivan Houghton.

The youngest entrants were Jack Eyres and Mathew Coulson steaming their Mamod and Wilsco engines. Being a little on the small side for the mile long grand parade, the engines were taken round on the trailer of Dave Coulson's 4" scale Coulson & Weir chain driven engine. The larger scale engines were Roy Mosley's 6" scale Ruston Proctor road tractor completed in 2002. Roy has managed to get it painted over the winter. Also in 6" scale was Eddie Lancaster's vertical boiler Burrell tractor.

*Chris Smith's 4" scale Burrell Single Crank Compound Road Locomotive and 4" scale Fowler Water Cart. The engine was built between 1996 and 2000.*



*T. Landsbury's 4" scale Garrett 7NHP Agricultural Engine, built over 2 years as a retirement project, completed in 1998.*



In the exhibition shed were 1" scale Minnies and 1½" scale Allchins, so there were engines of all scales to be seen. A good selection of exhibits covering fairground, railways and workshop tools was on display. The Peterborough Aero Club had a static display of aeroplanes. Down at the watermill, which was working over the weekend, the model boat club had a display of static models and on the millpond sailing took place. The farm centre has a good selection of farming by-gones, threshing drum, farm wagons and carts, stationary engines and most types of machines which the engines drove. To finish the weekend off, a flypast of the V wing 'Stealth' aeroplane and its fighter escort took place around 5 o'clock. ▲



*Above right: Pip Smith's 4½" scale Burrell Road Locomotive, built over a 2½ year period from his own patterns. Pip is seen making some adjustments, assisted by Peter Denny (kneeling), and Ron Todd.*



*Right: In the foreground, No. 35, Dave Holland's 4" scale Foster Single Agricultural engine, bought as an unfinished project and completed in 2002. The other engines (from left to right) are Peter Spikines' 3" scale Foster DCC; John Sanderson's Thornycroft wagon; and Eddie Lancaster's 6" scale Burrell tractor.*

