

# SACREWELL RALLY 2005

Article by Peter Jackson with photographs by Rudi Mitcheschlanger

The Peterborough Society of Model Engineers held the 9th Miniature Steam Gathering on 16th/17th July last year at the Sacrewell Farm & Country Centre. The large number of exhibitors – 53 engines and 24 static displays – enjoyed one of the hottest weekends of the season. Amongst the exhibitors was Paul Salmon who came down from Lincolnshire with his 4" scale Burrell DCC Road Locomotive. The engine was built by the owner between 1999 and 2004 and is in its second year on the rally field. The engine was finished to a very high standard and runs and sounds as good as it looks.

Colin Allan has been building his 3" scale Savage Steam Tractor for about two years. Drawings and castings are from Little Samson Models Ltd, and the steel boiler from Bell Boilers. All the machining, gear cutting and fabrication were carried out in the owner's workshop. Colin estimates about two more years will be needed to complete the tractor.

One does not see too many new 4½" scale Burrell Single Cylinder Agricultural Engines on the rally fields, but at Sacrewell Peter Simpson brought along a nicely finished example. Peter purchased the engine partially built and completed it in 2004.

David Wilkinson presented the oldest traction engine model in attendance over the weekend – a 4" scale Aveling & Porter Road Locomotive which was built in 1949 for exhibiting at the London Model Engineering Show. David had this engine bought for him as a Christmas present in 1999.

My own 3" scale Suffolk Dredging Tractor has attended all of the nine Sacrewell gatherings held so far, being joined by Peter Nixon who has steamed his Suffolk at the rally weekend for the last

*Pictured at the rally, left to right, are Ken Chamberlain with his 4" scale Garrett; Lee Betteridge with his 3" scale Suffolk Dredging Tractor; and Roy Newman with his 2½" scale Fowler B6 Super Lion.*



two years. At the event last year they were joined by a third Suffolk which is owned by Lee and Melanie Betteridge. Bought at the end of 2004, it has been refurbished and painted during the winter. This was the first rally that Lee has attended and is now getting to grips with the firing and running of this unusual model.

At the rally over the years there have been Atkinson, Yorkshire, Fowler and Thornycroft wagons steaming – but no Fodens. This is set to change in the future when Doug Crampton of the Peterborough Society gets his Foden completed. Doug bought the Foden as a part built project and has converted it from a flat bed to a tipping chassis and the engine is very near completion. With some burning of the midnight oil Doug got the wheels on and was towed around the rally field by Lee Nicholl's 3½" scale Aveling & Porter Road Tractor. Roy Goddard also had his Aveling & Porter Road Tractor in steam. Both of these engines were built from Maxitrak kits

and both were completed in 2002. Steam rollers have been in short supply but Dave Robertson had his 4½" scale Garrett in steam – just as well, as the road up to the site had been tarred and chipped only the day before the rally, and as usual with modern rollers the chippings were left laying loose. Ian Houghton had his Simplicity Roller at the rally on the Sunday. Ivan has been restoring this roller to its present finished condition for two years.

Among the static displays were Paul Beetson and John Bishop showing their fairground models; and Barry Simpson entertaining visitors with his Pell Mini 20 Note Harmonette Organ. Also, down at the watermill, which was running over the weekend, was the Peterborough Area Model Boat Club with a static display. This year the rally will be held on the 15th/16th July. ▲

*Pictured below is Henry Peck driving his 3" scale Burrell.*



*Lee Nicholls is pictured with his 3½" scale Aveling & Porter Road Tractor towing Doug Crampton on his 3" scale Foden Wagon.*

