



NBVTC

news

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Who is Who in the NBVTC



Chairman

Malcolm Foster
07836 525672
m.foster583@btinternet.com

Vice Chairman

Peter Godwin
07789 065886
petergodwin6354@gmail.com



Secretary

Ernie Thomas
07732 906704
erniethomas23@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer

Mem Secretary

Roger Tyerman
07780 775601
roger.tyerman@talktalk.net



Events Coordinator

Richard Wray
07921 461542
r_wray@hotmail.com

Website

Daniele Casanova
07760 306815
daniele@daniele-photography.co.uk



Newsletter

Sandi Stockham
07802 961112
sandistockham@gmail.com

Committee

Steve Anguish
07961 895709
stephen.anguish@sky.com



Committee

Robert Clarke
07834 705120
rob1_16@hotmail.com

Committee

Brian Sear
07742 605573



Committee

Chris Singer
07887 952661
moulsoe@gmail.com

Committee

Roger Stockham
07841 277823
rogerstockham@gmail.com



Committee

Haydn Morris
07887 578642
haydn@fjmorris.co.uk

Committee

Robin Warner
07811 859006
peggy.warner@hotmail.co.uk



Ed's Notes

As I sit here watching the world go round in Puget Sound (looking at some odd ships, barges, seals, sea lions and birds) I reflect on the developments of our magazine. It doesn't seem long ago in 2008 when I started on this venture and to produce a 20+ pg magazine in black and white for 120 members it seemed quite a task, I soon got the hang of it. In the last couple of years the membership increased and the club grew in leaps and bounds. We needed the magazine to reflect the upward turn the club has been taking. So here you have it, a full colour magazine that reflects the professional look the club is aiming for. At this point I want to mention Morton's and in particular Lorraine without whom the printing process would not have been possible... many thanks!

We have another good line up of articles in store for you. Roger and I may have missed a few club events this past year, but we were certainly here for the Sherington match so I was able to bring you a full report. Unfortunately we missed the Christmas road run at John Starsmore but kindly Richard Wray has sent in an account of the day and Dan sent in some great photos. Dan has been quite busy recently trying out the new camera and writing some amazing stories his recent story in Tractor magazine (which we have not yet seen) I am told it is very good! Dan has sent in a variation of this for our magazine, no bias in his choice of machinery! a very good read indeed. Newark seems quite long a go now but thanks to Alleex F. we were able to squeeze in this one event, which the club fully promotes and does it well. We got back just in time to attend one day and was pleased to see the way the stand looked specially with the two MF tractors on display. I understand the club picked up a few more club members that weekend, good to see the club getting its name out there.

So spring is around the corner.... and we have a diary full of events. Our Haversham ploughing match on the 22nd of March, if you haven't received an email with an entry form and details of the match we have included this at the back of your magazine. It has been some time since we have ploughed at Haversham so really looking forward to going back there again. Richard has been busy again planning some club visits ("NBVTC on Tour" it's got a ring to it!) the preliminaries are advertised here so if you are interested in joining give Richard a ring and get your name down. Please do come and support the Newport Pagnell Young Farmers on May the 30th they are hosting the Bucks County show this year and is being held in Hanslope, so no excuse, very local to most of us. Roger and I will most certainly be there! As we go into press, the club meet weekend of the 13th and 14th of June at Forest Farm has been confirmed and we will be holding our summer road from there on the Sunday. There is plenty of camping area on the site so come and join us. More details of the weekend events will be posted on the website, emailed and in your next magazine.

See you all soon...

Sandix



The next magazine will be due out in June, if you have any material to be included please get it to me by the beginning of May. My email address is sandistockham@gmail.com

Cover Photo

Club member Pete Shirley ploughing in the horticultural class with his Yanmar TM1301 at the Sherington ploughing match. Pete took third place in his class.

Diary of Events & Shows

March 22nd	NBVC plough match ~ Haversham MK
May 2nd-4th	Rushden Cavalcade ~ Rushden Northants
May 17th	Chiltern Hills Rally nr Aylesbury Bucks
May 20th	NBVC visit to Maskell's ~ Wilstead Beds
May 24th&25th	Lamport Steam Festival ~ Lamport Hall Northants
May 24th&25th	Carrington Rally near Boston Lincs
May 30th	Bucks Young Farmers County Show ~ Hanslope MK
June 13th&14th	NBVC Wk End Forest Farm Wicken (Rd run Sunday)
Jun 20th&21th	Bolnhurst Vintage & Country Fayre ~ Bolnhurst Beds
Jun 27th&28th	Bloxham Steam Rally ~ Banbury Oxon
Jul 4th&5th	Hollowell Steam Rally ~ Hollowell Northants
July 4th&5th	Prestwood Rally ~ Prestwood Bucks

The NBVC will be holding a ploughing match on the 22nd of March at Crossroads Farm in Haversham. An entry form has been included in the back of your magazine.

The Newport Pagnell YFC is hosting the Bucks county show on May 30th held at Spinney Lodge Farm in Hanslope. The NBVC has been asked to support this event with members bringing vintage tractors/vehicles to be displayed and parade around the main ring. For more information please contact Richard Wray on 07921 461542.

Blakesley Show on the 1st of August on a new site at Maidford Crossroads static tractors only (no working area). Possible ploughing match and working area on the 15th of August (TBC) at the old site in Blakesley. For more information contact Gerald Bootman on 01327 261491.

NBVC ON TOUR

H. Maskell and Son Museum Visit (Duck End Lane, Wilstead, Bedford, Beds. MK45 3HP)

The Maskell family has been steam boiler makers and engineers since 1939. Over the years they have built up a collection of steam engines, vintage tractors, lorries and cars and have set up a private museum. The NBVC will be visiting the museum in Wilstead on the 20th May.

There is a suggested donation of £5 per person for entry and all proceeds will go to the Milton Keynes medical detection dog's charity. Club members are to get themselves to the museum under their own steam! (Forgive the pun) by 7pm on the 20th May.

S.E. Davis & Son Collection Visit

S.E. Davis & Son are a large plant hire and contracting company in Worcestershire. They have built up a very impressive collection of over 600 vehicles ranging from steam engines, tractors, caterpillars, draglines and most things in between!

We will be putting on a bus from Newport Pagnell football club on a Sunday morning, travelling to Redditch spending the day looking around the collection as well as the modern plant hire side of the company and then return back to Newport in the late afternoon. Refreshments will be provided but lunch will not. This trip will be limited to 50 spaces and cost will be £15 per person including travel a donation to the chosen charity of Mr Davis. Date TBC (We are looking at April/May 2015). Confirmation of the date will be posted on the website and announced at club meetings. Full payment will be needed in order to book your place.

Please contact Richard Wray 07921461542 (evenings please) to put your name down and if you require more details on both of these events.

A Note from the Chairman

Hi everybody!

It seems like an awfully long way away now but I do hope that you all had a good Christmas and new year.

Well here it – as I spoke to you about at our last club meeting – the Tractor Club newsletter in colour. I hope you like it. Special thanks to Sandi for all her hard work in organising this. I know it still takes her an awfully long time to plan, gather material and write the newsletter and I'm sure, like me, you all appreciate all the hard work she puts into what I feel are excellent newsletters.

Our quiz night in December was really well attended and many people have said it was the best quiz night we have had to date. The raffle raised a phenomenal amount of money - thank you so much Ellie and Fay for selling the tickets and to all of the people who donated prizes – I'm sure there must have been a record number of raffle prizes this year. Your generosity never fails to astound me. You did a fantastic job again Ernie well done – can't wait to see what happens next year.

Although it was a bit hit and miss with the weather for a while the ploughing match at Michael Cook's in January was another great day with almost fifty tractors ploughing. Unfortunately we were unable to put up the marquee on the Saturday due to extremely high winds and we did wonder if we would have to cancel at one point but we braved it out and with the help of some cattle trucks that we borrowed for cooking and booking in we managed. Despite it being very cold the rain held off and although the conditions were not ideal we had a successful day. Thanks' to all those who braved the elements to attend and a special thank you to Michael for letting us use his land again. Plans are now afoot for our next ploughing match at Haversham in March.

The first tractor event of the year will soon be upon us and I hope to see some of our club members at Malvern. The club does not have a stand there but many of us do attend in order to support the event.

Our day visits out have proved to be a great success and Richard is at present in the process of organising our next one – watch this space!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our club members for their continued support and to the committee for their hard work and dedication.

Malcolm

Club Nights

We meet at the NPFC on the 3rd Weds of every month for a prompt 7:30 pm start.

March 18th Stuart Lamb ~ Talk and Film on British Railways

April 15th Ian Rogerson ~ "The Turkey Man"

Please check our website at www.nbvtc.org.uk for any changes or updates.



Sherington Ploughing Match

The NBVTC held their annual Sherington match on the 11th of Jan 2015 by kind permission of Michael Cook. Our first Sherington match was held in 2013 when the club was offered some 100 acres of ploughing land. Farm owner Michael Cook wanted at the time to commemorate the life of his son Peter Cook who ran the farm and who died of cancer in 2011. Every year since Sherington has become an annual event when the club raises money from the entry fees of the match by request of Michael for Willen Hospice where Peter ended his days.

Heavy rain the week prior to the match made conditions pretty good for ploughing but the heavy winds on the Saturday before made

T: Max Cherry on his Fordson N took 1st in the trailed class

M: Brian Reynolds competing on the horticultural class with his Anzani tractor

B: Also in the horti class, Dave Williams and Robin Cook both on Crawley tractors

it impossible to put up our usual catering marquee. Can we gamble and see what Sunday morning would bring? A decision was made that we would forgo the marquee and instead would borrow a couple of cattle trucks one for the cooking and the other for booking people in. Not your ideal set up but it worked. So thank you Chris for suggesting it and for going to the trouble of getting the trucks at such a short notice!

We had 50 tractors booked in but five of those did not make it on the day. No ladies booked this year but I was really pleased to see six had booked in for our ever-growing horticultural class. Other classes were vintage trailed, vintage mounted, classic and novice. We have another club members passing on from the novice class, well-done Rob! He was so confident he wasn't in the points he left before the prize giving.

It is always a pleasure to see the Cook family arriving in their usual style. Dad Richard competing with his Lamborghini crawler and the new trailed plough he bought of Richard Wray. It was the first time the plough was used behind the Lambo, but Richard hopes with some further adjustments to beat son James in the trailed class which both have been competing for that top place since last year. Other son Evan was ploughing with his usual IH McCormick in the classic class and took a very respectful third place. Young Robin was competing for the first time with his new Crawley in horticultural class; unfortunately Robin came just out of the points.

What an enjoyable day we had, the atmosphere was certainly noticeable and quoted by so many people who we spoke to. The results were quite surprising; the horticultural class surpassed our normal top scoring vintage trailed class. All six competitors in the

T: Ploughing in the trailed class Richard Cook on his rare Lamborghini crawler and son James on the Same DA30

M: Here son Evan with his McCormick in the classic class

M: George Singer with his Ford 3000 also in the classic class

B: And also in the classic class Oliver Graham on the MF135



Classes	Horticultural						Classic									
Plot Nos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Opening	16	14	12	13	13	13	14	10	13	7	7	10	8	9	9	
Start	17	15	11	13	14	10	11	10	9	5	9	7	8	7	8	
Seed Bed	16	16	16	15	16	14	8	9	11	6	11	8	9	11	9	
Firmness	16	15	16	16	16	14	8	10	11	6	11	8	8	11	9	
U'formity	16	16	15	16	16	13	7	9	10	6	12	7	8	11	10	
Finish	16	14	13	14	17	12	9	7	9	5	5	11	7	10	10	
Ins&Outs	14	11	11	14	12	13	10	8	12	9	10	11	9	11	9	
Gen. Ap	15	14	12	13	14	12	9	9	10	7	10	9	8	11	9	
Total	126	115	106	114	118	101	76	72	85	51	75	71	65	81	73	

Classes	Classic (Cont)								VMounted							
Plot Nos.	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	26	27	29	30	31	32	33	34	
Opening	16	8	15	13	10	9	12	12	13	8	5	7	14	7	9	
Start	13	6	9	11	11	9	10	12	10	12	9	5	8	10	7	
Seed Bed	14	8	14	13	10	12	9	14	15	8	11	10	9	10	8	
Firmness	13	8	13	13	10	12	9	14	14	10	10	8	10	10	9	
U'formity	14	7	13	12	9	11	8	14	15	8	12	12	13	12	10	
Finish	16	8	11	15	11	6	9	10	12	3	10	9	0	7	6	
Ins&Outs	12	10	10	11	10	11	9	11	12	5	10	8	4	9	8	
Gen. Ap	14	7	14	14	9	11	10	13	13	8	10	12	7	10	9	
Total	112	62	99	102	80	81	76	100	104	62	77	71	65	75	66	

Classes	VMounted (Cont)							Novice					VTrailed			
Plot Nos.	35	36	37	38	39	40	42	44	45	46	47	50	51	52		
Opening	11	10	8	9	10	11	11	14	10	11	14	15	15	15		
Start	13	9	8	10	8	14	7	9	10	10	12	11	12	14		
Seed Bed	11	7	9	11	10	13	10	13	11	11	12	13	14	16		
Firmness	10	7	10	11	10	12	8	13	12	11	11	12	14	15		
U'formity	12	8	9	12	12	12	8	11	8	8	10	12	14	15		
Finish	13	12	6	10	8	12	8	12	11	10	8	16	16	16		
Ins&Outs	8	12	10	10	12	11	10	8	8	9	11	13	14	15		
Gen. Ap	11	8	8	13	12	12	8	12	11	10	10	13	14	16		
Total	89	73	68	86	82	97	70	92	81	80	88	105	113	122		

horticultural class exceeded 100 points as did all three from the trailed class, the average score was 113 points in each class. Outside these two classes only four ploughmen exceeded 100 points and the average score was 80. In fact the top three places in the horti class added together took more on points than any top three in the other classes. I am trying not to sound biased but we saw some phenomenal work achieved here.

And if only the ploughmen who took first or second place in this class would have been NBVTC members, we would have seen a different name engraved on that silver salver. Well done to Max Cherry for taking away the trophy again this year, there really was no need for the vice chairman to go and fetch the trophy back!

Another successful day for the club we took just short of £300 on entry money for Willen Hospice and Ellie did another great job in racking the money in raffle tickets taking £250 for our designated charity this year the MK Hospital Dept of Critical Care. Our sincere thanks to Michael Cook for allowing us the use of his land and to our judges for giving their time to judge for us. It was a bit more difficult to move about in the catering truck his time, but Margaret you did a great job, so thank you!

Results

Novice

1st Rob Clark
2nd Ed Shires
3rd Tom Howe

Vintage Trailed

1st Max cherry
2nd James Cook
3rd Richards Cook

Vintage Mounted

1st Richard Keeves
2nd Clive Milton

3rd Ray Gibbins

Classic

1st Hugo Hoyle
2nd Tom Baird
3rd Evan Cook

Horticultural

1st Graham Soule
2nd Sam Hitchman
3rd Pete Shirley

Peter Cook Trophy

Max Cherry

T: Mick Herdman on his MF65 ploughing in the classic class
M: Also in the classic class was Adrian Lusted with his DB980 fitted with... a front end loader? a new ploughing technique?
B: The Peter Cook trophy was awarded to Max Cherry for the highest score by a NBVTC member





NBVT Christmas Road Run

words Richard Wray ~ photos Daniele Casanova

With the Christmas turkey ordered (well a huge chicken anyway) and the present shopping all done (online this year I'm afraid) by mid November, I thought I was all set! That was until Malcolm reminded us all at the committee meeting that the traditional Christmas road run needed organising from Wicken.

The Starsmore family has kindly let us have a winter road run from Forest farm in Wicken for many years now. This has always been a highlight of the year for me as it's become a really popular and sociable winter meet. Over the years we have covered most of the surrounding villages, and it's usually down to Philip Starsmore to come up with a route of about 15-20 miles each year.

T: Richard Wray with a trailer of spectators behind his MF178

M: Rachel Cook driving the Citroen CV2

B: Robin and Peggy Warner in the Moggy Police car

So I took a drive over to Forest farm to discuss a route with Philip. After a good cup of tea and setting the world to rights (it's never much better afterwards but it makes us feel better!) he suggested we repeat the run from about three years ago. We had covered most of the roads around there and this route had very good feedback last time. So it was agreed that Philip would lead and set the pace and the rest would follow.

Saturday 6th December rolled around and a few of us assembled at the farm to set up for the Sunday. This year would be slightly special as Mr and Mrs Starsmore had Michael (their other son) and his family over from New Zealand for Christmas and Michael would be joining us on the run. The workshop had already been swept out so the tables, chairs and most importantly the grill and Burco were set up and ready for the following day.

Sunday 7th weather looked dry and the yard started to fill up – in all we had around thirty tractors, one Morris Minor Police car and Mrs. Cook's Citroen 2CV (a rare sight these days, which I thought was brilliant!) Everyone was huddling around the excellent fire in the workshop warming up and eating breakfast when the heavens opened - a slight delay was needed! 30 minutes later it dried up and we set off, out of the farm and towards the A5 at Potterspury, then a short run down the A5 to Wakefield estate entrance (this is always a laugh holding the boy racers up on the A5). We then took the estate road through Wakefield, which I'm sure every one of us enjoyed as it's not usually accessible to everyone and there are some really good viewing points along the road. Once back on the public roads we meandered up through the quiet back roads until we ended up in Paulerspury, then on through Pury End and ended up in the middle of Silverstone (always funny to think of 30 vintage tractors trundling through the home

T: Philip Starsmore leading the road run with his Renault 985

M: Rob Clarke on his MF 35X

M: Guy Waugh on his Muir-Hill 121

B: Driving the Ford 4600 was Jessica Hedge





of British motorsport and everything fast at 10mph!) From Silverstone we headed down into Whittlebury, then a short stretch down the A413 before turning off to wiggle through the country lanes and return back to the farm. All in all around 18 miles and a very scenic and enjoyable route.

We had just got back to the yard and once again down came the rain; luckily most of us were diving into Margaret's super soup in the workshop by then so everyone seemed happy. The famous frozen turkey kindly donated by Peter Godwin went to the Gowton gang, who I must say went to a whole new level of dressing up in Victorian outfits and a sleigh pulled by Rudolf the red nosed Massey. Very well done to them, although a land girl and 20's/30's cyclist gave them a run for their money this year as well. I hope that more people make the effort to dress up in the future as it definitely gives the run a good atmosphere.



Once again it was a very successful road run! A big thanks must go to the Starsmore family for allowing us to have it there and sorting the route out, the ladies for the raffle and catering, and all those who attended. It was definitely a good way to kick Christmas off.

T: Rudolf the red nosed Massey, driven by Neville Gowton, and
M: the sleigh behind were the winners of the turkey prize.
B: Fay & Ellie did again a great job selling those raffle tickets



Christmas Quiz

Our yearly quiz took place on Wednesday 17th of December. The football club was certainly buzzing in Newport Pagnell and everyone getting into that Christmas spirit.

We had sixteen teams taking part this year. The winning team the "Hopeful Hill Billys" took first place with a score of 64 points. In second place with a score of 62 points were the "Bar Stewards". The booby prize of wooden spoons was taken by the "Team of 3 & 2" who came last with a score of 49 points.

It was a successful night, our club secretary put on another superb show, the ladies put on another excellent ploughman's lunch and the club raised a phenomenal amount of money for our charity this year. So thank you all!

T: The Newport Pagnell FC buzzing on quiz night
M: John Starsmore and family visiting from New Zealand
B: A box of wine for quiz winners the "Hopeful Hill Billys"





Richard Cook two years ago ploughing at Moulsoe with his newly acquired then Same DA30 DT

Confessions of a Tractor Enthusiast

words and photos Daniele Casanova

I must begin this article with an apology, for I have been biased. All classic and vintage tractors great or small are equally interesting and beautiful, but over the last couple of years at most Club events I have been spending a lot of time around one particular tractor and I have been taking more pictures of it than of any other...

It was a couple of years ago when Club member Richard Cook brought along his newly acquired Same DA30 DT to a ploughing match at Moulsoe farm. This very well maintained, Italian built tractor from the 1950s immediately caught my eye. The tractor featured a twin cylinder, air-cooled diesel engine, whose loud, rhythmic noise could be heard almost anywhere in the field. It also featured a 4WD system, which looked particularly well integrated into the design

and ahead of its time when compared to other British equivalents. Designed for the hilly Italian countryside, the Same DA30 DT was primarily conceived as a 4WD tractor, so much so that not only did its transmission system work well, it also looked very good. It was as if this little tractor were a miniature version of a much bigger and mightier ploughing tractor, and its head turning look certainly attracts a lot of attention.

On the occasion of the annual charity ploughing match that Richard and his family organise on their land in favour of Marie Curie Cancer Care I finally caught up with him to understand why Same has been the brand of choice for his farming business for a number of years. The Cook's journey with Same tractors began in the mid 80s, when they acquired a second hand Same "Saturno 80" for their farming operation in Wales. "My parents bought a farm on the west coast of Wales in 1986 and they needed a tractor on a limited

budget mainly for transport duties or fence posting work", explains Richard. "The Saturno 80 turned out to be the absolute right choice for us. The land on our farm goes from about 8 to 2000 feet above sea level, with some very steep hills. The Same proved to be very good on traction over the challenging terrain and very safe to drive".

The Saturno 80 design featured a lower centre of gravity compared to other tractors, as well as a relatively long wheelbase. This, coupled with having rather large diameter wheels for its size, made this tractor highly capable in terms of traction and stability up and down the hills.

Following on from the positive experience with the Saturno 80, in the early 90s Richard's family eventually bought a Same Antares 130 for the arable farms in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. "The Antares 130 was a very advanced tractor for the time", recalls Richard, "it was very good for transport work thanks to its full 4 wheels brake system. It had a nice cab and was the first tractor for us with an electronic governor and an electronic linkage". To this day the Cook family have remained loyal to the brand and they still operate a Same Titan 190 on their farms.

The most recent tractors they use are Deutz, which now belong to the same group as Same. Their passion for the Same group is also reflected in their classic and vintage tractor collection, which includes some rather unusual tractors for the British countryside. The first Same which was purchased as a collectable tractor was a 1970s Minitauro 60. The tractor was in rather good conditions, only needing new piston rings in its 3 cylinder, 56 horsepower engine. In fact it is in use for some light duties such as grain carting with a

T: The first Same which Richard purchased as a collectable tractor was this 1970s Minitauro 60

M: Loyal to the Same brand to this day Richard uses this Titan 190 on their farm in Buckinghamshire

M: This rare addition to the family collection is the Lamborghini 3403C crawler which Richard uses for competition ploughing

B: An Italian two page brochure for the Same DA30 DT



5 ton trailer, or fence posting.

But it's really been the Same DA30 DT, which has been in the limelight since its first appearance at our local ploughing competitions. "I did not know anything about this model", recalls Richard, "until one day it appeared in an advert at the back of a tractor magazine. My father asked whether I was going to ring or whether he should, because he noticed that my sons had put a big circle around the advert and several arrows pointing to it!"

Richard's search for unusual tractors has recently led to another very interesting addition to the his collection. A very rare Lamborghini 3403C crawler made its debut at their last charity ploughing match. The tractor was found in Ballaymena, Northern Ireland, also through an advert seen on a tractor magazine. The deal was done over the phone and when the tractor turned up on Richard's farmyard it was exactly as described and seen in the pictures. "It started straight away on the button", recalls Richard, "and I have had to learn to use a crawler since! We liked it very much because obviously it is very unusual and rare in Britain. Although when it was made Lamborghini and Same were not yet part of the same group, there is a strong connection for us, it is part of the same farming heritage and comes from the same country, and its 3 cylinder diesel engine is also air cooled."

I am really grateful to Richard and his family who took time to put their collection on display on the occasion of their ploughing match. This also gave me the opportunity to learn more about these tractors that were made... a mere 50 miles from where I come from! The Italian tractor company Same (SAME = Societa' Accomandita Motori Endotermici, that is Limited Partnership Company for Internal Combustion Engines) was founded in 1942 by Francesco and Eugenio Cassani.

Their history, though, began much earlier when in the 1920s they developed and built a tractor powered by a twin cylinder, two stroke

diesel engine capable of 40 HP, the "Cassani 40". Although the tractor never went into production, its design was ahead of its time and gained the Cassani brothers much insight into the engineering of both diesel engines and farm tractors.

In the 1940s Francesco Cassani foresaw the need to provide the farmers with better machinery in order to aid the country in the post war recovery. The Same company was born in 1942 from his vision for delivering innovative solutions in the field of farm tractors and internal combustion engines, whilst at the same time remaining affordable for the farmers. The Same tractors always featured distinct technical solutions, such as the air cooling system for the engines, a concept dear to Francesco Cassani. In 1952 the company produced their first 4 wheel drive tractor, the DA25 DT, followed shortly by the DA30 DT. This solution gave Same tractors a clear advantage in the steep slopes of Italian hills and mountains.

In 1973 Same acquired the Lamborghini Tractors company, founded by Ferruccio Lamborghini who also produced the famous sport cars. The merging gave Same a technical boost particularly in the field of crawler tractors. In 1979 the Swiss manufacturer Huerlimann was also acquired, forming the SLH group, Same-Lamborghini-Huerlimann. Finally in 1995 Same acquired the Deutz-Fahr brand from the German giant Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz, forming the SDF group, Same-Deutz-Fahr. The company is also a major share holder in Deutz AG, one of the main world players in the field of industrial diesel engines. Nowadays the SDF group is a major world manufacturer of tractors and harvesting equipment, with divisions also operating in India, China and Russia.

The original SAME factory was located in Treviglio, near Milan, in Italy. The plant is used today for the production of low to medium power tractors. There is also a museum and a heritage site, which can be seen, online at this address:

www.archivistoricosamedeutz-fahr.com. I'd recommend exploring this website, and like me you might find it very interesting reading the spiritual will of Francesco Cassani.

It begins like this: "In the event of my death, I want my heir to remember that SAME with the help of my poor, dear brother Eugenio was created not for financial speculations, but to give Italy a prestigious industry in the field of tractors and internal combustion engines....". And then again: "...I recommend to the person taking over from me to act, inspired by my values of being an enthusiastic, humble and tenacious worker... I would have many other things to say but I would like to end, giving the people who will continue my work a message to run the company in a healthy and honest way, trusting in their wisdom and integrity...".

I think in today's global market frenzy, where the industries of the past have blended into huge multinational conglomerates, some of

this has been lost. The great manufacturers of the past stemmed from the vision of men like Francesco Cassani, or like John Deere, Cyrus Mc Cormick, Henry Ford, Harry Ferguson, Giovanni Agnelli... A FIAT tractor was different from a Same, a Massey Ferguson or an International; each brand still had some of the DNA from its founder.

I recently visited the LAMMA agricultural exhibition, the first time in many years that I have been to a show like that. Whilst technology is still moving on in leaps and bounds, I must say that nowadays all tractors of different brands look very much the same to me. I suppose the farmers of today buy the tractors, which suit their needs and give the best deal, without worrying too much about the sticker on the bonnet. But on the other hand I think it is very important to preserve the heritage, and the values that inspired people like Francesco Cassani should not be lost.



The Same collection of tractors owned by the Cook family and used amongst other things for ploughing competitions



Alleexx's Travels ~ Newark Show

November saw the final event of the year the Newark tractor show, once again the club were in attendance with our newly acquired boards and banners, judging by the comments burning the old stuff seemed to have given the look of the stand a refresher, also on the stand we managed to squeeze 2 tractors on this year, Malcolm's MF135 and Hayden Morris' MF165.

Once again Richard and Rob braved the elements in a tent but this year were better prepared with a genny, electric fires and electric blankets. The show itself had a feature of MF 100



series tractors but with all the Fergies and Masseys in the feature marquee and no FOFH marquee, exhibits elsewhere seemed a bit thin on the ground. In the George Stephenson hall there was a display of WWI vehicles to commemorate its centenary.

The Saturday auction had quite a bit of "TAT" but Richard managed to find a plough for a lot of money, thanks to "H"s lorry for the transport home. Sunday sort out was no surprise with the lack of hidden gems, only redeeming fact of Sunday was I managed to loose my wallet on field somewhere and by some miracle was handed in complete with money, maybe this is the end of my annuls horrible less.



Just one further comment on the stand Steve Anguish supplied his 47" HD TV playing some HD stuff recorded during the year which really drew the crowds to the stand, big thanks to everybody on the stand.

T: The NBVTC stand in the George Stephenson Hall
M: To commemorate 100 years the display of WWI vehicles
B: The MF100 series was this year's featured tractor

Alleexx's Big Tip

When I was first approached to do some writing for the newsletter it was following on from Dick's Tips but I always felt it was a bit of a pointless exercise trying to give tips to the already knowledgeable members so I tried to write some interesting pieces based on members tractors or anything interesting. But I am going to make an exception this time to offer a big tip.

You may know or not that 2014 I suffered my own annus horribilis following a serious fire at my home. My Dexta, the club boards, signs, tools and equipment were written off, where is the tip in that? You ask, well insurance, even if you are not using your tractor, and it is just parked up doing nothing, or your working on it, it's worth having it insured.

I know we all hate the premiums and the added cost to our hobby but you never know or expect what's around the corner. Who would have thought simply leaving a radio/cd player plugged in could cause such devastation. I've now got a lot of work to restore my Dexta but at least with my policy the small print lets me retain ownership even after being declared a write off. You never get back the true value of your vehicle, but something is better than nothing. Remember keep it insured!

Alleexx.F.



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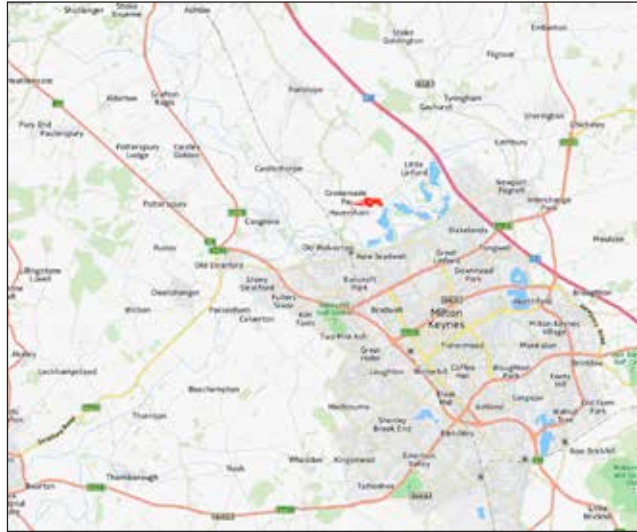
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