

Chairman's Report - Pat Pawsey

The Year's Events:

The Club has had a busy year and has been represented at more events (in excess of 28) than ever before. Following last years AGM we were again at (Abridged list):

- Newark held on 10-11th November
- Isle of Wight Road run rounded the year off.
- Malvern got 2013 off to a flying start unfortunately there was not enough room and will anyone coming this year please make sure that they put FFA exhibitor on their entry form.
- The 13th April was the Kent Heritage Show
- The 20-21st April saw 2nd Eastern Counties Vintage Tractor & Heritage Spectacular on the Norfolk Show Ground, this is an up and coming event and if you haven't been I commend it to you.
- 5th May Merton Farm
- Newby Hall was on 8-9th June and Roger had an excellent turn out of tractors.
- Aldham Old Time the NEET&EC was also on 8-9th.
- 12th June Preston Steam Show,
- The FMPS rally at Long Melford on 6-7th July this is one of my local club's annual rally.
- The Kent County Show held on 12-14th July an annual FFA venue.
- Our Expo this year held at Welland on 26-28th July was well attended and we had an excellent position at this always a great show.
- Glos. Steam Extravaganza 2 – 4th August
- It's Show Time at Purleigh on 11th August another new event for the Club with over 40 acres to play or hone your ploughing skills on.
- 17th August Stockbury Village Show
- Gt Dorset at the end of August was next.
- Barleylands on 14-15 September was tried for the first time thanks to Conrad.
- The Grand Henham Steam Rally was on 21-22nd September
- Rochester & Graves End Ploughing Match 21st September
- Ladies ploughing match nr Canterbury 22nd September
- East Kent ploughing match
- The Southern Area ploughing championships were held at Ingham on 5th October

Still to come this year is Newark and I'm pleased to say that this year we will not be charged to attend as we have been in the past. Also the Northern Area ploughing championships.

The success of any Club, ours included, is dependent on its members being involved in its activities. The Club really is what you make it, it is that simple, if you put little in you will get little out. Most tractor clubs are locally based and like me I'm sure many of you belong to one or two; these clubs have one big advantage over us and that is that they are local. We are not and that is both our strength and our weakness. Our strength lies in being a specialist club that offers services to members dedicated to Ford & Fordson tractors and equipment.

But it is our weakness that I hope to address with your help. Because we cover the whole country we do not have the advantage that other clubs have of "locality" (*short explanation*). Our members want to be able to attend events in their areas that have a Ford & Fordson presence; this is why we need to have other FFA events during the season apart from the Expo. This year we have had a good spread of events to cater for all interests but the problem is that 7 of the 28+ were in East Anglia & 9 were in Kent!

So this is a weakness that can with your help be turned into strength. The committee does not organize any of these apart from the Expo; the members do it themselves so if you want an event in your area, for example at your favourite rally go and talk to the tractor steward, get him on board and we will help you as much as we can. It does mean a bit of organization by you but if a few mates are press-ganged in to help it is not too onerous and it is enjoyable.

The revised constitution: This item is on the agenda for discussion and I hope that you've had time to read it. The constitution was last updated in 2010 and as we are now run our own affairs it is time for a further review. To summarise the main proposed changes:

1. The objects have been expanded to reflect the Club's current activities and aspirations.
2. Membership, the position of magazine subscribers needed to be clarified and a new junior membership has been introduced.
3. Ordinary members entitlements have been clarified in line with membership.
4. Neither the secretary nor the treasurer need to be committee members this change is to allow more flexibility.
5. The committee in line with normal practice will appoint officers of the association annually.

Tractor registrations: Tony Patten who did such a splendid job for the Club as our registration officer has retired. Tony who came to our last AGM and explained to members how to obtain an age related registration or, when possible, how to retain an existing one, not only offered members a first class service but raised money for the Club to boot and I pleased to be able to take this opportunity publicly of thanking him for all his hard work on our behalf.

I have taken over as the Club's registration officer, its been a steep learning curve and Tony was a hard act to follow; he has very patiently been answering my queries ever since.

Looking forward to next year: just highlighting five events either because they are early in the season or as in Dorset's case because of the planning involved demands early action if you wish to enter. Entry details and other information may be found in the website.

1. Tractor World at Malvern this year is on 2nd and 3rd March, if you want to be on the FFA stand CLEARLY mark your entry form to this effect to avoid disappointment. I gather changes to the show are afoot and I should know more after Newark I will keep you informed via the website.

2. The National Road Run - this year it is Shropshire's turn on Sunday 20th April at Bridgnorth; this is a splendid charity event which I know several members regularly attend. Derek and Margaret will be there to greet you.

3. Carrington Steam & Vintage Rally, it is several years since the Club last visited this Lincolnshire event held near Boston on 25 and 26th May. It is a premier rally and we shall have our marquee there and hope to welcome many of you.

4. Expo X will be held at the Cumbrian Steam Gathering on 26 and 27th July, near Grange-over-Sands, this is the furthest north we have been and although it may be too far for some to attend I hope as many of you as able will enter your tractors. Being a national Club we must move round the country to be fair to all members.

5. While on Great Dorset thanks to Nick Battelle's introduction Stuart Cotton, the static tractor steward, has offered our Club space for 30 tractors, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the launch of the 6X range. We shall be looking for interesting examples and hope to feature examples from both the 6X & 6Y ranges. There will be an announcement in the next magazine and members who are interested will be invited to submit photographs of tractors they would like to enter. I'm sorry, but as space is limited, we shall have to select the ones that will make the best display. That will not necessarily mean the shiniest tractors, so if you have a tractor that fits the bill and can spare the time why not submit photograph of it? We require entries by the end of March, come and see us at Tractor World.

Finally: as you will all know Peter Love has moved on to pastures new and Scott Lambert has taken over as editor of Ford & Fordson Tractors, Peter was instrumental in founding the association and I'm sure that we all wish him well, doubtless he will still be around at shows and sales.

I should mention that Rob, who signalled his intention to resign last year, has generously agreed to serve as our secretary for a further year, an offer that we have gratefully accepted. In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the whole committee for the hard work they have put in over the last year and unstinting help and support they have given me.