

# 2017 Steam Corner Report to the Usk Show Committee

## Layout, Resources and Show Preparation

Steam Corner was mostly set up on the Friday before the show. The marquee was up, the tables and extra chairs were delivered, and signs, barriers, stand-pipe, water troughs, fire extinguishers and the toilets were all present and in the right place. The only shortfall was two fire exit signs which were unavailable. The safety officer was not unduly concerned by this.

In line with previous years the marquee entrance was widened to 8ft to allow the miniature railway trailer to be stored inside overnight. Unfortunately the lintel used was somewhat “Heath Robinson” so the Safety Officer persuaded the tent contractors to widen the entrance using scaffolding. In future, we would like to specify a main entrance of 8ft for the Steam Corner marquee.

The tables in the marquee were again excellent – sturdy and uniform in size. However, our source of waxed paper table covers is all but exhausted and we need to find another solution next year.



A dozen barriers were used to separate the stationary engines from the public. This was more than enough, but we would like the same again next year when we hope to expand this section.

The City of Newport Model Engineering Society’s (CNMES) “portable” railway was placed to give a natural boundary between the public and the area of operations for the engines in steam. This arrangement works well and will be repeated next year.

As usual we insisted that all marquee exhibitors use the concentration field for car parking. This is a running bone of contention, particularly for exhibitors with blue badges. The walk over the bridge is short and reasonably level and the gateway into the field is much improved, even in the wet conditions. However some areas of the field are still quite boggy and one vehicle needed a tow.

Parking close to the marquee is reserved for stationary engines and model engines “in steam” whose exhibitors need to have their vehicles close at hand for tools and fuel. This year this area was even more important as we had a full-size engine exhibit.

## Show Day

We had hopes of two full-size steam engines this year. In the event only one turned up as the trailer for the other failed its MoT. Next year we hope to have both these engines in attendance.

Miniature steam vehicles were again well represented – eight were exhibited “in steam” and most of these toured the showground throughout the day despite the wet conditions. Feedback from both visitors and exhibitors indicates that working machinery is more attractive than static exhibits.



This year we had 23 exhibitors in the marquee, somewhat less than last year. However there were no empty tables and the number and range of engineering disciplines demonstrated were as wide as ever. The marquee remained quite crowded throughout the day – especially during showers!



The parade of steam in the main arena worked well as it was not shared with the tractors. This meant that the engine drivers were better able to managed their steam with less waiting time.

Councillor Penny Jones, daughter of John Haining who established Steam Corner many years ago, kindly agreed to award the prizes. The Haining Trophy for the best steam-related exhibit was won by Graham Northover from Yeovil for his 4" Tasker traction engine.



The first place rosette for the best Marquee exhibit was won by Brian Kerley for his superb display of model horse-drawn vehicles. Second prize went to the Usk Astronomical Society display.



Third prize went to Heffin Jones for a display of model farm vehicles and working 2" threshing machine. A highly commended rosette was awarded to Fred Griffiths for his Lister D stationary engine and corn kibbler. Both Fred and Graham, winner of the Haining Trophy, were exhibiting at the Usk Show for the first time.

The City of Newport Model Engineering Society (CNMES) electric and steam railway rides ran all day on two separate tracks. The day started slowly because of the rain, and the number of passengers was down on last year, but the degree of happiness expressed was undiminished.



### **Risk Review and Incident Report.**

Other than initial concerns about the jury-rigged tent entrance, there were no safety issues or other remarkable incidents arising from Steam Corner at this year's show.

### **Summary.**

The 2017 Usk Show was again a great success for the CNMES and MSRVS. The site location and layout for Steam Corner proved itself again, and it would be appreciated if this layout could be carried forward to next year. Our thanks go to Faye and the Usk Farmers' Club Show committee for inviting us to participate and we look forward to doing so again in 2018.

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