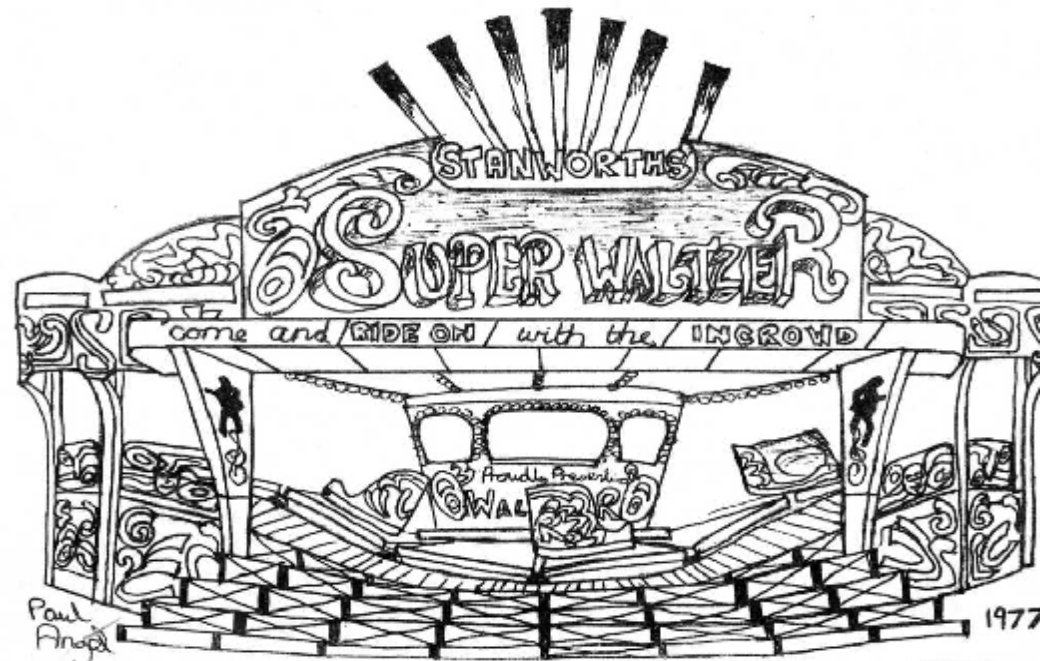


# A CENTURY OF TOBERS



NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 No. 1

Edited by Michael A. Smith

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EDITORIAL

Firstly, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you who replied to our first piece in the W.F., and who have since completed the form sent out and agreed to lend your support. There now seems no doubt as to the need for a new association to cater for the needs of us enthusiasts.

I have had many letters from prospective members offering advice, and this has been extremely invaluable to us. Your comments and constructive criticisms are always most welcome.

I am hoping that the publication of this first newsletter will bring in support from many more enthusiasts, and I would also like to extend a warm welcome to these people, and for these people a copy of our original letter is enclosed.

The next step, after the publication of this newsletter, must be to organise a meeting to formally inaugurate the association. I imagine that this would be best held at the end of the season, say around the middle of November, in either Birmingham or Manchester, whichever best suits the majority of members. I would welcome suggestions from you as to which of the two is preferable; also any dates to avoid, and whether a Saturday afternoon or evening, or a Sunday afternoon is best. If it can be arranged, I think a meeting would be best held in conjunction with the showing of a suitable film, or some slides, and should be followed by an informal chat in such a place as some suitable refreshment can be obtained. I hope some details can be given shortly.

Following all the suggestions given, I outline below some of the ideas. I hope these will prove of interest, and will prompt further suggestions.

BOOKS: it has been suggested that a list of books on fairground and allied topics be produced, with special regard to out of print manuscripts. Perhaps it would be possible to arrange loans between members on a mutual trust basis, with the borrower paying any postage costs.

I think it would be worth trying to collect a complete set of copies of the FCSF "Merry-go-Round" and BPS "Tober" magazines for reference purposes. If it were possible, some of the articles could then be reprinted. If anyone has any spare copies available, or could lend any for copying I would be most grateful.

MEMBERSHIP LIST: this will be printed and circulated after the formal inauguration, having given membership a little time to settle down. I hope this will encourage correspondence/meetings between members.

With this idea in mind, I hope we will be able to have get-togethers at some of the larger gaffs. Anyone visiting Bridgwater on the Saturday, or Hull fair either weekend can contact me for the next couple of weeks on Hull (0482) 656483.

MODELLING: there appear to be many amongst us who are keen model builders, in several different scales. It would be possible to devote a section to this topic in each newsletter, and this would enable an exchange of information and ideas to take place.

NEWSLETTERS: the general feeling seems to be that a simple duplicated sheet like this one would be preferable to a fancy, glossy magazine produced rather spasmodically as by some societies. I hope it will be possible to produce a newsletter fairly regularly, but please send me your news, views, and any article which might be suitable for publication. I have not yet looked into the possibility of reproducing photographs.

NAME / AGMs / COMMITTEE /Etc.: At our first meeting we must agree upon a suitable name, and elect a committee for the next year. It has also been suggested that we should think in terms of relatively informal AGMs, as these would be more realistic in cost.

PROJECT NEWS

Gallopers: most people seem prepared to contribute to this in some way. I have prepared a simple list as a starting point, and I hope that this will spark off plenty of correspondence on the subject.

Continued on outside back cover.

5-ARREASTS: i) Travelling sets

Mrs. E. Ayers	Savage	1895	Savage C.E. 627	89 key Gavioli
J. Beach	Savage	1890	-	89 key Gaudin
D.B. Price	Made up set	-	-	89 key Hooghuis
Mrs. W.H. Dorman	Savage	1882	Savage C.E. 905	89 key Gavioli
J. Downs	Tidman	1898	Savage C.E. 658	87 key Gavioli
S. Forrest	Savage	1900	-	65 key Gavioli
Hatwell Bros.	Walker	1889	-	61 key Verbeeck
B. Irvin	Savage	1896	-	89 key Marengi
J. Noyce	Savage	1900	-	89 key Gavioli
F. Pelham	Savage	1896	Savage C.E. 673	65 key Verbeeck
Pettigrove Bros.	Tidman	-	Savage C.E. 752	89 key Gavioli
N. Smith	Walker	1908	Savage C.E. 573	-
Whiteleggs	?	-	Savage C.E. 377	89 key Marengi
J. Wilmot	?	-	-	-
Harris Bros.	Harris	1911-28	-	65 key Gavioli
J. Williams	Savage	1896	-	Gaudin
J. Carter	Tidman	1900	Tidman C.E.	-

ii) Sets in Store

Ashleys	Walker	1895	Savage C.E. 422	46 key Gavioli
R. Edwards	?	-	-	-
T. Lythgoe	?	-	-	-
J. Newsome	Savage	-	-	-
Rose Bros.	?	-	-	-
A. Gray	Savage	1896	Savage 660	89 key Marengi
R. Franklin	?	(Were in Majorca, may now be back in this country)		

iii) Sets in permanent amusement parks

J.A. Crow (WHITLEY BAY)	?	1881	-	61 key Verbeeck
W. Manning (SOUTHSEA)	Savage	1922	-	89 key
T. Nightingale (MARGATE)	Howcroft (?)	-	-? C.E.	Dummy
G. Wilkie (NEW BRIGHTON)	Walker	1910	-	Verbeeck
M. Hill (HAYLING ISLAND)	Savage	-	-	-
A. Bloom (BRESSINGHAM)	Savage	1900	Tidman C.E.	46 key Bruder
J. Baldoek (HOLLYCOMBE)	Walker	1920	Savage C.E. 899	89 key Gavioli

iii) Sets in permanent amusement parks, continued.

R. Beardow (WOBURN)	Savage	1920	-	85 key Van der Beeck
Gray Bros. (MABLETHORPE)	Walker (?)		-	Bruder
Botton Bros. (YARMOUTH)	Savage		Savage C.E. 859	89 key Gavioli
Botton Bros. (SKEGNESS)	Savage		-	89 key Gavioli
Sunnysands Leis. (SOUTHPORT)				
	Walker		-	-
J. Lovett (BURNHAM BEECHES)				
	Walker (Savage centre)			-
Pat Collins (REDCAR)	Savage	1896	-	-
Collins Bros. (SEABURN)	?		-	-
Collins Bros. (BARRY I.)	Allchin		-	-
B. Collins (ALTON TOWERS)	Savage	1897	-	-
O'Connors (MORECAMBE)	?		-	-
T.H.F. (REYL)	Savage	-	-	Bruder
? (DYMCHURCH)	?		-	-
G. Warrington (FLAM.PK.)	Walker		-	-
J. Shipley (DRAYTON MANOR)	?		-	89 key Gavioli (?)
J. Shipley (STOURPORT)	Walker		-	-
Chipperfields (WEYMOUTH)	Tidman		-	48 key Marengi
Fairworld Ltd.(SEATON CAREW)				
	Howcroft (?)		-	Dummy
J. Crole (PORTECAWL)	?		-	Dummy
A. Barnard (COLWYN BAY)	Savage		-	Unidentifiable
Days (ABERAVON)	Tidman		-	89 key Gavioli
Jacksons (HELLE WUE)	Tidman		Tidman C.E.	-
Felecey (CLEETHORPES)	?		-	-
Seaton & Smith (MABLETHORPE)	?		Savage C.E. 692	89 key Gavioli
B.E.Y. (ABERAVON)	?		-	?
Butlins (BOGNOR REGIS)	Savage/? (Made up set)			-
Butlins (PWLLELI)	?		-	-
Butlins (AYR)	?		-	-
P. O'Neill (SOUTHEND, may now be in store temporarily)				
	?		-	?

iii) Sets in permanent amusement parks, continued.

Batlins (CLACTON)	Savage	1920	-	-
Screeton Bros. (?)	Savage	1895	"Savage" C.E. 915	89 key Gavioli
Batlins (MOSNEY)	?	-	-	-
<u>4-ARRECASTS: sets in permanent amusement parks</u>				
T. Messham (CHESSINGTON)	Savage	1921	-	-
C. Manning (FELIXSTOWE)	Savage	1897	Savage C.E. 704	89 key Marenghi
Batlins (SKEGNESS)	Savage	1900	-	-

GALLOPERS PROJECT

The above list gives brief details of most of the sets of gallopers which still survive in this country. It is hoped that this list can now be completed to include any which are missing at present, as there are almost certainly several sets in permanent parks which have been omitted, and possibly even one or more sets in store which are not recorded.

Having established a complete and correct list, the next step is to try and piece together histories for each set, and everyone can help here by sending in information on any sets they can. Most people who have returned the forms originally sent out have agreed to participate, and there should be no worries about duplicating information, as if the same information comes from two separate sources it is more likely to be correct. Please forward any information on the subject to myself at the usual address, and all received will be published in due course.

MAMMOTH FAIR ORGAN L.P.

News comes from Stan White of Kettering concerning the efforts of himself and others in trying to arrange for the issue of an L.P. of the old "Mammoth Fair Organ" 78's by EMI.

According to Stan the current situation is that producer Chris Ellis has sent out to various collector friends to attempt to compile a set of the 78's in good condition, which he can then listen to, and decide what is to be done next. If an issue is made, it would be on the World Records Retrospect label. EMI have no file copies of these records, and the original metal masters were destroyed in the war years, the metal being put towards the war effort.

Chris Ellis says that EMI would have to sell 3000 copies within six months of issue, and 10000+ by the end of two years, in order to make it financially sound - his main concern.

Anyone wishing to write to Mr. Ellis in support of this release should send their letter to the following address:

Chris Ellis, Producer,  
EMI Records Ltd.,  
20 Manchester Square,  
LONDON, W1.

RIDE OWNERSHIP CHANGES

As the first of what I hope will become a regular feature in future newsletters I have compiled a list of machines delivered new this season, and rides which have changed hands this season. This is no doubt incomplete, and it is hoped that members will be able to submit details on a regular basis of all new machines and ownership changes in their areas.

NEW MACHINES

Flying Coaster	R. Codona	Pollard	Spring 1977
Ghost Trains	D. Gray	Supercar	Spring 1977
	Wm. Hill	Hill	3/1977
	T. Bradley	Bradley	Summer 1977
Meteorites (Round Ups)	J. Greatorex	Bennett	4/1977
	J. Manning	Ward	Spring 1977
	S.J. Cubbins	Spannish imp't.	8/1977
cyclone Twists	W. Davis	?	3/1977
	C. Edwards	Church	4/1977
	M. Hammond	Church	3/1977
	D. Jones	Church	Spring 1977
	C. Ives	Ives	Spring 1977
	J. Steevens	Steevens	Summer 1977
	B. Stocks	Church	Spring 1977
	M. Sketchley (Aberavon)	Church	Summer 1977
Paratrooper	A. Ball	Modern Products	6/1977
Tipping Paratroopers	J. Remblance	Franklin	5/1977
	S. Thurston	Franklin	Winter 76-7
Waltzers	A. Harris	Maxwell	12/1976 (debut 2/77)
	J. Steevens	Maxwell	8/1977
	J. Wall	Maxwell	8/1977
Big Wheel	G. Irvin	R.L. Smith	5/1977
Space Shuttle (Jolly Tubes)	H. Birch, jnr.	Modern Products	Spring 1977
Cobra	M. Paine	?	4/1977
Sky Skimmer	W. Shufflebottom	Shufflebottom	Summer 1977
Time Machine (Mystic Swing)	D. Litlierhurnest	Litlierhurnest	Summer 1977
Seats	C.P. Evans (Porthcawl)	Fairplace Ltd.	1977
	Helters (Southport)	Fairplace Ltd.	1977
	T.H.F. (Rhyl)	Fairplace Ltd.	1977
	Codonas (Aberdeen)	Fairplace Ltd.	1977
Dodgem Track	Withernsea showman	Supercar	Spring 1977

CHANGES OF OWNERSHIP

Ride	Past owner	New owner	Date
Chairoplanes	R. Slater	A. Godden	4/1977
	?	C. Horsley	1977
	S. Wilders	B. Parr	Winter 76-7
	Scottish showman	M. Taylor	Winter 76-7
Jets	A. Evans	W. Dates	Winter 76-7
	Whiteleggs	B. Ayers, jnr.	4/1977
	?	R. Bailey	Winter 76-7

CHANGES OF OWNERSHIP, cont.

Ride	Past owner	New owner	Date
Arks	J. Jeffries	Silcock & Jeffries	
	J. Wall	Lord Bros. (Mablethorpe)	Winter 76-7 4/1977
Octopi	Townsend	C. Cole	5/1977
	T. Voyle (Moonshot)	H. Rogers	Winter 76-7
	Whiteleggs	A. Rogers	Winter 76-7
	C. Manning	J. Slater	Winter 76-7
Paratroopers (Tipping)	M. Sketchley (Aberavon)	Tuckes & Johnson	6/1977
	J. Strand	C. Cotton	Winter 76-7
Skid	J. Rogers	B. Matthews	Winter 76-7
	A. Wadbrook (Belle Vue)	G. Godden	6/1977 (This machine was at Seaburn A.P. last season)
Cyclone Twists	J. Greaterex	M. Furberough	4/1977
	R. Weston	L. Horne	Spring 1977
	J. Steevens	P. Appleton	8/1977
Waltzers	D. Jones	Eire (?)	Winter 76-7
	T. Gallagher	J. Scarrott	Winter 76-7
	Silcock Bros.	Yorkshire slm (?)	8/1977
Big Wheels	J. Strand	T.S. Harniess	Winter 76-7
	?	R. Slater	Winter 76-7
	J. Groom	Anderson Bros.	Winter 76-7

OTHER NEWS

Bimbo Bishtons spinning top ark is now also being used as a waltzer at some fairs; the cars were built by Bishtons themselves last winter, and are very smart from what I have heard.

It is thought that T. Gallagher of Hull has now also disposed of his ark. Roses have brought their jets out of storage this season.

D. Ravenscroft's "Pop Express" made its debut earlier this season, after being purchased from the Dreamland amusement parks about two years ago.

Reuben Daniels of the Lancashire section has now acquired a waltzer to replace the ex-Prateley ark which was burnt-out last year. I don't yet know where the waltzer has come from, but another Lancashire section member, Victor Manders, is now travelling the waltzer which was previously in store at Benllech.

The Astronaut ride travelled for the past few seasons by A. Stokes passed temporarily to Harry Hamer earlier this season, and attended a few Lancashire fairs. I believe it has now been returned to its previous owner.

On the amusement park scene:

**BLACKPOOL:** T.H.F. have now disposed of the Waltzer, Slip, and Ghost Train in the Golden Mile centre to Silcock & Hill. The set of Gallopers from the same place have been moved to the park at Morecambe.

**SEATON CAREW:** Fairworld Ltd. have now taken over this park from Lowes, and there have been several changes. The old Waltzer has been replaced by a brand new Maxwell machine, and a skid has also been acquired. The old gallopers have had some renovation work carried out on them, and a dummy organ fitted.

**SOUTHPORT:** The old set of jets formerly operated by Helters Ltd., has now been taken over by H. Silcock, and a new set of continental cars fitted.

**BHYL:** In addition to the new Seat mentioned earlier, R. Weston has acquired a new Pollard-built Twist to replace the one which he sold to Mrs. Horne.

**STOP PRESS +++**The ex-Armroy Lane Jungle ark recently advertised for sale in Fleet has been sold to F. Thompson++++Mrs. North's waltzer is sold to Tom Harniess ++  
+++ Silcocks Venice Waltzer has been acquired by Franklins ++++ The C. Doubtfire "Elite" waltzer is now in the hands of a showman who travels with Norths ++++

Continued from page 2...

Price variations: the response to this has not been as good, and I think there may have been some misunderstandings as to what is involved. I still have not received any further information from Graham Downie, so further news of this will appear in our next edition.

I hope a list of current projects will be drawn up before the next newsletter appears. However, Kevin Scrivens has started work on Mont Blancs, and would welcome any information at all; please address it to him at 25 Marmon Road, Southsea, Hants. Others, of which more information will appear later, include Andersons of Bristol, about whom there is very little documentation to date, and a survey of the so-called "Coronation Machines" - how many were actually built in 1937?

I envisage the current gallopers project as a start to the compilation of a register of all current travelling and permanent site based fairground machines. This can be built up slowly, and our regular column on machine changes will keep it up to date.

MOONROCKETS - I have now built up quite a lot of information on this subject, thanks to the many letters received by myself and Kevin Scrivens. This will, hopefully, be published in due course, but in the meantime I would welcome any further information, particularly on the following machines:

John Collins  
Pat Collins  
Butlins - they had several in their camps at various times, as well as two travelling machines c. 1939-46.  
Brennans, New Brighton - ex M A Collins.  
Kursaal A.P., Southend - supposedly sold to J. Ling c. 1953, parts being used for his 1954 Maxwell waltzer.  
A. Toogoods - formerly Wm. Codonas no 1.  
R. Gilhams - formerly Joe Whites.  
A. Harkers  
R. Grandison  
Belle Vue A.P., Belfast.  
Myers amusements, Isle of Man.  
Webber Bros - a German built machine at Rhyl c. 1954-8.  
J. Crole - at Porthcawl until c 1957.  
F. Thompson - two machines at Mablethorpe at different times during the 1950s.

Once the above are sorted out, we will have complete histories, albeit in outline only in most cases, of all Moonrockets travelled in this country.

#### FOWLER SHOWMANS ENGINES:

Stephen Smith and John Robinson are now in the process of collecting information of the above. A booklet giving details of all Fowler Showmans known to have survived is nearing completion and should be available shortly. Information and loan of photos of all Fowler Showmans would be greatly appreciated; please address to 122 Carr Lane, Willerby, Nr. Hull, HU10 6JX, or 8 Sandringham Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland

#### PHOTO SWAPPING AND SALES

Most people have expressed an interest in this aspect of our proposed activities. Several have already submitted lists, and I hope that it will be possible to distribute these shortly. One subject which has aroused some comment is that of prices. This was put forward originally to stop exploitation, with people charging unreasonable prices. It may be better to leave pricing, and details of swapping to the parties involved, but I would suggest that prices are kept as low as possible, and I can give some suggestions as to where prints can be done for fair, low prices.

Time is another factor here - particularly for those who do their own printing. I would ask all concerned to be very patient when awaiting copies of prints ordered to arrive.

More stop press news: +++ R. Wilsons are reported to have acquired the Scat from Pat Evans at Porthcawl ++++ Whiteleggs have recently taken delivery of a new Pollard Twist ++++ Another Scat ride is reported to be travelling in the North Midlands, more details soon ++++ Two Maxwell machines are due for delivery in the near future, one of these being a Waltzer for Welsh showman Billy Danter.