

A 3hp, 1909 IHC "FAMOUS" ENGINE

As a member of The Waterwheel Trust Friday crew I get involved with the repair/restoration of all sorts of old gear. This is the story of the restoration of an International famous engine, it was donated to the waterwheel several years ago, and had been in storage for some time, it got to the stage that the workshop was getting low on items to repair so several of us went to



see what we would like to do next, at the back of a shed we saw the famous so that was decided on, so with a tractor with loader and trailer it was moved to the workshop.

Then the fun started, as a few years ago we had a fire in the stores and this engine got burnt, so there was no electrics paint or anything loose. So a quick strip down to see what needed doing, the first thing was the piston rings were seized, so Phil unseized the rings and polished the bore, that part was reassembled after it had all been cleaned, Mal made a new splasher to go on the bottom of the conrod to splash oil around the sump. Stu our Carpenter made a wooden base to mount the engine on and a box to contain the electrics, Bill made all the electrics to go in the box. The fuel pump that is cam operated was past its prime so John machined a new piston and Mal overhauled the valves. Now after assembling the complete engine it was now that we had to look at the finer parts like

sorting out the timing which took quite some time after we made a spring for the igniter pawl

New copper fuel pipes were made and the fuel system tested, after testing and cleaning the carb it all seemed good. Now it was time for a coffee, followed by finding the starting handle, yep that is it! now for a volunteer to wind it, after ½ an hour or so all we had was a small amount of smoke from the exhaust, so look at the timing again, some adjustments and wind the handle again still nothing, adjust the spring on the atmospheric valve, check the igniter, found it was



sticking under pressure, free off and wind again for an hour or so, the odd fire but not actual run, another coffee! After a lot more fiddling around it actually went (yes you guessed it) another coffee so now Mal painted it and put on some transfers.



So after about 2 months of working on it and having the odd cuppa we have an engine that runs, and looks good Oh and one thing we found when it finally ran is that it has a bent crankshaft, which looks good when it runs with one of the flywheels gently wobbling!

THE ENGINE FINISHED! Let's have a coffee.