



CRANKING

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www.wessex-sec.co.uk

The Wessex Stationary Engine Club's monthly newsletter

From the Sump

Out of sight is out of mind they say. Long suffering & surprisingly reliable, magneto points are often ignored. They live in a closed box, frequently damp and sealed from the outside air. The interruption of the current flow caused by the cam forcing the points open does not stop the current dead in its tracks & it will spike as high as 400 volts, causing a spark across the points. The condenser ameliorates this arcing to a degree, but some will still take place. This ionises the air trapped in the points chamber & produces Ozone. We are used to Oxygen and never really consider what a nasty, reactive & corrosive gas it is – Ozone is worse!

The cloud of Ozone cannot readily escape & promotes corrosion, particularly at the points themselves, so it is worthwhile making sure that there is a small hole in the points cover. Personally, I always take the cover off for a few moments before I put an engine away, especially if I'm not expecting to run it for some months.

If your engine will not now fire the plug and did so perfectly well when you put it away, it might well be that the tungsten alloy of the points faces has corroded and is now coated with a nice thick layer of resistive medium. Cleaning the points in situ might only polish the oxide!

Remove the points entirely & have a good peer at the faces in a strong light. If they look dull & grey & a crust seems to have crept down off the operating faces, it's time they had a good seeing to. Personally, I don't like magneto files & prefer to carefully face the points using a bit of 800 grit wet & dry, lubricated with Brasso on a hard, flat surface. Make sure you keep the things flat when you are rubbing them. The small surface area means a few passes will see the job done – don't overdo it & clean the residue off with meths on a non-fluffy rag.

Reassemble and regap. If you have no feeler gauges with you, a thin card (fag packet cardboard) is about right or visually about as thick as your thumbnail.

Many a knackered magneto I've brought to spectacular life by trying this first. Next, I'd look at dirt & oil on the pick up brushes, make sure the points base earthing brush is contacting the base

Moving the Metal

For sale

Briggs & Stratton ZYP generating set, restored. £150.
Ruston Hornsby PT on trolley, restored. £150.
Lister D on two wheeled trolley, restored. £150.
Wolseley WD 1.5hp on trolley, restored. £170.
Bamford EG1 1,5hp on trolley, restored. £180.
Lister D & Lister H1 pump on wheels, restored. £180.
Four heavy cast iron wheels 10.5" x 3.5" £30.
All above - phone Mr P. Newton. 01373 812461
Corrbet corn grinder. On wheels, ready to rally £65.
Ferguson two furl plough £50
All above - phone Mr. Sheppard, WSM. 01934 812921.
JAP 2A driving a small compressor. On a steel carrying frame, Unusual first exhibit. £95.
WW2 Lauson engine driving a small compressor. On a steel frame. Even more unusual first exhibit. £95.
Both restored & painted to a high standard.
Petter A1 on four-wheeled trolley. Still in its Admiralty grey paint. Frugal first time starter. £95.
Petter PU8, rare WW2 marine engine on wheeled carrying frame. Not run for a couple of years £95.
Small old fashioned box trailer. Needs some TLC. Has spare wheel, lights fitted to tailboard & 50mm hitch. Tow away for £25 – no offers.
WANTED - "Stationary Engine " Magazine. Now only missing 16,17,18,19,24-34,36. Have early copies to swap!
All above – phone Kim Siddorn 0117 964 6818
Amanco 3hp. Restored & ready to exhibit. £500.
Phone R. Savage, 0117 962 2028
Amanco 2.25hp. £650 ONO. Restored using many new items & mounted on 4-wheeled trolley. Was exhibited at Mells 2006. Getting too much for me now.
WANTED - Flywheel magneto for 1.5hp Ruston PB. Must be complete & with brass starting dog.
All above - phone Richard Gill – 01934 517322
Allan scythe/mower. Circa 1950. Spare engine.
Generator, needs attention. £30.00.
All above - Parsons. 01761 452565
Chaff cutter. Good condition - £20.
Grindstone, foot operated £25.
All above, phone Dennis Hudd 01225 754749
Drummond lathe. Good condition, bench mounted with .1/4hp motor. £80.00 - phone Gordon 07941 724625
Stuart Turner P55, Free to good home.
Phone Geoff on 0161 941 1167 (Near Astle Park)

plate, look at the leads in the dark & ensure they are not leaking your amps away through their cracked rubber surfaces. Finally, a NEW modern plug can work wonders!

Articles, cartoons, photos etc are always very welcome – this is not a one-man band, but an expression of all our thoughts and experience. Submissions can be handwritten, (if brief), typed or word-processed - it is the content we're after, not the grammar or spelling, so please don't feel your efforts will be ignored. Opinions expressed in this newsletter may or may not represent club policy

Post to the Editor

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