

The Portsmouth Wild West display is a memory held in most affection.

I had contacted them after their appearance for us at the NFDA event. Although slightly changed, they gave us some wonderful entertainment. Their re-enactment of known events is exciting and extremely noisy!! We all loved it and still enjoy their shows to this day. The really special part though, which they can no longer allow due to new regulations, was the 'shoot outs' where kids and adults alike paid 10p and were allowed to use the authentic replica six-shooters and rifles. There were queue's of children wanting to 'outdraw' their parents, and of committee against committee, I seem to recall. It was great fun and I can still remember the deafening noise and the weight of the gun in my hand when I shot my son Philip aged 6!! All of the monies raised by the PWW went to their charity - and still does.

The Treasure Hunt and Sports Day involved 'hundreds' of children (or so it seemed) all having fun. I remember the 'Friendly Town Hobo' arriving to run the sports in a state of total 'inebriation'? Dennis Pratt staggered into the arena with an empty whisky bottle and acted in a drunken manner. Most people thought this hilarious although I did hear some did not see the funny side. It was a unique start to the sports though!! The children spent the afternoon racing and winning prizes. The penny Fayre was an equal success with many stalls well supported, many prizes to be won and skittles to be felled. On Sunday it rained before and after the sports so the Fancy Dress was held in the marquee. This again was extremely well supported giving the judges a headache as usual. (Well maybe it was a hangover!!)

The skies cleared for the evenings and although the weather was cold and the ground wet underfoot, the two groups gave us great entertainment. People sat around in a circle with their tables weighted down with lanterns and booze!! Well you had to keep warm somehow! Once the dancing started it continued well into the night. No one knows how long as all our watches had got wet in the rain and stopped!! (Nothing new there then!!!)

At the closing ceremony I recall the tiredness that suddenly came with the relief that it was over and it was a success. No committee member was to loose their surety and the D.A. was affluent. We could now become upwardly mobile. In fact at the meeting afterwards we all agreed that:

- Yes we should do it again.
- Yes we would need cover in case it should rain at the wrong times.
- Yes we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves - despite the workload
- No we would not roast another pig!!!

Sixpenny Handley and Steven Judd Here we come!!!!

I have now attended the C&W meet from Year 1 to year 20. I have gone from Outdoor Arena to Old Barn- to New Barn and to the Marquee you see today. I have gone from old husband to new husband, from 2 kids to 5 kids. Their partners and our 2 grandchildren. But I am still with the Dorset D.A. Long may it continue to reign and run the Country & Western Meet

Anne Colman

Ted was the Dorset D.A. Chairman who had the unenviable task of 'jelling' the old and new groups together. He was chairman at the time of the first C&W meet and it was his seal of approval that persuaded others to run the event.

Thanks for backing us Ted & Dulcie.

Dorset D.A. Country and Western Meet 1985 was held at Wareham Forest Touring Park. This type of meet was a new venture for the DDA. Not being a booked meet, the committee being a little naive, had no idea of how many units would arrive, so a square was marked out to hold a hopeful 100. A working W/E the previous week began this task, also a pit was dug for the adventurous 'Pig Roast' and the forest scoured for firewood and logs to enable with the project. A marquee was kindly loaned from Warham Lions club for the evenings entertainment and a temporary lighting system was installed. One of the senior members of the DA made a splendid totem pole as a centre piece to the event.

On the actual W/E the stewards arrived early, eagerly awaiting the campers. To the great surprise and delight of the DA 150 units had descended causing a lot of thought to find more space.

On the Saturday at 4-30 am Ron Weeks Sam Holloway & Ted Brown were up bright and bushy tailed to light the fire for the pig roast. No mean task, but nevertheless good fun, poking the pole in the one end of the poor pig and out of the other. Saturday was a very long and happy day with lots of dancing and entertainment provided by a group, but poor pig was 'nt big enough to satisfy the hungry campers.

Little did we realise what we had started, in respect of the Country and Western Meet continuing so many years, a very happy & successful meet it was with lots of happy memories of so many friends.

Ted & Dulcie

Chris Vicary - Secretary

Chris was one of the 'New Wave' campers who helped establish the C&W meet and the new Dorset DA group. He was secretary then progressed to chairman but has since left to become a sailor!! -Well he bought a yacht! Hasn't supplied me with any duty frees yet though!

Thanks for your years of service.

Anne Colman tells me I was the secretary at the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> C&W meet. I can't remember if I was or not, but I do have very vivid and fond memories of it all.

When the idea was mooted I thought what the hell do we want to do this for, sounds a bit like a kids party to me, but it was felt by some to be an excellent idea, so I was happy to go along with any activity.

As always it started in earnest the weekend before with a working party, consisting of many people gathered at Wareham Forest Touring Park without a clue as to what to do. So a huddle was suggested and still without much of a clue we all rushed around in a busy fashion. I remember much wood gathering went on for the proposed BBQ that Sam was going to do. Sam was convinced that a big hole needed to be dug to cook the pig the following weekend, as he intended to bury the pig in the hole with much hot wood burnt to charcoal around it. Sort of cross between burial and cremation. (good theory?? More on this later.) I think some marking of pitches and quite a lot of eating and drinking also took place during this weekend.