

# *37890 The Railway Observer*

## *by Alan Cooke, Andrew Lait & Bob Wallen*

'Log' of the activities of 37890 covering the years 1994 (from its naming at Hither Green on 23rd February) to the present time. After its return from use in France in 2000, we are recording major changes but not sightings and workings. Note that, in this 'log', RO refers to The Railway Observer, the monthly magazine of the RCTS.

### **1994: -**

23rd February	Named "The Railway Observer" at Hither Green depot (photos on pages 168 and 169 of RO April 1994)
24th February	Worked Kilnhurst to Thames Haven tank empties
March 1994	Transferred from Immingham (IM) pool FPF (Petroleum sub-sector, outbased at Ripple Lane) to Stewarts Lane (SL) in Pool ESBB (London area, Class 37/7). This change resulted from a move to the newly established Trainload Freight Southeast Division (later Mainline Freight) prior to privatisation.
19th March	Hither Green – Stabled
24th March	Worked 08:42 Grain to Llandarcy tanks
30th March	Taunton – Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
15th April	Exeter St Davids (18:38) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
25th April	Eastleigh station – Stabled
26th April	Eastleigh east yard (17:55)
28th April	Bath Spa - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks (photo on page 405 of RO September 1994); also noted later at Taunton
4th May	Eastleigh holding sidings (13:50)
12th May	Salisbury - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks; also noted later at Taunton
15th May	'Topped and tailed' 08:40 Liverpool to Poole between Eastleigh and Southampton due to engineering work on the LSWR main line
17th May	Eastleigh yard at head of a freight
20th May	Exeter St Davids (18:29) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
31st May	Exeter St Davids (18:55) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
5th June	Fratton Yard
21st June	Woking – On ballast (15:10)
28th June	Kensington Olympia – Hauling 60001+37798 (it should be noted that, from 23rd February 2001, 60001 carries the name previously carried by 37890)
1st July	Northam Junction - Working Eastleigh to Fawley tanks, both bogie and 4-wheel tanks
12th July	Aller Divergence, south of Newton Abbot (20:07) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
22nd July	Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
24th July	Eastleigh depot
29th July	Taunton (18:00) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
4th August	Taunton (17:50) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
9th August	Eastleigh (12:04) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
19th August	Exeter St Davids (18:24) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
25th August	Highbridge, Somerset (17:41) - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
18th September	Toton depot – Position suggested awaiting entry to the heavy lifting section
<u>Note</u> .	By this time, the Petroleum sub-sector decals carried at the time of naming had been removed; they were still carried for the previous sighting on 25th August
24th September	Acton Yard – Stabled
6th October	Kensington Olympia – Northbound empty ARC/Yeoman hoppers (mid-morning)
21st October	Worked Avon Binliner

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Acknowledgements are due to The Class 37 Group, RAIL Magazine and the End of the Line website, which have been valuable sources of information. Members' observations make up a large part of the log and we would like to thank those members and others who have kindly responded to our requests for information.

In particular we would like to thank Brian Garrett for his complete record of all workings by 37890 on 6V62 Fawley to Tavistock Junction loaded tanks from 1994 to 1998. Including five workings before it was named and some that it worked Fawley to Westbury and then on to Tavistock Junction it did a total of 68 loaded workings and presumably the same number of return empties although few of those were recorded. This must also be, by far, the working on which 37890 most often appeared.

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