

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.

1998: -

20th January	Southampton - Working tanks from Fawley
26th January	Exeter Riverside - Arrived at 17:05 with stone from Merehead quarry (7Z85) and departed at 19:16 with return empties (7Z86)
29th January	Worked 03:30 Merehead quarry to Exeter Riverside (7Z82) with 37884, arrived at 07:55 and departed with at 12:20 return empties
30th January	Worked Merehead quarry to Exeter Riverside stone train and return empties with 37255
1st February	Reading - At platform 1 coupled between 37332 and 37717 (18:30)
3rd February	Southampton - Working tanks from Fawley
16th February	Haresfield, Gos. - Working Swindon to Stud Farm ballast
19th February	Worked Swindon to Stud Farm ballast with 37046
23rd February	Worked 09:56 Purfleet to Acton Yard (7Z70) with 37680 - 598 minutes late
24th February	Gravesend - Passed with one Tiphook wagon (10:15)
25th February	Worked Wembley to Hoo Junction Enterprise
28th February	Birmingham New Street - Light with 56089 (12:15)
5th March	Worked Sellafield-Berkeley to Sellafield nuclear flasks
9th March	Worked 09:49 Hoo Junction to Temple Mills returning light through Dartford at 13:48
	Bexley - Working two wagons towards London (21:18)
17th March	Dartford - Working empty Brett hoppers with 33019 (13:13)
18th March	Worked 20:30 Angerstein Wharf to Kings Cross (7E24) and return empties (7O71), still with 33019
26th March	Bexley - Working an engineers' train (21:19)
27th March	Worked 03:15 Grain to West Ruislip (7V60) with ballast for London Underground
31st March	Worked Bescot to Hoo Junction Enterprise
6th April	Worked a sand train to Three Bridges
	Worked 09:36 Purley/Salfords to Cliffe (6Y94) with 37698
9th April	Worked 10:28 Westbury to Meldon quarry
14th April	Worked 03:30 Merehead quarry to Exeter Riverside stone train with 37262, arrived at 06:56 and departed at 11:25 with return empties
17th April	Worked 03:00 Avonmouth to Eastleigh Yard (6O10) leaving some tanks and then passing Southampton with the remainder
	Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
18th April	Southampton - Light engine
24th April	Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
26th April	Reading - Working an engineers' train (11:00)
27th April	Swindon - Working 05:58 Westbury to Appleford stone
5th May	Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
9th May	Ran light to Alton to work 14:26 Alton to Ferme Park empty charter stock for use the next day
11th May	Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
12th May	Southampton and also Taunton - Working Fawley to Tavistock Junction tanks
14th May	Worked 05:09 Ripple Lane to Southampton freightliner (4O09) standing in for a Class 47
18th May	Exeter Riverside - Arrived light at 13:34, departed at 17:50 with the return empties from the morning stone train from Merehead quarry

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1998 (continued): -

19th May	Worked Merehead quarry to Exeter Riverside stone train, arrived at 15:39 and departed at 18:24 with return empties
28th May	Worked the evening Avon Binliner to Westerleigh and was observed at Bristol Parkway by RCTS Cheltenham Branch members returning from Newport
8th June	Worked Saltend-Baglan Bay tanks (6V14)
9th June	Worked 09:28 Hither Green to Crawley stone (6Z11) and 20:00 Crawley to Bristol East Yard (6Z14), both with 37023
12th June	Worked Ketton to Doncaster coal empties with 37079
24th June	Worked an engineers' train to Stoke Gifford
25th June	Swindon - Stabled
27th June	Rugby Yard - Stabled
3rd July	Stoke - Working Cliffe Vale ECC to St Blazey (6V20) with 37248
8th July	Bristol Parkway - Working 08:57 Cliffe Vale to St Blazey with 37248
9th July	Worked 12:15 Heathfield to St Blazey (6V20) with just one wagon
13th July	Bescot - Working ballast from Stud Farm Had been at Bletchley during the week
16th July	Reading – working a special consisting of inspection saloon 999503 from Reading to Dartford (photos on page 17 of RO 1998 Index and page 106 of RO March 2001, with photo of the naming of 60001 on the facing page)
17th July	Came to the rescue of Virgin Trains 11:20 Bournemouth to Edinburgh HST, hauling it from Preston to Edinburgh
18th July	Edinburgh Waverley - Stabled at platform 9, then left light for Carlisle at 09:45
<u>Note.</u>	This was the only recorded visit of 37890 "The Railway Observer" to Scotland
25th July	Colwyn Bay - Working ballast, possibly from Penmaenmawr
28th July	Light from Cardiff Canton, then worked 16:55 Avonmouth to Warrington Enterprise (6M75)
30th July	Worked 16:55 Avonmouth to Warrington Enterprise (6M75)
4th August	Castleton - Working towards Manchester with YMAs (08:30)
5th and 6th August	Manchester Victoria - Standing with YMAs for old track panels from major track replacement
12th August	Noted at Cardiff Canton, then worked 16:55 Avonmouth to Warrington Enterprise (6M75)
24th August	Cardiff Canton - Receiving attention to wheelsets
30th August	A TOPS report obtained at the Toton Open Day showed that 37890 had arrived at Canton on 13th and was out of traffic for an examination, and with an expected release date of 31st. Its last 'Major Exam' was shown as completed on 19th August and Accumulated Engine Hours were 8,168.
18th September	Stenson Junction - Working Saltend to Baglan Bay tanks
26th September	Cardiff Canton
7th October	Worked Whatley quarry to Exmouth Junction stone train with 37298, then stabled in Exeter Riverside Yard. Light engine about 16:10 to Exmouth Junction. Departed 17:10 with return empties, noted passing through Exeter Central
23rd October	Failed at Tiverton loop while working Merehead quarry to Exeter Riverside stone train; was rescued by 37429, which came from Exeter, and eventually arrived in Riverside yard at 20:30
24th October	37146, 37371, 37429 and 37890 were all noted stabled at Exeter depot at 19:30
25th October	37146+37371 hauled 37890 DIT on 19:24 Exeter Riverside to Westbury stone empties
27th October	Didcot
28th October	Worked Bicester MoD trip

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1998 (continued): -

29th October	Bristol Parkway - Working down ballast
30th October	Worked the Structure Gauging Train from Derby-Barnsley for calibration purposes Sent to assist 20:05 Cardiff to Shieldmuir that had slipped to a stand on wet rails on the Lickey Incline
4th - 6th November	Worked 04:10 Tunstead to Oakleigh (6F70), 07:35 return (6H72), 16:26 Tunstead to Oakleigh and 20:30 return (6H73) each day, all with 37211
11th November	Severn Tunnel Junction - Working westbound tanks (16:10)
19th November	Bristol Parkway - Working down engineers' train (14:40)
20th November	Newport Bristol Parkway - Up light engine (12:54)
21st November	Swindon - Stabled Didcot - Stabled
25th November	Worked light from Stoke Gifford to Newport ADJ, then took MEAs to Rugby
26th November	Worked Avonmouth to Rugby MEAs
30th November	Toton - Refuelling Nottingham - Eastbound light engine
December 1998	Transferred to Toton (TO) in Pool WKGN (Systemwide Class 37/7)
16th December	Worked an additional Immingham to Ripple Lane paper train (6L71)

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 Paul Draper and Peter North for their complete record of 37890 on the Merehead quarry to Exeter Riverside stone workings in 1998 and 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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