

BROOMWADE AIR COMPRESSOR

TECHNICAL HISTORY

The air compressor comprises a single cylinder Broomwade compressor, belt driven by a BSA aircooled industrial engine, both mounted on the air receiver. The unit is mounted on solid rubber wheels, and fitted with a handle at one end to facilitate portability.

No technical information is known about the compressor. Can you provide any new information?

The BSA industrial engine is of 320cc. capacity and typical of the aircooled engines produced in Great Britain in the late 1940's and early 1950's, being side valved, single cylinder, 4 stroke engines with an external Lucas magneto of the "impulse" type providing ignition. Carburetion is by Solex, with the 320cc unit producing maximum 61/2hp at the governed 2200rpm. A full manual for this engine type is available in the Club library.

WORKING HISTORY

The BROOMWADE AIR COMPRESSOR was originally owned by the MTT (Municipal Tramways Trust) and located at its Hackney (Adelaide) bus depot. It was donated to the Club when the depot was closed down in preparation for returning the land to the Adelaide Botanic gardens by the then STA (State Transport Authority).

The Hackney Depot had been the major Electric Tram Depot in Adelaide. It changed its focus in the 1950's as diesel buses replaced the trams across Adelaide. It is believed that the compressor was acquired at this time, mounted on rubber wheels and ready to drag around the bus parking area to inflate any flat tyres.

Since its acquisition by the Club, it has been used to inflate tyres, spray paint and as a source of compressed air when required.