

## **Scotsman vs. Gordon**

### **Written by Brice M. Stone**

Gordon is a grand express engine. He has a shiny blue paint that sparkles in the sun and a booming loud whistle that toots as he races across Sodor. He's one of the fastest engines on Sir Topham Hatt's railway.

One morning, Thomas was returning home to Tidmouth Sheds after his branch line run.

When suddenly, Thomas saw a flash of green speed across the tracks.

"Bust my buffers!" gasped Thomas. "Who is that engine and why does he have two tenders?"

That could only mean one thing.

Flying Scotsman had come to the island for a visit from the Mainland. Thomas followed up beside him.

"Hello," he tooted. "I'm Thomas. Happy to meet you, Scotsman".

"I am pleased to meet you, too," the Flying Scotsman huffed. "I have heard all about you from my little brother."

Thomas was puzzled. He didn't know what Scotsman knew by "little brother." Just then, Gordon puffed into Knapford beside Thomas and Scotsman. "He means me, Thomas." Gordon chuffed. Gordon didn't like being called little, especially by his famous brother.

"I don't understand. You both are exactly the same size as each other." He said.

"I call him that because I was built first at Doncaster Works," Scotsman grinned grandly.

That made Gordon cross. "I'm as big, fast and strong as I was just like you!" He grumbled.

This gave Thomas an idea. "Why don't we settle you two on a race?" He puffed.

Scotsman liked the idea of a race. But Gordon was not so sure. "Sir Topham Hatt does not approve of his engines racing." He said worriedly.

Thomas gathered Gordon and Scotsman to haul heavy freight cars at the Shunting Yard.

The two engines were waiting and coupled up to their long trains. Edward puffed forward.

"You'll both take different tracks across the island. No cheating, no horseplay, no crashing and you'll both stop for coal and water and at places to deliver your trains. Whoever delivers the most trains to their destinations is the winner." Edward declared.

Then, he whistled loud and long as the race began. Gordon and Scotsman puffed on their way to the Finish Line.

"I'll show Scotsman I'm not as little as he thinks I am," Gordon puffed to himself.

Gordon and Scotsman raced as they huffed and puffed all over Sodor. Gordon was very determined to win the race.

Scotsman delivered his heavy cars of slate to Brendam Docks. Salty was there. He had heard about the race and he was happy to see that Scotsman delivered the slate to the Docks on time.

“Place your slate cars on a siding, me harty,” suggested Salty. “The boat will be there in a few minutes.” Gordon puffed into the Docks second place.

“Do try to keep up, Little Brother,” teased Scotsman. “I delivered my slate first.”

“I’ll do better than keep up,” Gordon huffed. Gordon was determined to prove to Scotsman that he’s not just some little brother.

Scotsman and Gordon’s next set of cars were coal cars. And they both raced away to the Sodor Coaling Plant.

Gordon and Scotsman raced faster and faster. Gordon heaved and hauled as his train clattered and clanked along his tracks.

Gordon puffed into the Coaling Plant. He thought he won first place this time. But once again, Scotsman won the race.

“Hooray for Scotsman,” cheered Henry, James, Molly, Donald and Douglas all together. That made Gordon even crosser. He was more fired up to beat Scotsman at their race.

Their last set of cars on their trains were metal pipes. They are to be taken to the Sodor Water Works. Gordon and Scotsman uncoupled their coal cars from their trains and recoupled to their cars of pipes and set off.

Gordon was even more determined to beat Scotsman in first place. He pumped his piston rods and dashed after Scotsman. Scotsman was surprised.

“Don’t go that fast,” Scotsman called!

Up ahead, Duck was taking cattle vans of hay for Farmer McColl’s horses. He heard Gordon’s whistle behind him. He tried to speed up, but it was too late!

Gordon had crashed into Duck’s hay vans and had come off the tracks. Only three were wrecked, but the rest were all right. Duck was very cross.

“You clumsy great big engine,” he snapped! “Now look what’s happened!”

Gordon felt very silly. Scotsman arrived at the aftermath of the crash. “Gordon,” he called. “Are you all right?”

“No,” Gordon steamed sadly. “I’m not all right. I’m not big, strong, or fast. I am a very silly little brother.” He felt terrible.

“I’ll go and get help,” Scotsman huffed. “Stay where you are, Gordon!” And Scotsman raced away to find Thomas.

Scotsman found Thomas at last. He told him all about Gordon and his accident at the points.”

“Cinders and ashes,” shouted Thomas! “This is an emergency!”

Thomas and Scotsman were coupled up to Rocky and the two engines set off to the rescue.

They arrived at the scene of the wreckage, and with Rocky’s help, he put Gordon on a flatbed and Duck was uncoupled from the unhurt vans and pulled away to help clean up the mess.

After all was set right, Thomas spoke to the two engines.

“I’m sorry about starting this race,” he said. “I didn’t mean for Gordon to cause an accident.”

“No, Thomas,” Gordon spoke up. “I crashed into Duck’s train, and it was my fault for speeding up like that.”

“And I’m sorry I called you a ‘Little Brother’”, Scotsman said. “You did prove something today.” He added.

Gordon was puzzled. “What do you mean? We haven’t proven who is the fastest and best?”

“You don’t need to prove who’s best,” Thomas smiled. “All that matters is that you always try your best no matter how big, fast, and strong you are.”

Gordon and Scotsman knew that Thomas was right.

“You wouldn’t mind if I called you the Flying Gordon, eh Gordon?” said Scotsman. And all the engines laughed. Even Gordon laughed a very big laugh. He knew that Scotsman was right.

### *AUTHOR’S NOTES AND TRIVIA*

- Written intentionally to be a story from the HiT Entertainment model era. Flying Scotsman never appeared physically in the HiT era, nor was he mentioned. So, I thought of taking my own matters of making Scotsman work in the HiT model era of Thomas from 2004-2008.
- This story is inspired by the YouTube video, “Gordon Races the Flying Scotsman”.

- Flying Scotsman is intentionally referred to as Scotsman for the rest of the story to keep him simple.
- US terms like “Sir Topham Hatt” as opposed to “The Fat Controller” or trucks being called “freight cars” were intentionally said due to me being American.