

THE MIKADO MESSENGER



2007 PRINCE OF WALES
Building Britain's Most Powerful Steam Locomotive

Welcome to edition No. 32 of *The Mikado Messenger*. The Messenger aims to provide a regular bulletin of news about the construction of No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*. The crank axle has now been assembled at South Devon Railway Engineering Ltd in Buckfastleigh, Devon and the P2 Project received almost £90,000 in donations and new pledges in May.

The assembly of the crank axle is a critical milestone for the project being the culmination of a long and expensive process including Finite Element Analysis (FEA) carried out by the railway engineering consultants, Mott MacDonald at Derby to eliminate a weakness in the original design that resulted in fracturing of the crank axle. The assembly of the axle will be followed by final machining prior to fitting of wheels and tyres which will complete the wheelset. It is hoped the have the engine wheeled by before the end of 2017. You can see more [here](#).



Rob Le Chevalier with the assembled crank axle at SDE - David Elliott

RECORD FUNDRAISING MONTH

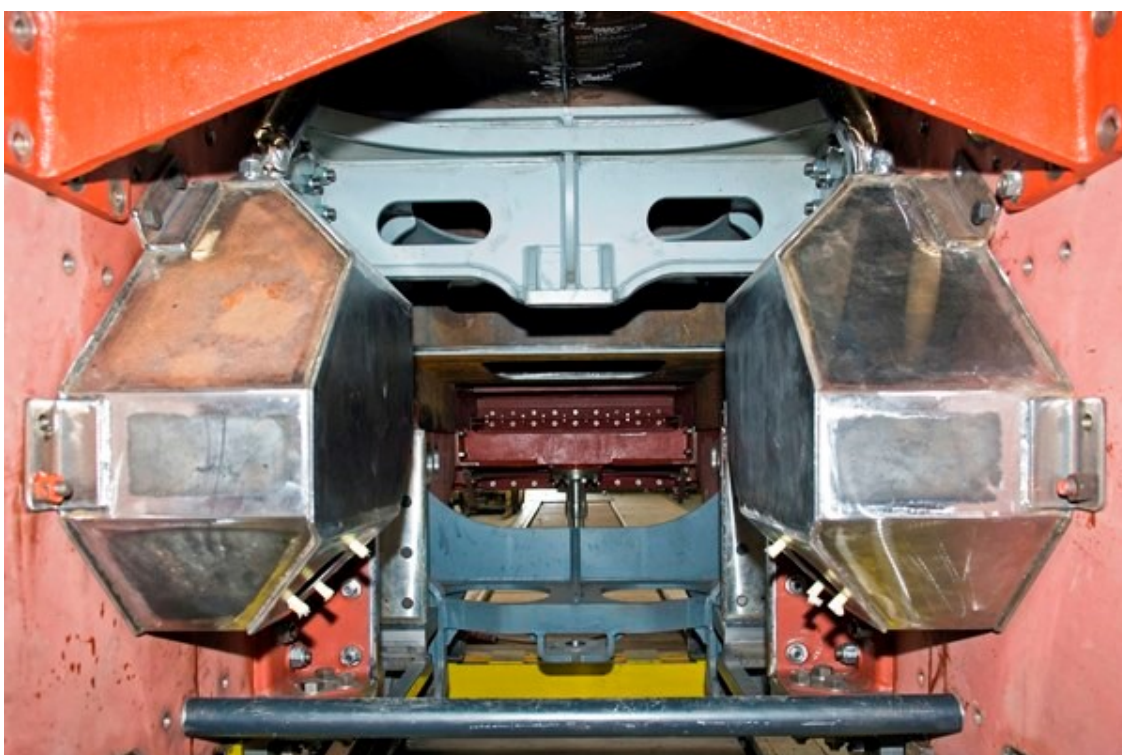
May has seen a record total given to the project by supporters, with almost £90,000 donated and pledged over the past month. In addition to the expected monthly income of almost £12,000, last month saw 24 new monthly covenantors coming on-board as well as one new member of The Boiler Club, 29 new members of The Mikado Club and over £5,000 donated in Dedicated Donations and general donations. Read the story [here](#).

MIKADO CLUB EXTENDED!

The Mikado Club was launched at the end of March 2016 to raise £200,000 from 160 members to wheel the engine. Following a fundraising drive by the Trust, the last three weeks has seen over £33,000 donated to The Mikado Club and the achievement of its initial £200,000 pledged target almost three months ahead of plan. With a £142,500 order recently placed with I D Howitt Ltd of Crofton, West Yorkshire, for the assembly of the locomotive's tender frames and another for £33,000 with William Cook Group for the remaining 67 castings for the locomotive, the Trust has decided to extend The Mikado Club's membership to 200 to raise sufficient funds to also wheel the tender. You can learn more about and join The Mikado Club [here](#).

CONSTRUCTION

- **Wheelsets** - assembly of the crank axle has been completed by South Devon Railway Engineering (SDRE) and is in the process of finish machining by Unilathe of Stoke on Trent; the Cartazzi axle, wheels and tyres are with SDRE for assembly
- **Smokebox** - the smoke lifting screen beading is now fully fitted
- **Sandboxes** - the original class P2 locomotives were fitted with gravity sanders for the leading coupled wheels and steam operated forward sanders for the driving coupled wheels. No backward sanders were fitted. No. 2007 is likely to do significant work in reverse, mostly on heritage railways, but from time to time hauling substantial loads over significant gradients on the main line running tender first. The leading and forward driving sanders have been altered for air operation (as per *Tornado*) and new backward sandboxes and fillers have been designed. All six sandboxes and fillers have been assembled and fitted to the frames.



The sandboxes fitted between the frames - *Bob Hughes*

- **Fittings** - the superheater header has arrived at Darlington Locomotive Works
- **Brake & spring gear** - orders have been placed with I D Howitt Ltd at Crofton for brake hangers and spring gear details
- **Boiler Cladding** - the boiler cladding has been modified from the original design to reflect minor

changes in the specification of No. 2007, including reducing the overall height of the locomotive by one inch to comply with the “go anywhere” national network loading gauge. A skeleton frame is being manufactured to enable the cladding to be made prior to delivery of the boiler. This enables the Trust to put off ordering the boiler by six months and still maintain the anticipated completion date.

AN AUDIENCE WITH THE *PRINCE OF WALES* - NEXT STOP EDINBURGH!

We continue to promote our P2 Project as widely as we can and have already held the first six P2 Roadshows. All were very well attended and resulted in substantial donations and sign-ups on the day, with more coming in over the following weeks. The remaining presentations for 2017 will run from 11:00hrs to 13:00hrs on each of the days listed below, no booking is required, admission is free and are open to existing supporters and interested members of the public:

- Saturday 1st July 2017 - Edinburgh Jury's Inn, Edinburgh
- Saturday 14th October 2017 - Dundee Heritage Trust Discovery Point, Dundee
- Saturday 25th November 2017 - Aberdeen Jury's Inn, Aberdeen.

These presentations are open to anyone interested in the project and we are encouraging our existing supporters to bring along interested family and friends.



The tiered lecture hall at the Mining Institute in Newcastle on 17th June - Mandy Grant

FUNDRAISING

Our project to build Gresley class P2 No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* continues to make solid progress on all fronts and we are still on target to complete the new locomotive by 2021 provided we can keep up the current pace of income growth. Pledges towards building No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* have passed £2.4m just three years after the frames were rolled at British Steel's plant in Scunthorpe. Public interest in seeing a new Gresley class P2 become a reality sooner rather than later remains high and over 830 people have already signed up to the 'P2 for the price of a pint of beer per week' (£10 per month or more) covenant scheme since its launch in March 2014. The average monthly donation is now £17.13 per covenantor (including Gift Aid) and the projected monthly income for our P2 project from the monthly covenant scheme is now running at 109% of that of *Tornado* - a remarkable achievement in such a short period of time thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

We do, however, need to complete our funding of the extended Mikado Club as soon as possible - so if you haven't already joined please do consider coming on-board and help us to make a Mikado! There

are also a considerable number of wheeling-related Dedicated Donations still available for sponsorship, ranging from a driving wheel spoke at £600 (or from £25 per month for 24 months) to a Cartazzi axlebox casting at £1,300 (or from £50 per month for 26 months) to and driving wheel casting & proof machining at £12,000 (or from £200 per month for 60 months). We are delighted with the level of support that the project to build Britain's most powerful steam locomotive has received since its launch. This means over £1m converted into metal (over 20% of the total required), over £1.4m raised (over 28%) and over £2.4m pledged (over 48%). We are now hopeful that we will have completed the rolling chassis for No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* by autumn 2017 and we remain on-track for completion of the new locomotive in 2021. However, to maintain this rate of progress we need to continue to raise more than £700,000 per year, which given the nature of the regular donation scheme becomes more challenging as each year passes.

We would encourage all our supporters who haven't yet contributed to this exciting project to help us to meet these deadlines by becoming a monthly covenantor, joining The Boiler Club, taking out a Dedicated Donation or subscribing to The Mikado Club. It's time to get on-board!

For more information on how you can help to build Britain's most powerful steam locomotive visit www.p2steam.com email enquiries@p2steam.com or call 01325 460163.

PRESENTATIONS

If any railway society - or indeed other interested group - would like a presentation on the project they should contact us by email enquiries@p2steam.com

OPEN DAYS AT DARLINGTON

We hold public open days at Darlington Locomotive Works on the third Saturday of every month. During April through to September we are open 10:00hrs to 16:00hrs, October through to March, we are open 11:00hrs - 15:30hrs.

VOLUNTEER

As ever we are looking for more volunteers. It takes a lot of people to both keep *Tornado* on the main line and also to build *Prince of Wales*. There is always so much more that we can achieve with the right volunteers with the right skills and can-do attitude. Please email enquiries@p2steam.com if you think you can help.

For more information on the project to build Gresley class P2 No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* please visit www.p2steam.com, email enquiries@p2steam.com or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



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