

THE MIKADO MESSENGER



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

Welcome to edition No. 33 of *The Mikado Messenger*. The Messenger aims to provide a regular bulletin of news about the construction of No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*.

The big news this month includes sponsorship of the tender tank by Cleveland Bridge and the placement of the firm's apprentices at Darlington Locomotive Works (DLW), the construction of a 'skeleton' at DLW to assemble the boiler cladding on and a significant increase in the number of dedicated donations for new components.

TENDER SPONSORSHIP BY CLEVELAND BRIDGE

Cleveland Bridge has agreed to build the new locomotive's tender tank on very beneficial terms. They will fabricate the tender tank, the construction of which is like a lightweight box girder structure, from weathering steel plate as well as shot blasting and primer-painting the finished structure. The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust has agreed to provide a number of Cleveland Bridge apprentices with the opportunity to assist in building No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*, providing them with experience in a different engineering environment. Overall, the sponsorship by Cleveland Bridge is significant to the project and enables us to bring forward the construction of the tender by at least 12 months. You can see more [here](#). Cleveland Bridge have produced a video interview with David Elliott to mark the agreement, which you can view [here](#).



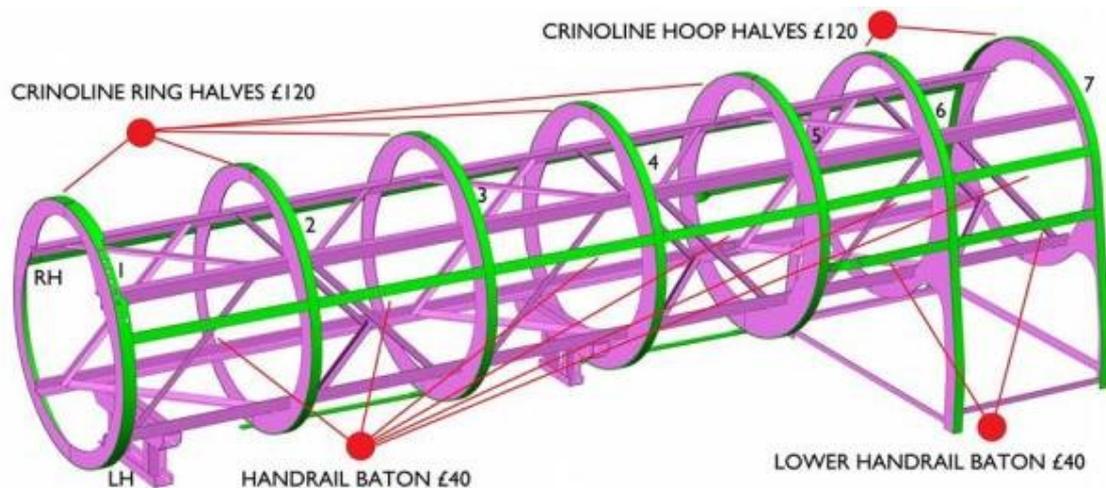
Cleveland Bridge apprentices start work at DLW - Cleveland Bridge

A P2 SKELETON?

In contrast to the methods used to assemble *Tornado's* boiler cladding, we are using a different technique for *Prince of Wales*. Work is now well under way at Darlington Locomotive Works, as the team make a start on building the 'skeleton' (unofficially named 'Craig the Cretaceous') to support the cladding sheets. Progress so far has involved the frame design and fitting of the crinoline rings and handrail batons to the jig. It will enable the Trust to make the entire cladding before the actual boiler is delivered. This postpones the need for the boiler to be at Darlington Locomotive Works by at least six months. Once the boiler cladding is finished and primed, it will be dismantled and stored, pending fitting to the boiler in 2020! Read the story [here](#) and see the list of boiler parts now available to sponsor.



Starting the assembly of the boiler cladding jig - Ian Matthews



CONSTRUCTION

- **Frames** - the brake hanger brackets are ready for fitting to the frames. Steve Wood is making the brake hanger pins. The frame stay and four spring hanger bracket fabrications are making progress at North View Engineering. The Cartazzi spring hanger brackets are fitted to the outer frames. The Cartazzi axleboxes have been set up in the hornblocks in readiness to measure the clearances and adjust as necessary.
- **Wheelsets** - M Machine has manufactured the Cartazzi axle bearing retaining nuts and locking bars and the Cartazzi wheelset components have been sent to South Devon Railway Engineering for assembly. Completion is expected in the 3rd week in August.
- **Boiler Cladding** - good progress is being made with the cladding. Ian Matthews has built the cladding assembly jig and with assistance from the two Cleveland Bridge apprentices, Michael Spence and Jack Morton, the crinoline rings are being fitted to the jig. 14 sheets of 2mm CR4 bright steel have been

ordered and arrangements put in hand to borrow M Machine's sheet roller to roll the sheets into half cylinders to form the cladding.

RAILWAYANA DONATED FOR THE P2 YIELDS RESULTS

We are pleased to report that railwayana donated by a supporter (who wishes to remain anonymous) was sold for £4,870 at auction by GW Railwayana Auctions at Pershore High School, in Pershore, Worcestershire on Saturday 15th July 2017. The auctioneers kindly waived all seller's fees due to The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's charitable status. You can see the plates and read the full story [here](#).

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

We continue to promote our P2 Project as widely as we can and have already held the first seven 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 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 crowd at Edinburgh Jury's Inn, Edinburgh on 1st July - 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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