

THE MIKADO MESSENGER



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

Welcome to edition No. 39 of *The Mikado Messenger*. The *Messenger* aims to provide a regular bulletin of news about the construction of No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*.

Work continued on the P2 over the festive season and the first of the 2018 Roadshows was held at the London Transport Museum. In other news the Trust has appointed a deputy engineer to help David Elliott with the design of No. 2007.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER APPOINTED

It has become increasingly apparent that with the impressive fundraising results, the engineering function is struggling to produce manufacturing drawings fast enough to maintain progress. It was anticipated at the outset that extra resources would be required as the build developed. The decision was taken last September to seek an Assistant Engineer to expedite production of drawings and, following a recruitment process carried out in collaboration with Teesside University, we are pleased to welcome Daniela Filova who comes from the Czech Republic and who started with us on 17th January 2018. Daniela is making good progress with the manufacturing drawing for the cylinder covers and has also proved useful on the shop floor!



Daniela Filova drives the Matterson jacks during the recent frame lift - David Elliott

PRINCE OF WALES READY FOR WHEELING IN 2018

Three new plain coupled axles for No. 2007 are expected to arrive at Darlington Locomotive Works from South Africa via Unilathe (where they have been finish-machined) in January; they are the replacements for those which were manufactured in early 2017, but had their keyways machined incorrectly by the supplier. The assembled crank axle is already at Darlington, along with all of the engine's axleboxes. The final frame stay consisting four spring brackets has also recently been delivered and permanently fitted, paving the way for the wheeling of the frames in the spring, you can find full details [here](#). In preparation for wheeling the frames, a trial lift with the Matterson Jacks was carried out on 23rd January. The frames had been set up on our Matterson synchro jacks and a test lift undertaken in preparation for fitting the first wheelset and the crank axle. This also demonstrated that we can achieve sufficient height to roll the coupled wheels under the frames without the need to remove the smokebox and or cab as was the case with *Tornado*. This is due to the wheels being 6' 2" diameter as opposed to 6' 8" on the A1.



The frames were successfully lifted at Darlington in January - *David Elliott*

THE CYLINDER CLUB SURGES AHEAD

We are delighted to say that the £100,000 appeal to make the cylinder block for *Prince of Wales* has reached over 80% of its target in just three months. If the project is to remain on schedule for completion by 2021, the first components of the cylinder block have to be ordered in early 2018. At its annual convention on 30th September 2017, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust set itself the challenge of raising £100,000 through The Cylinder Club, you can find full details [here](#).

ENGINEERING UPDATE

The final frame stay was installed just before Christmas. With the remaining axles delivered the

opportunity will be taken to fit them with their roller bearings and cannon boxes and to offer them up to the frames, permitting the final alignment of the hornguides without the wheels in the way. The axles will then be sent away for wheeling. A full engineering report will appear in *The Communication Cord* #49.



The final frame stay securely in place - *David Elliott*

P2 FUNDRAISING

Pledges towards building No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* have passed £2.8m less than four 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 840 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 around £17.40 per covenantor (including Gift Aid) and the projected monthly income for our P2 project from the monthly covenant scheme is now running at 105% of that of *Tornado* - a remarkable achievement in such a short period of time and all thanks to the generosity of our supporters. What is even more striking is that only 27% of A1 covenantors (36% of P2 covenantors) are regular donors to both locomotives, meaning that the overwhelming majority of the funds are being given by new supporters of the Trust.

In addition to this core scheme, funds have been raised through The Founders Club (over 360 people have donated £1,000 each - target 100 people, now closed), The Boiler Club (136 people have pledged £2,000 each to fund the boiler - target of 300 people - meaning half of the £600,000 target now pledged), The Mikado Club (177 people have pledged £1,000 each - initial target 160 extended to 200 to wheel the tender in addition to the engine - meaning that £221,250 now pledged), The Cylinder Club (only launched at our last convention - 81 people have already pledged £1,000 each - target 100 people) and Dedicated Donations (over £220,000 from existing supporters sponsoring a variety of components). The Gresley Society Trust has also sponsored the locomotive's distinctive front-end for which we are most grateful.

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 £1.5m (over 30% of the total required) converted into metal, over £1.8m (over 36%) raised and more than £2.8m (over 56%) pledged.

We are now hopeful that we will have completed the rolling chassis for No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* in winter 2018 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 'P2 for the price of a pint of beer a week' covenantor, joining The Boiler Club, subscribing to The Mikado Club, becoming a member of The Cylinder Club or taking out a Dedicated Donation. 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.

AN AUDIENCE WITH THE *PRINCE OF WALES*

We will be holding a series of presentations on the project to build new Gresley class P2 No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*. Each presentation will feature key Trust personnel including Mark Allatt and David Elliott and will cover the background to the project, progress to-date, future plans and details of how to get involved. We would encourage you to attend one of these Roadshows and bring along some friends and family members who would be interested in hearing about the project. The two hour presentation will run from 11:00hrs to 13:00hrs on each of the days listed below and are open to existing supporters and interested members of the public:

NEW ROADSHOW DATES FOR 2018:

- Saturday 10th February 2018 - The Great Northern Hotel, Peterborough
- Saturday 3rd March 2018 - The Principal Hotel, York
- Saturday 7th April 2018 - Darlington Locomotive Works, Darlington
- Saturday 19th May 2018 - Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield
- Saturday 9th June 2018 - Glasgow - venue to be confirmed
- Saturday 8th September 2018 - Derby Conference Centre, Derby
- Saturday 3rd November 2018 - Manchester - venue to be confirmed
- Saturday 8th December 2018 - Hilton Leeds City Hotel, Leeds.

For more information on the P2 roadshows visit www.p2steam.com, email enquiries@p2steam.com or call [01325 460163](tel:01325460163).



TORNADO'S TOURS

For more information on *Tornado's* tours and where you can see her, click [here](#).

The Trust respectfully requests that anyone wanting to see *Tornado* follows the rules of the railway and only goes where permitted.

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.



Facebook



Twitter



Website



Email

Copyright © 2018 The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, Darlington Locomotive Works, Hopetown Lane, Darlington. DL3 6RQ