



B1 NEWS

Newsletter of the Thompson B1 Locomotive Trust

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*What it's all about; 61264 attacking Beattock on 25th June 2006.
Photo courtesy of John Shuttleworth.*

*The overhaul of 61264 nears completion, but we still need one last push on the fundraising
– see inside for details of how YOU can help!*

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Chairman's update

Mike Cobley

As our ten-year overhaul reaches the last stages we can reflect on a job well done. We are fortunate that within our relatively small group we have many generous benefactors who have contributed most of the money required to make up the shortfall in our funding.

The Heritage Lottery Fund turned down our application for a Grant as our overhaul was considered to be 'maintenance'. Some maintenance! We have had virtually a new firebox and a rebuilt boiler and smokebox. The overall costs are approaching £400,000, which is a staggering amount, yet looking through recent news items in the railway press it is much less than many prestigious locomotives' overhauls have cost.

The volunteers at Barrow Hill have meticulously worked through the loco chassis and as Steve Andrews' reports have frequently detailed, many improvements have been carried out to reduce future maintenance costs and time. Previously worn and rusted parts have been replaced in stainless steel, better covers have been fitted to protect the axleboxes, and pipework and electrical conduit runs have been simplified.

We have the offer of a substantial loan as an advance of running fees from the North Yorkshire Moors Trust, but we have held off from drawing down on that money for two reasons; firstly we have been unable to give the final date that the loco will be ready and it was felt unfair to take their hard-earned money without such a date confirmed. Secondly, we have taken advantage of interest free loans from within the group, whereas the NYMR money would be attracting interest.

So, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported the B1 this year, whether financially or physically or both. I know it's an old cliché, but without you, it wouldn't be possible.

I look forward to meeting up with as many members as possible at the forthcoming AGM at Barrow Hill on Saturday 29th October (details below).

Annual General Meeting

Dave Fowler

***** **SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2011** *****
11am

Barrow Hill Roundhouse
Campbell Drive
near Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S43 2PR

This year we will be holding the AGM at Barrow Hill so that members can inspect the restored rolling chassis of 61264 which is now complete and ready to be reunited with the boiler.

As in previous years, complimentary tea, coffee and hot bacon rolls will be available from 1000 onwards. The meeting will commence at 1100 and should finish around 1330, when we can then retire to the Hollingwood Pub for lunch.

If you don't want lunch at the pub, the Barrow Hill canteen will still be open for snacks and light lunches and the site will be open until 1600 so you will have time to have a good look around.

We would like to see as many of you as possible this year and don't forget to bring your cheque books for the 1000 Pounder Appeal.....

The 1000 Pounder Appeal

Dave Fowler

The response from the members to this 'final appeal' for funds has been little short of fantastic.

I wrote in the appeal letter that we needed £40000 to complete the project and to date, with all the loans, donations and promises, we have raised the magnificent sum of £35000. However, we still need that last £5000 to ensure that the project is completed.

So if you have not yet responded, the deal is that you loan or donate us £1000 or less from money you have probably got sitting in savings accounts, which may be paying you interest of 0.1% in some cases. Any loan would be interest free and repayable from the earnings of the locomotive within 5 years. The loan would also be subject to a legal loan agreement.

If you think you can help, then please contact me or send me a cheque and I will process all the paperwork.

Please make cheques payable to *Thompson B1 Locomotive Trust* and send them to me: Dave Fowler, 39 Lord Drive, Pocklington, York YO42 2PB. Phone 01759 302463. Mobile 07941 079695. Many thanks.

Photo gallery

This month we are treating you to a full colour spread of photos from the last few months. Enjoy....



A busy sales stand at the 'Model Rail Live' gala on 17th and 18th September, with our completed chassis providing a fitting backdrop. For those unfamiliar with Barrow Hill, this is 'fitters corner', which we have called home for the past few years.



*(Left) Paul Kaufmann (seen standing) has done sterling work repainting the frames.
(Right) One of the newly re-upholstered, fireproof seats in the cab.*



LED lights now adorn the freshly-painted cab – lighting up the backhead controls and gauges (left) and the footplate (right), not to mention the speedo and the injectors...



Work progresses at LNWR Crewe to drill the smokebox ring (left), using the old ring as a template. Meanwhile (right), bending the corners around the foundation ring, prior to drilling, reaming, tapping and riveting, is no easy job.



Much of the staying in the firebox is now complete (left), but we are still missing a pair of cab windows (right) – does anybody know of their whereabouts? If so please call Steve Andrews (07824 422029) or Mike Cobley (07803 073584).

Engineering update

Chassis – Steve Andrews

At the Barrow Hill Beer Festival we pulled out all the stops, took over all available tables and had about 35ft of sales space. Videos, DVDs, books, magazines and assorted bric-a-brac were all forced on to the beer drinkers, whether they liked it or not! Thanks to everyone who came to give a hand over the two days. We are always on the look out for new sales material, so if you have anything you would like to donate, please contact Mike Cobley on 07803 073584.

Dave Fowler continues with the conduit wiring in the cab, most of it having now been replaced. The wiring is now laid out much more efficiently, making it easier when the cab is lifted off and on. We now have some nice number plate lights for the speedo and reverser, all LED of course. A new set of three LED cab lights has also been fitted, along with lights for the injectors.

The cab has been cleaned, rubbed down and painted. The fireman's cabside windows, restored by Mel Chamberlain, have been refitted to check that they fit and slide easily. A new fireman's side screen has also been fitted, to make running backwards less unpleasant.

Unfortunately we seem to have mislaid the driver's side cab windows – if anybody knows of their whereabouts, please give me (07824 422029) or Mike Cobley (07803 073584) a call – it is now getting quite urgent!

Finally on the cab, a set of three lifting eyes has been fitted to the roof, for ease of lifting.

Steve Robb has made a start on repairing the boiler cladding sheets. He has got all the right tools for the job; MIG welder, plasma cutter etc. Obtaining the new rolled sheets of 55" width was quite a challenge, due to most firms only having 48" rollers. But Neil at Rampart gave me the name of his friend's company which, curiously, is situated in the old goods shed of Bulwell station. The new sheets are now at Barrow Hill, where Steve Robb will glue / weld them back together.

I went over to LNWR Crewe recently, where a start has been made on refitting the ash pan spray and hopper doors, and measuring up has begun on the cladding crinolines. I will also be bringing the front cab windows back to Barrow Hill for cleaning and refitting.

Andrew Jones has overhauled the Stones turbo-generator, fitting new bearings and seals. I have fitted new stainless steel oil drain and filler plugs, and a number of nuts and bolts have been replaced by stainless ones.

Oliver Biddulph has re-upholstered the cab seats in a hard-wearing, fireproof material, so they should always look good.

Thanks to the members and shareholders who have responded to Dave Fowler's appeal for loans and donations. When 61264 is steaming again, it will be down to us, not the Heritage Lottery Fund, or multi-millionaire benefactors, just us! So when you next see 61264 run past, or get to ride behind her, just think – "I helped to make that happen". That's all for now – thanks.

“This year has seen slow but steady progress on the boiler at LNWR at Crewe.” How many times have I written that this year?! I know that the progress is slow but things are really starting to happen now. By the time of the AGM at the end of October the stay work will have been completed and the firehole door riveted into the back head. The front steel tube plate will have been riveted into the boiler barrel and the 24 large flue tubes fitted. The 141 small tubes will have arrived on site and be ready for fitting.

That is my prediction but you will have to attend the AGM to see if I am right! If LNWR keep to that timetable then a steam test at the end of November is a good possibility. After that, the frames will leave Barrow Hill for Crewe and final assembly of the locomotive will begin with a move to NYMR in the early New Year. Watch this space!

Obituaries

Eric Wright

We were saddened to hear of the death recently of Eric Wright. Eric was an early local member and although already retired when he joined, he always showed an interest in the B1 Group. He attended our monthly meetings in Harpenden, supported the 100 Club from the start and whenever we had a problem with Hornby O gauge or an electrical problem, he would help find a solution. He was always interested in purchasing anything O gauge that was out of the ordinary, and would scoop up damaged or incomplete items for spare parts. When he moved house he generously passed much of his Hornby collection to the Trust to sell and raise more much-needed funds. His funeral was held at Weybridge on 23rd September.

George Hinchcliffe

George Hinchcliffe also passed away recently. George had been a former chairman of MSLO and also a Managing Director of Steamtown at Carnforth, when mainline steam was in its infancy. He was also President of the Gauge 0 Guild. The resurgence of main line steam was a result of his efforts with many other stalwarts during the '70s and early '80s.

Our condolences to the families and friends of both these gentlemen.

Wanted

Can you help by donating to either of the following?

Videos, DVDs, books, magazines, drawings etc (particularly of a railway / transport / military theme) for selling on our sales stand. Also received gratefully: railwayana, tools, car-boot sale type items of reasonable worth (e.g. old record players, stereos, TVs). If you can offer or source any of the above, please contact Steve Andrews (Home: 01332 774193, Mob: 07824 422029). In addition, any members with unwanted items of model railway equipment, please see Mike Cobley (Home: 01582 767782, Mob: 07803 073584).

The sales stand is a valuable source of income for the loco, and you'd be surprised what sells working simply on the 'make us an offer' principle. And remember when we sell all this stuff it is PURE PROFIT for the loco!

Lord Balfour of Burleigh

Dave Fowler

I know the train spotters among you will be able to quote me '61246', but did you know that Robert Balfour, the 8th Lord Balfour of Burleigh, is our President? Robert visited Barrow Hill on Sunday 25th September with his wife Janet and nephew George, his wife Susan and two children, to view the progress of the 10-year overhaul and meet the members of the committee. Mike Cobley, Dave Fowler and Steve Andrews were in attendance and gave them a tour of the locomotive and site.

Robert, as an Engineer, was very interested in the technical aspects of the restoration and plied us with many questions. Mike Cobley remembered that it was in 1990 that he and Jim Gurnet visited the Bank of Scotland HQ in London, where Lord Balfour agreed to become our President. All in all, a very pleasant and successful visit from our President and his family. Oh and yes, he does still have the name plate, which he inherited from his father, who was a Director of the LNER.



(Left) Lord Balfour of Burleigh with Dave Fowler. (Right) The original meeting in 1990.

150 Club

Stephen Harris

2011	Special	£30	£20	£10	£10
April		30 D. Wellington*	6 A. Lightowler	69 A. Gregory	44 J. Whitfield*
May		129 A. Hartford*	33 A. Angus	31 D. Wellington*	49 S. Barrington
June	£50 74 D. Wellington*		145 M. Rogers	21 B. Mick	100 R. Flintoft
July		130 D. Wellington*	29 D. Wellington*	138 P. Slater	102 A. Hartford*
August		152 N. Snuggs	177 G. Phelon	102 A. Hartford*	31 D. Wellington*
September	£50	141 M. Sanders	108 H. May	176 M. Sanders	111 W. Wood

* denotes winnings donated to the Trust. The 150 Club now has a couple of numbers vacant. If you would like to subscribe or increase your subscription, please contact Stephen Harris at 3, The Larchlands, Penn, Bucks, HP10 8AB or on 01494 813551 or by email at stephencharris@hotmail.com.