

THE MIKADO MESSENGER



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

Welcome to edition No. 18 of The Mikado Messenger. The Messenger aims to provide a regular bulletin of news about the construction of No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*. Following the Christmas break the P2 team at Darlington Locomotive Works hit the ground running and further astonishing progress has been achieved. Our 'Twelve Days of Christmas' Dedicated Donation campaign, managed by Mandy Grant 'sold' an incredible number of components and raised tens of thousands of pounds.

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Editor of The Mikado Messenger



FRAMES

The last of the cast steel frame stays (the Pony Truck Top and the Front Boiler Support) have been machined and trial assembled to the frames. The first of the large frame stays which have been re-designed as fabrications is presently being manufactured by North View Engineering Solutions in Darlington. This is the Frame Stay and Inside Motion Bracket. Meanwhile the next of the large frame stays, the Intermediate Frame Stay, redesigned as a fabrication and modified to carry one air brake cylinder and an air pump, has

been ordered from North View Engineering Solutions. The horn block machining is almost complete so by the time you read this, fitting them to the frames should be underway.



WHEELSETS

The pony truck, Cartazzi and tender wheels have all been proof machined by Multi-Tech Engineering at Ferrybridge and will be delivered to Darlington shortly. Timsons Engineering at Kettering has been contracted to machine all the axle and cannon boxes along with the spacer, seal, grease thrower and abutment rings required to fit the bearings to the axles and axleboxes.

CYLINDERS AND VALVE GEAR

Work is continuing to produce a one piece cylinder block with improved steam and exhaust passages combined with the Franklin/Lentz rotary cam poppet valve gear.

FOOTPLATING

The footplating has been dismantled and grit blasted enabling Ian Matthews to prime it and start to refit it permanently.

SMOKEBOX



The smokebox platework kit has been profiled and shaped by S M Thompson at Middlesbrough in CorTen corrosion resistant steel. Formers to assist in maintaining the egg shaped section of the smokebox during erection have also been profiled. Following grit blasting the components are being erected and cut to the finished shape. Meanwhile South Lincs Foundry has almost completed the pattern for the Kylchap double chimney and Timsons has started machining the door frame.



CAB



The plate kit has been profiled and rolled by S M Thompson at Middlesbrough. Following delivery to Darlington, Mick Robinson made a cradle to assemble the roof upside down.

Once the structure was considered strong enough temporary braces were fitted between the bottoms of the side sheets and at roof level. The cab was then turned the right way up and following some more adjustments, set up on the footplate at the back of the engine. The cab was then taken off, dismantled and all the parts grit blasted and primed.

In the meantime, 3D models have been produced for the cab side and spectacle windows. The latter have required modification to accommodate the modern standard 20mm thick multiple laminated glazings with an anti-spall plastic coating on the inside.

TENDER

Boro' Foundry have completed machining and drilling the tender frame plates which have been delivered to Darlington Locomotive Works. Whilst *Tornado* was being overhauled at Darlington, we had asked Boro' to hold off work on the tender frames to avoid further storage problems in Darlington Works until *Tornado* had been moved out.



FUNDRAISING

Public interest in seeing a new Gresley class P2 'Mikado' become a reality sooner rather than later is high and well over 730 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 2014. In addition to this core scheme, funds have been raised through The Founders Club (370 people have donated £1,000 each - target 100 people, now closed), The Boiler Club (101 people have pledged £2,000 each - target of 300 people) and Dedicated Donations (over £160,000 from existing supporters sponsoring a variety of components). The Gresley Society Trust has also generously sponsored the locomotive's distinctive front-end. This means that the project has already received pledges of over £2m (including Gift Aid) of the £5m needed over the next seven years.

This means that the regular monthly 'P2 for the price of a pint' income for the P2 Project is already running at over 90% of that of *Tornado*, with less than a quarter of *Tornado*'s Covenantors also regular donors to *Prince of Wales*.

We are confident that we will have completed the rolling chassis for No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* this year 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 in excess of £700,000 per year, which given the nature of the regular donation scheme becomes more challenging as each year passes.

For details of how to help visit www.p2steam.com, email enquiries@p2steam.com or call 01325 460163.

THE BOILER CLUB

It is our desire to leave No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* debt free upon completion and therefore our aim is to raise at least £600,000 for The Boiler Club from 300 supporters each donating £2,000 to the project (in up to 40 payments of £50 by standing order).

Special benefits for members of The Boiler Club:

- Opportunity to buy a ticket (seat already reserved) on No. 2007's first main line train
- Reasonable access to No. 2007 at all times
- Opportunity to buy exclusive Boiler Club badge
- Opportunity to join one of the teams building No. 2007
- First choice of other components to sponsor
- Special limited edition version (signed/numbered) of the first official painting of No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* with No. 60163 *Tornado*
- Special Boiler Club day with *Tornado*

For more information on how you can help to build Britain's most powerful steam locomotive [visit our website](#), [email us](#) or call 01325 460163.

DEDICATED DONATIONS UPDATE

December got off to a flying start following the launch of our 'Twelve Days of

Christmas Campaign'. Starting on 1st December, for twelve consecutive days, we listed a selection of new components on our web site, Facebook page and Twitter page.

For the first time since the launch of the project, during the month of December only, members of the public and not just regular supporters were able to sponsor a component on No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*. The sponsorship could also be dedicated in the name of a friend or loved one, making it an ideal Christmas gift for those enthusiasts in the family.

Since its launch in 2014, around 180 components have been sponsored as part of the Dedicated Donations Scheme and over 30 of these were snapped up during our December campaign!

EXCLUSIVE BADGES

To purchase your badge please send a cheque for £5 made payable to The P2 Steam Locomotive Company to The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, Darlington Locomotive Works, Hopetown Lane, Darlington DL3 6RQ

PRESENTATIONS

If any railway society - or indeed other interested group - would like a presentation on the project the [please get in touch](#).

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.



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