

THE MIKADO MESSENGER



2007 PRINCE OF WALES

Building Britain's Most Powerful Steam Locomotive



Welcome to the 93rd edition of *The Mikado Messenger*, bringing you the latest update from No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*. It's been a couple of months since our last issue, as work on the P2 slowed through the summer with staff and volunteers taking well-earned holiday, and *Tornado's* overhaul requiring all hands.

That said, work has forged forwards off site on both the monobloc cylinder and boiler. The Monobloc, still unfinished, visited Darlington for the Annual Convention last week. Read on for more details....

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PROGRESS ON THE CYLINDER BLOCK



To date, the components for the P2's cylinder block have been cut and formed, the fabrication has been welded together and stress-relieved and machining is well underway. In October, the monobloc took a short break from the machining work to visit DLW for the convention, but machining will continue on return to Howco in Irvine.

The remaining work is to shrink fit the cylinder liners and valve seats before final machining, after which the whole block will be hydraulically tested to one and a half times boiler pressure, which requires many unique covers to be manufactured and their associated fasteners fitted. The final operation is the application of a coat of high temperature paint.

Despite nearing completion, the manufacturing of monobloc is less than 50% funded. This mammoth piece of engineering is unique and could pave the way for other heritage locomotives' return to steam. All donations are welcome, and those who join 'The Monobloc Club' will be invited back to see the finished article before it is attached within the frames.

JOIN THE MONOBLOC CLUB

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Just in time for The Annual Convention on 22nd October, the monobloc was transported by road to Darlington, ready to be revealed to supporters at the ever-popular event.

Steve Davies commented that, “The construction of the P2’s three-cylinder monobloc constitutes a seminal moment in the delivery of the locomotive and also represents a further milestone in the engineering achievements of railway heritage more broadly. This is an impressive piece of work and we look forward to mounting it in the frames”.

Read more [here](#).



Make A Donation

In other areas....

- Cambox and valves - the design is mostly complete, once signed off a single cambox will be manufactured then tested to confirm function, strength and durability.
- Tender Frames - these are being manufactured at I D Howitt of Crofton near Wakefield. The frames are substantially complete, the remaining work is to the axle boxes and spring planks before a final coat of primer. Find out more about [THE TENDER CLUB](#)
- Boiler - was due to be delivered mid 2022 but Covid induced delays plus work required on the A1’s boiler has delayed P2’s boiler delivery until 2023. Find out more about [THE BOILER CLUB](#)
- Pony Truck - is complete but replacement liners need to be welded to the cannon box then machined at Triple T to suit the pony truck. This is also awaiting suitable welding resource, currently fully occupied with the mechanical modifications to *Tornado* for the Network Rail project to fit the European Train Control System (ETCS) cab signalling.

- Motion - the leading, trailing and connecting rods have been bushed and are fitted on both sides of the loco. They have been successfully driven by the rotator to establish that there is no binding or interference. The inside rod and strap have also been delivered and polished.
- Brake Gear on loco - Brake cross stays finished, pull rod lengths being set to suit actual dimensions of brake gear prior to final welding
- Pipework - further progress has been made with air, vacuum, water and steam pipework, although diversion of resources onto *Tornado* has limited the degree of completion
- ETCS - the similarity between the A1 and P2 in many critical areas is such that most of the large amount of detailed design work (both electrical and mechanical) for *Tornado* will read across directly on to the P2. Once the *Tornado* ETCS test programme is completed successfully in the new year, the design will be replicated on the P2. Mechanically the largest area of work will be the modification of the front of the tender to accommodate the electronic cubicles for the ETCS control equipment.
- P2 support coach - 35457 is currently in traffic with the Dining Train at the Great Central Railway in lieu of any stabling charges. This means that the coach is being regularly inspected, maintaining its current mainline certification. We are currently drawing up the plans that would convert it for use behind the P2 on the mainline. The coach is usable as it is once we have added the dual air brake components but, once funding becomes available, we would wish to improve it to similar standards achieved in the refurbishment of 21249. Find out more about [THE P2 SUPPORT COACH APPEAL](#)

Introducing No. 3403 *Highlander*



The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust (A1SLT) is pleased to announce that their next new build steam

locomotive project will be called *Highlander*.

Announced at the A1SLT Annual Convention on Saturday 22nd October, following consultation with supporters, the name *Highlander* has been met with wide approval.

The painting of No. 3403 in Scotland by Chris Ludlow (above) was also presented at the Convention.

Read more [here](#).

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE



How to Support No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*

The P2 couldn't have come this far without your help, and we are hugely grateful to all of our supporters. If you are wondering what other ways you can make a difference to this project, here are the many ways to get involved.

- [Sign up as a Covenantor](#) - just £10 per month makes a big difference.
- [Join The Boiler Club](#) - help us fund the beating heart of the engine.
- [Join The Tender Club](#) - get behind *Prince of Wales*.
- [Join The Injectors Club](#) - help inject some cash!
- [Join The Monobloc Club](#) - contribute to this complex component.
- [The Support Coach Appeal](#) - support the home of the support crew.
- [Dedicated Donations](#) - buy a gift for No. 2007!
- [Volunteer](#) - to help with engineering or sales, get in touch!
- [Legacy](#) - a legacy in your will can help secure the future of main line steam.
- [One-off Donation](#) - every little helps, and a lot goes a long way!

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