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**A1 TRUST LAUNCHES NEW COVENANTOR
MAGAZINE 'TOP LINK'**

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the registered charity that is building the first new mainline steam locomotive in Britain for 40 years at a cost of over £1.7 million, today announced that it has launched a new quarterly magazine for its covenantors and sponsors.

Top Link replaces the Trust's previous in-house journal, *The Pioneer*, and is part of an overhaul of the Trust's communications with its supporters. With the new name comes a new editor – Gerard Hill, one of the first covenantors and a professional copy-editor – as well as a new layout, new features and more colour.

The aim is to make the quarterly journal varied and readable: there will be all the latest news, of course, but also reports from the trustees and management team, explanations of technical questions and for the first time a letters page, The Safety Valve – but there will be no cliques, no raised voices and no snide comments. The intention is to encourage contributions from as many people as possible, particularly for the history pages.

Gerard Hill, editor, *Top Link* and member of the management team of The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, commented:

“The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust has long been *The Pioneer* in its field of new steam locomotive construction. Now its house journal has been through the works and come out as *Top Link* – because we are top in our field and this is our link with our supporters.”

Issue no. 1 of *Top Link* is being distributed w/b 13 November 2001, and the second issue will appear in February 2002.

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