



· The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust ·

NEW STEAM FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

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Embargoed until Saturday 23rd September 2006

GRESLEY'S A4 BACK ON 'THE TALISMAN' FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 40 YEARS

Steam-hauled train takes more than 400 supporters to see new boiler for steam locomotive under construction

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the registered charity that is building the first new mainline steam locomotive in Britain for over 40 years, is today running a special train, *The Talisman*, from London's Kings Cross station to Darlington to see under-construction steam locomotive *Tornado*, with a first opportunity to view its recently delivered new boiler. The ex-LNER Peppercorn class A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* is being built by the Trust in its Darlington Locomotive Works and is due to be completed by the end of 2007, provided that a further £169,000 is raised towards its construction costs. To-date the Trust has raised and spent over £1.7m.

The Talisman train ran from London King's Cross to Edinburgh Waverley and this year is celebrating its Golden Jubilee since its first run in 1956. This 60th anniversary train is being hauled by ex-LNER Gresley class A4 steam locomotive No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* and it is over 40 years since a locomotive of this type hauled *The Talisman* from London King's Cross station. World record holder *Mallard* is the most famous of this class of locomotive, achieving 126mph on 3rd July 1938 – a record which still stands today – and it is still on display at the National Railway Museum in York. The 35 Gresley A4s – of which six are preserved – worked the fastest trains on the East Coast Main Line from their introduction in 1935 to the final run by *Union of South Africa* in 1966.

Mark Allatt, chairman, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, added:

"The Trust is delighted to be running the 60th Anniversary *Talisman* from Kings Cross today, carrying more than 400 supporters to see *Tornado* under construction and a first opportunity to see the newly delivered boiler. Not only are we expecting a first-class day out but we are hopeful that the sight of our almost complete new locomotive will encourage our supporters to help us finish *Tornado* by participating in our bond issue or sponsoring a component. We are now calling on all those interested in seeing *Tornado* in steam in 2007 to help us to bridge our £169,000 funding gap."

The A1 Trust is building Peppercorn Class A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* at its Darlington Locomotive Works and when complete it will be used on charter trains operating on Network Rail. Significant progress has been made on the construction of *Tornado*, including the delivery of its boiler earlier this year, with over £1.7m raised to-date through deeds of covenant, commercial sponsorship (principle sponsor William Cook Cast Products Limited) and through a bond issue. In order to complete *Tornado* as quickly as possible - by the end of 2007 - the Trust needs to raise £169,000 on top of its existing pledges.

Timings of *The Talisman*

From London:

0625 off King's Cross

0801 off Peterborough

0857 off Peterborough West Yard

1011 arrive Doncaster RMT

1038 off Doncaster RMT

1116 off York

1221 into Darlington

From Darlington:

1643 off Darlington

1725 arrive York

1817 arrive Doncaster RMT

1950 arrive Peterborough

2006 arrive Conington

2140 arrive King's Cross

– ENDS –

Captions for attached photograph

A look into the future – computer adjusted photo to show *Tornado's* finished appearance (original Colour-rail photo).

Note to Editors

The A1 Class of Pacific locomotives was designed by Arthur H Peppercorn for the London and North Eastern Railway and built in 1948/49. They were the last of the East Coast Main Line's series of thoroughbred express passenger steam locomotives. Examples of many other Darlington and Doncaster built locomotives have been saved for preservation, but not the Peppercorn A1s which were scrapped, following dieselisation of the railways, with the last going in 1966. The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust is building a new locomotive, 60163 *Tornado*, at the new Darlington Locomotive

Works (DLW) with the money being raised by public subscription through Deeds of Covenant, at a cost of only the price of a pint of beer per week, a £500,000, 4% unsecured bearer bonds issue and sponsorship agreements. The total cost of the locomotive will be about £2.63 million, of which over £1.7m has already been raised. Our principle sponsor is William Cook Cast Products Limited and other great British organisations helping the project include GNER, Corus, I.D. Howitt, Total, M. H. Spencer Limited and Darlington Borough Council. DLW is open to the general public from 11am to 4pm on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Access to DLW is via Darlington Railway Centre & Museum, for which a ticket should be purchased. Parties are welcome at the works at other times by prior arrangement (subject to availability) and the Trust will make every effort to enable covenantors to view *Tornado* when they are in the area.

For more information please contact:

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For details of the covenant scheme contact the A1 Hotline on 01325 4 60163 or email enquiries@a1steam.com

