

NBL Preservation Group

Honorary President Sir Hugh Reid

April 2011 Newsletter



DUBS COMING HOME

The picture that says it all ! As many of our members will already know, our historic Dubs 4-8-2 Tank loco was loaded safely aboard the Gearbulk 'Bergen Arrow' at Richards Bay Docks on Tuesday 5th April and is now on the high seas en route to the UK. Andy Anderson, from the Umgeni Steam Railway, project managed the move on behalf of NBLPG and we owe him and his team a big vote of thanks. Further details and photos of the loading and the road movement from Masons Mill shed appear on the following pages.

At the time of writing, the 'Bergen Arrow' is due to arrive at Bristol's Portbury Dock on Sunday 8th May and the loco will then be collected by Moveright International for onward transport to Woking. Please be aware however, that the date is subject to confirmation and could be impacted by the weather or late changes in the vessels' schedule. Once the loco is safely on site a welcoming party and civic reception will be arranged at the Mizens Railway. We will keep everyone posted with dates and details.

(All Photos at Masons Mill and Richards Bay in this edition are from Andy Anderson)

LEAVING MASONS MILL



Monday 4th April began with a gentle nudge from a Spoornet Class 35. The fuel pump on the Hunslet diesel shunter, normally used as yard pilot, decided to pack up at the vital moment ! All ended well though and the loco was safely winched aboard the low bed ready for her 200 kilometers journey to the Docks.



RICHARDS BAY



Tuesday 5th April saw our precious cargo arrive at Richards Bay Docks near Empangeni in good time for the scheduled 2-00pm loading onto the Bergen Arrow. Richards Bay is the World's largest coal export terminal and has a throughput of around 90 million tons per annum. We felt that this was a very appropriate departure point for a loco that had spent 23 years of her life at Springfield Colliery !



THE BERGEN ARROW



At one time we had serious concerns that the Dubs might be overweight for lifting but in the event, the giant Transnet crane tasked with the job had no problem. Sleepers were laid on the ships deck and the loco was lashed to rails on the lowbed. The whole ensemble was then craned on board and securely pinned down.



A BRIEF HISTORY



(Photo by Graham McWilliams)

We will put together a more detailed history of the loco when it returns to the UK but for now, here are a few brief notes that will hopefully whet the appetite : Our Dubs 'A' Class 4-8-2 Tank was built in Glasgow in 1899 for the Natal Government Railways, her Dubs Works Number was 3819 and she became NGR No. 133. In 1910, the NGR was absorbed into South African Railways and the engine was renumbered SAR No. 196.

In point of fact, No. 196 spent far longer in Industrial Service than she did working on the main line as a change in SAR locomotive policy saw her sold to Daggafontein Mines as early as 1933. A further move to Amcoal's Springfield Colliery took place in 1967 where she was partnered by another Glasgow veteran, NBL 'G' Class 4-8-2 tank works no. 16069 of 1904. The Dubs' fire was dropped for the last time in 1980 having spent more than 47 of her 81 years in Industrial ownership.

LAST PUSH FOR FUNDS

As mentioned in recent messages, shipping and haulage costs for this move have exceeded the original budget and we have only been able to proceed thanks to the generosity of our members. However, we do need to urgently repay more than £3,000 in interest free loans and to find additional funding to cover the cost of a cosmetic repaint when the loco arrives on site.

All contributions, no matter how small will be gratefully accepted so if you are able to help in any way, please send your donations to : NBL Preservation Group, 4 Porchfield Close, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 5YZ. Alternatively, you can make an electronic bank transfer to NBL Preservation Group, Halifax Building Society, Account Number : 00042211, Sort Code : 11-03-31. Please advise by email if you transfer funds by this method so we can send you a receipt.

Thank you all once again for your continued support, More News Next Month, Best Regards, Ken

MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION

If you would like to comment on our preservation activities or would like further information on any of our projects, please contact Ken or our Webmaster Steve Knapman by letter or by e:mail. Photos and articles for our website should be sent to : steve.k@rubihorn.demon.co.uk

New Members and Supporters are always welcome and funds are urgently needed for all our projects. Please join us and help to preserve North British locomotives from around the World. Our Website Address is : www.nbloco.net

Remember, **there is no annual Membership Fee**, just a one-off joining fee of £10 which will give you regular news updates and the option to participate in our locomotive preservation projects.

If you would like to join us or make a donation, please complete the form below and send it to : Ken Livermore, **Hon. Secretary, NBL Preservation Group, 4 Porchfield Close, Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 5YZ.** Or e:mail : ken.livermore@btinternet.com

**NORTH BRITISH LOCOMOTIVE PRESERVATION GROUP
HON. PRESIDENT SIR HUGH REID**

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

NAME :

ADDRESS :

TELEPHONE NUMBER :

E:MAIL ADDRESS :

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP JOINING FEE (OPTIONAL) : £10

DONATION TO DUBS TANK No. 133 SHIPPING FUND : £

DONATION TO CLASS 11 No. 929 RESTORATION FUND : £

DONATION TO NGR CLASS 1B No. 1443 LOCO FUND : £

INTEREST FREE LOAN TO ANY OF THE ABOVE PROJECTS : £

TOTAL ENCLOSED : £

All donations, loans and subscriptions will be acknowledged, thank you for your interest and support. Please make cheques or orders payable to 'NBL Preservation Group'