

NBL Preservation Group

Honorary President Professor Dugald Cameron OBE

January 2018 Newsletter



COLD START

(Photo courtesy www.colourrail.com)

In the UK, 2018 started with many areas in the North of England and Scotland being blanketed in deep snow. However, nothing has yet matched the severe conditions that were encountered 55 years ago in the 'Big Freeze' winter when snow lay on the ground for a period of more than 3 months from December 1962 until March 1963. Lakes and rivers froze over and all forms of transport were severely disrupted.

In the picture above, taken in January 1963, NBL 'Jubilee' No 45588 'Kashmir' is seen piloting LMS 'Black Five' No 45022 into Barrhill Station on the Ayr to Stranraer line. Despite the obvious chill, it looks a fairly unremarkable scene but the line had been closed due to drifting snow and this was the first train to complete the journey between the two towns for three days !

In that same January I took part in a long-distance cycle training ride from London to Swindon and back and I can certainly vouch for the severity of the conditions. There were snow drifts all along the A4, virtually nothing was moving on the roads and the few trains we saw were packed with people trying to get home. This year, being much older and wiser (?) I spent the New Year on holiday in considerably warmer climes and have only just returned home. Due to my holiday absence during January I'd like to apologise to our postal members in particular for the late arrival of this Newsletter.

Please bear with me, things will improve as the year progresses !

Friends of the Rail

STEAM IN PRETORIA

(main photo Peter Odell)

Friends of the Rail are a South African preservation group, formed around 30 years ago, who operate a regular series of heritage steam trains providing recreation and education for the general public. Revenue earned from the trains goes directly towards the group's aims of preserving, restoring and displaying heritage railway equipment. In recent years FoR have been based at Hermanstad Station in Pretoria where they are assembling a superb collection of historic locomotives.



On 3rd January our Chairman Nick Newport, NBLPG Member Graham McWilliams and myself were kindly given a guided tour of the Friends of the Rail depot and departure station at Hermanstad by FoR Footplateman Gabor Kovacs. We were quite surprised to find that eight of the ten locomotives on site were of North British origin including two 15F's, two Class 24's and a GMAM Garratt. Current star of the show is Class 24 2-8-4 No 3664, seen above, which regularly hauls the mainline trips.



Our second set of photos show left to right : NBL 15F No 3094, Class 24 No 3664 and the massive ex Randfontein Estates GMAM Garratt No 4135 which was built by NBL under licence from Beyer Peacock in 1958. (please excuse my holiday snapshot, featuring Graham, Nick and myself in the centre photo !)

As a 'not for profit' organisation, FoR are totally dependent on volunteer labour and revenue earned from the trains and to keep the wheels turning. Donations towards the restoration and running costs of their locomotives are welcome and can be sent via their website : <http://www.friendsoftherail.com/joomla>



Don't worry, we are not going to change No 61662's wheel arrangement to a 2-10-0. Phil Braithwaite's evocative photo above shows British Railways 9F No 92127 passing the famous stadium at Old Trafford with a freight train circa 1965. By this time of course all the LNER 'Footballers' had sadly gone to the breakers yard and steam on BR had only 3 more years to run. The 9F's were still doing a good days work.

After returning from our well-earned break over the Christmas period, we have been concentrating on producing a set of drawings for the loco's running plates and new steelwork has been ordered from our supplier so further progress can be made. Although this was necessary work, producing the drawings was not exactly photogenic – hence the substitution of a 9F instead of a 'Footballer' this month.

As these recent photos illustrate, our loco has survived the snow and high winds experienced in the Woking area recently and we are looking in good shape to kick off the new season.





We are very grateful to Bryan Blanchard for updating us on the movements of New Zealand 2-4-0T No D16 (Neilson 2306 of 1878) which he photographed returning to its home depot at the Pleasant Point Railway on 10th December. Bryan tells us that this diminutive loco had been used at Oamaru in the TV film series 'Coast New Zealand' with Neil Oliver. We can look forward to seeing it on our screens later this year.



Further details of this interesting little locomotive and the operations of the Pleasant Point Railway can be found at : <http://www.pleasantpointrail.org.nz/Steam-Engines>

19D 2767

(Photo courtesy Julian Pereira)



The above photo shows No 2767 standing at Creighton depot on Patons Country Railway during December with her chimney and dome cover re-fitted after the road movement from Sappi. Our Members votes have now been counted regarding a possible name to be carried and the majority preference was for her to perpetuate her last working identity of 'Saiccor No 3'.

However, we did receive a significant number of votes for the loco to remain nameless so for now we are going to have two small curved brass plates made, as per the photo of No 3664's cabside plate below, carrying the engraving 'Saiccor No 3'. Hopefully this will satisfy everyone's wishes. On a practical front, the first of her replacement cabside number plates has now been completed and certainly looks the business.



We are very grateful to one of our keen supporters, NBLPG Member Neil Berry for kindly donating a superb framed print of SAR 15F No 3024 'Brakpan' (NB 25563 of 1944) at Germiston shed in 1983. Shown in the photo on the right and entitled 'Proud Lady' this measures 31ins x 35ins and is one of a limited edition, signed by the Artist David Hall-Green GSARA, SDSA. It was taken from an original watercolour in the collection of Hendrik Haywood and would definitely grace any enthusiast's mantelpiece or railway den !

All funds raised by the sale of this print will go towards restoration costs for No 2767 at Creighton so if you would like to acquire this terrific item, please send me a bid by the end of February. An approximate guide price would be around £80 to £100 with transport to be arranged. Thanks once again to Neil for very kindly donating it to us.

ONCE UPON A THAI'm**(photos Geoff Hall)**

Regular Correspondent Geoff Hall visited Thailand in Autumn 1971 and kindly sent us photos of some of the North British steam locomotive that he encountered. In the first photo, Royal State Railways of Thailand E Class 4-6-0 No. 187 stands at Haadyai Junction Shed. The loco was possibly still in use. 3rd October 1971.



Geoff noted several North British 4-6-0's at Thung Song Junction shed on 23rd November 1971. The photo below shows No 163, which was still fitted with an old-style headlamp. after more than 50 years in service.



NBL built a total of 42 4-6-0's for the then Royal Siamese Railway in five batches between 1912 and 1918. They became the Royal State Railways of Thailand E Class and 10 of them still survive around the country.



2767 returns to the Main Line ! Well, D2767 that is ... At the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway's diesel Gala on 29th December, the lines two resident shunters top'n'tailed two coaches from Bo'ness to Kinneil and back while some shunting moves were carried out at the station. 08443 took the train to Kinneil while NBL diesel hydraulic No D2767 worked the return to Bo'ness and is seen in the above picture as it approached Bo'ness Station. The North British crest on its bonnet can be clearly seen. Many thanks to Ian for the photo and info.

The overhaul of LMS Jubilee No 45596 'Bahamas' continues apace at Tyseley and a fire was lit on 12th December to perform an out of frames boiler test. The final items of motion are being refitted and much of the boiler and firebox cladding has been repaired and repainted. This unique NBL double chimney Jubilee is expected to be next locomotive to be outshopped at Tyseley Works and we look forward to seeing her out on the Main Line again soon.

And finally, a big vote of thanks from us to everyone who sent in donations during the run up to Christmas. We really appreciate you thinking of us and our projects at what is obviously a very expensive time of the year. With your support we can look forward to further success during 2018.

**Thank you all once again for your continued support
More news to follow next month, Best Regards, Ken**

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MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION

If you would like to comment on our preservation activities or would like further information on any of our projects, please contact our Secretary Ken Livermore by letter or by e:mail. NBL related Photos can be uploaded direct to our Facebook page at : <https://www.facebook.com/NorthBritishLocomotives>

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.co.uk Please send items for the website to Dave Fox at : webmaster@nbloco.co.uk

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. All donations and membership fees will be acknowledged in writing. For further details, please email our Hon. Secretary : ken.livermore@btinternet.com

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**. Alternatively, you can make a direct Bank Transfer to the NBL Preservation Group, Barclays Bank, **Account Number 03113302 Sort Code 20-71-03** (please email to advise if you use this option)

**NORTH BRITISH LOCOMOTIVE PRESERVATION GROUP
A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION**

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

NAME :

ADDRESS :

TELEPHONE NUMBER :

E:MAIL ADDRESS :

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP JOINING FEE (Optional) : £10

DONATION TO DUBS TANK No. 196 RESTORATION FUND : £

DONATION TO 19D 2767 RESTORATION COSTS : £

DONATION TO HENDRIE CLASS 1 TRANSPORT FUND : £

SHARES IN ENGINE 61662 (AT £25 PER SHARE) : £

TOTAL ENCLOSED : £

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

****Please make Cheques for Shares in Engine 61662 payable to 'Engine 61662 Appeal' thank you.**