

News from the Western Locomotive Association - January 2005

Editor's note. As mentioned in the last Courier, here is a newsletter keeping you up to date with all the latest WLA news. Look out for the next full magazine coming your way in May, ready for another year of the mighty Maybach on the SVR.

Chairman's Notes by Roger Smith

It's not often you get the chance to write a few notes whilst travelling behind a "Western" out on the main line so here goes! A good start to the year has been made with an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund already made to help fund the repairs to D1062's "B" end transmission. It was agreed by the Committee to go for the best long term solution (amongst other options) – a full transmission overhaul at Voith in Germany. At the present time, this option is only realistic if we are successful with the grant funding (£49,500) but you can be assured that we have made the strongest possible case, with plenty of supporting notes and attachments - enough to keep a paper factory in business all year! We should know whether or not we have been successful by the end of April – so fingers crossed. In the meantime, work has continued on both locomotives and hopefully, D1013 will be fit enough to attend the Mid-Hants Diesel Gala (possibly 13th/14th May). Work has just been completed on overhauling all the brake cylinders complete with new seals and the main air reservoirs have just been hydraulically tested. As far as running dates are concerned, these have yet to be finalised but likely to be as follows:-

Friday, 27 th May	(Driver Experience)	Saturday, 10 th September	(Thomas)
Friday, 3 rd June	(Driver Experience)	Sunday, 11 th September	(Thomas)
Saturday, 11 th June	(Table C)	Friday, 14 th October	(Diesel Gala)
Friday, 15 th July	(Driver Experience)	Saturday, 15 th October	(Diesel Gala)
Saturday, 16 th July	(Table C)	Sunday, 16 th October	(Diesel Gala)
Friday, 12 th August	(Driver Experience)		
Saturday, 13 th August	(Table C)		
Thursday 8 th Sep	(Driver Experience)		

In addition to the above, there will be some SVR Schools Education Service trains running from Kidderminster to Arley but these dates have still to be agreed.

One of our next projects is to complete the new web site at www.westernloco.com. Unfortunately, this has been delayed due to the amount of work and time taken up with the lottery application bid. All being well, we should have our new site up and running around April/May time, with of course, all the running dates as they get confirmed. Finally, please don't forget our need to recruit new WLA members – we must get our numbers up and it will only be with your help, that we will stand a chance of having a great year!

The Western Ranger Appeal by Henry Coates

As hopefully everybody knows by now Western Ranger was purchased by the WLA last year with the aid of an appeal to the membership. There was a magnificent response and the committee is very grateful to everybody who contributed to whatever extent. Those of you who contributed £150.00 or more will be eligible for a cab ride on one of the running dates this year. These dates have not yet been published and so I cannot yet allocate a date when your cab ride can take place. It is essential that you book in advance, as passes have to be issued. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate requests made on the day. We will only be able to accommodate four members on each running day and so we would ask you to give a first, second and third choice of dates when requesting your cab ride. The dates will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. The running dates will be published on the website and the next Western Courier magazine as soon as they have been arranged by the railway. Please send your request for your cab ride to me and I will confirm the date and train with you. Those of you who donated £500.00 or more will receive a print from the Western Ranger collection and those who made the 'grand gesture' will be receiving lifetime membership. I have prepared the wording for a brass plaque which will list all of the donors to the appeal and which is to be fixed in the cab of D1013 as a permanent memento.



D1062 Transmission Trouble by Henry Coates

The restoration of D1062 has taken longer than originally envisaged. I am sure that everybody was greatly encouraged to see the line up of D1013, D1023 and D1062 at Bridgnorth yard at the last diesel gala. Unfortunately moving D1062 around the yard has disclosed a serious problem with the bearings in the B end transmission. This is exactly the same problem as the DTG had with D1015. The good news is that Voith can repair it. The bad news is that it will cost at least £32,000 and probably a lot more when transport costs and tax are included and we have not got enough money. We are therefore proposing to make a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover this. This is not however the simple solution it might at first seem. We have to prepare a detailed case justifying the award and explaining how it will increase 'access to the heritage' and any educational benefits. A meeting with the HLF has taken place and we are in the process of preparing our bid. If the bid is rejected then we will have to either raise the money ourselves or undertake the work ourselves. This will still cost some £15,000.00 and is not really an attractive option, as it will put back the completion of the restoration by a number of years. We will, of course keep you fully informed as to progress.

The 2004 Annual General Meeting by Henry Coates

The 2004 AGM was held in Birmingham on the 13th November 2004. The meeting opened with a tribute given by Stephen Draper to our late friend and member Taff John who had died the previous month. Derek Wright gave his last report as Chairman after 19 years and 25 years on the committee. Derek commented that the highlight of the year has been the purchase of D1013 and thanked everybody who had donated to the appeal. Stefan Mead gave a detailed resume of the accounts. The D1013 appeal raised a total of £20,330.00.

Paul Tucker reported that we now have a total of 260 members. Stephen Draper reported that we are going to publish 'Western Courier' twice a year with Western lineside newsletters being sent out to keep members up to date with developments. Doug Tompkins has kept the railway press up to date with our news throughout the year. Ian Jackson gave a detailed account of the transmission problem and how it could be resolved. Until it is resolved, D1062 is confined to Bridgnorth yard. It is calculated that 17,000 man-hours have been expended on D1062. Darren Shelmerdine gave a report on the progress made by the working members. Members are very welcome to visit the locos and to see the work being carried out. John Glover reported that although initial interest in WLA sweatshirts was low he would investigate this again. Roger was duly elected, as Chairman and the remainder of the committee were re-elected. The meeting voted to accept a resolution to investigate registering as a charity. The meeting concluded with a slide show of Westerns in their heyday.

How you can help

The WLA is now thirty years old and has owned D1062 for 28 years. The Association is now being run upon a very professional basis with a proper business plan and accounting systems. We are however, trying to maintain and run two obsolete locomotives upon a tight budget with very limited resources. To succeed, we need to recruit new members. Please help by:-

- **Renewing your membership**
- **Recruiting a new member**
- **Considering volunteering**

A membership renewal form is enclosed. If you have not yet renewed then please send this to Paul Tucker with your remittance as soon as possible.

There will be a vacancy on the committee for an assistant to Stefan if we are successful in registering the Association as a charity. Donations to registered charities qualify for gift aid and we can reclaim 22% of the value of the donation from the Inland Revenue making each £1.00 donated worth £1.22! Unfortunately it is quite a task to do all of the paperwork. If you are able to help then please let us know.

I still have lots of leaflets available so if you are able to put them anywhere where potential new members might pick them up, let me know and I will send you a batch.

Watch out for our new website which will be launched soon. www.westernloco.com

