



GCR 567 Loco Group

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№ 567



Arrival of Frames at Ruddington

Friday 8th June, 2018 proved a major day in the project to build a brand new Victorian Express steam locomotive, GCR Class 2 4-4-0 No.567. The completed frames of the locomotive, complete with the horn stays donated by Ian Howitt, arrived at their Ruddington base. The vision of a Victorian express hauling vintage carriages on GCR metals between Ruddington and Leicester North has come a major step forward.

In the photographs above, taken by Simon Burton, Mike Fairburn (extreme right) is seen carefully guiding a frame on to the ground. On the right are the frames safely on the ground.

The frames started their journey from Ian Howitt's works at around 08:00 and arrived at Ruddington at mid day. With the mid frame and motion stretchers, buffer beam and trailing headstock completed the plan is to bolt the frames together in advance of the Supporters Day scheduled for 15th September, 2018 at the Ruddington Locomotive Works. In preparation for the erection of the frames, trestles are being fabricated which will be used first to support each of the frame plates for marking out and drilling before the plates are bolted together. This work is much more easily accomplished with the plates supported at waist height rather than having to work on hands and knees! The doubler plates that strengthen the front of the frame and support the cylinders will be set up, drilled and bolted in place at this stage. Once the plates are drilled, they will be supported by the trestles whilst the stretchers are bolted in place. The trailing headstock and the front buffer beam will then be bolted in place. The assembly of 567's frame will be completed as a bolted assembly. At a later date the frames will be riveted together.

Viewing of Frame Assembly - To allow Supporters the maximum access to view the erection of the frames, on four Fridays from mid July to mid August, arrangements for viewing are being put in place. Once the dates and timings have been confirmed they will be posted on the 567 website (www.gcr567loco.co.uk). Supporters will need to bring their own food and seating and

be prepared to move if requested so as not to obstruct operational movements on the GCR(N). Arrangements will be coordinated by Dawn (see below) with requests to view collated and organised by Dawn. This is strictly a Supporters event and numbers may have to be restricted as space is limited.

Resignations - The Management Group says goodbye to Dawn and Alan Bullock who after much deliberation are resigning as Trustees. We are however, delighted they will still be supporting the project, but not on the committee. New Trustees Simon Burton and Dennis Wilcock are now up to speed and taking on more workload in what is to be an orderly transition. We are very pleased that Dawn will continue to act as the focal point for our supporters, Alan is also happy to continue to advise the group on material and technical matters. The GCR 567 Locomotive Group would like to thank them both for all the hard work and support to the project they have provided over the last 8 years, this has been a significant commitment of time and energy and as key parts of our Management Group and we would not be where we are without them.

Quarterly Draw

The June Quarterly Draw has taken place and the winner duly notified.

Fundraising

Funding for No.567 is running along smoothly and will cover all anticipated small scale spending for the coming year. The accounts for the year ending 31st July, 2017 have been posted on the Charity Commission's website and can be viewed by searching for 567 Loco. They show an income of £15,275 and an expenditure on the locomotive of £5,818. This situation is expected to reverse significantly this year as the frames will be paid for and other larger items ordered.

In anticipation of this two smaller fund raising schemes have been introduced. Firstly an encouragement to leave The GCR 567 Locomotive Group a legacy in your will to enable the dream to continue into the future of a Victorian Express Steam Locomotive running on GCR metals once again. Secondly for those that shop on-line an easyfundraising scheme has been set up to ensure, that at no cost to yourselves, any purchase on-line will result in a donation to No.567. The details of both schemes may be found on the Supporters page of the 567 website (www.gcr567loco.co.uk). It is hoped that both these schemes will provide small but additional sums into the coffers of No.567 Group and thus ensure the continued purchase and manufacture of the smaller components on the locomotive.

Motion Manufacture

Just at the point of going to press the castings for the valve spindle guide are being ordered along with Builders Plates for the locomotive from an East Midlands Foundry keeping in line with the Group's objective of using local suppliers where possible. The valve spindle guide will be attached to the motion stretcher, the wooden patterns for which is seen on the right. Much to the appreciation of The GCR 567 Locomotive Group Ken Harrison continues to push on in the workshop with the Slipper Blocks and Slide Bars. More assistance in this area would be much appreciated.



Forthcoming Events

15th September, 2018 Supporters Day. At Ruddington Locomotive Works. This will be the first chance to see the assembled frames. The event will commence with a viewing of progress on the locomotive and be followed in the afternoon by the AGM of The GCR 567 Locomotive Group. Further details will follow on the 567 website.

