

## GCR Class 2 No.567 Project

Dennis Wilcock, Treasurer of the GCR 567 Locomotive Group, reports on the 2018 Supporters Day and gives an update on progress

With the unveiling of the first stage assembly of the frames at the September 2018 Supporters Day event we reached a very important milestone. This achievement was due to the contributions of many people but vitally it was a result of the tremendous support given to the project to build this locomotive. It is now time to take a look forward to what is coming next.

Stage Two of the assembly of the frames will include the fitting of the trailing headstock, fabrication and machining of the trailing dragbox, and assembly of the valance angles and the steps. All of this assembly will be with 'slave bolts' in the same manner as the previous assembly work. This is to allow for fine adjustment to the alignment and dimensional checks to be made prior to fixing with rivets. Crucially, the cylinder block must be made ready for fitting. The scope of work necessary here includes machining the mounting flanges to profile to fit into the frames and machining of one of the two valve faces; this entails the dismantling of the two halves of the cylinder block then mounting the block on the table of the horizontal borer for the work to be carried out.

With manufacturing underway on the motion, we will be working to complete the items that are



The lid of the oil pot on the Valve Spindle Guide being machined by Ken Harrison. KEN HARRISON

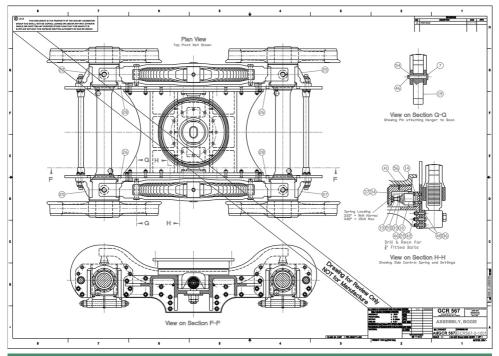


castings wrapped in industrial cling film at Ruddington Locomotive Works in November 2018. *MIKE FAIRBURN* 

currently in progress and starting work on further components. Slide blocks and slide bars are part machined and further processes are required on these parts to complete them. Machining of the oil pot lid on the valve spindle guide is underway by Ken Harrison and the first machining on the bogie side plates has been completed. The first of the large steel castings that are the horn guides have been received at Ruddington Locomotive Works and this has been visually inspected and primer painted in preparation for marking out and proof machining.

The delivery of the other three castings will be called up when we have completed proof machining of the first. Further components are at procurement enquiry stage, including the straps for the big ends and, crucially, the coupling rods.

Delivery of the bogie frame plates just in time for display at the Supporters Day marked the start of the manufacture of the bogie. Ken Harrison has been studying the drawings produced by project designer Barry Nurcombe for the bogie horn guides and is progressing towards manufacturing the patterns for the casting of the guides. We have also received preliminary pricing of the casting for the centre bolster of the bogie.



The General Arrangement of the bogie of No.567 produced by the project's designer Barry Nurcombe. From this drawing details of each individual component is then generated. This stage is reached only after a considerable degree of research and debate within the project team!

This is the very large casting to which the frame plates are attached and we will then be inviting suppliers to offer final quotations for the supply of pattern and casting for this major component. We are currently considering options of either fabricating the spring support brackets or purchasing a pattern and making castings for these parts.

Hopefully, you will all be pleased with both the progress to date and the prospects of the different work streams going forward towards fruition and becoming part of the assembly of the locomotive. There are also other activities in progress in Engineering and Design which are the precursor to specifying and ordering materials and sub contract work.

The growing pace of work in the manufacture of parts now enables us to clearly see a point when we will make a major push for funds to take the locomotive from a frame with cylinders and motion, to a wheeled chassis. We are considering several initiatives to support this stage including inviting sponsorship of the manufacture of major parts of the wheelsets and sponsorship of parts that are either in manufacture now, or at a stage where materials will be ordered in the near future. We invite you all to let us know what you think should be the subject of an appeal for funds and add your ideas to that of the project team to help carry the project forward.

To learn more about any aspect of our project or for general enquiries you can email us at gcr567loco@ yahoo.co.uk or via the contact form on the 567 website (www.gcr567loco.co.uk).

We have a Facebook account at: www.facebook.com/#!/groups/GCR567Loco/

Twitter: twitter.com/GCR567Loco

For General Postal Enquiries:

GCR 567 Locomotive Group Administration, c/o Mrs Dawn Bullock, 19 Hartridge Walk, Allesley Park, Coventry, CV5 9LF