

# Maunsell Locomotives Overhaul Update

By Steve Pilcher and Chris Hunford, Maunsell Locomotive Society

## Q CLASS NO 541

Leaky Finders continue their work on the boiler, focusing on three key areas: grate carrier brackets, foundation ring corner rivets and inner firebox lap seams.

The fire grate carrier brackets have been repaired and were bolted in place to allow the riveting of the foundation ring. Now that work is complete, the bolts have been removed, and the brackets themselves can be riveted into place. As each of these is completed the adjacent foundation ring corner rivets are installed with a special C-type rivet.

The localised work on the inner firebox lap seams is now complete so the fitting of the new patch screws can take place. *See photo right.*

Work on the chassis is focused on the right-hand side frame insert and we previously reported this had been skimmed. The insert has now had all the required holes pilot drilled and weld prepping is underway. Once complete the horn blocks can be fitted and the insert welded in place.

Meanwhile back at Sheffield Park, Dave Cox and Bob Butcher are continuing to progress the painting of the exterior of the tender tank. They have started applying the first coat of gloss black.

Maunsell Locomotive Society volunteers and other workshop volunteers have concluded painting the tender wheelsets into a second coat of gloss black top coat along with axleboxes and other brake gear components.

A start has been made on cleaning up 541's larger motion components.



**Top:** Riveting work on 541's firebox.  
Photo: Leaky Finders

**Bottom:** Tender tank starting to go into the first coat of gloss black paint.  
Photo: Steve Pilcher

### SCHOOLS CLASS NO 928 STOWE

East Coast Castings continue to progress the production of the new pattern for the left-hand cylinder casting that is required for Stowe. This rather tricky piece of carpentry is coming together well now as shown in the photos. These demonstrate the complex radii involved while also showing the outline shape of the cylinder.

Although we had the finance in place for the pattern and casting, we still need to conclude fundraising to machine the casting. We need to raise £15,000 and as at the end of January we are getting close to the target with over £1,500 being received in January. Many thanks to all those who have been so generous with their donations thus far.

#### CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

The [Maunsell Locomotive Society](#) still needs to raise the final £3,000 or so. All extra donations will be gratefully received, preferably via the Stowe appeal in the Bluebell Railway Trust – or contact the MLS Treasurer, Steve Pilcher, [jstevepilcher@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jstevepilcher@yahoo.co.uk) for further details.



**Above:** 541's tender tool boxes now in gloss paint.  
Photo: Steve Pilcher

**Below:** Work on the patterns for Stowe's new left hand cylinder block.  
Photo: East Coast Castings

