Maunsell Locomotives Overhaul Update

By Steve Pilcher and Chris Hunford, Maunsell Locomotive Society

SCHOOLS CLASS NO 928 *STOWE*

The main event to mention in this report is that the replacement left-hand cylinder casting for *Stowe* arrived at Sheffield Park on Monday 3 August. It certainly looks impressive. The next step is to arrange for the cylinder block to be machined – a major task given its size and the one-ton weight of the cylinder block.

We would like to thank all those MLS members and supporters who responded so generously to our appeal to raise £15,000 to help cover the cost of machining the casting.





Left and below: *Two views of Stowe's left-hand new cylinder block at Sheffield Park*

Photos: Steve Pilcher

Q CLASS NO. 541

Down at Leaky Finders the horn guides have been assembled onto the frame inserts and are ready for welding into place, while the remainder of the inside of the frames has been painted in topcoat.

Work is continuing on the manufacture of the new axlebox crowns.

Inside the firebox, the right-hand lap seam has been tooled and is now finished, including fitting new patch screws.

All the old palm stay brackets have been removed and we're waiting for prices from profiling companies to manufacture the new brackets.

The new backhead insert is bolted and tacked in place ready for final welding, but due to illness this did not take place in July.

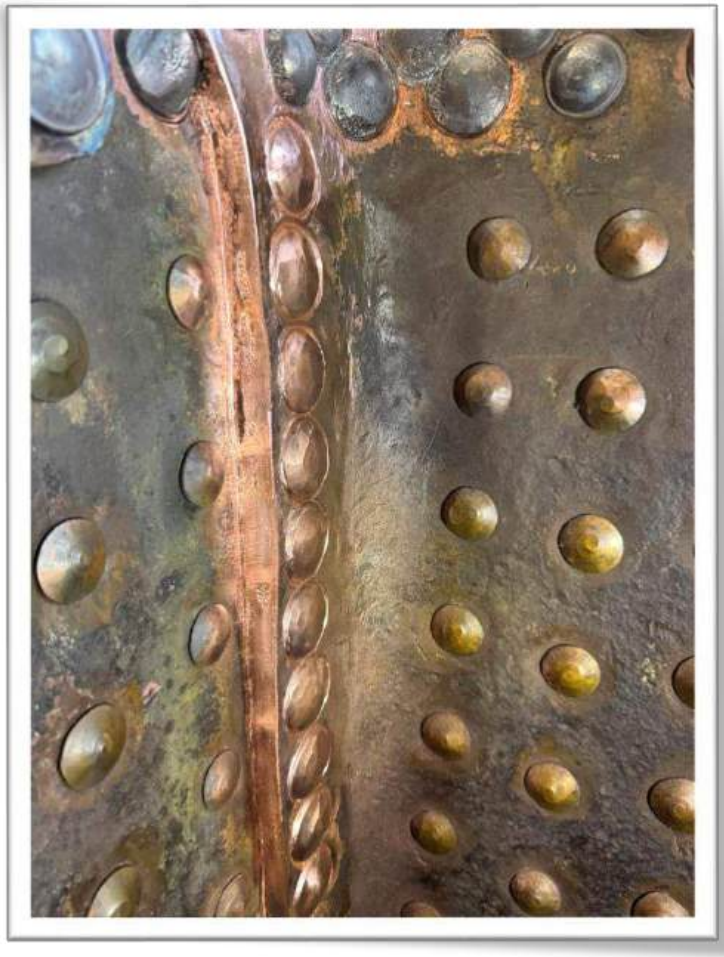
Back at Bluebell, workshop volunteers have completed bolting down the tender tank onto the chassis and are assisting with getting the brake blocks up on the brake rigging.

Meanwhile the MLS volunteers have continued progressing repairs to the boiler cladding.



Top: *New frame insert with horn guides bolted on ready to be welded.*

Photo: Leaky Finders



Right: *Right-hand lap seam inside 541's inner copper firebox after recent work.*

Photo: Leaky Finders