Maunsell Locomotives Overhaul Update

By Steve Pilcher and Chris Hunford, Maunsell Locomotive Society

Q CLASS NO 541

On the Q class, the foundation ring rivets on the throatplate and sides have all been fitted and 'tooled in' and the four patch screws fitted to the front radius of the throat plate. Two stay locations on the throatplate are being prepared to have bushes fitted. The washout plug holes have been re-tapped.

The corners of the foundation ring have been seal-welded, just leaving repairs to the lower copper laps on the tubeplate before the boiler can be turned over and a start made on fitting the tubes and flues.

White-metalling and machining the new axlebox crowns is progressing well.

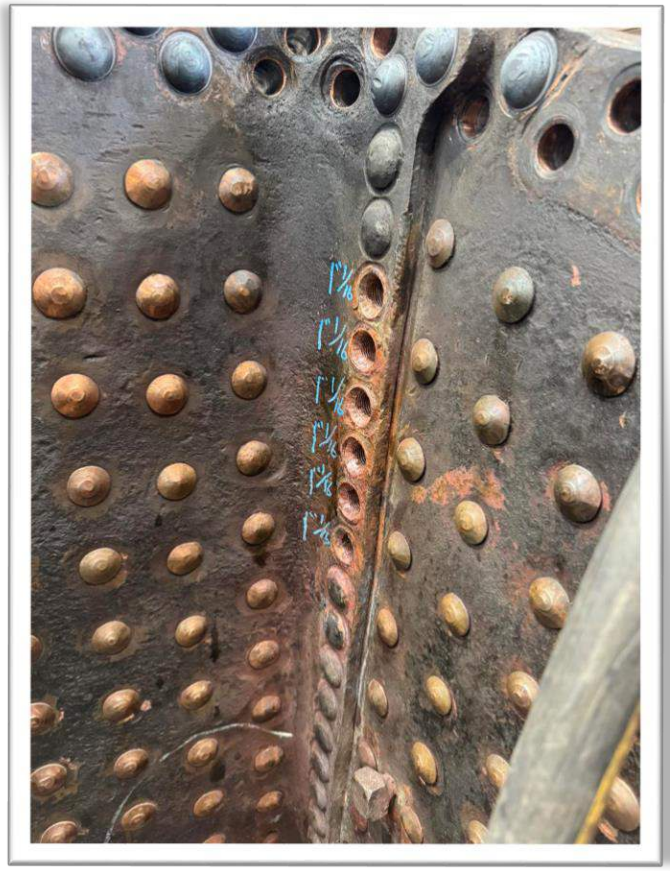
Both new frame inserts now have all the horn blocks fitted and are just waiting for a free slot on the borer to allow the machining of the horn tie faces before the LH one can be welded in position.

The slide bars have been removed for cleaning, prior to re-fitting and alignment.

Back at Sheffield Park, Dave Cox and Bob Butcher are close to finishing painting of the exterior of the tender tank in gloss black. A high-quality mirror finish has been achieved. The chassis has been re-wheeled on all three axles and brake rigging is up in place.

SCHOOLS CLASS NO 928 *STOWE*

East Coast castings are finishing off the last few core boxes now. The other core boxes are now at the foundry and the whole pattern will be there later this month.



Copper patch screws removed to allow repairs to lap seams.
Photo: Leaky Finders

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 for further details.



Left: *541's tender tank in second coat of top coat. Photo: David Jones*

Below: *541's tender chassis, as viewed from the Above Workshop Facility, whilst outside for a short period. Photo: Steve Pilcher*

Bottom: *Another image of the patterns that are being made for Stowe's new cylinder casting. Photo: East Coast Castings*



