

NBL Preservation Group

Honorary President Sir Hugh Reid

May 2011 Newsletter



DUBS HOME AND DRY

Following last month's sailing from Richards Bay, the Gearbulk 'Bergen Arrow' arrived safely at Portbury Docks near Bristol on Wednesday 11th May with Dubs 'A' No. 196 standing proudly on her deck. The next morning dawned bright and sunny and a small party of NBLPG Members were kindly allowed into Portbury to witness the loco's unloading. Dwarfed by the enormous bulk of the 'Bergen Arrow' and the crane, No. 196 is seen above in mid air for the second time in five weeks.

As mentioned, we'd had some initial concerns about the weight of the engine but in the event, the giant Bristol Port Company crane picked up the 50 tons loco like a featherweight and carefully lowered it onto Andrew Goodmans' Moveright International road trailer which had been accurately positioned below.

After all the months (& years !) of reporting on the progress we were making with the loco in South Africa, it's great to be able to bring you some news and photos of her back in the UK.

(Photo KL)

LAST LEG OF THE JOURNEY



It was a magic moment when No. 196 descended from crane onto the waiting trailer. The necessary customs paperwork was soon cleared by our Agents, Wessex Shipping and after lunch No. 196 became the first Dubs 'A' Class to traverse the M5, M4 and M25 before arriving safely at the Mizens Railway just before 7-00pm.



ARRIVAL AT THE MIZENS

As you can see, the light was quite stunning as No. 196 rolled in through the Mizens Railway gates. One last obstacle had to be overcome though, as the grassy bank at the entrance was found to encroach into the unloading area by around 10 feet. Such was the enthusiasm of the good folks at the Mizens though that, rather than wait till the next morning for a JCB, they grabbed picks, shovels and wheelbarrows and cleared the way for the trailer by hand. Talk about Wartime Spirit, for an hour or so it was like digging out Tring Cutting all over again with men women and children taking turns with the Moveright Team to move the soil.



DOWN THE RAMP



Once the roadway was clear, the Moveright driver performed a tight shunting manoeuvre to get the loco and trailer into place and an unloading ramp was soon assembled. Just after 9-00pm, working with the aid of car headlights by this time, the 112 years old No. 196 rolled gracefully onto her specially laid track. Despite her age, the engine moved quite freely and was in fact towed for her last few yards by a Land Rover fitted with a winch. It had been a good days' work and a magnificent achievement by all concerned.



Members of the Mizens Railway took a well earned rest in front of the loco after their efforts.

THE TRAIN NOW STANDING

We have many, many people to thank for their help in making this project happen, and I must just mention Amcoal (now Anglo Coal), Andy Anderson and the Umgeni Steam Railway, Gearbulk Shipping, The Bristol Port Company, Andrew Goodman and his Moveright International team and last but not least, Mike Smith and the amazing folks from the Mizens Railway. Everyone involved all along the line have shown great enthusiasm, professionalism and a willingness to go the extra mile to help us to succeed.

The project costs of just over £22,000 to date have been entirely funded by NBLPG members without the benefits of Grant Aid or Heritage Lottery assistance. However a further £5,000 is urgently needed to cover the balance of shipping and haulage costs and repay interest free loans. Needless to say, with the loco now on site at the Mizens, we will be starting a restoration fund to spruce her up and this will need further funds.

All contributions, no matter how small will be gratefully accepted so if you are able to help in any way, please send your donations to : NBL Preservation Group, 4 Porchfield Close, Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 5YZ. Alternatively, you can make an electronic bank transfer to NBL Preservation Group, Halifax Building Society, Account Number : 00042211, Sort Code : 11-03-31. Please advise by email if you transfer funds by this method so we can send you a receipt.

If you would like to see the loco or are able to help with restoration, the postal address of the Mizens Railway is : Barrs Lane, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2JW. You will be pleasantly surprised at all the exciting things they have to offer but please check their website : www.mizensrailway.co.uk for opening times etc. before going along.

Thank you all once again for your continued support, More News Next Month, Best Regards, Ken

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MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION

If you would like to comment on our preservation activities or would like further information on any of our projects, please contact Ken or our Webmaster Steve Knapman by letter or by e:mail. Photos and articles for our website should be sent to : steve.k@rubihorn.demon.co.uk

New Members and Supporters are always welcome and funds are urgently needed for all our projects. Please join us and help to preserve North British locomotives from around the World. Our Website Address is : www.nbloco.net

Remember, **there is no annual Membership Fee**, just a one-off joining fee of £10 which will give you regular news updates and the option to participate in our locomotive preservation projects.

If you would like to join us or make a donation, please complete the form below and send it to : Ken Livermore, **Hon. Secretary, NBL Preservation Group, 4 Porchfield Close, Earley, Reading, Berks, RG6 5YZ.** Or e:mail : ken.livermore@btinternet.com

**NORTH BRITISH LOCOMOTIVE PRESERVATION GROUP
HON. PRESIDENT SIR HUGH REID**

MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

NAME :

ADDRESS :

TELEPHONE NUMBER :

E:MAIL ADDRESS :

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP JOINING FEE (OPTIONAL) : £10

DONATION TO DUBS TANK No. 196 RESTRATION FUND : £

DONATION TO CLASS 11 No. 929 RESTORATION FUND : £

DONATION TO NGR CLASS 1B No. 1443 LOCO FUND : £

INTEREST FREE LOAN TO ANY OF THE ABOVE PROJECTS : £

TOTAL ENCLOSED : £

All donations, loans and subscriptions will be acknowledged, thank you for your interest and support. Please make cheques or orders payable to 'NBL Preservation Group'