

Maunsell Locomotive Society

By Steve Pilcher and Chris Hunford, Maunsell Locomotive Society

Q CLASS 541

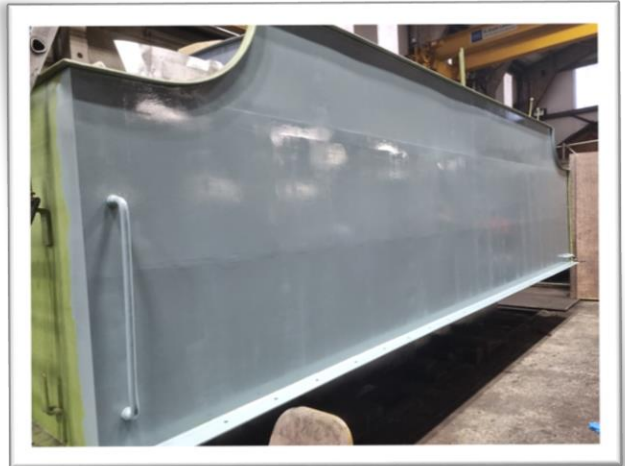
Leaky Finders have continued to make progress on the boiler and chassis of 541 and hopefully will start tubing work soon.

As this is being written just after submitting an update to *Bluebell News*, we ask that readers await publication of the latest details of work at Leaky Finders when it is published in the next issue of the magazine.

Meanwhile back at Sheffield Park work continues on the tender, with workshop staff and volunteers carrying on working on various parts of the chassis.

Dave Cox and Bob Butcher are progressing painting the outside of the tender tank. It currently has had a first coat of grey primer. A number of MLS volunteers have completed cleaning and painting inside the tender tank with two coats of a very durable paint finish to try and ensure that this new tank can perhaps put in as many years' service as the previous one, which we believe was original and thus around 100 years old.

MLS volunteers Stephen Booth and Andy Sparkes are undertaking repairs to various parts of the cladding, where corroded areas require replacement. Other MLS volunteers have been busy cleaning and painting various sections of the loco's boiler cladding that are present at Sheffield Park. See photo of the dome cover (right).



Top: A view of the right hand side of the tender in grey primer.

Photo – Steve Pilcher

Bottom:

541's dome cover in first coat of gloss.

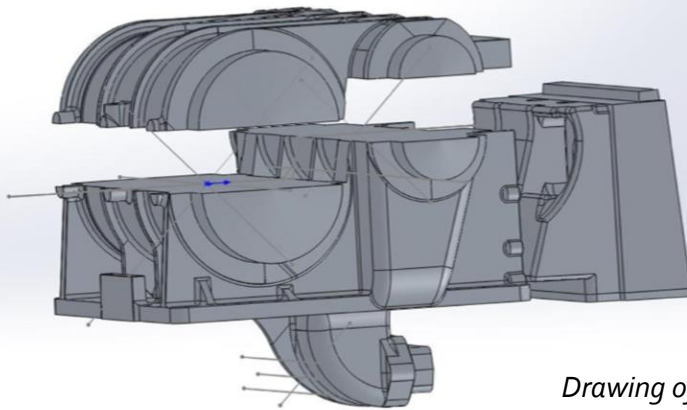
Photo – Steve Pilcher

SCHOOLS CLASS NO 928 STOWE

As mentioned in the last report an order has now been placed with East Coast Castings for producing a pattern for and casting a new left hand cylinder. They have made good progress, as shown by the drawing. We had funds available to enable the order to be placed, but once cast, the

cylinder will need machining and we therefore launched an appeal in October to raise £15,000 to cover this cost.

We have received approximately £10,000 so far. We are deeply indebted for the goodwill and generosity shown in the response to this appeal.



Drawing of the cores for new left-hand cylinder

Image: East Coast Castings

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

We still need to raise the final £5,000, so any extra donations would 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.