

The Railcar Association News Bulletin



EDITORIAL

A much "flatter" period to report on compared to the last bulletin, with very little DMU activity to speak of and of course Christmas & New Year causing normal restoration activity to slow whilst folks spend time with their families and loved ones (the two aren't always the same!!!)

Chris Moxon

22nd ANNUAL RAILCAR CONVENTION

It is with great pleasure that we announce the winner of the 2017 Railcar of the Year Award: Class 105 "Cravens" Sc51485/E56121 based on the East Lancashire Railway. It should perhaps also win the title of the "most predicted" award, as the sheer magnitude of the set's completion sent ripples through the movement making it fairly obvious that it would be the deserved winner of this year's title! This was the first time a Class 105 had been put up for the award. Those in the railcar community will need no explanation as to why this 2-car set was nominated. Representing two thirds of the overall preserved Class 105 fleet (there is only one other vehicle in

existence), this set was preserved by the West Somerset Railway in 1982 and was worked hard for 15 years with little major restoration or overhaul work carried out to safeguard its long term future. By the mid 1990's it was withdrawn from service in very poor condition and was contaminated with lethal asbestos insulation. Disposal was the preferred option of the West Somerset, which was a big problem for the movement as this was the only complete Cravens set left, so was one of the "Holy Grail" sets of historically significant DMU's. Rescued by members of the East Lancs Railway, it was moved there in 1997 and was stripped of asbestos leaving corroded and stripped out shells as a starting point for what would become a truly mammoth restoration. Extraordinary in nature, the restoration back to as built 1950's condition was completed without grant funding over 20 years using dedicated graft and determination. A comprehensive "nut and bolt" rebuild, the body and interiors were transformed from almost nothing, with every surviving component restored and everything missing faithfully reproduced. It was nominated this year of course due to the set reaching completion and making its first runs post-overhaul during

November.

The voting pattern this year was the most straightforward of any of the awards held to date. Rather than any "jostling for position", within an hour of votes opening the four nominations settled into an order which would stay exactly the same throughout the whole month of voting. The Class 105 roared to the top position, with the Class 104 also attracting a respectable number of votes (about half of what the 105 attracted). Fellow Birmingham built product, the Class 110, also had a cluster of votes with the Class 116 attracting a handful in 4th place. This positioning in the "league table" remained the same for the next 30 days, and the final numbers were the Class 105: 174 votes, Class 104: 55, Class 110: 29 and Class 116: 8. The Cravens set was over 100 votes above it's nearest rival, so it was a true win in every sense. A total of 266 votes were cast, quite a few less than last year, but it is still the third highest number of votes in the history of the awards.

NEWS

Llangollen Rly: Routine examinations have continued, namely to Class 104 50454/50528. The only item of note being discovered being a badly worn sliding dog in one of the final drives which will have to be changed at some point. One axle was fitted with new brake blocks and a number of oils and filters were changed. Also for the same set, a selection of spare seat frames have been dispatched for shot blasting and powder coating – they are eventually destined for the middle saloon of 50528. An A Exam is also being progressed on the Class 109 “Wickham” unit. Investigations have taken place into a sticking Pascom chain which has required removing the chain and dropping part of the ceiling to find out what is wrong.

North Yorkshire Moors Rly: The Class 101 3-car set 50164/59539/50160 completed all its rostered duties on the railway over the Christmas/New Year holiday period (see image in the adjacent column). The same set will be out Feb 10th-18th on a Pickering full line two return trips duty.



Strathspey Rly: The Class 117 will be running services during February on the 14th/15th/17th/18th/21st/22nd/24th & 25th. All departing Aviemore at 11 00 & 14 00.

RESTORATION NEWS

Class 104 56182 (North Norfolk): One of the larger tasks this winter has now been completed: the refurbishment of the interior ceilings for the first class saloon. These were removed from the vehicle about two years ago and snapped in half! Since then they have had the old crappy hardboard ceiling covering removed off the hardwood framework, the framework repaired where required (and the two halves joined back together!) and new marine plywood coverings screwed on. This done, the back facing edge (not visible in the photos) was protected with leftover gloss whilst the front faces got top quality treatment to attempt a mirror finish! Sanding and filling was followed



by a build up of paint layers with sanding runs in between to get them as flat as possible. Six coats of white gloss later and they are finished and now await refitting...

Class 105 56456 (Llangollen): The inside (hidden) edge of the roof has been painted to protect it. One of the interior partitions has also been secured into place along with several sections of supporting timber that will hold the panelling in position.

Class 122 55003 (G'shire W'shire): All of the large windows have now been fitted to the No2 side, with bodywork preparation and primer painting progressing all around the vehicle.

Class 127 51618 (Llangollen): The



bulk of the exterior panelling behind the driver's cab is now in place and trial fitting of the first passenger door has now been undertaken. It has been discovered that the driver's side cab corner is badly corroded so this has been cut away to repair the supporting pillar.

MOVEMENTS

Class 108 51907/56490 has been hired to the Midland Railway Butterley (from its home base the Llangollen Railway), making the movement during November. They are to be used for winter services deputising for the resident Class 127 set which has been withdrawn for repair works.



TIME TRAVELLER

Green Era

[Class 101—Alnwick—24/10/64](#)

[Class 105 - Carlton & Netherfield – 20/5/66](#)

[Class 108 - Brampton Jct – 7/6/65](#)
(note Class 111 buffet in the formation)

Blue Era

[Class 101 SC50746 – Burntisland – 23/6/80](#)

[Class 108 – Swithland Reservoir – 4/69](#)

[Class 127 55972 – Blackburn – 29/3/86](#)

Blue/Grey & Later

[Class 101 - Kiveton Bridge – 29/6/89](#)

[Class 110 - Sowerby Bridge – 3/10/86](#)

[Class 117 117301 - Dalmeny – 25/8/97](#)

[Class 141 141118 – Doncaster – 3/7/89](#)

SUBMISSIONS

Hopefully the contents of this bulletin was both interesting and informative. If you know anyone who could provide similar material found in this issue for future bulletins, please make yourself or them known to railcar@live.co.uk The following types of submission would be most welcome:

- Photographs of vehicles in service
- Restoration articles
- Reports on special events
- DMU modelling articles
- Articles on DMU history
- Photographs of vehicles in service
- Restoration articles
- Reports on special events
- DMU modelling articles
- Articles on DMU history
- Recollections of DMUs on the national network.
- Requests for information
- News & images of recent DMU activity
- Anything that may be of interest to readers

Feel free to send submissions at any time to railcar@live.co.uk but no later

than February 27th for Issue 146 (due out March).

GALLERY



A strange 104/108/26 formation at Glyndyfrdwy, 30/12/17
(M.Martin)



An alternative view of Cravens Sc51485, 11/17, (A.Pitt)



A Swedish pairing: 1987 at Ferry Meadows, 12/17 (D.Shell)



Guess the location of W51363, 29/12/17, (S.Bythway)



Class 105 Sc51485 on "normal running" at Bury, 31/12/17
(R.Lushman)



W51360 at Gotherington, 29/12/17 (S.Bythway)



Olive's repairs continue at Ingrow, 12/17, (EM2 Loco Soc.)



One of M54490's first MRB runs, 30/12/17, (S.Bythway)

