

61662 NEWS UPDATE No. 2 - FEBRUARY 2012



No. 61662 at Doncaster Works in 1953 (Photo by T.B. Owen courtesy www.colour-rail.com)

When Manchester United FC came into being in 1878, their original name was Newton Heath L.Y.R. Football Club. The L.Y.R. of course stood for the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway, well known and much loved by railway enthusiasts as the 'Lanky'. The team was started by railway workers in the L&Y Carriage & Wagon department and initially played their matches on a ground close to the railway yards in North Road. Most of their early games were played against other L&Y departments or teams from other railway companies. Such was the footballing interest on the 'Lanky' that the new team needed to add the initials L.Y.R. to their title to distinguish themselves from Newton Heath Loco FC who had been established several years previously !

The original 'Manchester United' steam locomotive was built in 1937 and ran almost one million miles in traffic before being withdrawn from service at the end of 1959. It was constructed to a design that had been produced by the North British Locomotive Company in Glasgow in 1928 after two failed attempts by Doncaster Works to produce a suitable type for the LNER. 25 members of the Class were named after top Football League Clubs of the era and each one carried club colours and a distinctive brass football.

The 61662 project will be an interesting experiment for us as our main appeal for funding is being focussed on football supporters rather than the railway enthusiast groups normally approached. Anyone who would like to see LNER 'Footballer' No. 61662 running again is very welcome to contribute and new banking facilities have been opened for the appeal to avoid any conflict with our existing projects. A new website for the project is available to view at : www.engine61662appeal.co.uk All donations from as little as £1 upwards will be very gratefully received. Please make cheques or orders payable to Engine 61662 Appeal and send them to : **Engine 61662 Appeal, 22 Delta Road, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5HR.**

Volunteers are urgently needed to help with leaflet distribution and fund raising in the Manchester area and if you are able to help with this, please contact Ken on **01189 864 706**. Manchester United Football Club have an estimated 2 million fans so if we can interest each one in making just a £1 donation, the loco will run again. The above photo features the original No. 61662 in immaculate condition fresh out of works after an overhaul at Doncaster in 1953. This is exactly how we intend that it will look when the project is completed.