

Engine 61662 News Updates

61662 NEWS UPDATE No. 1 - JANUARY 2012



61662 APPEAL 'KICKS OFF'

(Photo by RC Riley courtesy Rodney Lissenden)

Having been running in the background for some time whilst we finalised the shipping of our Dubs Tank, we are delighted to announce that the NBL Preservation Group project to build a Replica LNER 'Footballer' has now been officially launched. Manchester United FC have very kindly featured our project in their match programme and on their website as the identity of the chosen engine is of course BR 4-6-0 No. 61662. This project was first mooted back in 2008 and has probably been the worst kept secret in preservation !

The selection of No. 61662 may come as a bit of a surprise to some as the original engine, LNER No. 2862, was of course built by Robert Stephenson & Co in Darlington in 1937. However, its construction was based on the original NBL design and North British also had a very close direct connection with Manchester via Sharp Stewart. This famous company built more than 3,000 steam locomotives at their Atlas Works in Manchester over a 50 year period before moving north to Glasgow and becoming a major constituent of the North British combine. In 1862, Sharp Stewart produced the World's first ever steam loco to feature inside frames and this engine very appropriately carried the name 'Manchester'.

Historians of Manchester United FC will know that this world famous Club is without doubt the most appropriate team in the country to have a steam locomotive named after them – more details will be found on our brand new website : www.engine61662appeal.co.uk and in future Newsletters.