

Whilst fund raising activities continue to raise the money for the locomotive frames, repair and restoration work has recommenced on the tender. This has included continuing the drilling of additional rivet holes in the coping panels. Almost 100 rivets are required to be fitted along the lower section of the panels and this is slow, time consuming work. However, by the end of January one side had almost been completed.



Our Prize Draw for the selection of railway books took place on 31st January. The draw raised a total of £390 towards the frames so many thanks to everyone who sent a donation and thanks also to those who very kindly donated the books. The first three names out of the hat were as follows :

Winner – Dave Fox (Vols 1 & 2 of the Late Great Central)

Second Prize – Pete Cooper (BR Steam in Scotland)

Third Prize – Stefan Szwajkowski (The History of Trains)

In parallel with fundraising for the frames, we have been negotiating for a 30ft panel of standard gauge track which will be placed in front of the existing cab and tender at the Mizens and used to display some of the items and equipment we have acquired for No. 61662. We urgently need to raise £500 in the next few weeks to purchase the track and transport it to the Mizens. It is intended that the display of parts will be the centrepiece for future fundraising efforts so please make a small donation towards this project if you can.

We can't show you a working 'Footballer' at the moment as none exist so here are a couple more photos of No. 61306 - its closest cousin in preservation at the present time ! In general terms, the B1's and the 'Footballers' looked quite similar, sharing a common tender and in later years, many of them had a common boiler too. The main visual differences were the driving wheel diameters, number of cylinders and of course the sweeping curves of the Gresley footplate and cab.



Looking every inch an LNER thoroughbred, No. 61306 is seen backing empty stock out of Windsor and then sweeping through the restored station at Hanwell bound for Southall depot. With your help we look forward to seeing No. 61662 'Manchester United' working on the main line like this one day in the future.