



There hasn't been a great deal of good weather for our work parties this month but a couple of weeks back, NBLPG Chairman Nick Newport and I took full advantage of a break in the clouds to restore No 61662's BR identity. It was only a small change but it has brought a huge improvement to the appearance of the Tender. We are very grateful to Mick Strickson of Trackside Ltd for very kindly supplying the Crest and BR Number Transfers free of charge as a donation to the Appeal. Trackside produce a superb range of high quality reproduction totems, targets and coach signs which are great for collectors and preserved railways alike. Please check out their website on <http://www.tracksideltd.co.uk>

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ENGINE 61662 APPEAL

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(photo KL Collection)



I escaped from our dull winter weather this month by paying a return visit to Cuba's perpetual summer. The halcyon days of the Zafra Sugar Cane Harvest are sadly long gone but I visited several Museums and Sugar Mills and managed to find no less than 71 steam locomotives in various states of repair. Virtually all the locos in Cuba are of American origin but No 1662 shown above was of particular interest as this number was once carried by LNER Footballer 'Manchester United'. If anyone would like some photos or a list of the locos that were noted in Cuba this month, please let me know.

Whilst on the subject of our 'Manchester United' Appeal, the Facebook page has now achieved more than 1,000 'likes' and our task is now to convert as many of these to full Members as possible. The 61662 Facebook page can be found at : <https://www.facebook.com/Engine61662ManchesterUnited>

Thanks to some excellent hard work by our webmaster Dave Fox, the new NBL Preservation Group website is now available to view at www.nbloco.co.uk It is planned to archive back copies of the Newsletter and add future editions to the website on a regular basis. Please contact Dave with your news, views and suggestions for the website on: webmaster@nbloco.co.uk

NBL B1 4-6-0 No 61306 'Mayflower' is to be taken out of service at the end of the year for a boiler lift and general maintenance. Since re-entering traffic in 2015, this hard working engine has completed more than 20 trips on the Main Line and made appearances at various preserved railways. Loco owner David Buck has confirmed that when the overhaul is completed, the engine will continue to be based at Southall shed.

**Thank you all once again for your continued support
More news to follow next month, Best Regards, Ken**