



# AGM

January 2020



## *AGM Special Report*

# Operation Final Push!

*Editors: Dave Farnham and Kelvin Williams.*

**A PACKED meeting of shareholders at this year's AGM unanimously approved a major new announcement and proposal by the board of directors. Shareholders were 100% behind the proposal without any abstentions and this landmark decision should now significantly cut the completion time of 4253 by around 18-20 months.**

The proposal, put forward at the Tenterden Station 'standing room only' meeting, was to send the boiler, which has already had a huge amount of work done to it over the last two or three years by the 4253 working groups, to Heritage Boiler Steam Services based in Liverpool, who will now be contracted to do most of the remaining work - in fact by the time you read this, all arrangements will have been made to extract the boiler from Rolvenden, load it up and transport it to Liverpool. This is not happening in a few weeks or months' time - *but within days of this newsletter!*

Not only that, but when it arrives, our boiler will sit alongside the 'Patriot' project boiler also currently



being worked on by HBSS - so it will be in very good company!

### **Reasoning**

Charlie Masterson and Henry Mowforth explained the directors' reasoning behind the proposal: that our existing Rolvenden site does not lend itself to the easy lifting and manoeuvrability required or enough room to cut, shape and fit the side wrappers which each weigh 590kgs, let alone fitting of the new longitudinal stays. Also, to handle extremely heavy side plates with the necessary degree of safety is certainly an issue and of major concern. On top of this is the overall necessity to get the loco back into steam in the shortest possible

time, given the anticipated green light on the K&ESR extension from Bodiam to Robertsbridge. Our locomotive will be in the forefront of the K&ESR locomotives and will easily provide the necessary motive power for the long-awaited extension.

### **Timescale**

The timescale for the work to be done, which also includes removing the old backhead and fitting a new one, crown stays removal and replacement, both side wrappers and stays, copper welding to repair some stay holes, longitudinal stays fitting and tube plate fitting should be complete by the end of the year. Henry will be monitoring the progress of work by HBSS along with visits to Liverpool to see first hand as the year progresses.

Jerry Preston-Ladd outlined the financial side of things and the required amount to finish the boiler. As the large sums flashed onto the screen during Jerry's presentation, silent shareholders soon realised that this step is not for the faint hearted, but nonetheless necessary.

Jerry outlined the funds currently held by the company, together with the remaining costs of

parts required for both the completion of the boiler and the loco, which gave a final figure of £41,000 left to find.

### **Focussed Appeal**

During the meeting the directors impressed upon shareholders that further funds will have to be raised and have now launched a focussed '**Final Push**' appeal to raise the remaining £41,000 by selling shares at £250 each and/or the option of sponsoring specific components.

Charlie said: "This is now the final push to get 4253 back into steam and we appeal to all shareholders to please consider buying another share in *their* locomotive." Already a number of shareholders, keen to see 4253 back in steam in the near future, are coming forward with cheque books in hand and the signs are looking good to reach the minimum 100 share mark by the end of the year.

Every share sold (either by direct debit or a one-off payment) will be acknowledged with a special limited edition share certificate and enamel badge.

***We are nearly there!***

***Please help with the Final Push to get  
YOUR locomotive back in steam***

## **GWR 4253**

# **The 'Final Push' Appeal**

**Shares cost £250 each and you can pay in one instalment or by monthly standing order.**

**If choosing to pay by monthly standing order, we would prefer if this could be over a maximum of ten months (i.e £25 pm) given the short timescales involved.**

**However, if you wish to purchase at a lower monthly cost of between £10 and £25, we shall still be more than grateful to receive your application.**

**If you are already buying shares via monthly Standing Order this can easily be increased by contacting your Bank and asking them to amend the payment amount. Our systems will pick this up and allocate the revised amount accordingly.**

***PLEASE HELP GET 4253 BACK IN STEAM!***

**We now need *YOUR* help to get the job done. Thank you in anticipation.**

**Please go to this address for more information and how to pay:**

**[www.4253.co.uk/Become\\_A\\_Shareholder/](http://www.4253.co.uk/Become_A_Shareholder/)**