



GCR 567 Loco Group

GCR Class 2 No.567 Project

Dennis Wilcock, Treasurer of the GCR 567 Locomotive Group, reports on the 2018 Supporters Day and gives an update on progress

With the unveiling of the first stage assembly of the frames at the September 2018 Supporters Day event we reached a very important milestone. This achievement was due to the contributions of many people but vitally it was a result of the tremendous support given to the project to build this locomotive. It is now time to take a look forward to what is coming next.

Stage Two of the assembly of the frames will include the fitting of the trailing headstock, fabrication and machining of the trailing dragbox, and assembly of the valance angles and the steps. All of this assembly will be with 'slave bolts' in the same manner as the previous assembly work. This is to allow for fine adjustment to the alignment and dimensional checks to be made prior to fixing with rivets. Crucially, the cylinder block must be made ready for fitting. The scope of work necessary here includes machining the mounting flanges to profile to fit into the frames and machining of one of the two valve faces; this entails the dismantling of the two halves of the cylinder block then mounting the block on the table of the horizontal borer for the work to be carried out.

With manufacturing underway on the motion, we will be working to complete the items that are



The first of the newly delivered horn guide castings wrapped in industrial cling film at Ruddington Locomotive Works in November 2018. MIKE FAIRBURN

currently in progress and starting work on further components. Slide blocks and slide bars are part machined and further processes are required on these parts to complete them. Machining of the oil pot lid on the valve spindle guide is underway by Ken Harrison and the first machining on the bogie side plates has been completed. The first of the large steel castings that are the horn guides have been received at Ruddington Locomotive Works and this has been visually inspected and primer painted in preparation for marking out and proof machining.

The delivery of the other three castings will be called up when we have completed proof machining of the first. Further components are at procurement enquiry stage, including the straps for the big ends and, crucially, the coupling rods.

Delivery of the bogie frame plates just in time for display at the Supporters Day marked the start of the manufacture of the bogie. Ken Harrison has been studying the drawings produced by project designer Barry Nurcombe for the bogie horn guides and is progressing towards manufacturing the patterns for the casting of the guides. We have also received preliminary pricing of the casting for the centre bolster of the bogie.



The lid of the oil pot on the Valve Spindle Guide being machined by Ken Harrison. KEN HARRISON

