



BAHAMAS LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY Ltd

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PRESS RELEASE

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PROJECT TO RESTORE 'JUBILEE' CLASS 45596 "BAHAMAS" TO RUNNING ORDER WINS HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SUPPORT

The Bahamas Locomotive Society (BLS), a Registered Charity based at Ingrow on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway (KWVR), has received initial support* from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its project to restore its 1934-built 'Jubilee' class main-line steam locomotive to running order.

The engine was the last steam engine to be used by British Rail to experiment on in BR's attempts to improve the performance of its fleet of steam engines. This was the fitting, in May 1961, of its unique double chimney and blastpipe.

"What started with The Rocket in the 1820's ended with Bahamas in 1961"

It was announced today that this project will receive Development Funding of £5,500 in order to progress the plans of the BLS to apply for a full HLF grant of £689k towards the overhaul of the locomotive which the BLS hopes will begin in 2013. In addition to the engineering aspects of the bid it also includes skill development and educational support.

As a result of considerable public support the BLS has already raised in excess of £180k towards the overhaul which will start once all the necessary funds are in place. John Hillier, the BLS spokesman responsible for the Bid, said: *'the support of the HLF is a major development in the aim of the Society to restore its 135-ton locomotive to running order once more. It is planned that this engine, now often referred to as 'The Yorkshire Jubilee' will once more haul passengers over such routes as the Settle & Carlisle line from its base at Keighley'*.

Because of its provenance and the important role it played in the development of steam traction in the UK the engine has been on display at the National Railway Museum, York since June 2012; it is due to return to the KWVR early next year.

A key element of the BLS bid is the potential it offers to retain and provide employment opportunities together with the development of skills at the heritage-related businesses that will be used to undertake a large part of the overhaul. Visitors to the BLS Accredited Museum at Ingrow will be able to see some of the repair work being undertaken by BLS volunteers.



DIRECTORS: S. C. Allsop, Dr B. S. Bryant, G. C. Bowler, F. Galvin, M. Harper, J. R. Hillier, M. J. Holmes, G. Howard, S. J. Peach, P. W. Skellon, K. A. Whitmore, J. M. Winderbank.
Affiliated to the Transport Trust
Member of the Heritage Railways Association

Registered as a Charity (No. 259626), and Museum (No.1883)
Company limited by Guarantee and Registered in England (No.956100)

In support of its bid the BLS has developed several partnership arrangements with such groups such as Welcome to Yorkshire and the Bahamas Tourist Office.

Commenting on the award Fiona Spiers, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Yorkshire and the Humber, said *"We're delighted to award this initial support to the Bahamas Locomotive Society for this project which aims to help inspire people to learn more about engineering techniques, railway operation, social change and the British Commonwealth whilst also encouraging more people to get involved in the heritage around them. We look forward to receiving the full grant application in the future."*

NOTE TO EDITORS

The Bahamas Locomotive Society is based at Ingrow Loco on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, its headquarters, workshop and Museum which achieved 'Accredited' status in 2009.

45596 "Bahamas" was built in Glasgow (North British Locomotive Works) in December 1934 and entered service for the London Midland & Scottish Railway in January 1935. It ran in excess of 1.4 million miles before it was withdrawn from service in July 1966 when it was based at Stockport.

It was bought (£3,000) in September 1967 and was then restored to running condition once again by Leeds-based Hunslet Engine Company (September 1967 – March 1968).

British Rail ceased using steam engines in August 1968 after which none were used on BR tracks until October 1971. 45596 BAHAMAS was then one of the few engines selected by BR to run a series of embryonic steam trips in 1972. After a further overhaul, this time undertaken by BLS members, it ran faultlessly until 1997 since when it has been in store. BLS Website: www.bahamas45596.co.uk

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 33,000 projects allocating £4.9 billion across the UK including £380m to Yorkshire and the Humber alone. Website: www.hlf.org.uk

*A 'first round pass' means that the project meets HLF criteria for funding and HLF believes the project has the potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money. The BLS application was in competition with other supportable projects so a first-round pass is an endorsement of its outline proposals. The project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposals to compete for a firm award. On this occasion the HLF has awarded some 'development funding' towards the development of the BLS's scheme.

For further information, images, interviews etc please contact :

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