



BAHAMAS LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY Ltd

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PRESS RELEASE

“BAHAMAS” TO BE OVERHAULED AT TYSELEY

The Bahamas Locomotive Society (BLS) is pleased to announce that it has reached agreement with Tyseley Locomotive Works for the overhaul to main-line running condition of its 'Jubilee' class 4-6-0 45596 BAHAMAS. 45596 has not run since 1997 and it is anticipated that this overhaul - which has been made possible thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund - will be completed by end Q4 2016.

John Hillier, spokesman for the BLS, said *"that the final choice of main contractor to undertake the work had not been easy as several very suitable businesses had quoted for the work. However we are looking forward to working closely with Bob Meanley and his team at Tyseley. The loco will be transported to Birmingham within two or three months whilst the tender, motion and cab fittings will be refurbished by the BLS at its Ingrow headquarters. We are particularly pleased that this contract will help support Tyseley's plan to recruit and train new apprentices over the coming months"*.

When completed 45596 will return to its base on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway. The £776k grant from the HLF will cover not only the overhaul of 45596 but also the provision of an educational resource coach (the BLS LMS coach to be converted for this innovative use will shortly move from Oakworth to Shildon-based Rail Restorations North-East Ltd. for external renovation) in the dock at Ingrow Station and the employment of an Audience Development Co-ordinator who will work with schools and other interest groups. Details of this role and the recruitment process will be published on the BLS web site during September.

For Tyseley, Bob Meanley said *"We are extremely pleased to have been successful with our tender to carry out the overhaul of Bahamas. On a personal level I have known Steve Allsop and the Bahamas team for many years and have the highest regard for the work which they have carried out in the past on both Bahamas and the Coal Tank. Everyone at TLW is looking forward to developing the relationship with BLS and starting to overhaul 45596 in the coming months."*

The BLS Appeal "STEAMS LAST BLAST" launched in 2011 to raise funds for 45596's overhaul remains open in order to provide for future maintenance etc and details of how the project can be supported can be found on the BLS web site (www.bahamas45596.co.uk).

For further information please contact:

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