



BAHAMAS LOCOMOTIVE SOCIETY Ltd

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Patrons: The Hon Sir William and Lady McAlpine
President: Dr B S Bryant

FAMOUS LOCO TO RETURN TO STEAM AFTER 21 YEARS

Friday 28th September will see the first 'official' steaming of 'Jubilee' Class locomotive No. 45596 *Bahamas* since 1997. After a project costing c£1m - which was supported by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £776k made possible by players of the National Lottery - the steaming is the culmination of a lengthy project by volunteers from the Bahamas Locomotive Society. This project also included the development of a major educational initiative based in a unique classroom located in the 'Learning Coach' at Rail Story, Ingrow on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

In 1961 *Bahamas* was the very last locomotive used by British Railways to experiment on in order to try to improve the efficiency of its steam fleet. "What started with the *Rocket* in the 1830s ended with *Bahamas* in 1961" ... when it was fitted with an improved draughting arrangement.

The overhaul to restore the engine to main-line running order has been undertaken at Tyseley Locomotive Works in Birmingham which on September 18th was awarded an Engineering Heritage Award by the Institute of Mechanical Engineering. During its 5-year overhaul at Tyseley the Works has recruited several apprentices and other staff who have learnt new and traditional skills which have been utilised in the loco's repair.

After a period of exhaustive testing No 45596 will steam back to its base at Ingrow on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway in Yorkshire. It will then be available to haul trains on the main line once more. It last hauled passengers on the main lines in 1994.

Bahamas was purchased for preservation in 1967 and after two periods of faultless running on the main line, was 'retired' in 1997 when its last boiler certificate expired. In comparison with the cost of the latest overhaul its previous repair cost BLS volunteers just £15k!

Although the steaming on Friday is a private one for BLS Members and donors, 45596 *Bahamas* will be on view to the public during an Open Weekend at Tyseley on 29/30 September.

Project Manager John Hillier said that "*the return to the main lines of Bahamas is eagerly awaited with many looking forward to seeing it operate once again over its old haunts including the Settle & Carlisle Railway. This would not have been possible without support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and many thousands of individual donors*".

Note for Editors:

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery and #HLFsupported.

For further details or to arrange to attend please contact:

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Web sites: www.bahamas45596.co.uk and www.railstory.co.uk.

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The Bahamas Locomotive Society Limited is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England, number 956100. Its Registered Office is at: The Shippen, 8 The Old Hall Courtyard, Heath, Wakefield, WF1 5ST. VAT No.892 2008 29.

It is registered as a Charity, as number 259626; operates the Ingrow Loco Museum, registered number 1883 under the Arts Council Accreditation Scheme; is affiliated to the Transport Trust, and is a member of the Heritage Railways Association.

