ASTT Annual Conference

to be held at The Aston Court Hotel, Derby over the weekend of 5th- 6th Oct 2024

Call for Expressions of Interest in Attending

Plans are progressing for our Derby conference in October over the weekend of 5th-6th October.

The conference will follow the general format of previous conferences with 1½ days of presentations, a conference dinner on the Saturday evening and an afternoon outing on the Sunday. There will however be one important change in that one day's presentations will focus on a single topic.

Focus on Alternative Fuels: Alternative Fuels will be the focus of presentations on the Saturday. It is becoming apparent that not only are traditional coal fuels becoming expensive and hard to procure in the UK, but that signs are emerging that they will become increasingly unacceptable as the effects of climate change become more intense. Alternative fuels are thus becoming of critical importance to the UK heritage steam sector.

We have therefore enlisted a number of speakers to talk on the subject of alternative fuels. These include:

- **Bob Gwynne, Environmental and Sustainability Manger at the Llangollen and Corwen Railway** who will talk about the challenges facing the UK's heritage rail sector from the Net Zero directives.
- **Roger Waller from Switzerland**; Roger worked with Dave Wardale in South Africa, subsequently moving home to Switzerland where he worked on the design and development of the well-known fleet of rack-drive tank engines built under the auspices of SLM. When SLM closed its doors shortly afterwards, Roger took over its steam operations under his own company DLM which rebuilt and operates the modernized oil-burning ex- Kriegslok 2-10-0 No 52-8055.
- **Mike Stockbridge** who who talk about the combustion characteristics of coal and biofuels, and on the ideal biofuel.
- **Our Chairman John Hind** who will talk about coal substitutes and what have we learned after 3 years of trials. John will present the paper that he presented at WATTRAIN's annual conference in Naples, Italy, last month.

It is also hoped that **Maik Drechsel from the Emsland Railway in Germany** will be able to attend to to give a talk on the successfully testing of wood pellets as a locomotive fuel.

Sunday's presentations will cover a more general range of topics, which will be of interest to students of locomotive engineering, including an update on progress with the design and assembly of our Revolution project – see overleaf for the anticipated programme.

The Sunday outing is planned to be to the Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust workshop in Butterley which houses two well-known ex-LMS Stanier Pacific locomotives – No 6203 *Princess Margaret Rose* and No 6229 *Duchess of Sutherland*. Next door is the Midland Railway Centre's museum and railway, but it is unlikely that time will allow us to include them in the visit.

2024 Conference Programme as at 13th Aug 2024						
	Start	***Duration***	**End**		**Topic**	**Speaker**
Saturday 5th Oct 2024	09:30	*00:30*	10:00		Registration & Coffee	
	10:00	*00:15*	10:15		Welcome	John Hind
	10:15	*01:00*	11:15	1	Challenges facing the UK from the Net Zero directives	Bob Gwynne
	11:15	*00:30*	11:45		Tea/coffee	
	11:45	*01:00*	12:45	2	On oil-firing	Roger Waller
	12:45	*00:45*	13:30		Buffet Lunch	
	13:30	*01:00*	14:30	3	*Wood pellet trials on the Emsland Rly in Germany*	*Maik Drechsel***
	14:30	*01:00*	15:30	4	Combustion characteristics of coal and biofuels, and the ideal biofuel	Mike Stockbridge
	15:30	*00:30*	16:00		Tea/coffee	
	16:00	*01:00*	17:00	5	Bio-coal - after 3 years of trials what have we learned?	John Hind
	17:00	*00:30*	17:30		Derby's industrial history	Jamie Keyte
	17:30	*02:00*	19:30		Free time	
	19:30	*02:30*	22:00		Conference Dinner	
*** Maik Drechsel's attendance has yet to be confirmed*						
Sunday 6th Oct 2024	09:00	*00:15*	09:15		Registration of Sunday-only attendees	
	09:15	*00:15*	09:30		Welcome	John Hind
	09:30	*01:00*	10:30	6	CFD design of exhaust systems	Gwion Clark
	10:30	*00:30*	11:00		Tea/coffee	
	11:00	*01:00*	12:00	7	Elsecar Railway Heritage Centre etc	Dr. Geraint Coles
	12:00	*00:45*	12:45		Buffet Lunch	
	12:45	*00:45*	13:30		Drive to Butterley	
	13:30	*01:30*	15:00		Visit Princess Royal Preservation Society	
	15:15	*00:45*	15:45		Travel to back to hotel	
	15:45	*00:15*	16:00		Tea/coffee	
	16:00	*01:00*	17:00	8	Progress report on "*Revolution*"	Jamie Keyte
	17:00	*00:15*	17:15		Wrap Up	John Hind
	Reserve speakers		Wheels & axles set-up			Hendrik Kaptein
			Why Did BR Give Up on Steam - Part 5 - Railcars			Andrew Hartland
	Stand-by speaker		A modern high pressure steam turbine locomotive			Mike Stockbridge

Seeking Indications of Interest in Attending: It will be very helpful for our planning if members could let us know their interest in attending. Firm commitments to attend will be most welcome and will secure you a seat at the conference. See below for anticipated attendance fees.

For international visitors, Derby is located in central England, some 130 miles NW of London and 45 miles NE of Birmingham. It is most easily reached from East midlands Airport taking 45 minutes from there by rail or 20 minutes by car. Birmingham airport is about 90 minutes away by rail or 60 minutes by car and Luton airport is some 2 hours away by train (or 2¼ hours from central London). Train services from Manchester Airport are more problematic, taking some 2½ hours for what is only a 55-mile journey by road.

Venue and Accommodation: We have made arrangements with the Aston Court Hotel in Derby for room hire and lunches, and for a conference dinner on the Saturday evening. The hotel is located directly opposite Derby station – just a 2-minute walk away. Seating space in the meeting room will be limited to around 40 attendees, so bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis.

The hotel offers accommodation to attendees at a cost of £70 per night for a single room including breakfast or £85 per night for a double room including breakfasts. Accommodation can be booked by calling the hotel at **01332 342716** or by emailing Emma.Walker@astoncourthotelderby.com. Please mention that you will be attending ASTT's conference.

Parking: The hotel offers free car parking for guests at the rear of the hotel. This is accessed from Park Street at the side of the hotel (turn right through double gates). Parking is subject to availability.

Admission Charge (or Donation): We anticipate that in order to cover costs, we'll need to charge £105 for 2 days' attendance and £75 for a single day. Costs include meeting room hire; morning and afternoon teas and coffees; lunches; speakers' attendance fees; and a £300 (approx.) donation to the Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust after our Sunday visit there. An additional £30.00 will need to be charged to those opting to attend the conference dinner. It is hoped that attendees will bring enough cars to provide seating space for the Sunday outing to Butterley and therefore avoid the need to hire a bus for the purpose.

15 places have so far been booked for the conference as listed below. Seating space will be limited to 40 attendees, so members are encouraged to reserve themselves a seat before we advertise the conference more widely. Please let us know without delay if you intend to attend and which days you plan to be there. Also whether or not you would like to attend the conference dinner and whether you can offer car seats for the outing to Butterley.

Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Chris Newman, Mike Stockbridge and John Hind
(Conference Planning Committee)

List of members who have so far expressed interest in attending the conference:

Andrew Hartland	Graham Shirley	Owen Jordan
Chris Newman	Ian Gaylor	Pep Alemany
Chris Parmenter	Jamie Keyte	Richard Coleby
Doug Landau	John Hind	Robert Alcock
Geoffrey Ayers	Nigel Barnes	William Powell

Payment of admission fees will be requested early in September.