

SIA & Reefsteamers Class 15F No.3052 - Boiler Tube Replacement Appeal.

Steam in Action and Reefsteamers Association are appealing for donations to fund a partial re-tube of David Shepherd's Class 15F No.3052 'Avril.' This privately owned locomotive has been entrusted to the Sandstone Heritage Trust by David Shepherd (MBE) and an agreement was reached between the two parties that Reefsteamers would care for and operate the locomotive on the cape-gauge main lines.



Here's Class 15F No.3052 'Avril' doing her 'thang' out amongst the curvaceous lines in amongst the attractive scenery of the Orange Free State. This picture was taken by Aidan McCarthy on the homeward-bound section of the spectacular Cosmos Festival Heritage event hosted at Sandstone Estates in 2008.

In Nov. 2007, No.3052 was moved from Sandstone's storage at Ficksburg (Free State) and brought up to the Reefsteamers depot in Germiston. There she underwent a major stoker and tender-off-frames rebuild as well as general work to get her up to mainline operating condition under her then-current boiler certificate.

Her boiler certificate has since expired and on investigation for re-certification, it was found that 25 boiler tubes needed to be replaced, at a cost R40 000-00.



Here is a wasted boiler tube in the process of removal. The visible hole has just been cut by a torch to collapse the end of the tube to draw it out. However, the wasting and corrosion is clearly visible at the 10 – 11 o' clock position. Note the tube beading has already been ground off in this picture.



The boiler tube, which initially failed on a day-trip to Mariasburg, is blocked by the brake ejector exhaust while being withdrawn from the front tube plate. Upon closer inspection facilitated by the one tube being withdrawn – other boiler tubes were found to be wasted as well.

We ask that anyone who can help with any donation towards this project to come forward and assist SIA and Reefsteamers. Details are to be found at the end of the appeal.

Reefsteamers Class 15CA No.2056 – Boiler Flue Replacement Appeal :



Class 15CA No.2056 'Dorothy' is sprinting home after a winter's day out in the countryside- the first of the mine dumps of the Great Gold Reef making a dramatic milepost marking the way home.

Reefsteamers Association is raising an appeal for donations to assist in funding the re-flue of our Class 15CA locomotive No.2056. She was recently restored to working order and has proven to be a well liked and reliable locomotive ... until one of her flues failed. After investigation by our Engineering Manager and Boiler Inspector, it was found that the old SAR-era 'safe end' welds on that particular flue had failed. The Boiler Inspector condemned them all and insisted on a full flue replacement.

To prevent confusion, the flues are the large tubes that contain the super heater elements, rather than the more numerous, but smaller bore boiler tubes. (Which are the 15F No.3052's problem.)



The known failed flue has been removed, leaving the characteristic ferrous-oxide coloured interior of the boiler exposed and providing a viewpoint for checking of adjacent flues. The difference between the smaller, empty boiler tubes and the larger flues, snugly inhabited by the super heater elements, is clearly seen.



Here's a brand new boiler flue as delivered to replace the one that failed – before we discovered all the other flues need replacement as well. We need another 29 of these and is what we are making an appeal for to purchase for our Class 15CA.

The locomotive was fully re-tubed in 2007 and much other boiler work was carried out, as well as much mechanical work to get her running again. We were quite proud of having the only restored and operating Class 15CA in South Africa. The flue failure really took us by surprise. We now have all the money and man-hours that we invested into this locomotive 'locked' into an otherwise excellent machine that cannot be used.

This particular appeal has been created to raise as much as we can of the R200 000-00 required to do a full flue replacement of all 30 flues. We are asking anyone who can help with any donation possible to come forward and assist Reefsteamers. Please help us to get this unique locomotive back out on the high-irons again. Details of the appeal process are to be found below.

Appeal Processes – General :

The appeal processes will work as follows :

- 1) The donation is to be paid into the Reefsteamers Bank Account. (Details following.)
You will need to fax or scan the deposit to us.

- 2) We will contact you and ask for your email and/or postal address details if we don't have them yet.
- 3) For each donation that is received, you will receive a personal appeal number and a letter of thanks from Reefsteamers Association for your support.
- 4) Each individual flue for the Class 15CA No.2056 costs R4904 from our supplier, Surtees Railway Supplies. Please see the quote form attached.
- 5) The 25 seven meter long boiler tube for the Class 15F No.3052 cost R1384 each.
- 6) Donations do not need to cover the exact amount for a flue or a tube – partial amounts will also be gratefully accepted.
- 7) Additionally each month, an article will appear in the SIA and Reefsteamers Newsletter keeping everyone who has donated funds to the appeals up to date with the locomotive to which they donated funds.
- 8) Once enough has been raised for either locomotive, the tubes or the flues (as a batch) will be purchased from Surtees Railway Supplies.
- 9) The boiler will be prepared and the flues or tubes installed as appropriate.
- 10) We will inform the donors by personal letter that the funding level has been reached and the project has started on 'their' locomotive.
- 11) Photographs will be taken during the progress of the project and an article written for both the SIA and Reefsteamers newsletters, again thanking each donor for their support.

Completion of projects :

- 12) On completion of either of the two locomotives - when it first steams, each of that particular locomotive's donors will be invited to attend a special function at the Reefsteamers Depot in Germiston.
- 13) A brass plaque will be made with each donor's personal unique appeal number recorded, as well as their name. This plaque will be mounted on the locomotive's cab.

For any further information on the appeal please don't hesitate to contact:

Elize Lubbe, the Chairman of Reefsteamers Association via elize@reefsteamers.co.za

or

Lee D. Gates, the Club Secretary of Reefsteamers via Clubsecretary@reefsteamers.co.za.

You can otherwise SMS Lee D. Gates at (+27)83 630-6618. (Local – 083 630-6618)

No voice calls please.

Reefsteamers Banking Details :

Bank Name = First National Bank

Branch Location = East Rand Mall

Branch No. = 253442

Account No. = 621 280 068 23

Account name = Reefsteamers

SWIFT = FIRNZAJJ

Ref Number = '15F Tube' - <<your surname>>. Or '15CA Flue' - <<your surname>>

Please fax or email a scan of your deposit slip to finance@reefsteamers.co.za or dysies@gmail.com

Fax Number = 086 609 2811.

Address the deposit notice to Diana Sanderson.

Also, please supply your contact details to Diana so we can easily keep in touch with you.

This is a dedicated bank account and the funds therein will not be used for other purposes.

Reefsteamers Association was incorporated under Section 21 of

Companies Act and is a non-profit company. Registration = 950259008