



BritClub News



VOL 20, ISSUE 5

COMING EVENTS

SBC BOARD MEETING

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13th; it will be a virtual meeting and the time of the meet is to be announced.

All members will receive emailed invitations to the events shown below in due time. Please look out for them in your inbox and be sure to add "Sarasota British Club" to your safe senders list

Save the date!

AGM: Saturday, October 10th.
Guy Fawkes: Thursday, November 5th.

Christmas party: December 12th, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Eventbrite

A gentle reminder: please use the Eventbrite system to let us know that you are coming to our events. Many events require us to notify the venue of numbers attending. At several recent events members have arrived without advance notice, and this causes confusion and seating difficulties.

In future members who have not signed up will be asked to wait until registered members are seated and we hope you will understand that it is only fair that we should give priority to members who have used the system.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, MAY 2020

I think all of us are starting to become accustomed to this new reality now. While I understand that some people feel pressure to relieve the restrictions on social and work activities, Diana and I both feel reluctant to return to our life before the Virus. We have been fortunate here in Florida that the adoption of social distancing has reduced the incidence of the disease in our community. But it is scary to see the news in the Big Cities and back home in the UK, where a third of those admitted to hospital never go home.

So, I am coming to the conclusion that it will be a long time before we are able to get together as a group, and I will be challenging all our members to help me find ways to keep our spirits up as the hot weather arrives. I have been gratified by feedback from my weekly emails and encourage you to keep sending me material that I can share with the group.

Meanwhile, life for us has been opened up a little by being able to walk the beach again. And for Diana's birthday we dusted off the RV and took a trip up to the Skyway bridge, where we found a place to enjoy a picnic lunch. A special treat for the birthday girl was a lobster dinner takeout from Captain Curt's on the Key.

We brought it home and enjoyed it next to the RV in our driveway, pretending that we were camping! Hopefully as the states relax their rules, the State Parks will reopen and we will be able to reinstate the trips that we had to postpone.



Meanwhile many thanks to all of you for renewing your memberships. Your board and I are committed to working hard to make your investment worthwhile, and I encourage you to let us know if there is anything that we can do to help you in this challenging time.

Paul Wilkinson

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Précis of the April's Board Meeting

The Treasurer's Report showed a Closing Balance of \$3,798.84 on March 31st, 2020.

Our present total membership is 130 but the numbers are changing as we keep receiving more cheques in the mail.

The Board agreed to call single members who live on their own to see how they are doing and if anyone needed any assistance.

Future event ideas such as a Cooking Demonstration; Social Night; Movie Night and Bingo are being considered for when our lives return to normal.

The Sarasota British Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and we'll be having a birthday party at the Annual General Meeting in October.



COMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting:

On Saturday, October 10th, at Village des Pins Clubhouse.

Guy Fawkes Beach Party:

On Thursday, November 5th, at Siesta Key beach.

2020 Annual Christmas party:

December 12th, 2020; at 6:00pm.

Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club, 4800 Chase Oaks Dr. Sarasota, FL. 34241

Watch this space for future announcements!

A MOMENT BACK IN TIME

The year was 2001: can you tell who are in the photos?



**Our cheque for the Farmers Fund
C/o The Daily Mail, May 2001**

Our presidents:

2000	Bill Mason *
2001	Andy Reeves
2002, 2003	Peter Richards
2004	Peter Gold
2005	Glenys Oldham
2005, 2006	Nairn' Gillet
2007	Terry Sweeney*
2008, 2009	Sue Ford
2010	Ken Jukes
2011, 2012	Gary Lee
2013	Steve Adams
2014, 2015	Gary Lee
2016	Paul Wilkinson
2017	Jane Jacobs*
2018, 2019, 2020	Paul Wilkinson

(* Deceased)

List provided by our founding member Sandra Cherry.

MEDIA MATTERS

A new series of **No Offence** on **Acorn** was great fun and highly recommended for Brits (the strong Manchester accents will likely prove a challenge for Americans!)



We just discovered **Travels by Narrowboat** also on **Amazon**. We found the story of an odd Englishman who buys a canal boat strangely compulsive. I was reminded of the book **Narrow Dog to Carcassonne**, in which **Terry Darlington**, his wife, and whippet Jim take their canal boat across the channel to France. It is an excellent read and highly recommended.



The sixth series of **Bosch** is now available on **Amazon**. These dramatizations of Michael Connelly's books are very well done and follow the books faithfully. Diana is not fond of them, but as American police procedurals I find them very good.



On **Netflix** we have been watching some favorites from the past on DVD, including **Downton Abbey**, **Bohemian Rhapsody**, and **Greatest Showman**. All of these were great the second time around.



Feel free to email or call me with questions – pwilkinson18@gmail.com or 240 432 2851

Paul Wilkinson

COMMUNITY BOARD

This section of the Newsletter is available to members who wish to connect with our community to announce events and seek connections within the community. It is not available for commercial purposes or to advertise events outside the interests of our members. The rules for inclusion are simple: the Newsletter editor has the final call as to whether something is acceptable for inclusion!

Please forward your items to: peter13454@gmail.com

From Mark Malkasian:

Recently published on: Herald Tribune

Plan a parade to honor heroes of coronavirus

Many years ago, while on vacation in Australia, we happened upon a marvelously massive parade in downtown Sydney honoring firefighters after the end of a particularly savage season of forest fires. This was well before climate change-driven events had become so much part of our global life.

I'm sure all of us hope our current battle with the coronavirus does not become an annual event. So, in honor of the truly heroic efforts by so many local people in the public health and safety professions, there should be an occasion when we take our applause down from the balconies and onto the sidewalks for a Main Street parade to recognize all categories of participants in this public health battle.

I'm talking about nurses and doctors, EMTs and ambulance drivers, firefighters and police, hospital workers, food bank staffers and volunteers, military personnel et al., with lots of band music, bagpipers and raucous cheering scattered throughout.

When the "all clear" for assembly is announced, it's the least we can do to show our heartfelt gratitude. Hold the thought!

Mark Malkasian, Osprey, FL.



From Paul Cassidy:

LNER - A1 Class Steam Locomotive – named TORNADO after the UK/EU fighter jet

As a long time ‘trainspotter’ when I was young, I retained an interest in trains, especially steam hauled. One of my earliest jobs was working on the first British Rail ‘dieselization’ program for a Swiss (Sulzer) diesel engine maker in the late 1960s and beyond. I extracted the information below from a Wikipedia article covering the TORNADO design, building (in Darlington, Co. Durham) and development (all of which took eight years!) by a group of UK steam loco enthusiasts/amateurs.

TORNADO is used today to haul steam train enthusiasts and tourists over UK ‘main lines’ -please see the ‘A1steam’ Trust website www.a1steam.com which includes tours that you can take in the UK – if that’s of interest, on your next trip back to ‘blighty’.



Performance figures

Maximum speed: 100mph design,
90mph certified

Power output: 2,700 HP (2,000 kW)

Tractive effort: 37,400 lbf (166.000N)

Some specifications

Configuration:

Pacific (6 axles total).	4-6-2
Leading wheels dia.	3 ft 2 in
Driver wheels dia.	6 ft 8 in
Trailing wheels dia.	3 ft 8 in
Length	73 ft
Width	9 ft 3 in
Height	13 ft
Total (loco + tender) weight	166 long tons

Fuel type: Coal; (the project team originally considered oil but rejected it as it was more expensive than coal in the UK at the time). In my view, they should also have considered **natural gas** (the tender could hold a significant amount of NG cylinders).

Loco number 60163 *Tornado* is a main-line coal-fired steam locomotive built in Darlington, County Durham, England. Completed in 2008, *Tornado* was the first new steam locomotive built in the UK since *Evening Star*, the last steam locomotive built by British Railways in 1960. It is the only LNER Peppercorn Class A1 locomotive in existence, all of the originals having been scrapped. In April 2017, *Tornado* became the first steam locomotive officially to reach 100 mph on British tracks for more than 50 years.

Construction of *Tornado* began in 1994 and was at Darlington Works for most of the project, though numerous components were manufactured by subcontractors. For example, the boiler was made in what was previously East Germany. The project was financed through fundraising initiatives such as public donations and sponsorship deals and further funding originated from the use of *Tornado* for special rail services. Construction was completed in 2008 and full certification of the locomotive was achieved in January 2009.

Having been designed in compliance with modern safety and certification standards, Tornado has been conducting passenger services on the UK rail network and on mainline-connected heritage railways since 2008.

The locomotive was built by the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, a charitable trust founded in 1990 to build Tornado and possibly further locomotives. Tornado was conceived as an evolution of the LNER Peppercorn Class A1, incorporating improvements that would have been likely had steam continued, and changes for cost, safety, manufacturing and operational benefits, while replicating the original design's sound and appearance. Tornado, completely new built, is considered the 50th Peppercorn A1, numbered next in the class after 60162, Saint Johnstoun, built in 1949

The original Peppercorn A1s were built in Doncaster and Darlington for LNER. Tornado was built in the Trust's Darlington works. All the original 49 locomotives were scrapped by 1966. Tornado fills a gap among the restored steam locomotives that LNER operated.

Tornado moved under her own power for the first time on 29 July 2008 in Darlington, then spent two months at the Great Central Railway (GCR) in Loughborough, where she was tested up to 60 mph and operated her first passenger train. Tornado then moved to the National Railway Museum in York for three test runs on the main line up to 75 mph. Tornado was then approved for mainline passenger operation. With eleven coaches, Tornado is expected to achieve contemporary main line speeds. Theoretically capable of 100 miles per hour, Tornado should gain permission to run at 90 miles per hour, making her the fastest steam locomotive on the British main line.

Some comments regarding the design phase of the project

Rough engineering dimensions for Tornado were obtained from measuring another similar design at the National Railway Museum. There was no general arrangement drawing of a Peppercorn A1 so one from an A2 was used.

Many of the original drawings used at Doncaster Works for the A1 Peppercorn class had been preserved at the NRM, and a team of volunteers spent three days collating these in the autumn of 1991. The original drawings were India ink on linen and these were scanned into a Computer Aided Design (CAD) system for manufacturing purposes. Poor-quality originals required re-drawing.

Updated specifications were required because of obsolete material specifications and drawing notes whose original meaning could not be determined. Other design details were also obtained through interviews with Arthur Peppercorn's former assistant, J.F. Harrison.

Changes from original specifications (highly edited)

The design was modified to meet modern manufacturing techniques, and modern highspeed rail systems requirements while retaining most of the original design. As an evolution of the Peppercorn A1 class, Tornado also incorporated improvements that would have been made if steam loco use had continued.

The following design changes were made for cost or operational reasons:

- All welded (not riveted) boiler, Steel firebox (not copper), One-piece steel frames
- Roller bearings (enables loco to be moved by a few guys by hand on level rails!)
- Improved steam circuit, tender coal/water ratio (more water), overall weight reduction

Additionally, to meet current safety and operation standards, Tornado includes:

- Up-rated electrical supplies, primary air (vs steam) brakes
- Modern head/tail lamps, vacuum brakes (for heritage railway stock)
- 1 inch reduction in overall height (for overhead electric line equipment Regulations)
- Automatic Warning System (AWS) & Train Protection & Warning System (TPWS), Data Recorder
- European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) compatible GSM-Railway (GSM-R) cab radio

The Wikipedia article then covers many detailed aspects of the project including:

Further Design & Manufacture phases between 1994 & 2008

Commissioning & initial track testing

Launch of steam trials including at the preserved Great Central Railway (GCR) in Loughborough.

Certification

Among other UK Rail Regulatory requirements, Tornado is required to pass the 2006 European Interoperability of the conventional rail system Directive, achieved through compliance with the National Notified Technical Rules.

Passenger operation - Inaugural main line trains – many examples of initial running on UK main and ‘heritage’ lines able to handle the weight of Tornado.

Operational top speed – lots of data on approval process for operation at 90 mph on UK main lines. Note, Deutsche Bahn has advised the A1 SteamTrust that *Tornado* would be allowed to run "as fast as [they] like" in Germany!! (if it can be moved across/under? the channel).

100 mph run – in April 2017, during a test run on the East Coast Main Line, *Tornado* became the first steam locomotive since 1967 to run at 100 miles per hour on the line. The last steam train to officially travel at 100 mph on the UK mainline network was in 1968.

Funding & Fundraising: *Tornado* carries a plaque bearing the following message:

This locomotive was built and paid for by people who shared a vision and were determined to turn it into reality.

Sponsorship: major sponsors include a major steel company, Great North Eastern Railway, Rolls Royce, National Express East Coast

Media: A BBC film crew filmed the project up to and including the arrival and operation of *Tornado* running at the GCR. The resulting film was used to make a 30-minute documentary film, **Absolutely Chuffed: The Men Who Built a Steam Engine**, first broadcast on BBC Four on 16 October 2008. I did look at this film briefly – it’s quite interesting, if one has memories of the old steam train era!

Tornado Models: A number of companies have released scale models of *Tornado* starting in 2008 – details are in original Wikipedia article.

From your editor: *A Gentoo Penguin Nursery in the Falkland Islands*





With flamboyant red-orange beaks, white feather caps and peach-colored feet the Gentoo Penguins stand out in the dunes and the long sandy beach.

At the end of the Summer, in late March, the parents have mostly left the rookery and are hunting at sea, sometimes up to sixteen miles out. The chicks remain together in large gatherings, some are still covered by down while others are changing their plumage into sleek feathers. Now is the time to practice the learned skills of survival.

The largest populations of Gentoo Penguins are found in the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica Peninsula; they are the least abundant of the penguins found on the Sub - Antarctic islands.

Part of the information was obtained from National Geographic page.





Thank you!

The editor wishes to thank all the club members who have contributed to this edition.



Penguins: Olga Stokes photos.

Sarasota British Club name badges

Please obtain Club badges directly from **Sarasota Trophy, 6601 Superior Ave, Sarasota, FL 34321. Phone 941 921 4339.**

- \$8 plus 56c tax for badge with magnet
- \$6 plus 42c tax for badge with pin (no magnet)

Badges can be collected in person (M – F 8.30 – 5pm, Sat 9am – noon) or shipped to your home for \$3.75.

SARASOTA BRITISH CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020

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Don't forget that Sarasota British Club is on Facebook. The Club's logo is the profile picture. Check out numerous photos from recent events.

Why not "friend" us for another way of keeping in touch with the Club and its members; you can add your event photos to the wall.