

RELEASE THE BRAKES!

Mk1 BCK No. 21241 Overhaul Appeal



21241 heads along Bo'ness foreshore as part of a Murder Mystery service.

In Jeopardy: 62 Years of Railway Preservation

There are many reasons people join the SRPS: you might have a passion for steam, maybe you grew up to the thunderous roar of an English Electric class 37 locomotive, or perhaps you simply enjoy watching trains go by. Over the last 62 years, with your support, we have developed a nationally accredited museum, an award-winning heritage railway and a successful day rail excursion operation.

Everything we love – and have worked so hard to achieve - is at risk.

Critical to our ongoing success (visitor numbers in the last 6 months being very encouraging) is the ability to run passenger trains to attract visitors and generate income, but substantial investment is required to keep our coaches operational. Arguably, the most important coach in a train is the brake coach.

Following on from previous successful appeals to support the significant investment in our coaches, our 2023 fundraising efforts are focused on the overhaul of MK1 Brake Corridor Composite ('BCK') No. 21241.

History of BCK No. 21241

No. 21241 has been in almost constant service since acquisition by the SRPS in 1999. Originally built by British Railways in 1961 at Swindon works under Diagram 171, it is a 'composite' brake coach having 3 standard class and 2 first class compartments, seating up to 30 people.

Being fitted with dual brakes (air & vacuum) and heat (electric & steam), it is an incredibly useful vehicle that can be used with any steam or diesel locomotive in the SRPS collection.

Overhaul Specification:

Being as old as the SRPS and having run several hundred thousand miles since being built, 21241 is tired and in need of some tender loving care. With your help, we hope to be able to complete the following works this summer to return the vehicle to operational condition:

- Structural Overhaul (**essential**), **£30,000**:
 - Strip interior of coach, inspect and repair/replace crash pillars, sole plate and top hats under toilet floor where required.
 - Remove coach windows, identify, and repair any corrosion around window frames and on body sides.
 - Reassemble and repaint vehicle.
- Mechanical Overhaul (**essential**), **£10,000**:
 - Strip gangways from the coach to inspect wooden supports, weld up and re-drill all fixings on gangway faceplates, replace flexitators and rubber gangway bellows.
 - Strip all draw-gear, including buffers, for inspection, repair and refurbishment/replacement where required.
- Interior Refurbishment (**desirable**; dependant on funding), **£15,000**:
 - Inspect wooden panelling in corridor and compartments, re-varnishing or replacing woodwork where required.
 - Re-upholster first and standard class compartment seats, replace carpet in first class.
 - Deep clean prior to re-entering service.

The overhaul will be carried out at Bo'ness using a mix of volunteer and external contract labour (for specialist welding and woodwork skills). With a huge range of tasks to complete – from cleaning to machining – we would welcome new volunteers. See the '**How can you help**' on last page for information on how to volunteer.

What have we achieved with your previous support?

The SRPS relies on generosity of its members both in terms of financial contributions and volunteer labour, without which our recent coach projects would not have been possible:

- Donations to 'Keep our train on the Main Line' appeal supported the overhauls of First Open No. 3150 and Kitchen Car 1730, both complete, and helped to fund the structural repairs to TSO 4836 which are underway.
- Donations to our 'Raising the Standard' appeal allowed us to purchase and transport First Open No. 3112 to Bo'ness, and to make substantial progress with the overhaul. Expected to be in service summer 2023.

Here's one we did earlier...



Clockwise from top left showing progress on FO 3112, representative of the magnitude of work being carried out on many of our mk1 coaches: Crash pillar corrosion before repair, repaired crash pillars and new sole plate, fully overhauled buffers & draw gear being fitted, and general view of repairs with all windows and ends exposed to rectify corrosion where required.

How can you help?

- **Donate your time:** assistance is required with the overhaul; please contact our volunteer coordinator volunteers@srps.org.uk if you can help.
- **Make a financial donation:** As the costs above show, overhauling coaches that are over 60 years old is expensive. Acknowledging the difficult economic climate facing many, the financial support of our members remains critical, and donations would be gratefully received.

DONATE TODAY:

You can make a single donation by bank transfer (please email donations@srps.org.uk), online through [Charities Aid Foundation](#) or by completing this form and enclosing a cheque payable to the 'Scottish Railway Preservation Society'. Please send the form and cheque to: SRPS Spring Appeal, c/o Alastair George, 4 Baberton Mains Avenue, Edinburgh, EH14 3EQ.

Please accept my donation of _____ for the 21241 Overhaul Appeal.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Email: _____

If you wish a standing order form* to make a regular donation, please tick this box

If you do not require an acknowledgement of your donation, please tick this box.

In the event of insufficient funds being raised to make this project financially viable or the Society being otherwise unable to go ahead and complete the project, your donation will be put to a project most closely resembling this one. Conversely should the appeal become oversubscribed, your donation will be held in the project fund for use in future developments.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society: Gift Aid Declaration (Optional)

If you are a U.K. taxpayer and have paid or will pay sufficient Income and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover all your Gift Aid payments to all Charities or CASCs in any given tax year, you can consider signing this form. Completion will allow the SRPS to reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you donate. **I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in any given tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.** I wish the Scottish Railway Preservation Society to treat this donation and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signature _____ Date _____