



PLEASE HELP US TO RETURN 26043 TO FULL OPERATIONAL CONDITION



26043 was one of a class of 47 locomotives built by the Birmingham Railway & Carriage Works in Smethwick, entering service in October 1959 numbered D5343 and painted in all over BR green livery with white waist level stripe and white window surrounds.

The loco weighs 75 tons and its Sulzer 6 cylinder 6LDA28 power unit develops 1160hp. An erstwhile Scottish locomotive, initially it was allocated to Haymarket depot and during its career spent periods at Dundee and Eastfield. However for the largest part of its working life it was allocated to Inverness depot, operating passenger and freight services over the far north lines to Wick, Thurso and Kyle of Lochalsh.

In January 1974, D5343, by now painted in BR blue livery, was renumbered 26043 under the TOPS (Total Operations Processing System) scheme. Then in May 1985 it received a Heavy General Overhaul and lost its steam heating boiler and water tanks in favour of air brakes and associated equipment.

The next few years were spent officially as a freight only machine and in 1990 it was painted in the Civil Engineers livery of 'dutch' grey and yellow. During January 1993, whilst allocated to snow clearance duties between Perth and Blair Atholl, 26043 suffered a power earth fault. Repairs were not authorised and it was withdrawn on 19th January 1993. Initially stored at Perth, it was then moved to MC Metals in Glasgow for asbestos insulation removal, which entailed major dismantling of the cab interiors. The loco was then purchased by the Cotswold Mainline Diesel Group in late 1993 and it arrived at Toddington in April 1994.

Much progress has been made with the restoration since then – work on cab and bulkhead rebuilding and attention to rotten bodywork being a priority. A successful start up of the power unit was first achieved in 2005 and the locomotive moved under its own power this year – the first time in 17 years! The group is now at a stage where final reassembly and restoration of the loco can proceed with a view to returning it to full operational condition in 2010. To enable this however, funds urgently need to be raised for the purchase of more materials.

Please help by joining the group and purchasing shares in the locomotive (see form overleaf).

Alternatively you can help with the fundraising by making a donation or purchasing items from the sales stand.

Visit www.cotswoldmainlinediesel.co.uk for further info.

SHARE APPLICATION FORM: CLASS 26

You can become a member of the group and contribute towards the restoration and maintenance of the locomotive by purchasing shares. Each share costs £250 and they can be purchased by one of two methods:

- (i) A monthly Direct Debit to the **Cotswold Mainline Diesel Group 26043 Fund**. The minimum monthly contribution is £5 and larger contributions can be made in £5 blocks, e.g. £10, £15 etc. When contributions reach a total of £250 this will be converted into a full share in the locomotive and you will receive a certificate. Please use the Direct Debit form below.

Please note: if you stop your Direct Debit before you reach a total of £250 you will not receive a share in the locomotive and your contributions will be treated as a donation to the restoration fund.

- (ii) A lump sum of £250 by cheque made payable to **Cotswold Mainline Diesel Group 26043 Fund**. Each £250 will purchase a full share in the locomotive and you will receive a certificate.

All cheques/Direct Debit forms should be forwarded to **Chris Taylor, Treasurer CMDG, 6 Hillfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3JE**

Please write your name and address on all correspondence.

Direct Debit Form

To: The Manager _____ Bank Plc

_____ Postcode _____

Bank sort code number ____ - ____ - ____ Bank account number _____

Please pay the sum of £_____ on the _____ day of each month commencing _____

and until further notice to: Leeds Building Society.

Please pay all credits to: Leeds Building Society, 105 Albion Street, Leeds, LS1 5AS
Bank sort code 08-61-19, Bank account number 41603070

The Direct Debit must be dated prior to the 23rd of the month to ensure the group receives the payment monthly

Signed _____ Date _____