

45130 'Newmarketeer' Story



45130 displaying the unofficial nameplate 'Newmarketeer' just after it was fitted at Nottingham in September 1978.

Photo: Mick Bajcar

A very presentable unofficial nameplate was carried for a brief period on one side of 45130 in late 1978. This is the story of the naming, as told by Vic Smith, then Rolling Stock Supervisor at Nottingham Holding Sidings.

It was a usual Friday night late session during July or August 1978 in one of Nottingham CAMRA's favourite haunts, 'The Newmarket Inn' with local members and the landlord discussing the merits of Home Brewery Ale and Sulzer Class 45 Peaks. The side room was adorned with railway memorabilia, including smokebox numberplates, shed plates, lamps and signs. The landlord, an ardent railfan, jokingly said that he would like to see a locomotive carrying his name around the countryside. The challenge was thus set and discussions continued amongst the gathered group without the knowledge of the landlord. It was decided that a single nameplate would be made from a wooden base, with individual

letters pinned to it. It was to be of the correct size and painted in the correct colours with silver lettering. About four weeks later, around 09:30 on a Sunday morning in September 1978, a party from the Nottinghamshire Constabulary arrived at my office in Nottingham Holding Sidings with a long, wrapped parcel, quick drying wood filler and model paint pots. A quick check of the locos in the sidings, revealed only dirty examples available, but fortunately loco 45130, which had recently been outshopped from Derby Works was on its way from Toton TMD.

In my capacity as Rolling Stock Supervisor, I requested the locomotive to be placed in the maintenance shed on arrival and the team attached the nameplate to No.2 end driver side.



45130 displaying the unofficial nameplate 'Newmarketeer' at Gloucester in November 1978. Photo: Mike Symons

The driver taking the loco back out of the shed commented that he had not noticed the nameplate when he drove it in!! This was to be one of my last “duties” at Nottingham HS, as two weeks later I was promoted to Leicester TMD as Traction Maintenance Supervisor. The story does not end there. During my first week at Leicester, I received a letter from the Depot Engineer at Toton TMD, advising me of the unauthorised fitting of a nameplate to 45130. The loco was scheduled a B exam at Leicester and I was to personally supervise the removal of the nameplate!! Fortunately the loco did not arrive as scheduled, the exam being carried out at Cricklewood, which meant the nameplate remained fitted for a while longer. The plate eventually arrived at Toton and spent some time on the windowsill of the Depot Engineers Office at Toton TMD, before being raffled off at the Toton TMD Open Day on Saturday June 9th 1979. I am told that the nameplate was won by a Toton Rolling Stock Inspector who had no interest in it. Whilst walking across the boarded crossing at the end of the depot he

was approached by an enthusiast (now a member of the Peak Locomotive Company) and promptly sold it to him. A large framed photograph of 45130 'NEWMARKETEER' was proudly displayed in the side bar of 'The Newmarket Inn', Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham for many years, until landlord Tony Green moved on.

As can be seen in the photo below, 45133 carried the plate during D4's 50th Birthday celebrations at the MR-B in 2009.

Steve Dexter



An archive photo of 45133 carrying the 'Newmarketeer' nameplate at Swanwick Jn on 27/09/09.