

# CLASSIC TRACTION RECORDS BROKEN AT CREWE AUCTION

THE latest online Crewe Heritage Railwayana Auction, held over the weekend of February 26-March 1, produced a couple of surprises with records broken once again in two classic traction classes.

A Western class name and cabside numberplate from *Western Governor* made £20,000 (previous record, also held by Crewe, *Western Explorer* £16,200) while a nameplate from Warship class *Thruster* made £22,000 (previous record, also held by Crewe, *Roebuck* £12,500).

Auctioneer Neil Booth said: "We were extremely surprised when strong bidding over the weekend pushed the prices up and up for these two lots. It once again confirms our place in the market as the 'go to' auction house for modern traction railwayana."

Neil is now consigning for his 39th auction, which will be his sixth online auction due to Covid restrictions, to be held from June 25-28.

What is your railwayana worth? Do you have an item you can live without to turn into instant cash? Whether single items or whole collections, a collection service is available from all corners of the UK. Call Neil on 01242 620020 or 07836 225711.



**Class act:** The name and numberplate from *Western Governor* and the Warship nameplate *Thruster* broke records for their respective classes.



## Station totems still a popular choice

THE appeal of what was once the humble BR station totem sign continues unabated.

The recent sale included the second half of a major collection of Scottish Region examples (highest price Tayport £1400), while other regions' top prices fell to BR (M) Darwen £2000; BR (E) Wroxham £1100, with top price of the weekend falling to BR (W) Machynlleth at £4000.

Totem signs therefore remain a popular choice for collectors, whether they are collecting whole area examples from their youth or just want a nostalgic reminder from their local station.

**LEFT:** Neil Booth holds top-priced totem BR (W) Machynlleth along with the recent large offering from the Scottish region.

## Donors help bring Bideford plates home

BIDEFORD Railway Heritage Centre's volunteers and members were delighted when their bid at the Crewe auction was successful.

They purchased a full nameplate set together with the smokebox numberplate from Southern Railway Bulleid 'West Country' Pacific No. 34019 *Bideford* for display in the town.

Heritage Centre chairman Andrew Mills said: "A massive thanks to all who supported us, the Bideford Bridge Trust, private donors, large and small, it would not have been possible without you. It has been the culmination of a 25-year ambition for us to return the plates to the town, we even have one member who was present at the original naming ceremony!"

Curator Clive Fairchild explained: "Bideford was one of the few West Country towns that did not have its West Country Class nameplate and it had been our intention for many years to find one for the town, not only for BRHC but also for the benefit of the whole town.

"It has always been a missing part of Bideford's heritage. We are currently developing plans for displaying the plates to the public."

The plates will be delivered to the restored Bideford station, when Covid restrictions allow, by auctioneer Neil Booth, and presented to Bideford station manager Lewis Andrews with mayor Peter Christie also present.



Neil Booth with Bideford's Andrew Mills after his successful purchase of the *Bideford* nameplate, crest, scroll and smokebox numberplate.