

AC Railbus W79978 – restoration update October 2022



The repaired heater filter box seen in the last update has now been painted and refitted.

Diesel fuel is ignited inside the heater, the filtered air is then passed over the outside of the heat exchanger and into the passenger compartment.

The Pneumatically operated folding steps and handrails have been un-seized. These were fitted to allow passengers to board and alight at low height “platforms” constructed from wooden sleepers. They are controlled from the driver’s desk and can only be operated when the brakes are applied.

The step treads require replacing on this side, the handrails and steps are missing from the other side of the railbus and so replacement items will need to be fabricated.



The droplight windows in each corner were all stuck in the open position, this has allowed rainwater into the vehicle and contributed to the damage to the floor and body frame. The scissors and spring mechanism has been repaired and now the droplights work correctly for the first time in many years! To access the mechanism the interior Formica panels and external valence panels had to be removed. As expected, this revealed further corrosion.



The driver's seats in both cabs have been expertly re-upholstered by Stan Scott.

Also visible in this picture is the new floor in cab 2 and the repaired droplight window mechanism.



Seen from the other side, the repairs to the bodywork are continuing, here a new steel panel has been welded in below the driver's side window.



In this view, primer paint has been applied to the first section of repairs. Green anti-corrosive primer is applied to the bare steel and previously painted aluminium panels, red etch primer to the bare aluminium areas.

The first topcoat of Brunswick green has now been applied, since followed by a second coat.

Now to repeat the procedure on the next section of bodywork!



W79978 in 1972 on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, with BR J27 as NER P3 2392 at Goathland.



After withdrawal from BR service, W79978 went into preservation at the NYMR, there it was named Premier as it was the first self-propelled vehicle on the newly preserved railway.

Picture courtesy of Martin Fisher

There is a short video of W79978 in its early days at the NYMR available on YouTube, entitled "NYMR railbus 1969". Well worth a watch!

W79978 Merchandise now available!



Heather grey T shirts available in sizes L and XL
£12.50

Mugs £7.50



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Thanks for your interest, more updates as the project progresses.