

## Anglo American Lightning Organisation

Interim News - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013



Dear Supporters,

*Firstly apologies for the slow trickle of news in the past months. We are very shortly to be making the traditional November trip to Stennis with the British Engineering team and I will be fully reporting the trip on our return. In recent months the activity has been ongoing but behind the scenes, hence no newsletter.*

*A number of you have contacted me requesting a simple update so I am very happy to do that here.*

In March, Phil Wallis, our Chief Engineer, led a team out to Stennis with the goal of starting the engines. You'll have seen his warts and all account of that trip in the last full newsletter. The crux of that visit was that during attempts to start both engines a number of what are known as 'dormant failures' were discovered, preventing the successful start of the engines.



*Photos by Bob Simms (L) & Andrew Brodie (above)*

As a result the tail end of that visit was invested in removing the parts identified so they could be returned to the UK and made serviceable.

A large effort has been ongoing since that trip with the collaboration and assistance of a number of individuals and facilities to restore and test the components



*Photo by Phil Wallis*

All of this is focused on preparing the starting system for the upcoming visit. David Osbourne and Rod Barker have put in a sterling effort working to this goal and we now have 4 serviceable starter control boxes, as well as a test set. Running in tandem, Dennis Webb, based at RAF Northolt, has given of his spare time to refurbish and test serviceable 3 Fuel Cocks.

Other essentials to the starter system have also been worked up and the components are now all making their way out to Stennis for refitting next week.

The plan for the trip commencing next week is exclusively to re-attempt both engine starts. We naturally hope to be reporting a good outcome to that. The other Summer news is that we entertained two potential sponsors over a weekend at Stennis in August. The outcome of that is still in discussion but we hope that there will be some assistance for us there in some shape or fashion, be it financial or through an introduction other interested parties.

Since it's not been done for a few years we also invested a small amount of funds in having XS422 polished.



*Photograph by Dave Snowdy*

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support. Funds raised through subscriptions and donations this year have covered the costs of the accommodation in America and also a couple of the airfares. The project provides accommodation, transport and flights for the engineers we take out but they give their time gratis and of course use up valuable holiday time to assist the restoration. Certainly a fair trade in our eyes.

More news in a couple of weeks,

Best regards,

Nic Holman

