

Statement by the Bluebird Event Working Group – 27th August 2018

We wholeheartedly congratulate Bill Smith and the Bluebird K7 project team on the huge success of Bluebird K7's tests on Loch Fad. This is a shining example of the continuing greatness of British engineering.

We fully understand the decision for Bluebird K7 to have its initial trials on Loch Fad for floatation trials and crew training to be tested in a controlled environment.

In 2006 the Ruskin Museum was gifted the recovered Bluebird K7 and built an extension specifically to house the hydroplane which was opened in 2008 at a cost of £700,000.

Coniston is ready for the return of Bluebird K7 now it is once again a living breathing machine. We're passionate about seeing Bluebird K7's return to Coniston to be seen up close in the museum and on Coniston Water so she can be enjoyed by all those who visit the area. In 2010 the Coniston Water Byelaws were amended so that trials and demonstration runs can take place – and we look forward to confirming dates with Bill and the Bluebird project team so these trials and demonstration runs can commence.

We're delighted that there is so much interest in Bluebird K7 from home and abroad and look forward to welcoming everyone to Coniston.

Donald Campbell frequently stated that he and his boat should remain together. The Record Breaker was buried in Coniston's cemetery on 12 September 2001, and his grave is a place of pilgrimage for people the world over.

Notes to editors:

About the Bluebird Event Working Group

Founded in 2016 and based in Coniston, the Bluebird Event Working Group includes members of Coniston Parish Council, Coniston Business Forum, Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), The Ruskin Museum and representatives from the community.