

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

COOLNAMONA RAILTOUR - 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 1971

The Railtour Committee of the Society welcome you aboard their Coolnamona Railtour and hope you have a pleasant trip.

Many thanks for your support which has helped make the tour possible.

Please obey the instructions set out in your ticket circular and follow the Instructions of the Marshals who are wearing red armbands.

There are three points at which the following notes should be observed:

(a) At the Curragh. The train will make its first stop at the Curragh (Main Line) platform where all passengers will detrain. The empty train will then pull forward and propel into the sidings to the Race platform (approximately ½ mile) where participants should re-join the train. Leaving the Race platform the train will run non-stop to Kildare.

(b) At Coolnamona. There is ample time for both a visit to the ISPS steam line at Stradbally and a run on the Bord na Móna narrow gauge system. Please decide in advance which you wish to do first. The first bus will leave Coolnamona for Stradbally at 12:47 (i.e. immediately) and the second will leave at 13:40. Buses will return from Stradbally at 14:05 and 14:55.

During this time 186 will take water from a fire hydrant and run Light Engine to Port Laoighise for servicing.

(c) At Monasterevan. On arrival here all passengers will detrain. 186 will then propel the empty train back towards the Viaduct. After posing, the train will run forward to the station to pick up.

Today's refreshments are being provided by a snack car.

Various Society publications together with books and badges will be on sale during the Tour.

Belfast passengers are reminded that their train leaves at 18:40.

We should like to record our thanks to Bord na Móna for allowing us to travel over their railway system at Coolnamona. Unfortunately, we found it impossible to transport the former BnM steam loco from Stradbally to Coolnamona for today's trip. However, we trust the alternative arrangements will not disappoint.

Dates for your diary

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| 24 <sup>th</sup> April | Opening of Shane's Castle Railway at Lord O'Neill's estate, Randalstown, County Antrim. Two steam locos providing rides over this new narrow gauge line to the shores of Lough Neagh. First train about 14:00.   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> June  | There will be a charter steam railtour using 186 in connection with Newbridge Trade and Industrial Exhibition. Route from Sallins to Athy, visiting the asbestos factory sidings (off the Ballylinan branch). Full details will be circulated shortly. |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> July   | Third annual Open Day at the RPSI's base at Whitehead, County Antrim. Full details not yet available, but 171 "Slieve Gullion", 27 "Lough Erne" and BG3 "Guinness" will be in steam.   |