

WHITEHEAD

On Saturday 30th June North Atlantic passenger brake coach No.91 was lifted using the sheer-legs at Whitehead. Her LMS designed bogies were removed and replaced with refurbished (very smart looking) roller bearing wheel sets of UTA vintage.

DUBLIN

Diner 88 is nearing completion in Inchicore. As the GNR wheels are about 20% larger than the largest wheel in use on IÉ and will therefore not fit in any lathe in Inchicore's machine shop, a new wheel-set was supplied from Whitehead, and fitted after ultrasonic testing.

IRISH STATE COACH

CARRIAGE AND WAGON COMPETITIONS 2000

The Awards in the Heritage Railway Association's bi-annual Carriage and Wagon Competitions were presented at a dinner held by the Association at the National Railway Museum in York on Saturday 9th June to celebrate 50 years of railway preservation.

Overall winner is Irish State Coach 351 which was entered by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (RPSI). They will hold the "Railway Magazine Lamp" for the next two years. In addition they receive a commemorative plate in the style of a carriage builder's plate. This plate was produced by Swindon Historic Castings, a joint venture between HRA and the local authority. The awards were collected by David Humphries, the RPSI's Honorary Business Development Officer. The judges commented: "This vehicle is in a class of its own. It was built for Edward VII as an opulent clerestory roofed, single gangwayed saloon. In due course it became the Irish State Coach. After withdrawal in 1970 it survived a fire in Inchicore works, suffered from various forms of rot, and has now been restored by RPSI. The restoration features appropriate furnishings, panelling in the style of Francis I, light fittings in Waterford crystal and wash basins in Connemara marble."

The winner of the award for best wagon is the Swanage Railway for 25 ton Brake Van S56400. The award takes the form of a commemorative plate and certificate,

which was collected by David Green. The judges commented "this classic vehicle has been comprehensively rebuilt with considerable attention to improvements which will extend its life."

Best self-propelled vehicle is a Type 27B Wickham Permanent Way Trolley entered by the Scottish Railway Preservation Society. The award, which takes the form of a commemorative plate and certificate, was collected by George Lumsden of the restoration team. The judges commented "a charming, unassuming little machine which is both a useful tool for line inspection and blends well into a period branchline scene".

Best coach is Spa Valley Railway Bar/Buffet car "Kate". The award, which takes the form of a commemorative plate and certificate, was collected by restoration team leader Mike Elkerton. The judges commented "an elegant spot in which to take afternoon tea."

In addition Welshpool and Llanfair Railway's Zillertalbahn Coach B17 was commended. The judges commented "the internal panelling is a joy and the discreet provision of disabled facilities is commendable."

The presentation of the awards was one of several highlights of the day when delegates visited the 'Steaming On' exhibition at the National Railway Museum. This exhibition celebrates 50 years of railway preservation.

Delegates were welcomed by Andrew Scott, Head of the NRM. The dinner featured speeches from Dame Margaret Weston DBE (President of the Association) who presented the awards, from Brian Simpson MEP (a Vice President of the Association) and from David Morgan (HRA Chairman).