



The Ramble

574 of 24th June 2026



Monday 29th June	[575]
Monday 6th July	[576]
Monday 13th July	[577]
Monday 20th July	Holiday [Tomorrowland]
Monday 27th July	Holiday [Tomorrowland]
Monday 5th August	[578]
Monday 10th August	[579]
Monday 17th August	Holiday
Monday 24th August	Holiday
Monday 31st August	Holiday
Wednesday 9th September	[580]
Monday 14th September	[581]
Monday 21st September	Holiday [Innotrans]
Monday 27th September	Holiday



For The Diary 2026

If you know of an event, let me know and I will put it here.

Stoomtrein Dendermonde-Puurs - July 4th & 5th

<https://www.stoomtrein.be/bezoek/scheldeland-in-stoom-2026/>

On Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th July the SDP kicks off their tourist season with Scheldeland in Steam.

Chemin de Fer Touristique de la Vallée de L'Aa - Le Festivallée 4th & 5th July

The festival at the Chemin de Fer Vallée de L'Aa is a regular preserved railway gala weekend. Arques Station is about 5km or 3 miles from Saint Omer station. Catch the Number 3 & 6 bus to Arques Centre Ville [Place] but note there are no buses on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Kield wrote a note on the Chemin de Fer Touristique de la Vallée de L'Aa - Le Festivallée, He was thinking of going, however he noticed on the website that, while it's a festival, your ticket only gets you one round trip to Lumbres (time chosen upon booking) and unlimited access to the 'Animations' at Arques station (exhibition of visiting stock, Engine shed, yard etc). There is no timetable / loco working published, and while the tickets are only €6, if you were looking for something specific, then you could be disappointed. It does seem quite scaled back from my previous visit, a 2 1/2 years ago.

There is 15 km of railway up the Aa valley in the heart of the Regional Natural Park of Caps and Marais d'Opal.

Tramway touristique de l'Aisne à Érezée 60th Anniversary Event 4th & 5th July

<https://www.tta.be/en/blog/news-2/60-years-of-the-tta-4>

The Tramway touristique de l'Aisne à Érezée 60th Anniversary Event 4th & 5th July includes bus shuttles between Marloie and Érezée (TTA). Historically getting to this line without a car on operating days has been difficult, or impossible, so this is a significant improvement. Bus times are on their web site. Fortunately it does not look like there are engineering works which will affect journeys in the area that weekend.

Tomorrowland

First Weekend Wednesday 15th [AMCS] & Thursday 16th inbound [AMCS & Düss]
Monday 20th outbound [AMCS & Düss]

Second Weekend Wednesday 22nd [AMCS] & Thursday 23rd inbound [AMCS & Düss]
Monday 27th outbound [AMCS & Düss]

Chemin de fer à vapeur des 3 vallées [CFV3V] - July 17th

On Friday 17th July there is a photographic event at the CFV3V.

Chemin du fer du Bocq - August 15th & 16th

The 2026 Festival is just Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th with the Photo Safari on Friday 14th. The main themes of this year's event are the renewal of the railway line and 100 years of NMBS/SNCB. Special attention will be given to the renovated Spontin station, now expanded to three tracks, as well as the station works in Bauche.

They hope to be able to present a large number of NMBS/SNCB railway vehicles during the event.

I have given the Organiser some suggestions. You can be proactive or start asking questions on Facebook a month before the Gala.

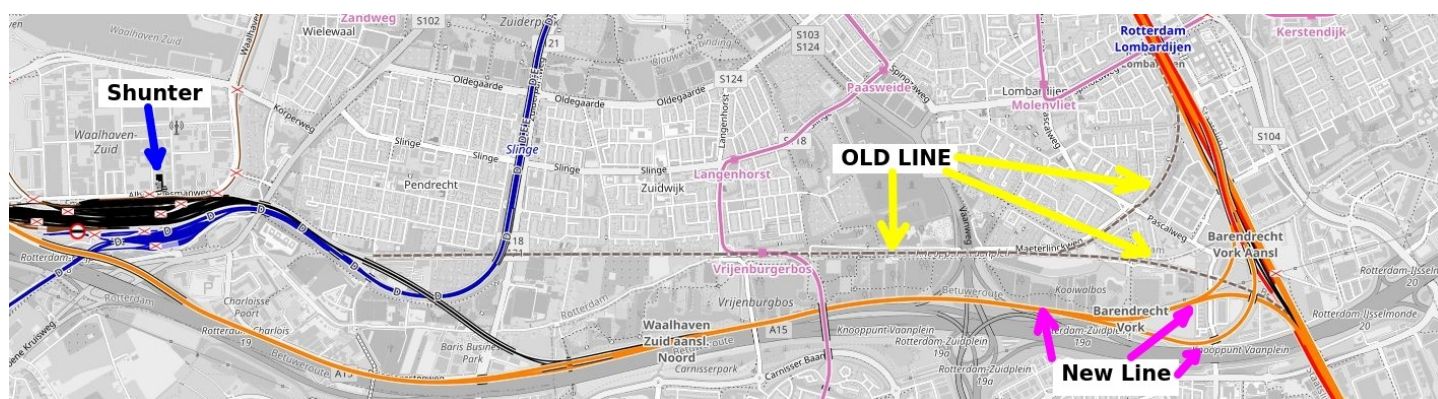
Sometimes there are extra trains and it is always busy in the Hasselt area.

Two days of tours based in Rotterdam with a short Friday tour and a full days tour on Saturday. RailExperts are again facilitating the tour. Booked my hotel.

Planning for their August trip to the Netherlands is now entering its final stages. While they are still awaiting confirmation of some of the finer operational details, European Railtous are pleased to share the outline itinerary with you.

We anticipate a mid-afternoon departure from Rotterdam Centraal, with our train expected to be hauled by a modern electric freight locomotive along the freight-only Havenlijn towards Maasvlakte. A diesel locomotive is also expected to provide assistance at both Maasvlakte and Europoort.

Iain's Comment - Do note that the line from Rotterdam to the Port is on a new alignment, it was moved away from housing some years ago. You can see this on Open Railway Map <https://www.openrailwaymap.org/> and the old alignment is now the Havenspoorpad. The old line is a footpath to nearly the Shunter [Alstom] site at Albert Plesmanweg in the port area. This will be winning track even if you have been there before.



Photographic stops are planned at selected locations along the route, offering opportunities to capture the train in a variety of industrial and port settings. The return journey to Rotterdam Centraal is expected to include a reversal at Kijfhoek Yard.

Our train, top and tailed by classic electric locomotives provided by Railexperts, will depart from Rotterdam Centraal and travel south west to the end of the line at Vlissingen. From there, we will retrace our route to Goes, where a further reversal will allow access to the Sloehaven branch.

Iain's Comment - This is a newish line to Sloehaven, a Werkgroep Tour did the old line with its numerous level crossings.

Whilst in Sloehaven, we expect to be assisted by a small diesel locomotive and hope to visit a number of unusual and rarely traversed locations within the port complex. As on the previous day, opportunities for photography are planned throughout the journey. The return to Rotterdam will be made via a less direct route, allowing passengers to relax and enjoy an extended journey.

We have specifically requested that one of the two electric locomotives is a former RRF Class 1600 locomotive 4401 or 4402, both of which are now part of the Railexperts fleet.

Once the full operating plan has been confirmed, we will provide a further update via our mailing list, website, and Facebook page.

The Magical Mystery Tour to Maasvlakte with Werkgroep 1501

<https://www.sixbellsjunction.co.uk/00s/030920wg.htm>

Mercia tours went to Rotterdam Docks and Sloehaven on 24/10/15. Jon Piesing has the following ..

24. Oct. 2015 - Mercia Charters "Eternal Tide"

LOCON 203 160 - Rotterdam Centraal, via Pernis, Botlek (bridge), Theemsweg (container terminal) rev, Botlek (bridge), Waalhaven Zuid yard & Rotterdam Stadion

LOCON 9904 - Rotterdam Stadion - Sloehaven Yard

LOCON 203 160 - Sloehaven Yard - Sloehaven Denemarkenweg

LOCON 9802 [Formerly 6325] - Sloehaven Denemarkenweg - Sloehaven Yard

LOCON 203 160 - Sloehaven Denemarkenweg - Sloehaven Yard

LOCON 9904 - Sloehaven Yard - Hoek van Holland Strand

LOCON 203 160 - Hoek van Holland Strand - Rotterdam Centraal



PFT/TSP Update Video for May and June

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnCxqc-zzXE&t=30s>

The first part of the video is about the opening of Spontin Station and the very last section there is an item on the Bauche Station Works.

Scrap Train

7740 worked a scrap train from Schaarbeek to Ronet which consisted of 663/2, 655/2, 655/1, 642/1, 52229, 51047, 52284 & 52105 on 22nd June 2026.

HLE 18

1841 to 1860 are in a pool to work the Quigo Trains to Paris. NMBS/SNCB does not need all these locomotives to work the trains, so you will find some on other duties.

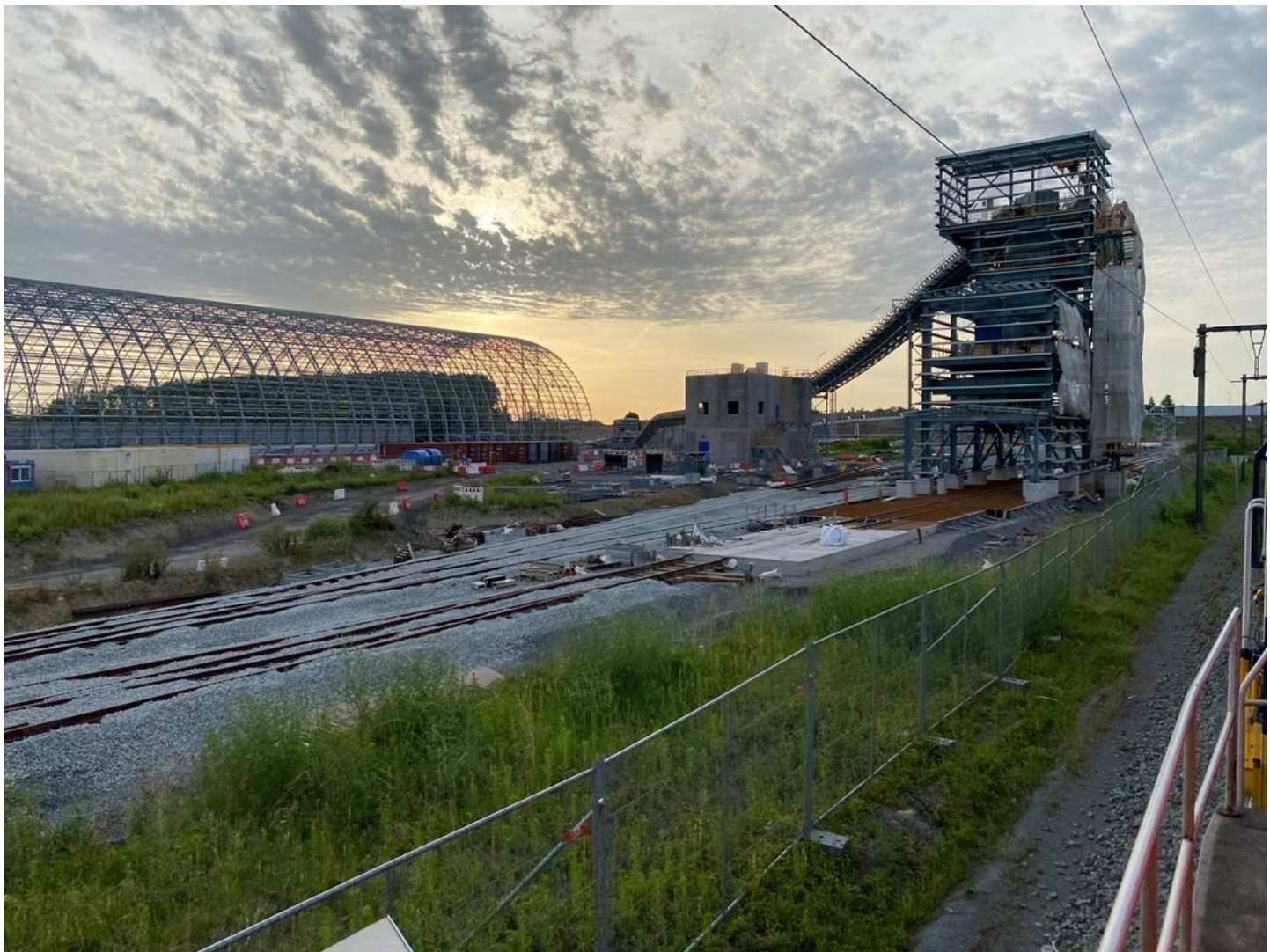
I10

12704 & 12740 have also be sold to GoVolta

New Facilities at Holcim in Antoing

On 16th June 2026 DB Cargo Belgium moved two tamping machines from Zandvliet to FNND C1, dropped one off and then continued to the new Holcim quarry loading terminal at Antoing. Photographs by Robin Melis.





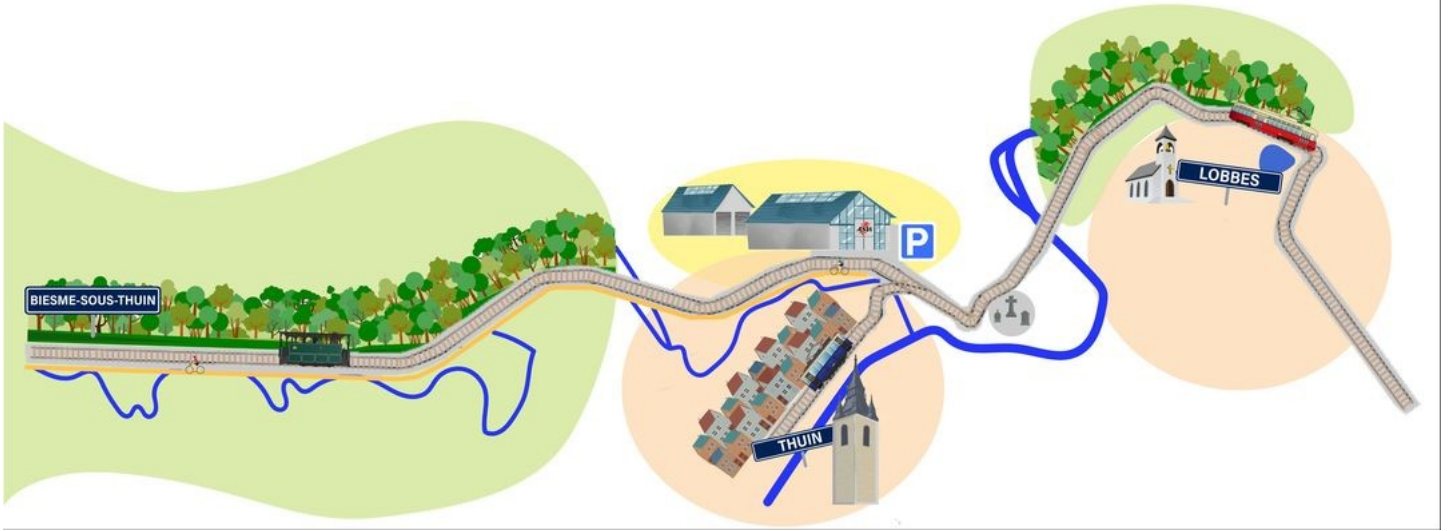
More DB Cargo Belgium Movements

LTE asked DB Cargo Belgium to move 186-221 on Friday 19th June to TOP FNND in Schijnpoot and pickup on 23rd June after a visit to the wheel lathe. The middle locomotive was 6469 from DB NL needing fuel in the Netherlands.

6516, 6469 and 186 221 on Tuesday 23rd June. Photographs by Robin Melis



Musée du Tram Vicinal



On a recently diverted via the Charleroi avoider Ouigo Classique service between Bruxelles and Paris, Andy Pratt spotted a narrow gauge electric line at Thuin on Line 130a. So Andy went along to Musée du Tram Vicinal on 14th June to see what it was all about. Musée du Tram Vicinal <https://museedutramvicinal.be/en/>

An excellent day out for just €20 admission which included Museum entry, unlimited Tram rides, and one round trip on the steam tram. Aside from the steam working, the rest of the services bore little more than a passing resemblance to the timetable on display.



1888 built Steamer HL 303 was in service. It's the oldest serviceable steam loco in Belgium and sees service every 2nd Sunday in the month.











Norichten aus Lëtzebuerg

John Mulrine passed by Belval and Rodange at the weekend and he thought he would post a little run down of the CFL cargo diesels since they don't get much attention :)

If you walk down the new cycle viaduct from Belval-Université, you can see quite a few of them.

The first scrap line is 102 + 306 + 307, second is 104 + 311 + 310 + 305 for those passing from Rodange > Esch/Alzette

The 49.499211, 5.948395 numbers are the coordinates of where they are.

G 320 B

101 - scrapped 2017

102 - withdrawn - Belval-Université 49.499211, 5.948395

103 - at the wagon shop 49.496631, 5.961217 98 82 0000 103-6 L-CFLCA

104 - withdrawn - Belval-Université 49.498681, 5.950120 98 82 0000 104-4 L-CFLCA

G 850 BB

301 - assumed withdrawn? 49.496701, 5.962547

302 - assumed withdrawn? 49.496701, 5.962547 - assumed but only top of numbers visible. 302 seen at Belval in front of shed on 7/25, carries an EVN which should be 98 82 0000 302-4

303 - scrapped 2009

304 - on "depot" 49.497264, 5.958385 98 82 0000 304-0 L-CFLCA

305 - in service or withdrawn? Belval-Université 49.498681, 5.950120 checked the photo of 305 - last revision is 2011, so is probably withdrawn rather than in service. Seen at Belval 30/5/24 98 82 0000 305-7 L-CFLCA

306 - withdrawn at Belval-Université 49.499211, 5.948395

307 - withdrawn at Belval-Université 49.499211, 5.948395

308 - on "depot" 49.497264, 5.958385

309 - Seen at Rodange 13/7/25

310 - withdrawn at Belval-Université 49.498681, 5.950120 no EVN

311 - withdrawn at Belval-Université 49.498681, 5.950120 98 82 0000 311-5 L-CFLCA

312 - not seen - has an EVN registered

Seen at Rodange 13/7/25 98 82 0000 312-3 L-CFLCA

313 - assumed scrapped? no EVN registered, no photos since 2014?

314 - in service, stabled at the Rodange site 49.551227, 5.841683

98 82 0000 314-9 L-CFLCA

315 - no photo of it since 2014 (similar to 313) - assumed scrapped, did carry 98 82 0000 315-6 L-CFLCA

316 - scrapped 2017

317 - in service, working the yard at Belval 98 82 0000 317-2 L-CFLCA

318 - scrapped 2017

319 - on "depot" 49.497264, 5.958385 98 82 0000 319-8 L-CFLCA

Therefore I'd say 103, 304, 308, 309, 312, 314, 317, 319 are in service any further help would be great.

Terry Lea has also added to the list in yellow.





CFL 3000

3018 worked the Farewell Raittour on 23rd June 2026 and is seen here at Troisvierges.



Photograph by Ilyass Alba and posted to Facebook.

3020 has been quoted as the locomotive CFL are preserving and is seen here at Antwerpen Noord on 15th June 2026 [with 3018].



It has also been quoted that the CFL 3000 will be in service until the end of August 2026. A lot does depend on the introduction of the new Class 188s.

NS 193

On Thursday 18th June Steven Hopman found the NS 6193 737 at Trier Hbf. In the cab were four people from DB Fernverkehr. Posted to Rail Magazine.nl fotogroep on Facebook

Class 1600

'Staatsie-portret' of RXP 9904 at Amersfoort on 17th June 2026.
Photograph by Frans van den Hurk and posted to Locomotieven serie 1600/1700

Train Charter

Train Charter have renumbered some of their stock from D-HAPPY 61 80 88-90 5xx-x to NL-HAPPY 61 84 88-90 0xx-x and it appears they have aligned the re-numbering with their own fleet numbers. For example, D-HAPPY 61 80 88-90 507-9 which also carried fleet number 202005 is now NL-HAPPY 61 84 88-90 005-0.

The locos are already registered as NL-HAPPY.

NS Units

ICNG



On Saturday 13th June, a small public presentation about the new ICNG took place at Groningen Central Station.

From 12 noon to 2 pm, set 3120 was open to the public on platform 6. Children were able to go on a sort of discovery tour of the train and write down their answers on a sort of card.

From Sunday 14th June 2026 – the very next day – this train type began operating on the passenger service between Groningen and Schiphol Airport (the 700 series). Twice daily, two sets are in service on this route, which means that more and more ICMm trains will be phased out of this series.

The photo shows the arrival of ICMm sets 4072–4078 as train 737 from Schiphol Airport, alongside their future successor, the ICNG 3120.

Photograph and words by Marcel Kukler.

In Service are 77 examples. As with all things ICNG, "Service" is open to interpretation.

ICNG-5	3101, 3102, 3103,	3105,	3107, 3108, 3109, 3110 [8]
	3111,	3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120 [9]	
	3121,	3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130 [9]	
	3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136 , 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140 [10]		
	3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149 [9]		
ICNG-8	3201 ,	3205, 3206,	3209 [3]
	3211, 3212,		3219, 3220 [4]
	3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225 , 3226, 3227 [7]		
ICNG-B		3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310 [7]	
	3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320 [10]		
	3321 [1]		

Accepted [owned by NS] and ready for Passenger Service is .

In Commissioning/Acceptance/Testing are 3201, 3351 & 3352.

3119 entered service on Friday 18th June 2026.

3136 is at Alstom Brugge for retrofit work.

3201 arrived on Sunday 31st May and was out on test on Tuesday 2nd June.

3223 went back into service on Wednesday 23rd after retrofit work.

3225 is at Alstom Brugge for retrofit work.

3308 is out of service due to fire damage in the toilet on 16th May 2026.

The Great Stork must be due with another delivery as it has been a few weeks now since she last visited.

DM 90

Rob van Ee sent in an update on the DM90 in Poland.

Stored at Zagorz (yellow) 3402, 3404, 3406, 3407, 3411, 3413, 3415, 3425 and 3450.
Nowy Zagorz is empty.

Workshop Zagorz : 3430, 3449 and 3446 (ABk already blue/gray IC PKP colours).
SD85-009 blue/gray IC PKP colours in service from Ostroleka

Lelystad Centrum Station

Lelystad Centrum station has been designated a national monument. Following a formal procedure, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science granted the station this status. The granting of monument status took place within the framework of the Post-65-project, in which buildings from the period 1965–1990 were nominated for protection due to their exceptional architectural and cultural-historical value.

The station is recognized as an important example of post-war urban planning and infrastructure. The station played a significant role in the development of the City of Lelystad and the mobility of the province of Flevoland. Lelystad Station opened on May 28, 1988, as the second phase of the construction of the Flevolijn railway line. The City of Lelystad is located in the Flevopolder, a polder created in two parts, completed in 1958 and 1968. Lelystad received its first residents in 1967. Now it counts just over 85.000 inhabitants. Report by Quintus Vosman.

Miniworld Rotterdam

Miniworld in Rotterdam has been rescued (at least for the moment). Below is a google translated report from the Dutch newspaper AD.

<https://www.ad.nl/rotterdam/miniworld-rotterdam-gered-door-quote-500-ondernemer-wim-beelen-attractie-dit-weekend-alweer-open~a0689200b/>

Miniworld Rotterdam saved by Quote 500 entrepreneur Wim Beelen, attraction already open again this weekend

Millionaire Wim Beelen is helping Miniworld Rotterdam out of financial trouble. Thanks to a bridging loan from the company Spelen bij Beelen, the famous miniature world can reopen to visitors on Saturday.

Miniworld Rotterdam has been struggling with significant financial problems recently and filed for bankruptcy. According to entrepreneur Wim Beelen, who recently bought the amusement park from Hennie van der Most for 6.5 million euros, there were many requests from Rotterdam residents and the city council to find a solution for the struggling Miniworld, which suddenly closed its doors a few weeks ago.

"Miniworld has been an icon of Rotterdam for twenty years, and it must remain so," says Wim Beelen. "When we received so many requests from Rotterdam residents and the city council called upon us to help, the decision was quickly made for us."

In addition to the bridging loan, Spelen bij Beelen is also contributing to the debt restructuring. Marc van Buren and his team remain responsible for the daily operations of Miniworld.

Relocation

Over the coming year, Wim Beelen plans to work on relocating Miniworld to a new location within Spelen bij Beelen. According to Beelen, the attraction needs to be given a 'future-proof foundation' there. However, Beelen emphasizes that cooperation from the Municipality of Rotterdam is important to make those plans possible.

'Huge surprise'

There is a sense of relief in Rotterdam politics regarding the restart. ChristenUnie council member Gerben van Dijk, who called for action to save Miniworld in the city council last week, calls it 'a huge surprise'. "'Couldn't Wim Beelen buy it?' several people said to me last week. I didn't really dare to hope for that, but I am very happy that Spelen bij Beelen recognizes Miniworld's iconic value to the city and is lending a helping hand," said Van Dijk. "Now that the unknown investor has a name, the municipality can make further agreements with Miniworld Rotterdam regarding debt restructuring and the relocation."

Miniworld started in 2007 as Railz Miniworld on the Weena. Initially, the attraction consisted mainly of model railway layouts, but Rotterdam icons such as De Kuip, the harbor, Central Station, the Euromast, the Erasmus Bridge, and many more soon appeared among the train tracks. The attraction draws around 80,000 visitors annually.

Report by Quintus Vosman.

Blast From The Past



People get all romantic about steam but the normal everyday was dirty and towards the end, very run down. Here is 46248 City Of Leeds on 14th June 1964 at Camden shed I think. The locomotive was withdrawn three months later at the end of the summer timetable. Photograph by Peter Rowlings.



Alan wrote that due to my cock up you have added the wrong caption to my photograph in Ramble 573.

You would not know that, of course, but I mixed up the gen for a couple of bits and the wrong caption got added to the phot of 1128.

When looking at the pic in the Ramble it is SNCF stock which never worked to Zandvoort so it set the alarm off. On checking my gen the actual caption should read 1128 on D286 1555 Amsterdam to Paris taken at Amsterdam CS. Date is correct.

Train 837 (not 573) 0957 Zandvoort to Maastricht was 1218 on this date.



Belgian Can Can

49 / 144



It is the turn of 2125 this week.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/spoorstad/48846865533>

Na een open weekeinde te Rotterdam gaat Eurostar 3309 / 3310 gesleept terug naar België.

Following an open weekend in Rotterdam, Eurostar 3309 / 3310 is being towed back to Belgium.

Photographed at Roosendaal on 8th April 1996 by Arno Verhagen



Other News



The man is still regarded as a God in Leeds



Antifa_Ultras @ultras_antifaa · 9h



“Football was popular because the poor were happy to play with a ball. When football turned into dishonest business, that is when the wealthy classes saw an opportunity in it, and since then it no longer belongs to the poor.”

— Marcelo Bielsa



Overleefde een crash aan 250 km/per uur



Werd aan z'n shirt getrokken !!!



One has walked away from a 250km/h collision and one has had his shirt pulled.

ALL NEW STEAM LOCOMOTIVE MESSROOM FLAVOURS



the Bash
Mash



PennyMermaid

the Bash
Mash

**'Well this Black Five
has unique valve gear'**

When someone has explained something to you three times and you still don't get. So you just smile politely



Have a nice week

Iain