

# THE BENE *rapide* TOUR

(A THREE DAY, WEEKEND TOUR, IN A SMALL EURO-COACH/BUS)

Friday 30th March to Sunday 1st April, 2012



**ALL INCLUSIVE FARE – Only £197.95**  
Hotel Single Room Supplement - £30.00 (Optional)

Please book by 20 January, with a Minimum Deposit of £45

The balance must be paid by 17 February.

**This Tour is confirmed as running**

This will be the second running of a tour originally intended as a ‘one off’. Nedtrain announced an Open Day at Tilburg Works in October, 2009, and STARS responded by putting this tour together in order to cover the event. The tour booked full in a lesser time than it had taken to arrange. As it turned out Nedtrain cancelled the Open day! The excuse..... So many people gathered together in one place could expedite the spread of ‘swine flu’ which was doing the rounds at the time! Without the prime attraction of the tour, we gave those who had booked the chance to withdraw without penalty. Not one person did and the tour went ahead and was greatly enjoyed by all. We now offer it for a second time with a more intensive Dutch itinerary where once again the loco count will be high especially as we have included Antwerpen Noord Depot.

## TIMINGS

The channel crossing for this tour is via the Shuttle. Any alterations will be detailed in the Tour Information Pamphlet

## ITINERARY

### Day One – Friday 30th / Saturday 31st March

Ample time to catch up with some sleep as we make our way to **Roosendaal** where a packed day begins. Lots to see here as we cover not only the **Station**, but also the **Stabling Point**, **Old Depot**, and **Infrastructure Yards**. We continue to **Dordrecht Station** where you will see stabled locos and Units, together with much passing traffic. We continue into **Feijenoord**. Sadly the Depot has now been flattened, but there is still interest in the shape of the privately owned **Shunter BV Depot**. Locomotive sightings will now double and treble as we progress to **Waalhaven Yard** and also the second **Shunter BV Locomotive Facility** at **Van Graftstraat**. By now you will be seeing more and more of Shunter BV and Rotterdam Rail Feeding (RRF) locomotives, private main line locos, and scores of NS Class 6400s. We continue to **Botlek** and then into the ‘heart’ of Europort at **Maaskvlakte** where locos will literally surround you. We then enter one of the many tunnels under the extensive Dockland area to turn our attention to north of Rotterdam. Next up will be **Den Haag** where not only will we call at **Centraal Station** but there will be visits or views of both **Leidschendam Depot** and **Voorburg Stabling & Servicing Facility**. Turning back to Rotterdam we pay a visit to **Rotterdam Noord Yard** where we are hoping to arrange a special visit to the **SSN Steam Depot** and **Museum**. Our Final call will be **Rotterdam Centraal Station**. From where our Hotel is conveniently situated, just a five minute walk away.

### Day Two – Sunday 1st April

All Fools’ Day but no one has been foolish in booking another outstanding STARS Tour. One of the Rotterdam Yards that has proved difficult in the past, by reason of its geography,

is **Rotterdam West**. Not this time and this will be our starting point of the day. We continue to **Kijfhoek Yard** where there should be many locos to view, along with the passing traffic. After a short second visit to **Roosendaal** we leave the Netherlands and make for SNCB territory at **Antwerpen Noord**. That is a location we must not leave out. Finally, visits to **Merelbeke Depot** and **Gent CS** will 'bring down the curtain on another enjoyable tour.