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## 1996 AGM Report by Peter Dransfield (Secretary)

The Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 9th March, 1996 at the Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham, attended by approximately 100 members.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman John Jesson who expressed thanks to Dave Howsam and his colleagues of the Manchester Group for making all the arrangements for the meeting and for putting on such a magnificent Show.

Les Heath referred to the Minutes of the 1995 AGM and in reply to a question raised by a member at the meeting, reported that special offers had now been negotiated with the Hotel National in Interlaken and with the MOB Group, Hotel Golden Pass, Montreux, and it was hoped shortly to be able to announce a further negotiated offer with the FO Railway.

Membership of the Society at the end of 1995 was 935 compared to 870 at the end of 1994 which was very encouraging.

The treasurer reported a loss on the year of £1035.05 but referred to the cost of the Special Issue (History of the SBB) of £2056, the special having been reported to the 1995 AGM but the costs being shown in the 1995 accounts rather than 1994.

All the Officers with the exception of a Sales Officer were re-elected unopposed. The co-option of a Sales Officer being left with the Management Committee.

An amendment to the Constitution and Rules was after some discussion approved, which now makes provision for the Librarian and Branch Co-ordinator to be members of the Management Committee, and that the 4 elected members of the Committee be reduced to 2. It was also agreed to have a Publicity and Exhibitions Officer for North and South. (These amendments will take effect from the 1997 AGM)

The management Committee was requested to look at some provision being made within the Constitution for nominations to be made from the floor at the AGM for any posts vacant, which would encourage new ordinary members to be elected to eventually take up office.

The venue for the 1997 AGM was considered. Two possible venues were submitted, (Stevenage and Carlisle) and on being put to the vote of the members present, it was agreed that the 1997 AGM be held in Carlisle

(A full copy of the Minutes of the AGM and the amended Constitution are enclosed with this copy of the Swiss Express).