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Opposite: Our Chairman John Jesson with Dave Howsam

Above: The Cheeses of Switzerland stand with from left to right, Richard Combs, Ann Valentine and Mr. W. Parker.

## The 15th Spring Meet by Dave Howsam

Some 200 members, wives, friends and guests attended the 15th Spring Meet held in conjunction with SRS AGM at the Cresta Court Hotel, Altrincham on March 9th 1996.

They were able to view the excellent and varied working models provided by Steve Beasley (Sins SBB Z), Chris Atkinson (Small part of Switzerland SBB Z), Steve Crebbin (Uzwil SBB N), Peter Rigby (BRB HOe), Ian Edwards and Mike Pearce (Keine Name RhB HOM), Barry Kelsall (part of Preda RhB HOM), Chris Knight (part of Interlaken West BLS HO) and Andy Micklethwaite (HO computer controlled). More about LGB later.

There were plenty of ways of parting with money including well stocked stalls by WINCO, MITV, Great Little Trains, Heath Publishing Services, Simon Smiler Video, Maureen Cooling, SRS Sales and a raffle offering two 8-day first-class Swiss Passes (courtesy of Switzerland Tourism). The Manchester Branch swap stall

also sold some framed pictures and the newly published book *Switzerland by Rail* (reviewed in the last Swiss Express).

Having thus become penniless Cheese tasting, through Cheeses of Switzerland and the Cheese Hamlet, Didsbury, provided a pastime and one could browse through the wine list of Harrison Vintners - Best of Switzerland and hope to win the wine displayed when the raffle was drawn. Part of the SRS Library was displayed and the updated list was available. The East Lancs Railway offered a large display to tempt members to travel by tram to Bury and ride the line. A description of a ride on Metrolink was provided by Charlie Hulme in his exhibition booklet. The photo quiz (with only a few difficult pictures) was in the reception area and was won by Alan Pike. On entering the main hall one was faced by the KUONI photo competition display for which there was a pleasing number of entrants. The winners were:- Overall - Richard Combs, Railway - Kathy



Above: Peter Rigby's Brienz Rothorn in Hoe.

Below: Steve Beasley's Sins in Z gauge



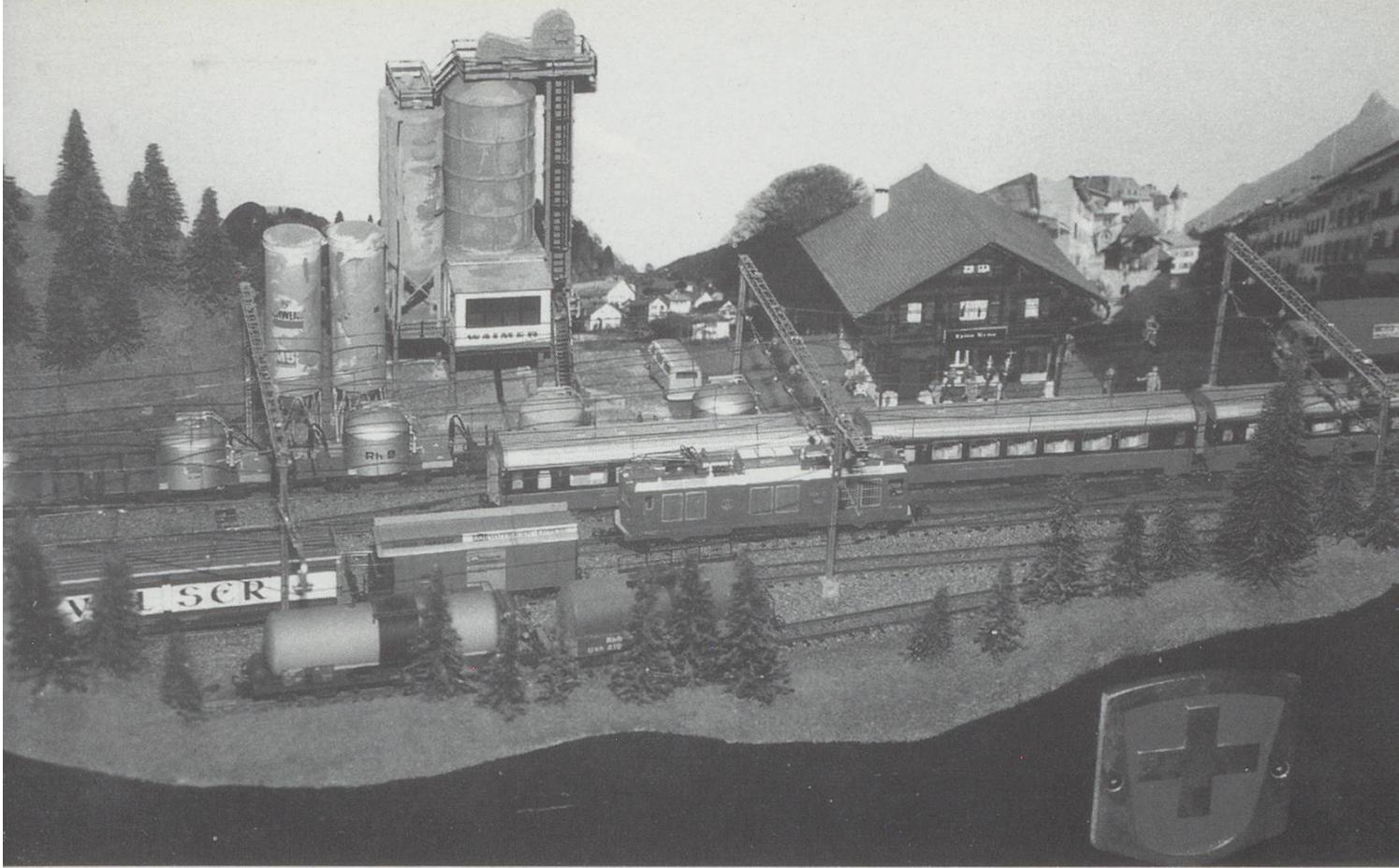
Crebbin, Scenic - Ann Valentine, Humerous - Dave Howsam.

Swiss holidays were catered for by Kuoni and Ffestiniog Travel (well there is always plastic money!) and a slide travelogue showed you what you would miss if you didn't go. That only left Chris Harnett's LGB to view while single handed sold all the videos as Chris played and talked!

The raffle was hugely successful thanks to donations from the above traders, Bradt Publishing, Jo Crane, John Jesson and Peter Dransfield. The raffle, donations from guests and Ffestiniog Travel, swap stall and sale of Switzerland by Rail (showing Dave didn't have an interest when selling all 30 copies) meant that the

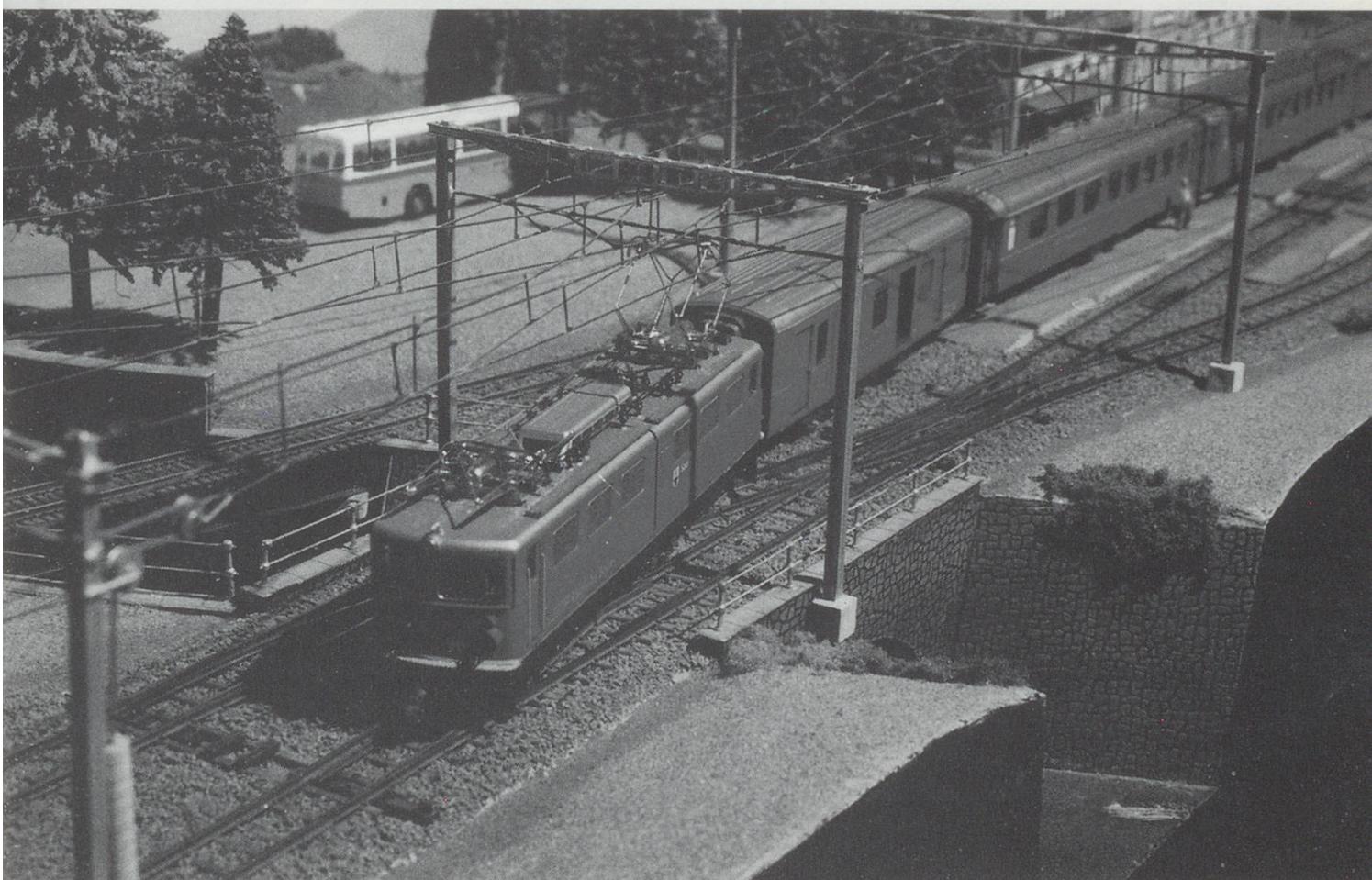
meeting was self financing and there was no cost to the Society. My thanks to the Manchester members who worked so hard (they had no choice) to ensure the success of the exhibition.

In the evening some sixty members and guests attended a dinner (in contrast to the 14 who had visited a local Italian restaurant the previous evening). We were graced with the presence of the Consul general of Switzerland Ernst Keller and his wife Magrit. After an excellent meal and a short address by the Consul General there was a light hearted slide quiz to round off a memorable evening as Peter and Yvonne Brett set off to beat their record of 3 hours to Manchester!



Above: Keine Name an Rhb, H0m based layout by Ian Edwards and Mike Pearce,

Below: The station on Phil Donbavands 'Zillis' layout H0m, awarded the Bernard Richmond Memorial Award at the York Exhibition in 1996. (see page 5)

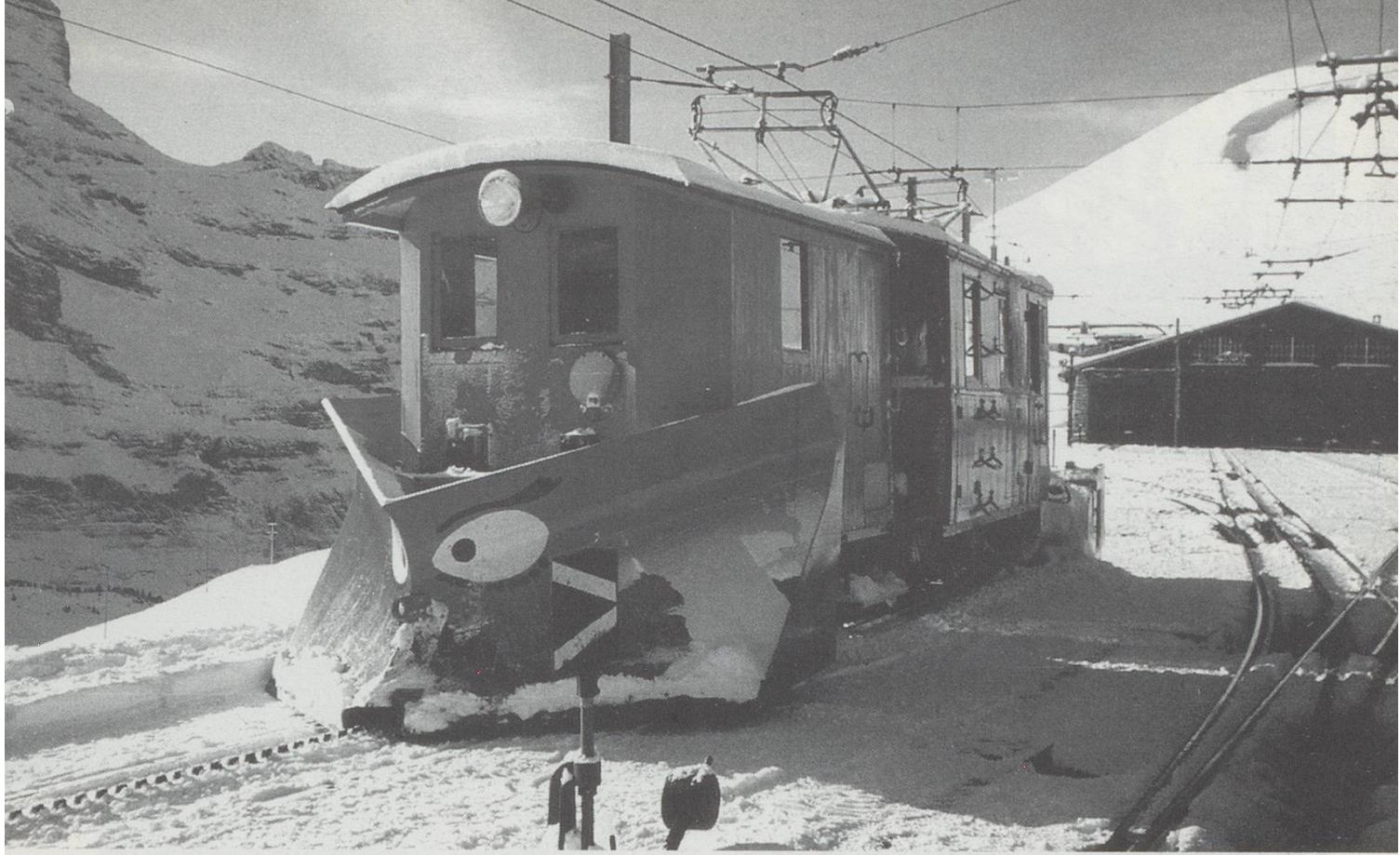




*Above:* Overall winner of the Kuoni Photo competition was Richard Combs.

*Below:* Winner of the Scenic section was Ann Valentine with a study of the Sertig Valley





Above: Railway section, won by Kathy Crebbin with the Jungfrau Bahn snow plough.

Below: Humerous section, won by Dave Howsam, the caption reads 'Heute Ruhetag', (closed today).

