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Chairman's Notes

Winter is with us again and with it comes the winter sports season (for some), modelling and, perhaps, browsing through all those photographs you took whilst on holiday in Switzerland during the summer (If you were fortunate enough to go).

However, winter is also the time for planning ahead a little, such as where you are going to go for next summer's holiday. It is also exhibition time, for those who are interested in the modelling scene.

As for planning next years activities, I would urge members to keep the weekends of 9th March and 31st August/1st September free. The March date is, of course, the Society AGM, which needs no introduction. It is usually a most enjoyable weekend, as those who have attended can testify. The late summer weekend, though, is a new venture. It has been conceived and is being organised by one of our Vice Presidents, Roy Dungleison, with the assistance of the Bristol and Bath Branch. Although it is being held in Minehead, which is not exactly at

the centre of the universe, I would urge members to attend. It promises to be a great weekend. Some details are published elsewhere in this issue.

The cold weekends are traditionally the preserve of the many model railway exhibitions. Although I am not an ardent exhibition visitor myself - my work does not allow it - many of my friends are. The problem they face is choosing between the sheer number of shows on offer almost every weekend. Are there perhaps now too many exhibitions? Several of our members supply our Editor with a list of their forthcoming appearances, which is an aid to choosing between several shows on offer at the same time. Why not go along to support both them and the Society - you may be surprised at how much fun it can be.

It only remains for me to thank all of you for your support during the year, and to wish you and your families an enjoyable Christmas and a happy and prosperous 1996.

John Jesson

Secretary's Report

It is pleasing to report on behalf of the Management Committee of the Society on a busy and varied programme of committee meetings recently.

It has been agreed that the Secretary submit within the Swiss Express a summary of business discussed for the information and benefit of the membership.

A Credit Card facility for members which should be in place shortly.

A Minehead weekend being arranged by Vice-President Roy Dungleison and the Bristol and Bath Branch, to be held over the period 30th August to 1st September 1996.

Encouragement of members to make use of the Society Library through the Librarian Giles Della-Gana.

The appointment of a Branch CoOrdinator which is now in place, is John Stokes.

The preparation of a set of old photographs

from the negatives recently received via the R.C.T.S. for sale to members.

A motion for the 1996 AGM to make the Librarian and Branch Coordinator Officers of the Society and reduce the four other present Committee members to two.

Improvements to the current Exhibition stand held by Andy Nelson, for which offers of assistance were invited in the last Swiss Express.

A programme of Exhibition attendances has also been agreed in principle with others to be added as invitations are received.

It is hoped that the 1996 AGM will be successful and that as many members as possible attend.

May I just add that I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peter Dransfield