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NOTES BY THE JOINT PRESIDENTS

Alan Pike was asked to take the Chair at the two Management Committee meetings since the AGM.

It is a pleasure to report how well the new Committee has welded into a vigorous team setting about the task of addressing a range of issues several of which stem from comment made by

members who attended the AGM and some of which are mentioned in the Secretary's notes in this issue.

Between meetings, close contact has been maintained with the Secretary so that matters arising can be dealt with promptly.

Roy Duglison: Alan Pike OBE - Joint Presidents

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was a great honour to be approached after the last Annual General Meeting and be asked by the Management Committee if I would be prepared to fill the vacant position of Secretary. I accepted and was duly co-opted to the Committee. Under the Rules and Constitution of the Society I will fill this position as a co-opted member of the Committee until the next AGM when I can offer myself for election in the normal way.

I must not let this opportunity pass without paying a special tribute to my predecessor, Peter Dransfield MBE. Peter was Secretary when I first joined the Committee in 1994 as Membership Secretary, having joined the Committee in 1992. We have all marvelled over the years at his capacity to perform his many duties for both public and voluntary organisations and his energy and enthusiasm seemed to be unlimited. Unfortunately for all of us such effort takes its toll, and in Peter's case this was no exception. It was with regret, but also with a great deal of understanding that his resignation from office of this Society was received. His contribution to the Society during his six years of office was considerable, and his example has set a high standard which I am committed to continue for the benefit of the Society and all its members. I look forward to the Society continuing to expand and strengthen its position as the largest English speaking organisation devoted exclusively to the study and appreciation of all aspects of Swiss railways and associated transport.

Since my co-option the Management Committee has held two meetings during which, and mindful of the many views expressed by the membership at the AGM, a significant start has been made on a number of issues. The accounting procedures of the Society are being reviewed in an effort to ensure that the accounts are presented in a manner which is not only simple and straightforward to read, but which will provide for more detailed information on income and expenditure. A study is underway of all

the procedures relating to the AGM.

The date and venue of the next Annual General Meeting has been considered by the Committee, and has been fixed for Saturday 20th March 1999 at the Holiday Inn, Bristol. Further details will be given in the next issue of Swiss Express, but we can confirm that at the hotel in addition to the AGM, there will be the usual supporting programme including a dinner. An additional attraction has been arranged for the evening of Friday 19th March when the Bristol & Bath Branch have kindly agreed to move their monthly meeting from Bath to the Hilton Hotel, Bristol when the speakers will be Sue Knight and Chris Harnett of MITV. For those who have attended presentations by Sue and Chris, this will be an eagerly awaited evening; for those for whom this will be the first time, we can promise them an evening they will not forget.

Sean Millar, the newly appointed New Zealand Co-ordinator, was expecting to return to New Zealand shortly after his appointment, but his stay in the UK has now been extended for an unknown period and he has therefore tendered his resignation. We thank Sean for his kind offer of assistance, and look forward to meeting him at some of our London Branch meetings. Our New Zealand members have been advised of the situation and it is hoped that we will be able to announce the appointment of a new Co-ordinator in the near future.

Finally and with regret, we have to report the departure from the Management Committee of our Exhibitions & Publicity Officer (North), Paul Hannant, who was elected to office at the last AGM. Shortly after the AGM his job changed and he can no longer devote the time that he would wish to Society work. He therefore expressed his wish to stand down. Although his time in office was only for a relatively short period, we express our thanks to Paul for his support and the contribution he has made. A successor has not yet been appointed.

Brian Hemming