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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Members will note the proceedings of the 1997 Annual General Meeting held at Carlisle on the 8th March, 1997 (A full copy of the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting are enclosed with this issue of Swiss Express). Most of the Officers were unopposed and therefore re-elected for a further year. Dave Howsam was elected as the new Membership Secretary and Tom Sheard and Roger Ellis were elected to the two posts on the Committee being as the Chairman put it "without Portfolio". Giles Baker after serving the Society in various roles for many years decided not to seek re-election to the Committee for various reasons, and grateful thanks are expressed to him on behalf of the Society for all his work over the years.

A rather surprising lengthy discussion took place towards the end of the A.G.M. on venues for future years for the holding of the A.G.M. and it was agreed that the Management Committee would discuss all the points raised at a future Committee meeting. What do the general membership feel? Let us have your views!

Mention was made by the Chairman of the membership list, and full details of his comments can be seen in the Minutes.

Many members will have recently received a mail shot from Clockwork and Steam Ltd. and concerns have been received from some members as to how their name and address had been obtained. Immediately this matter was brought to the attention of the Committee, Dave Howsam investigated the issue following which the following letter of apology etc. was received from the firm involved:-

CLOCKWORK AND STEAM LTD.

13th March 1997

Mr. D. Howsam,
3 Balmain Road,
Davyhulme,
Manchester.
M41 5TR.

Dear Mr. Howsam,

I have been away on business in Ireland for the

last two weeks and have just returned and have been made aware of your telephone call.

Some weeks ago a decision was made to start a new branch of our business to handle the mail order of books and associated items. I gave this project to an assistant of mine. It now transpires that, in my absence, he located a copy of the Society's mailing list which I obtained from yourself in good faith. No doubt with the best of intentions he has used this list for his initial mail shot.

I would confirm that today I dismissed the person concerned and would like to apologise to the Society for what has happened. Any complaints that we receive will be answered with a written apology explaining the circumstances.

I can give you every assurance that any information will not be passed to another party and any data base that we were holding relating to the membership will be destroyed forthwith.

Yours truly,

Jeffery Knight.

A REVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP LIST AND ITS PUBLICATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THIS BREACH OF ITS USE.

The Management Committee met on the 5th April 1997 in Manchester at a meeting which lasted for approximately 5 hours 45 minutes. Many matters were discussed including the opening of a separate bank account for the Eisenbahn Amateur, which was discussed at the A.G.M. The long awaited signalling book (not to be funded by the Society, but privately), the Society entry on the Internet, and the special edition of Swiss Express which members should now have received. The Committee was informed that membership at that date was 935. It would be a milestone for the Society if it could reach 1000 members during the 150th Anniversary Year of Swiss Railways.

PETER DRANSFIELD