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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Before saying anything else, I want to give my congratulations to our Secretary, Peter Dransfield, who was awarded the MBE in the New Years Honours List, for services to the community of Mirfield. This is richly deserved and, I hope, goes some way towards cheering him up after a recent bout of illness.

This will be the last time I shall be writing these notes, as I am not standing for re-election at the AGM. This is because of a problem in the running of the Society over which a majority of the Committee and myself disagreed, and it would not be right for me to continue as Chairman without the support of the Committee. At present, I do not know if I shall be at the AGM, as I am supposed to be working over that weekend and do not yet know if I can get the time off. This is one of the tribulations of shift work. I have enjoyed very much my period as Chairman

and thank you, the members of the Society, for your support and encouragement during that time.

Once again, it is the time of year for the Nürnberg Toy Fair, and I shall be visiting it once again. The celebrations of last year generated a good crop of new models, albeit mostly in 1:87 scale so, at the time of writing, I do not expect too much for the Swiss enthusiast this year. Mind you, this does not necessarily follow, as healthy sales one year can persuade manufacturers that another model for a particular market might be a good idea. My contacts in Germany tell me that Roco are producing an Ae^{4/6}, one of the more obvious gaps in the HO Swiss fleet. There may be others. However, you do not have to wait, as there should be a list of all the new models with this magazine.

John Jesson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Committee met in Manchester on the 24th January 1998 and spent almost 5 hours discussing various items of Society business. A long discussion took place regarding some form of re-organisation/assistance with the publication of the Swiss Express, which eventually concluded with a decision (not unanimous) that an Assistant to the Editor be appointed. During the meeting Chairman John Jesson announced that he would not now be seeking re-election at the 1998 A.G.M. This decision is very regrettable as John has served as Chairman since March, 1994 and it has always been a pleasure to work with him for the benefit of the Society. We must express sincere thanks to John for all his work as Chairman during that time. At the same meeting the Branch Co-ordinator, John Stokes also announced that he too would not be seeking re-election at the A.G.M. We must therefore thank John too for his work for the Society during his term in office, and wish him well for the future. Dave Howsam informed the Committee

that membership continues to grow, and at the meeting date stood at 1030.

As members will no doubt realise from my report, this was not be far an easy meeting to attend, but nevertheless all business is transacted hopefully for the benefit of all members.

Since the meeting took place this is the only opportunity which I have had to inform all members of these two resignations which came after nominations for Officers and Committee members had been invited in December 1997.

It would no appear that the 1998 A.G.M. to be held in Stevenage on the 21st March 1998 could prove very interesting in more ways than one, so come along and have your say, it is you the members Annual General Meeting!

Peter Dransfield M.B.E.

Please submit articles for the June
"Swiss Express" by the 20th APRIL.

THANK YOU