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painted in a mustard and red livery, they don't quite match the more rounded 1970s driving vehicles.



The Arosa line was blocked by a landslide near the Steinboden tunnels between Chur and Lüen-Castiel from 24th April until 20th May. Stabilisation works in the area resulted in the line being closed between Chur and St Peter-Molinis from 6th to 29th June and again from 16th July.

Bernina Line Gem4/4 801 is in Landquart works for re-engineering. With a complete replacement of the diesel engine, electrical equipment and matching to new cabs (in the style of the Ge4/4III's), the RhB will get back an almost new locomotive.

### **Transport Publics du Chablais (TPC)**

A landslide between Bex and Gryon blocked the BVB line for around four weeks from 7th April. The new units for the Bex-Villars-Bretaye line, Beh4/4 91 and 92, are now in service. These sets are wider than the previous stock and only just fit the line's loading gauge – that is, between the buildings at Bex-Place-du-Marché!

## **TRAMWAYS**



Services on BLT Lines 10 and 11 were rerouted over the new link from the Münchensteinbrücke to Basel SBB station from 29th June

### **Verkehrsbetriebe der Stadt Zürich (VBZ)**

Prototype articulated unit Be4/6 1801 has been withdrawn.

Burgwies Depot, dating back to 1893, will not be required for service trams once the fleet renewal is

complete. It is planned that from 2005 it will become the Zürich Tram Museum depot, holding around 25 trams from the VBZ heritage fleet and other groups.

## **PRESERVATION**

### **Misox Line (Castione – Grono)**

Appenzeller Bahnen ABe4/4 41 has passed to the SEFT group for service on the RhB's Misox line.

### **Riffelalp Tram**

This line, now marketed as 'the highest tram in the world', opened on 21st June. See the article published elsewhere in Swiss Express.

### **Steam Adventure Tours**

This Zürich-based organisation staged an extensive tour on 12th May using SBB A3/5 705. The route used was Zürich – Aarau – Olten – Solothurn – Lyss (lunch) – Murten – Payerne – Yverdon – Biel – Solothurn – Olten – Brugg – Zürich; this included working over the freight only section from Solothurn to Büren an der Aare, now restored as a through (but unelectrified) route after being severed for road improvements to the south west of Solothurn.

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**Brian Hemming**

## **SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS-STOCK CHANGES**

### **MAY 2001**

**New:** RABDe 500 020/1

**Withdrawn:** Te<sup>III</sup> 127 Tm<sup>I</sup> 441/60 Tm<sup>II</sup> 676/90, 704/85, 815 Ee3/3<sup>II</sup> - 16504

**Rebuilt & renumbered:** XTm 91581 to XTms 95 85 581

### **JUNE 2001**

**Withdrawn:** Te<sup>II</sup> 72, 93