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The Society's website is now at **SwissRailSoc.org.uk**

The original sites can still be accessed and the content will be identical at all three addresses.

New e-mail addresses have been allocated to all Committee members as follows:

Chairman
Treasurer*
Secretary
Editor
Membership Secretary
Sales Officer
Exhibitions Officer*
Roger Ellis (Committee)
Geoff Thompson (Committee)

Chairman@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Treasurer@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Secretary@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Editor@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Membership@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Sales@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Exhibitions@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Roger.Ellis@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Geoff.Thompson@SwissRailSoc.org.uk

Those marked * are do not currently have Internet connection and e-mails will be routed via the Secretary. Please note that the previously advised email.com addresses are no longer operative

The Society Webmaster (currently Brian Hemming) can be reached at
Webmaster@SwissRailSoc.org.uk

THOUGHTS FROM THE BIG CHAIR - Paul Russenberger

It is March and the Annual General Meeting looms!

Really, it should not be seen as "looming", though with the work being done by the members in Derby, to them it must seem rather like that! Things have to be done – layouts organised, forms filled in, bookings taken and so on. But once that is done, in the spirit of it all there should be fun. It will be a get together to talk, enjoy things Swiss, look at layouts, browse at the trade stands, (make a purchase or three?) ...

And, yes there has to be business. Hopefully, the AGM itself can be kept to a reasonable length, but it is necessary and not an evil. The Society is growing and passed the 1100 membership mark at the close of 2001! (At the recent Committee meeting, Dave Howsam reported the fastest rate of renewal on record.) The Committee, sorry, your Committee, needs to hear your views, needs to learn what you want from the Society, needs to hear the debate about "where next?" which should be going on. Inevitably, the members are unlikely to speak with one voice and there will potentially be opposing views among us, the members. From those differing views, the Committee has to sense the direction in which to take the Society. But unless those views are made known, the Committee can only use its best judgement to take the Society forward.

Given the rate of growth, there may be changes in the years ahead. We ought to regard these as exciting times – come along to Derby and be part of the fun!

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Brian Hemming

If you have already looked at our website you will have noticed that included therein is a copy of my notes for the December *Swiss Express*. Unfortunately this item did not appear in that issue due to a virus infection problem, which occurred round about the time of its transmission to the Editor, and a failure on my part to ensure that it had been received correctly. This was unfortunate, because I wanted to explain my reasons for not seeking re-election at the forthcoming AGM and dispel any ideas, which might circulate that there had been major problems within the Committee. I have, since the 1994 AGM, been on the Committee for two years as Membership Secretary and will have been Secretary for four years at the forthcoming AGM. I feel I need to stand back from the duties of office to devote more time to the various aspects of my hobby. I have a model railway waiting to be built but furthermore, a recent change in my other commitments means that I would in any case be unable to devote sufficient time to the administration of the Society. I will continue to be an active member of the Society and hopefully, subject to the Editor's approval, be contributing from time to time in *Swiss Express*. (Note from ED - Trust me Brian you have my approval!!)

At the Committee meetings held on 6th October and 26th January consideration was given to a new design of

Society tie and I am pleased to say that an order has been placed and that stocks should be available at the AGM and thereafter by mail order or at exhibitions. The design, which will be available both in polyester and silk, is totally new and was selected from a portfolio kindly presented by our West Midland Branch Organiser, Gerald Savine.

Some discussion took place at the October Committee meeting regarding the possibility of an Autumn Reunion, a topic which has been raised at past AGM's. The earliest that one could be organised would be 2002 and Exeter was considered as a possible venue. However, with the knowledge that the West Somerset Railway is holding a Swiss Themed Weekend on June 1st and 2nd it was decided that for 2002 this would be the venue and meeting point for an informal Society reunion. The details, which are being finalised by our Joint President, Roy Dunglison, appear elsewhere.

Towards the end of last year the Society acquired its own domain name on the Internet, which is <http://www.SwissRailSoc.org.uk>. The content of the website remains unchanged and the two previous addresses are still live and in fact are accessed directly and automatically by keying in the new address. The e-mail addresses of Officers have also changed and are published elsewhere – it should be noted that the various email.com addresses are no longer live. The website continues to go from strength to strength, so much so that at the time when this is being written (end January) the number of "hits" since April 2000 is nearly 8,400 with more than 6,000 last year alone! I have managed the website for the last two years, and have indicated to the Committee that I am prepared to continue to do so for at least another year and maybe beyond that subject to their approval. Meanwhile, any suggestions for links or additional content would be welcome – contact me by e-mail at Webmaster@SwissRailSoc.org.uk.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported me during my term of office as Secretary. It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve you. I look forward to continuing my support of the Society in the months and years to come and enjoying the delights of Switzerland and its railways.

EXHIBITIONS - Andy Nelson

This is my final note to you all. Regretfully my work commitments have been subject to many late changes over recent months and so I would like to apologise for not attending St Albans.

I would like to thank you all for your help at Exhibitions over the past six years. I have enjoyed meeting you all. Can I also thank those who kindly sent me letters thanking me for my work, much appreciated.

A final thought: are you travelling by air this year? A piece of advice: do not take your favourite Swiss Army penknife in your hand baggage, as it will be confiscated! Pack it in your check-in baggage. In fact pack any scissors, nail files or any sharp objects in the check-in luggage.

I will be at the Derby AGM in March which will be my swansong and am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

25th May 2002 - Newmarket Continental Exhibition. Bob Simmonds' Om layout "Surava" along with "Z" gauge and "N" gauge Swiss layouts. The Newmarket School do it entirely for charity. It takes place 10.30 - 17.00 at St Felix Middle School, Fordham Road, Newmarket (A142 north out of Newmarket).

GLYN JONES SPEAKS

Back Issues of *Swiss Express*:

It has been necessary to increase the price of back issues to £1.50 each or £5.00 for four. This is due to the considerable weight of the more recent magazines and the resultant postage charges. Back issues will not, in future, be available for the current year until after the next years AGM; e.g. 2001 magazines will not be available until after the 2002 AGM.

The following is a list of available back numbers as at Jan 2002, but please bear in mind that some of these are in extremely short supply (there may be only one or two copies available).

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|------------------------|------|---|---------------------------|------|---|----------------------|
| 2000 | - | March, June, September | 1999 | - | December | 1998 | - | All issues available |
| 1997 | - | All issues available | 1996 | - | June, September, December | 1995 | - | All issues available |
| 1994 | - | All issues available | 1993 | - | June, September, December | 1992 | - | March, December |
| 1991 | - | No issues available | 1990 | - | All issues available | 1989 | - | September, December |
| 1988 | - | September | 1987 | - | June, September, December | | | |

Videos:

We can only supply videos from MITV, we cannot supply their RhB calendars, mouse mats etc. These must be ordered direct from MITV.

Email address:

The new sales email address is <sales@swissrailsoc.org.uk>

Glyn Jones (SRS Sales Officer)