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THE EDITOR HAS HIS SAY!

APOLOGIES FIRST

First of all a very big apology for the very late publication of the September issue. August proved to be a very difficult month. As soon as I returned from holiday at the start of August I was informed that my boss had been involved in a very serious car accident and was likely to be absent for six to eight months, other staff members had booked holiday and this meant that my normally highly flexible job became very much more rigid and involved commuting between Worcester and Loughborough three to four times a week taking on his responsibilities as well. I normally have some very heavy commitments in August and September and as these were not going away there was going to be a major impact on the magazine. I informed the committee that the publication date was likely to be very late and this was accepted. The position became even more complicated towards the end of September when I contracted Cellulitis, a very unpleasant illness. At the time of publication I still have not returned to work although I eventually managed to finish the magazine. We have endeavoured to keep members informed via Branch meetings and the website but not all have access to either of these. For those members in particular, sorry.

I don't normally go in for lengthy explanations such as this but what it has highlighted is that the magazine is very vulnerable to this kind of problem. Swiss Express is produced using the same techniques and equipment as other magazines like Continental Modeller, Loki and Railway Magazine. The difference is that it is only me doing it and if I have a problem then there is no back up as there would be in a normal trade situation. At a recent committee meeting we discussed this at some length and we concluded that we need a Deputy Editor. A proper advert will appear in the December edition but in the meantime if you would like to have an informal chat to see what may be involved then please give me a ring at home.

Once again my apologies for the very late publication, I hope you at least think that it has been worth the wait.

THE PROOF IS IN THE READING

And now a huge vote of thanks to Joanna Hulme and not forgetting her husband Charlie. They have been proof reading Swiss Express for three years and have done a fantastic job. They have improved the magazine enormously and I will be eternally grateful to them. Many many thanks to you both and I know you all will join in wishing Joanna every success in her new business as a proof reader!

I am also delighted to inform you that Michael Farr will be taking over from the December issue and I am reliably informed his wife Pauline will be assisting. I hope she knows about it and doesn't read it here first.

THE CLASSIFIED SECTION - Members Adverts

For sale: Hag Cat. no. 168, Re4/4^{II} no. 11220, green. As new, £180 o.n.o. John Atkinson, 01920 420954, email: johnatkinson_editor@yahoo.co.uk

Looking For: BEMO 1265 134 - RhB railcar #504. Do you have one of these that you would like to sell? If you do, please contact Andrew Curtis on 01323 645060. Many thanks.

Looking For: Roco 44332 SBB baggage van with old markings in excellent condition. Martin Engel, email: mengel@collex.com.au

