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JUST A SEC - Roger Ellis

Spring Meet & Annual General Meeting

I was reminded by one of our members that it would be helpful if I could include a précis of the day in the following issue of the magazine. I sometimes forget that the majority of our members cannot easily attend meetings, and therefore the 'Swiss Express' is their only source of information.

The event was attended by over 150 members and guests, and although the formal AGM is an essential part of the day, it is the opportunity to meet fellow members, looking at the layouts and perhaps buying those items you have always promised yourself that makes it so enjoyable.

About 80 members were present at the AGM in the afternoon, and after an opening welcome by the Chairman, the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed with minor spelling alterations.

In his report the Chairman outlined the problems encountered by subscribers to 'Eisenbahn Amateur' which hopefully have now been resolved with the help of John Stokes. He also emphasised the continued high regard that the Society has in Switzerland, evidenced by invitations received for a reception at the Ambassador's residence in January.

In my report I indicated the need for members to communicate with the Society and this subject was raised again under 'any other business'. Members would like to have a specific telephone number in order to contact the Society if they need to do so. This will be discussed by the Committee, but in the mean time I am happy for mine to be used. My details are given in the 'Diary' page, and also on page 1 of the magazine.

The Membership Secretary was happy to report a healthy renewal rate of 93.40% with the subscription membership totalling 1211. He thanked members for their help and promptness in renewing.

A full diary of exhibitions attended was given by the Exhibitions and Publicity Officer from which 34 new members were recruited, and the Sales Officer reported another excellent year with more than £2100 in Sales.

The Treasurer was able to record a surplus of income over expenditure of £4875, which of course has meant that the subscription rate for membership can remain unchanged for 2004. Unaudited accounts were adopted.

The Editor was unable to be present due to family illness, and his report outlined the problems incurred in the past year. He stressed his need to appoint a Deputy Editor to assist him in the production of the 'Swiss Express'.

Only single nominations were received for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Exhibitions & Publicity Officer, and Sales Officer and therefore those persons were elected to the Committee. Three nominations were received for the two positions of Committee Member, and after a ballot Geoff Thompson and Liliana Wood were the successful candidates. Thanks were expressed to Neil Wheelwright for his work on the Committee.

Under 'Any other business' the major subject was the magazine, and how important it was to the Society. Members reiterated that it is the means by which the Society informs and keeps contact with the membership. Various ways were suggested by which help could be given to the Editor to assist production, all of which will be considered by the Committee. It was also stressed by many that the magazine has improved over recent years.

The final item was that London Branch has offered to organise the next Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Saturday 12th March 2005.

Raffle Ticket Number 230

Lastly, I need the holder of the above ticket to contact me as I have something to tell him/her to their advantage!