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"Our roots are our Branches"

This was the slogan of one of the major clearing banks in the 1980's, and it could be applied to the Swiss Railways Society. I always forget that most of our members cannot attend one of our Branches because there is not one in their area. Which leads me on to the point of this article.

I would like to see, as would the Committee, more Branches being opened. There are large population areas unrepresented such as the West Midlands, the South East of England, Yorkshire and the North East.

All a potential Branch Organiser need do, is arrange a venue well in advance, advertise this in the Swiss Express together with an agenda for the meeting and see how many members support the event. Each Branch is financially self-supporting, but it is appreciated that there may be an outlay for room hire for the initial meeting. I am given to understand that the Society would look favourably to reimburse this cost as long as this was not for the hire of an Executive Suite at a Five Star Hotel!

As to speakers, this is the easy part, as most members have slides as well as video excerpts they would be willing to show. Also, many of the other European Railway Societies are able to assist if asked.

You can always come to Somerset on 15/16th October especially to ask how it can be done.

EXHIBITIONS - Paul Hannant

If you are able to assist in manning the stand, even if only for a few hours, it would be most appreciated and it can be fun! Offers of assistance can be emailed to me at:

Exhibitions@SwissRailSoc.org.uk or Tel. 01885 483697 (evenings).

Do you have a Swiss layout – which you are exhibiting this year or next? Then let me know, so we can let all our members know, but bear in mind the copy dates for Swiss Express at the front of the journal. We need to know at least 2-3 months in advance.

If anyone is able to provide further details or feedback from attending these events (opening times, addresses, size and scope) please contact me.

We are frequently asked whether our members have Swiss layouts available for exhibitions. Please let me know if you have a layout, which is exhibitable. I am looking to put together a portfolio of layouts. Please contact me for a form for layout details if you wish to be included on our register.

The SRS stand/diorama, Menziwil, will be attending the following:

SAT. 18TH SEPT. 2004 SUTTON COLDFIELD. GERMAN RAILWAYS SOC. EXHIBITION

Town Hall, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. 10.00 - 17.00.

Note the new venue: this is the exhibition formally known as GRS-Oxford. Bit like Prince I suppose. Lots of specialist traders, Winco and Gerald Savine Prints for example and many European layouts.

SAT. 16TH OCT. 2004 SRS AUTUMN EVENT AND EXHIBITION. SOMERSET

Wyndham Arms, Kingsbury Episcopi, Somerset. 11.30-17.00.

First outing for "WINTER NACHT". Specialist Traders including Winco and Gerald Savine Prints.

4TH-5TH DEC. 2004 WARLEY NATIONAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION,

NEC, Birmingham. All weekend.

The model railway show of the year. Lots of continental societies including the SRS, and many specialist traders.

29th, 30th, and 31st October 2004

Dave Howsam's fantastic Perrapswil will be at:

The Merseyside Model Rail Exhibition

Pacific Road Exhibition Centre, Birkenhead.

Get your copies of Continental Modeller autographed by David!

Other Exhibitions with Continental interest:

2ND-3RD OCT. 2004 EUROTRACK, EASTLEIGH

Eastleigh, Fleming Pk Leisure Centre. Just off the M3 at J14. Major European-themed exhibition with many specialist traders and layouts. This is in addition to the regular Exhibition in February.

22ND-24TH OCT. 2004 EUROSPOOR, UTRECHT, HOLLAND

26TH-28TH NOV. 2004 WAKEFIELD MRC EXHIBITION

Thornes Park Athletics Stadium, Horbury Rd, Wakefield. Several continental layouts expected.

5TH-7TH NOV. 2004 KÖLN MESSE, KÖLN DEUTZ, KÖLN, GERMANY.

Swapmeets in Switzerland:

Checkout : <http://www.spielzeugboersen.net/>

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