

Thoughts from the chair

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THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR - Paul Russenberger

Given that as I write these Notes the special newsletter is barely a few weeks old, it seems extraordinary to be writing yet more Notes so soon!

As Roger Ellis explains elsewhere, a group is now in place to produce *Swiss Express* and I hope that the difficulties of the past few years are resolved and behind us. I am very grateful indeed to all those who came forward offering support in various ways. The response was far better than I hoped for and should be a good indication of a vibrant Society. Many things are going well for us. All the Branch Organisers have agreed to have their Branch contact details published in "Eisenbahn Amateur", thus enabling our links with Switzerland to be strengthened and the profile of the Society lifted just a bit further.

From the Society's point of view, the Warley exhibition was a great success. The display of Swiss layouts at the Warley exhibition, with members' work very well represented, no doubt encouraged 30 newcomers to become members – three times as many as last year! I am very grateful to all those who provided and operated their layouts, staffed the stand and talked to those who showed interest. Not least, the provision of a Silver Jubilee cake (with a piece for all visiting members) added greatly to the festivity of the occasion. The Society's thanks also go to Mondaine – of Swiss station clock fame – who provided jigsaws, radios and postcards for us to give free to new members. (Incidentally, Mondaine were the only Swiss company approached who responded with help.) We were seen to be a very vibrant Society. What are we going to do in 2030?

The proof of the pudding (cake?) is in the eating. While a team is now in place to produce *Swiss Express*, there remain places on the Committee to be filled. Could you be the person to fill one? The outgoing Officers (Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Exhibitions) will be pleased to do all they can to ease the transfer of office and no doubt also to answer any of your questions about what each position might involve. Ian Athey, the Treasurer, has even agreed that I can put his telephone number in these Notes – 01 835 862015 – as emails to him in fact come to me for forwarding as hard copy. If the Society really is as vibrant as it presented itself at Warley, this should not be a problem, but it requires members themselves to consider their response and not leave it to the person in the next seat. Go on – surprise me again and may the Swiss Railways Society start its second 25 Years in fine style!

JUST A SEC - Roger Ellis

There was a special Management Committee meeting on 18th November at which the production of *Swiss Express* was discussed. Also present were four members of the Society who had expressed an interest in assisting with this task namely John Weaver, Steve Bratt, Hugh Edgley and Malcolm Bulpitt. David Stevenson said that he was willing to continue as Editor but with the assistance of the four members who would in effect form an editorial team. Malcolm to be sub-editor, John to look after the photographs, Hugh to be responsible for advertising and Steve having a wide portfolio assisting David and any of the team who needed help. Liliana will continue in her current role and it is to her that all contributions to the magazine should be sent. The Committee agreed to co-opt David onto the Committee to remain in the post as Editor.

It is hoped that with this help the production time for the magazine will be reduced, and it is the ultimate goal of the team to send out the *Swiss Express* to members in February, May, August and November of each year.