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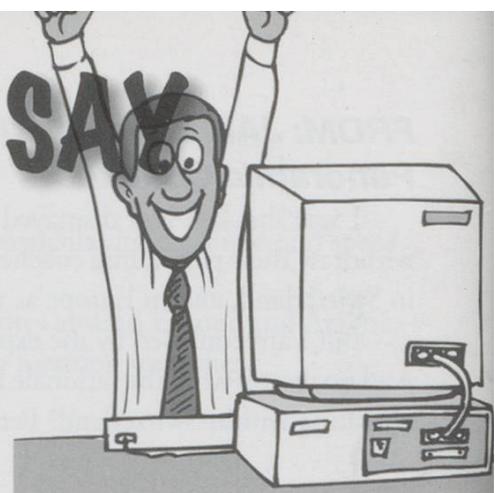
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THE EDITOR HAS HIS SAY



THE LATEST APOLOGY - FORGIVE THE IRONY

Regular readers will know the regularity of apologies made for the lateness of *Swiss Express*. Every three months if I remember correctly, which I do. Regular readers will also know that I was not prepared to carry on in a solo role and actually said that December's would be the last issue I would do. In one sense that has not changed, it is the last edition I will be editing on my own but it is not the last issue I will be editing.

The response to the request for help with *Swiss Express* was gratifying and the victims came together with myself and some of the committee in November to see what was involved. I am not giving away any secrets in saying that they were a bit shocked at what was involved however a consensus was reached which resulted in me staying on as Editor and a team being established around the magazine to help and bring the magazine back on schedule.

It hasn't proved possible with this edition as the team were unable to meet before January and it became evident that more equipment and software would also be required. This is nothing to do with the MAC vs. PC argument; it is to do with the numbers of files, photographs, articles that are involved. Currently the *Swiss Express* filing system has over 100 CDs, 87GB of files and any number of loose photos, slides and other things. *Swiss Express* is to all intents and purposes a professional publication produced in a very amateur fashion. The new team will have to manage things better and between us should have the time. Roger Ellis has introduced the team elsewhere and they have started work. Malcolm Bulpitt in particular has sub-edited most of the articles, if he hadn't the magazine would have been even later. The other members have contributed a couple of articles for this issue and forthcoming ones and are ready and willing once they have the tools.

It is the intention to move production to one month earlier over the course of the next year which will tie in better with the AGM and Christmas. As a group we also hope that in the longer term we will be able to produce more publications. We have some ideas of our own and would like to hear from members what they would be interested in as well. The regular production of the magazine will always take priority of course but we will have the technology. Let us know.

ARE YOU MISSING ANYTHING?

Over the course of the past few years a number of photographs have become detached from the articles they accompanied, the envelopes they were sent in and other indications of ownership. If you have not had back photographs from us let us know. We are going to produce some thumbnails of those we have and these will be available by email or hard copy if email is not available to you. Please note this does not refer to those who have sent in digital images, this refers to prints, slides and negatives only. In the first instance contact the Editor with a brief description of what is missing. I am confident nothing has been lost, my wife will testify to my inability to throw anything away ever.

LES COMPLIMENTS DE LA SAISON

Finally I wish all members and readers a very belated Happy New Year. If you are going to Switzerland this year let us know where you have been and send in some pictures. I look forward to seeing lots of you at the AGM in Derby and at exhibitions elsewhere throughout the year. I am in Switzerland in May and may see some of you there as well, listen for the execrable accent and the inevitable response in perfect English from the Swiss I am trying to converse with.

EDITORS NOTE -John McCrindle, from Bourne End, sent me a very nice letter containing a copy of a cartoon from a Swiss newspaper which took the mickey out of the Swiss obsession with trains at the time of the great blackout. Unfortunately I was unable to obtain permission to reproduce it, remember that Swiss Express is read widely in Switzerland, so it will have to remain our little secret. Thanks John, it was very funny.