

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2008)
Heft: 95

Vorwort: Editorial
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EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

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COVER PICTURE:

BFD 3 takes a well-earned drink on the public celebration day of the BC's 40th", 1 May 2008.

PHOTO: Michael Farr

JUST A SEC

David Stevenson

As I write this at the start of July the summer is in full swing, you know the score: rain, wind, flooding etc. Someone remarked to me that they didn't go to Switzerland in June any more as it was too hot. We went in June, hot it wasn't. I have a snap of Deb throwing a snow ball at me and this was just at the top of the Sunnbüel cable car in Kandersteg where they were experiencing one of the worst summers they have ever had. Frankly the weather was not good but despite this we had a great time with our friends - a really good time actually. It was the same when I went in May to the Gotthard with my eldest

This was scheduled to be a 'thin' magazine. However, following on from many of your comments at the AGM, the Management Committee has decided that we would try to maintain the run of 'thick' editions. Indeed, in order to allow us to devote as much space to articles as possible Ian Athey has chosen not to have a Chairman's item and I too will try to be brief.

We have a nice eclectic mix of articles in this edition including ships, trains, modelling, etc. It is always good for an editor to have a willing band of correspondents willing to write for their publication. In recent issues we have had lots of excellent items on local railways, as well as a big piece on the Gotthard Celebrations last year. However, the one area where we seem to be short of articles is on the day-to-day operations taking place on the unsung areas of the basic Swiss transport network.

Many of you will have been to Switzerland this summer and have watched the working, and photographed the trains, at various locations across the country. Why not tell us about them? We are not looking for a PhD thesis, or even an 'O' level essay, just your observations and images detailing aspects of how the railway worked at the places you visited. If you can put some flesh on the bones with some geographic or historic background, or details of the rolling stock, so much the better but it is not essential. Did you take an interesting Post Bus ride, study the trams and buses in a Swiss city; or ride an out-of-the-way funicular or cable car? Those experiences too will evoke images of Switzerland that your fellow members will appreciate. Look at the items in this magazine, or in previous ones. The authors are generally just society members like yourself who have sat down at a keyboard, or put pen to paper (we can put it into an electronic format), and relived their experiences for you to enjoy.

Having produced the magazine we would like to get it to you in one piece but we have become aware that the envelopes we have been using have sometimes not had the strength to carry their load to its destination. Some members have informed us of missing or damaged copies but some of you may be wondering where previous editions of your magazine have got to. If you think you did not see Swiss Express at the beginning of March or June please let us know.