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EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

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COVER PICTURE:

A sunny scene to banish those winter blues!
Morcote, on the shores of Lake Lugano, reminds us that Switzerland offers more than snow-capped mountains.
And, yes, public transport is there - the Postbus waits outside the Post Office ready to take passengers into Lugano - or they could wait on the pier for the next boat.

PHOTO: Michael Farr.

Another short editorial as again there are so many interesting items that have been submitted that we need all the space we have in order to get as many as possible into this edition of the magazine. Having a choice of so many good things is an editor's dream so please keep on writing items and submitting photographs - we will attempt to publish them all if we can. In this March edition we are fortunate to have some input from four of our Swiss friends - Ernst Leutwiler, Sylvain Meillassion, Armin Schmutz and Claudia Farley, plus an article from Pierre Coester who is French. Having written an article on personal security for the December magazine it was ironic that a regrettable lapse of corporate concentration at my employer's office (whilst I was not present) resulted in my laptop computer "going missing" last month. All the data that was on it was retrieved from a backed-up source, otherwise this magazine may not have been published in this form. Unfortunately, although the machine was password-protected, some of your Email addresses may now be out in the wide world. If you start to get strange Email messages that purport to come from me, but have nothing to do with *Swiss Express* or the SRS, please delete them.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Ian Athey

It is almost 10 years since I first took any official part in the Society's Annual General Meeting. Then, at the end of my first year as Treasurer, I was more than a little apprehensive beforehand. Now, after my first year as Chairman I have the same feeling. Despite this however, I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Derby on 21st March. Whilst the AGM is the formal part of the proceedings, the whole week-end, from the East Midlands' branch meeting on the Friday night through to the dinner on the following evening, is usually informal and most enjoyable. I do hope that you will be able to be there for at least part of the proceedings. During the past year, I have been fortunate to have had the support of a good team, all of whom have given their own time (often substantial amounts of it), for the benefit of the Society's members. On your behalf therefore I have no hesitation in thanking the other Officials and Committee members most sincerely for their commitment to the Society during the last 12 months. I would also like to thank all of those other members who fulfill various duties within the Society such as Branch Organisers, Librarian, Archivist, etc. Your efforts are appreciated.

In my last notes I briefly mentioned the contact that had been made with the Verkehrshaus in Luzern. In this connection, despite the current exchange rate, I am hoping to be in Switzerland on holiday at the beginning of May and