

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2009)
Heft: 98

Rubrik: 2009 AGM report

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

<i>Society Sales</i>	2
<i>Society Pages</i>	4
<i>Meiringen Meanderings</i>	6
(<i>Meiringen Innertkirchen Bahn, Magical Postauto Tour, Post-Horn Gallop Past Grosse Scheidigg</i>)	
<i>Travels in Ticino</i>	13
<i>Giessbachbahn</i>	12
<i>A Humble Servant</i>	16
<i>Travels with a Kursbuch</i> 18	
<i>Swiss Post Celebrates 50 years of the Verkehshaus</i>	20
<i>Verkehrshaus at 50</i>	21
<i>SBB Cargo Expands</i>	22
<i>Golden Pass to Interlaken?</i>	24
<i>Photo Gallery</i>	26
<i>By Train Down the Orbe</i> 32	
<i>Valais in Vaud</i>	34
<i>Railtouring 2009</i>	36
<i>Délemont Dépôt Open Day</i>	38
<i>Funicular Follow-up</i>	40
<i>Book Review</i>	41
<i>SGV Management Changes</i>	41
<i>Nuremberg Toy Fair</i>	42
<i>Sidetracks</i>	43
<i>Notepad</i>	46
<i>"I did it my way" - Part 2</i> 48	
<i>Modelling News</i>	49
<i>Society News</i>	50
<i>Society Diary</i>	51
<i>Members' Letters</i>	52
<i>Members' Adverts</i>	54
<i>And Finally....</i>	
<i>The Voralpen Express</i> ...	55

COVER PICTURE:

Following on from the Crocodile article in the last issue, this is the same train on its way down to Bergun in the early evening of 13th August against the unmistakable backdrop of Piz Muot.

PHOTO: Michael Robinson

EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

Once again at the AGM questions were raised about the production costs of this magazine, especially the item shown in the accounts as "outsourcing" and I promised to explain the need for seeking outside help. In this digital age the editor can take the raw copy, edit it and convert this to the typesetting which in times past would have required composing or casting hot-metal type. Similarly, someone as skilled in computer imaging as Tony Bagwell can get the best results possible from photographic originals submitted to him. This is time-consuming work which would have been undertaken by highly-paid picture "retouchers" in the past.

Between these jobs and the printing press there is what in the past would have been called the "Reproduction Process" for which printers quoted a charge for "First Costs" in addition to the price for the materials and printing. Some time ago the Management Committee decided that we required a professional-looking publication, not only for the enjoyment of our own members but also to help the standing of the Society - especially in Switzerland. To do this it was realised that we need skilled professional help to select type styles, size the photographs, develop the layout (essentially make everything fit) in order to present a pleasing layout. Many of us will have seen society magazines in which the unskilled editor struggles to fill space whilst using every fancy typeface in his font list - with disastrous results. This "make-up" task is quite time-consuming and has to be done both to a deadline and to a standard acceptable to our printers, so it was decided that money spent on outside help would be worthwhile. In fact, because our designer has a long-lived interest in Swiss railways, our costs in no way represent a commercial price for the time involved.

I hope this will help to explain to all members the "outsourcing" charge. I will try to find a more descriptive term for these essential tasks for future AGMs.

2009 AGM REPORT

David Stevenson

On Saturday 21st March the 2009 SRS AGM was held in Derby at the same hotel we regularly use but now renamed the Hallmark Hotel Derby, for some reason known only to that rarefied and generally useless breed known as image consultants. I digress.

The London Branch organised the event under the leadership of Ron Dawes; well done Ron, it was a very good day. Traders included Winco, Platform 5, Contikits, NScaleCH, Gerald Savine and finally and not least MITV, more on them later! Layouts included Hohtenn, Eric the Roundhouse, Wesslingen, Darlingen and Dave Howsam's new funicular.

Static displays included some wonderful O Scale Crocodiles, G Scale and Maureen Stainton with her Bernese Oberland display. Many thanks to you all for coming along and helping make the day so successful.

MITV, what can one say? Nothing . . . no of course not! Sue and Chris have been integral to the success of SRS since they started. Their wonderful films, their enthusiasm and joy whenever they are able to show others what a great place Switzerland is and most of all their ability to persuade the world that the weather is always fantastic. They have done more to promote the Swiss Travel System than anyone and finally at the 2009 AGM they announced this would be their last show. Roger Keyworth gave a short address at the end of the AGM, following which he presented them with a personal gift of a Cuckoo clock to loud applause from all those present. Well done Sue and Chris, thanks for everything; it was the end of an era but I suspect and hope we haven't heard the last from you yet. We all look forward to seeing you in the future and please let us all know when you are going again so we can all book the same week – to ensure we get the famous MITV weather!

I am not going to bash on about the AGM as such; if anyone wants a copy of the draft minutes please send me an email and I'll send a PDF to you as soon as I can, bearing in mind that they will not be adopted formally till next year. For those without email sending an SAE to myself, large A4 envelope please, will do the trick. Our Chairman conducted the meeting well and deserves our thanks. There were around 100 members present at the official meeting.

SRS Sales had a busy day selling many of the new range of fleeces; if you don't have one by now contact Glyn straightaway, the red ones are just right for your next holiday. The baseball caps also went well; they may not be to everyone's taste but they do offer first class SRS protection from the sun - especially for the folically challenged like myself.

Although I was not able to stay on for the dinner in the evening I understand it went well. Some 60 members, partners and friends enjoyed the food and the company along with Neil Wheelwright's Swiss Brain Teaser Quiz.

In conclusion everyone had a good day, so well done the London Branch and Ron Dawes in particular. Onward and upward to 2010 when the AGM will be on Saturday 20th March at a venue currently being arranged.

If any Member who was not present at the AGM would like copies of the officers' reports they will be on the society website, or they are available from me (address on P3) on receipt of an A4 SAE.

NEW SALES ITEMS

Glyn Jones

The Society has recently introduced several new sales items. Firstly, we now sell a fleece with a microfibre breathable lining. These are available from stock in sizes from Small to XXL in navy or cherry red, both with navy lining and SRS logo, at a price of £36 delivered or £31.50 at the sales stand. We have substantial stocks at the moment but unfortunately we cannot get any more from our current supplier so if you want one I suggest that you do not delay in ordering. They were very popular at the AGM where we sold sixteen.

Secondly we have the SRS baseball cap. These are black in colour with a red peak and also have the SRS logo embroidered on the front. They are one size with a Velcro adjustment and are £7.50 delivered or £6 from the sales stand.

Finally, the ever popular series of "Swiss Railways in the Sixties" videos by Alan Snowdon are to be made available on DVD. We have Volume Two in stock now and the other volumes will be available later in the year. These are priced at £10. All our other sales lines can be seen in the advert in this magazine.

Editor's Note: Glyn launched a splendid website featuring his Maloja layout - go to www.maloja.co.uk to see it.