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2010 AGM at Derby

A reminder that the 2010 AGM of the Society will be held at Derby on Saturday 20th March. It is being organised by the Bristol and Bath Branch. The formal notice of this event is elsewhere in this magazine as is a page giving all the details you will wish to know about hotel accommodation and the AGM dinner.

We would love to see as large a number of your layouts there as possible. Knowing that bringing layouts to exhibitions can be expensive the Society have set-up a small fund to partly reimburse members who incur additional costs when bringing their layouts to events like the AGM. Next year, in addition to our "normal" rooms at the Hallmark Hotel, we have reserved the Darleydale Room in anticipation of the deluge of offers! (For those bringing layouts the Hotel is providing a storage room for our use on both the Friday and Saturday nights). Potential exhibitors should contact Roger Ellis (details on P3) who awaits your emails, phone calls and letters.

Layouts for the AGM **SWISS? not necessarily**

AGM organiser Roger Ellis writes – "You will see from the AGM details that we have a good number of layouts for the meeting but I can fit a few more into the accommodation we have reserved. I have committed a heinous crime in that one of them is Belgian HO! It is my belief that most members of the Society have an interest in railways in general and not just Swiss. In short, if you have a large or small railway or tram layout that you would like to bring give me the details and we'll try to find a space for it. However, if you would like to bring a display to the AGM I must know by the end of December as space in March will be at a premium".

Martin Fisher notes it is renewal time

"Another year has gone by and it's time to ask you to renew your SRS membership. Unless you have already paid for 2010 (in which case you should have received your new membership card already) you will find a renewal form inside this magazine. I look forward to receiving your completed form and payment as soon as possible. If you choose to pay by credit card rather than by

cheque please ensure that all the details are written clearly and are up-to-date.

More and more members pay for two years at once - a quarter of the membership did so in the last renewal round. This helps the SRS as it cuts down on the administrative work. If you choose to take up this option this time, I will send you your card for 2010 on renewal and the one for 2011 next autumn.

The subscriptions rate for UK-based members has remained at £15.00 for 2010. Unfortunately, due to the falling value of the pound against most other currencies and to forthcoming increases in overseas postage rates the Management Committee of the Society has reluctantly had to agree to an increase in subscriptions for members living outside the UK. The revised rate will be £20.00 for members living elsewhere in Europe; and £22.00 for members living in other parts of the world (USA members can alternatively pay by dollar cheque at \$44.00). If you are paying for 2-years, then double the amount in question."

Membership statistics

Given that next year sees the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the SRS it is our intention to devote some space to a comprehensive review of our membership figures in the March magazine. Although currently membership numbers are good at 1272 we need you to renew, and also the Society would love to welcome new members. The more members there are the easier it will be for us to meet the increasing costs of running the SRS. Do you pass your *Swiss Express* on to interested friends or family? Why not suggest that to ensure their continued supply of the magazine these fine people join us. It is good value at only £15. Martin will be happy to send out a membership form when you pay your subscriptions.

Bernina 100

Geoff Turner, the new West Midlands Branch Organiser, writes: "Having just enjoyed the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the line between Filisur to Davos, where the RhB put on a superb show, I was wondering if anyone would like to think about attending the centenary of the most awesome line in Switzerland, the Bernina Bahn. Event dates are as yet unknown but they probably will be taking place during

next summer. If anyone is interested in being updated on this celebration, and perhaps take-part in a trip utilising group discounts, then please contact me on geoff.j.turner@btinternet.com or see me at any of the West Midland meetings”.



West Midlands 15

The West Midlands Branch has just celebrated its 15th Birthday. It was set-up by Gerald Savine, David Stevenson and Geoff Turner and for virtually all of its successful existence it has had Gerald as its organiser. Gerald stepped down

from this role earlier this year due to personal reasons and handed the reins over to Geoff. At the first meeting of its 2009/10 season on the 30th September, on behalf of the members, SRS Membership Secretary (and WM branch member) Martin Fisher presented Gerald with the gift of a bottle of 12 year-old Speyside Malt Whisky. Perhaps they could not find a 15 y/o one.

Magazines available

Member Tony Alderman is looking to give away 12 issues of *Eisenbahn Amateur* for the year 2008. If anyone is interested they can either collect for free from Weybridge, Surrey, or pay the postage. Contact Tony Alderman on 01 932 843344, or email Tony_Alderman@hotmail.com

Layout for Sale

A H0m layout incorporating the Landwasser Viadukt is up for sale. It is complete with scenery and occupies a 20' _ 16' garage in Darley Dale, about 8 miles from Matlock. No stock, may be viewed by prior arrangement; contact Rudi Oliver on 01246 297 970, or e-mail rubrenoliver@googlemail.co

SWISS RAILWAYS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Railways Society will be held in the Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby, DE1 2SQ, on Saturday 20th March 2010 starting at 14.00.

Nominations for Officers

Nominations are invited for the following posts: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Membership Secretary, Publicity & Exhibitions Officer, Sales Officer and two other elected members of the Management Committee.

Nomination Forms are available from the Secretary: David Stevenson, 3 Aldersey Road, Worcester, WR5 3BG, or by email at Secretary@SwissRailSoc.org.uk

Completed forms must reach the Secretary by post or by hand, but not by email, no later than Saturday 6th March 2010.

It is important to note that all nominees, and both their proposers and seconders, must have paid their subscriptions for 2010 prior to signing the nomination form. Failure to do so will render the nomination form invalid. Members are advised that a list of nominees and a copy of any accompanying statement they may have made to support their nomination will be supplied by the Secretary on receipt of an application by post with an SAE, or by email at the above addresses.

Any application for a postal vote must be accompanied by an SAE and will be sent out by post only to the named addressee who must be a paid-up member of the Society at the time of application. The application must reach the Secretary by Saturday 13th March 2010. Completed ballot papers must reach the Secretary no later than the start of the AGM meeting on Saturday 20th March 2010.

Motions for the AGM

Motions for the AGM, proposed and seconded by members who have paid their 2010 subscriptions, must reach the Secretary by Saturday 20th February 2010. This will ensure that they can be included on the Agenda together with any motions put forward by the Committee.