

Chairman's notes

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COVER PICTURE:

Ge4/4 No.21 "La Morges" of the Bière Apples Morges at Vufflens-le-Château on 12/09/09 whilst working a railtour. The normal duties for this locomotive, and its sister No. 22 "La Venoge", is the haulage of trains associated with the Swiss Army Casernes near Bière.

PHOTO: Mark Barber.

EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

We have lots of interesting items to bring to you in this edition of your magazine and many more are coming in as I write this in advance of our planned editorial meeting in January. I say planned as both Tony and I are currently homebound due to the exceptional snowfall that has come in with the New Year. My main task in this editorial is, though, a series of 'thank-yous'. Firstly I must thank all those members who have sent in potential articles and other information for *Swiss Express* and I hope that you will continue to do so for, as we keep saying, it is your magazine and we need your input. As you will see from the *Out & About* column in this edition short pieces are as welcome as full articles. Secondly, thanks must also go to the large number of you who took the trouble to email or write letters regarding Edition 100. Since I have edited the magazine we have not had such a large amount of positive comment about any issue. You seemed to like the format, the size, the content and the overall production of this special issue. We would love to be able to bring you a bigger magazine each quarter but costs are a key issue – however we have some ideas as to how we may be able to go forward and these will be discussed at the AGM. Lastly I also have another heartfelt 'thank you' to make. This is to Michael and Pauline Farr who have been proof reading the magazine for a number of years but who feel that due to time and other constraints they now wish to relinquish this role. As you can read in Michael's article on P20 about how *Swiss Express* gets to you this is an essential role, and the high quality product you are now reading is in part down to their hard work. Having read what they have been doing, is there any one out there who has some knowledge of the proof reader's role and thinks they would like to join the editorial team? Please get in touch with me if you feel you are able to help the Society in this manner and would like to discuss the role. A background in printing or publishing is obviously not essential, but could be helpful.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Ian Athey

It feels as though it is only a short while since the Society's last AGM yet here we are within a few weeks of the next! I do hope that you will be able to get to Derby on 20th March and I am looking forward to renewing acquaintances, and hopefully making some new ones, then. If you can make a week-end of it so much the better! It is usually most enjoyable.

During 2009 we held five Committee meetings and dealt with a wide range of subjects, plus the occasional problem! Committee members have also been in regular contact through the wonders (?) of the e-mail system, not to mention the telephone. This, of course, all means a substantial commitment in time given freely by all of them for the benefit of the Society as a whole. On your behalf I sincerely thank them, and all of the others involved in the Society's affairs, for the work that they have done in the last twelve months.

One subject which took up some of our time at one meeting

was the format of *Swiss Express*. At the AGM there will be a mock up of a portion of the journal in A4 format available for your inspection. This was prepared last year when we had the option, if certain things fell into place, to change the magazine format and at the same time have it packed and posted by the printers. It was envisaged that this could also possibly reduce, or even delay, the amount of any likely subscription increases. In the event, through no fault of the Committee, matters did not progress any further but, if faced with the same proposition again, we may well be inclined to make the change to the larger format. If you are coming to Derby please make a point of inspecting the mock up - I hope that you will be pleasantly surprised. I know that this subject has been raised time and time again at past AGMs and the general consensus has always been to stick to A5 size. However, the Committee would be wrong not to consider changing, given the right circumstances.

WHY SWITZERLAND?

In June, 1968 I embarked on a three month trip to Europe - my first. The trip was organized by a French history professor at the college I had just graduated from and included time in just about every major cultural centre of western civilization, from London to Istanbul and everything in between. Arriving in Genève my then girl friend convinced me that we should leave the group for a short time. We took the local train to Montreux and on to Glion where she had spent a summer at a girls' camp. We stayed at a hotel overlooking the lake I thought I was in heaven! Later, on a train from Montreux to Zürich, I distinctly recall telling her that someday I would return and someday some very smart person would event a hand-held electronic device to capture in vivid detail that which we were looking at with our eyes. From that day till this, I've been smitten with Switzerland and its wonderful rail system. Several years ago, I dragged my wife to Vitznau on Lake Lucerne for the principal purpose (undisclosed to her) of riding the Rigibahn. On that occasion, I met the railway's chief electrician Herr Othmar, and convinced him to hand-build me an HO scale model of a Rigibahn engine and vintage coach. He did, and now it has a featured place in my study.

Bill Canfield – SRS Member from Washington, DC

“Noch ein Wochenende am Severntal III”

Friday 15th and Saturday 16th October 2010

JOIN US FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND.

LOCATION – Kidderminster Railway Museum, Kidderminster SVR Railway Station.

This is adjacent to the Main Line Station. The SVR will be running both days.

Friday 15th October 2010 at 1900

Joint meeting between the West Midlands & Birmingham branches. Slide show by John Jesson and a Fish and Chip supper. **£3 entry** plus about 6 quid (excuse the pun) for supper

- bookings in advance to David Stevenson - details below.

Saturday 16th October 2010 (1030 – 1630 hrs)

Admission: £2.00 (SRS members, free)

SRS Exhibition including: ● Layouts (scales HO, HOm, N and Z) ● Trade stands including Winco, NscaleCH, Gerald Savine Prints and the SRS sales stand ● Photographic Display ● Bring and buy stand ● Italian, Spanish and Austrian Railways societies ● And much, much more

Saturday 16th October 2010 Evening

Meal and social evening - There will be one! It will include an SRS railway quiz with points - and what do points mean? **PRIZES!!** (Bookings in advance to David Stevenson - full details will be in the June issue)

For details and bookings contact David Stevenson

Tel.01905 358440 / Mob. 07776 161780 / Email: bodensee.toggenburg@me.com

Weekend Accommodation: A list of suitable accommodation is available from David Stevenson on request, usual disclaimer obviously!

Please note that due to the venue site wheelchair access is not possible.

The location is on the first floor of an historic building and there is no lift.