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A final reminder that the 2010 AGM of the Society will be held at the Hallmark (formerly Midland) Hotel in Derby on Saturday 20th March. Please come along to take part in this our annual get together where you will have the opportunity to meet fellow members and all your officers as well as enjoying the numerous layouts and spending money at the trade stands.

Roger Ellis writes: "Ooooh you are awful, but I like you!"

"I believe this was one of the catch phrases from the late Dick Emery and his character Mandy. Members may well be saying that about Bristol & Bath Branch as we have decided to abandon the "raffle" for this year's AGM. Instead, one of our members, Roger Payne, has devised a most interesting picture quiz which should keep you entertained for quite a time. You will be able to purchase a quiz sheet for £1.00 from the desk at the entrance to the AGM and in your own time look at the picture boards which will be placed in all the rooms we are using for layouts and trade stands."

"It is vital that you put your name and address on the quiz sheet, otherwise we cannot advise you if you have won. Roger Payne will be marking your answers and you will need to note his remark at the foot of P1 of the questionnaire on the day."

"The prize is worth winning as SWISS TOURISM have provided us with two 3 day 1st Class Flexi Passes. In addition we do have second and third prizes to award." **Good luck.**

Tony Bagwell writes to all SRS photographers:

"I and the production team of *Swiss Express* are very grateful to all of you keen photographers out there who submit your pictures for possible inclusion in our magazine, either with an article, just for inclusion in the Gallery pages or for our archive. Over the two years that I've been photo editor I've conversed with many of you via email, post or by phone, but it would be nice to put faces to some of these names. I

will be at the up-coming AGM for example so do please find me and say hello. You can then tell me whether I'm doing a good job with your submissions (hopefully) or if I've made a pig's ear of them (on second thoughts.....). I would also like to say a special thanks to all of you who allowed your photos to be used in the new "Portfolio" book, and I am sorry to a couple of you for incorrect credits or name spelling. Humble Pie time methinks."

West Midlands Branch goes west

On Saturday 19th June 2010 the West Midlands Branch of the Swiss Railway Society are planning a visit to the Snowdon Mountain Railway (SMR). This is the home to four of the SLM Winterthur built Abt rack locos of 1895/96. In essence this is the Brien Rothorn Bahn in Wales!

The plan is to travel by members' cars (4 per vehicle for comfort) with a maximum journey time of some 4 hours (144 miles) to join the 13.00 departure to the summit of Snowdon. There will be a presentation by the ex CME of the Snowdon Railway either just before or after the journey. Details are not yet finalised but all participants will be advised in plenty of time. We anticipate stopping at a typical country hostelry for something to eat on the homeward journey.

The anticipated start time from various West Midland locations is around 08.00 - other locations to suit - with a return time between 20.30 and 22.30.

Price of SMR Journey and talk £18/ person - a £7 saving on regular journeys.

It is suggested that some £12/person should cover the journey costs for the trip making £30, just £5 more than the SMR trip alone normally! A deposit of £10 is required and a minimum of 15 passengers (52 maximum) are needed to make this a really good and reasonable day.

Any SRS Members who are interested should contact Geoff Turner, the WM Branch Organiser, as soon as possible: geoff.j.turner@btinternet.com

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Management Committee would like to propose a couple of amendments for implementation subject, of course to approval by the AGM in March 2010.

1. Two years ago all the main Officials of the Society stood down and new Officials were elected; at the time however much concern was expressed within the committee at the lack of continuity. Since then it has been discussed and the Committee would like to propose the following change to Paragraph 4 of the Rules and Constitution:

4. Management Committee of the Society

The Management of the Society shall be in the hands of an elected Management Committee comprising three Society Officials, the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, together with six other committee members comprising the Membership Secretary, Editor, Publicity and Exhibition Officer, Sales Officer and a maximum of two other members without specific portfolios. Officials and committee members are elected for a period of three years, following which they are eligible for re-election should they so wish.

In any one year only one of the three Society Officials, the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer should offer themselves for re-election. The Management Committee will offer themselves for re-election by rotation over a three year period in the following order; Chairman, Membership Secretary and Publicity & Exhibitions Officer, then Secretary, Sales Officer and one member, and finally Treasurer, Editor and one member. Any member of the Management Committee may resign prior to the end of their three year term.

The Management Committee may co-opt any Members of the Society to fill vacancies which may occur from time to time. Any Members so co-opted shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting, but are eligible for re-election. The Management Committee may invite any Society Member or professional adviser to attend a Management Committee meeting, but such persons may not vote at these meetings. The Management Committee shall form such sub-committees, and delegate such powers to them, as they consider desirable. The Chairman of the Management Committee and any Chairman of a Committee which is formed in this manner shall have the casting vote alone.

Members of the Management Committee are expected to attend Committee meetings, which will be advised at least 14 days in advance.

The President(s) and Vice-President(s) shall be elected to serve for life, but may resign should they so wish. The President(s) and Vice-President(s) do not form part of the Management Committee.

The point of this proposed change is to try and ensure an element of continuity and stability without preventing change within the Committee. Fixed terms of three years will also, hopefully, encourage new Committee Members since it can be clearly seen that there is time to do things without the feeling that there is no end! The Management Committee would also like to assure members that this proposal enjoys unanimous support within the Committee.

2. *Following the successful introduction of electronic banking the Committee wish to make a minor change to Paragraph 6 clause (ii) which takes into account the need for two signatures in an electronic world. We changed our bankers in order to provide for two signatures electronically, Unity were the only bank able to do this as none of the 'big' banks are able to offer us the facility to make on line payments with two authorisations as required by our constitution".*

6 (ii)

A banking account may be operated in the name of the Society, and cheques and withdrawals shall be signed or electronically authorised by any two of the following: the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and one other nominated member of the Committee and in the case of the banking account(s) operated for providing the "Eisenbahn Amateur" service to the Society's members (and limited to these specific accounts) the "Eisenbahn Amateur" Co-ordinator if he/she is not a member of the Committee.

Votes on both these amendments will be taken at the 2010 AGM.

DAVID STEVENSON - SECRETARY