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meetings. The finances of such a change, including such things as advertising rates as well as the logistics, will all have to be decided well in advance. Any change will probably take effect from a March issue - possibly in 2011 - if all works out well and to the Committee's satisfaction. I will keep you informed of developments later this year.

JUST A SEC

David Stevenson reports on this year's AGM

Another year has passed and this year's AGM in Derby was one of the best yet. Over 142 members attended which may be a record; no doubt someone will let me know.

Roger Ellis and the Bristol and Bath Branch organised the event and they deserve our applause. Traders included Winco, Platform 5, Contikits, NScaleCH, Gerald Savine, Maureen Stainton and Derby Trees. Layouts included Dave Howsam's HOm "Untermutzen", Simon Ellis' "Surava" and Bob Simmonds' fantastic Om "Winterschlaf", as well as others from Paul Hannant, Peter Marriott and Ray Williams. Many thanks to them all for coming along and helping make the day so successful. There was also a fiendish Photo Competition which was won by Nick Freezer and I believe Neil Wheelwright was the runner up. Skills required included cryptic crossword solving, way beyond my simple mind I'm afraid.

As always SRS Sales were busy. The AGM saw the launch of the first in a series of SRS Swiss Travel Guide Books written by Martin Fisher. This volume, about the Bernese Oberland, is reviewed elsewhere in Swiss Express and is available from Glyn Jones now - check the Sales pages. We are trying to introduce new items and the success of Swiss Express Portfolio and the new Guide Book will hopefully lead to many more publications in the future. It's a measure of the Society's strength that we are able to do this, we do however depend on them being sold!

The AGM was chaired by Ian Athey with his usual aplomb and two changes to the constitution were passed; one minor to do with electronic banking, the other to do with the Committee and elections. The latter, although overwhelmingly passed, did engender some controversy. I often detect a feeling that some members believe we join the Committee for our own benefit, whereas nothing could be further from the truth. Don't get me wrong, I really enjoy being a member of it and being able to participate fully in what SRS does but the time and yes, money we give up in order to take part is a huge commitment. It's one that we all take part in willingly but don't do for our own personal benefit other than the satisfaction of getting the job done. We can always do with more help so if you would like to contribute more let me know and I'll find you something to do - I promise. The question of the magazine size was also debated and a move to A4 was endorsed by almost all present.

The evening meal was very good, as was the presentation by Tony Bagwell. Once again a great day was had by all, and we all look forward to Saturday 26th March 2011 when Glyn Jones will once again be organising it.

...and on new branches

One of the Secretary's remits is to promote regional branches and they are now all over the country, although there is always room for more. Recently Yorkshire, Hampshire (taking over the mantle of the former Wessex one) and East Anglia have set themselves up. Of all the things I do in the Society this is far and away the most enjoyable - like-minded members getting together on a regular basis. In the case of the West Midlands it is very much a social event. We are involved in visits, meals, barbecues and in the past have enjoyed day trips to Switzerland. This year it's up Snowdon and mention is made elsewhere about the details. Next year who knows? How your branch develops is up to you; if you would like to organise one in your area get in touch with me and I'll do all I can to help. In the Midlands for example there are three, East Midlands, West Midlands and Birmingham, despite it being a relatively small area. It can be surprising how many members may be close to you. In Kent and E Sussex for example there are about 60 members, which is more than enough to start a group. Just one example of many. Grow the tree and form a branch!