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COVER PICTURE:
Full steam ahead to Kriens 1986.

PHOTO:
Bernhard Studer.

EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

So much interesting material to get into this magazine that this editorial is as brief as I can make it. To get as much information to you as possible we have had to drop the type size in some areas but our proposed move to A4 next year should mean this is not permanent. We need more space and this should be the most economic way of achieving this. Many thanks to all of you who are sending in items for publication, they may not get published straight away but please keep them coming.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Ian Athey

Following the last AGM the Editorial Team has been busy investigating changing *Swiss Express* to a larger format. I can now tell you that this is probably the last magazine in an A5 format that we will produce as, with effect from the March 2011 edition, our journal will be A4 size. This will enable the Society to provide more coverage than can be included in the smaller magazine at little, if any, extra cost. Obviously the Committee hope that you will enjoy the new style magazine just as much and possibly more! Whilst on the subject of *Swiss Express*, it would be very remiss of me not to mention that for some considerable time Alan and Nan Mackie have been responsible for putting the magazines in envelopes, and then despatching them to you. They now feel it is time to call it a day and have a rest from this time consuming exercise, which was not without its moments! On your behalf therefore, I would like to thank Alan and Nan most sincerely for their efforts on our behalf and wish them good health, good fortune and happiness for the future.

One subject which exercises the minds of your Management Committee every autumn is the matter of subscriptions for the coming year and this year was no exception. Although the Society currently has healthy bank balances, the fact remains that costs generally are increasing and that we do need to retain a certain level of core funding. Therefore it was agreed that for 2011 there should be a slight increase in subscriptions. However, these will not be enough to cover the loss the Society made in 2009, and is envisaged for 2010, so we will again be using some of our surplus funds. I must mention that the increase in the rate of subscription for those USA members paying by US$ cheque/check is higher due to increasing costs in negotiating these but to counteract this we have put alternative ways to pay in place.

At the last AGM it was agreed that from 2011

Officials/ Committee Members would be elected for a three-year term, with the change being phased-in over three years. In March the Chairman, Sales Officer and one Committee Member will be elected for the increased period with the others following-on in 2012 and 2013. I have indicated that I do not wish to stand for another 3-years and although I have been asked to reconsider this decision I would be pleased in the meantime to hear from anyone who is interested in standing for any of these three posts.

I have gone on for far too long so, lastly, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous and peaceful 2011. I am sure that we are all hoping that the rate for buying Swiss Francs improves next year!

JUST A SEC

David Stevenson

Ian's decision to stand down from the Chair of the SRS is a great disappointment. He and I have had our disagreements in the past, at times quite profound ones, but the three years we have worked together have been great. He has been fun to work with, has chaired the meetings with skill and diplomacy and has lead us forward at a time when much of the world we inhabit, our relatively small world, the "The Transport Hobby" has gone backwards. Ian has always remained positive, the Committee and the membership owe him much. Thanks Ian.

So we are looking for a new Chairperson. If you are thinking about helping or volunteering, don't be shy in coming forward to stand for the Committee. Talk to us, talk to your local branch members and help us take the Society forward over the next three years.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all, I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM in Derby in March.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Martin Fisher writes...

I am afraid we are all another year older and, unless you have already paid your SRS subscription for 2011 (in which case you should have received your new card by now), you will find a renewal form inside this magazine. As Ian explains the Society has faced increased costs over the last year and so we have had to increase all the subscriptions. The UK rate has risen by £1 to £16. The overseas rates have risen by £2 to £22 for the rest of Europe, and to £24 for outside Europe, because of the additional effects of postage & exchange rates. As before if they wish members may subscribe for 2-years simply by doubling the amount they pay, as explained on the form. In this event you will be sent the card for 2011 on payment and the card for 2012 will follow in November 2011. All subscription payments can now be made electronically by PayPal – details on the renewal form. As the Chairman notes above USA Members may still pay by US$ cheque/check - but at a rate of $50.00 per year.

A request from Jim Easley, SRS USA Membership Coordinator

To aid modeling of the St Niklaus station area I need photographs and information on architectural features of the building which is located on the south (toward Zermat) side of the station and across the tracks from the catenary switches.

Unfortunately, when we visited St Niklaus I took many photographs of the station, but did not give enough attention to the building next to the station, and I want to replicate it as accurately as I can. **Jim Easley <jreasl@yahoo.com>**