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ACCOMMODATION - WITH TRAINS

Michael and Pat Haine



MAIN PHOTO: The garden layout. ABOVE LEFT: The Landgasthof Tännler. ABOVE RIGHT: The MIB shuttle at its new platform in Meiringen. PHOTOS: Mike Haine

Having decided to spend the first week of our 2011 Swiss holiday in Zermatt for the second week we decided to find somewhere more off the beaten track, and we focussed on the Haslital region around Meiringen. After much searching of the internet we found the Landgasthof Tännler in Wiler, a small hamlet above Innertkirchen on the Susten Pass road. We arrived at the typical Berner Oberland chalet to be made very welcome by the Tännler family and found ourselves to be their only English guests. The original building, which is believed to be based on the foundations of a Roman hermitage, dates from 1633 and is still in the ownership of the original family.

At one end of the terrace along the front of the Gasthof was a very large rock. This was the foundation of a model railway and during our stay a section of the track was being re-laid under the direction of Herr Tännler Senior by an electrical engineer who had constructed the control system, and a colleague who worked on the Brunig Line. Along with their construction endeavours it was with great pride they showed us the automatic control board built on to the side of the kitchen. The Om scale railway uses Roco rolling stock and track, including a 2 m long rack section. To the purists a Rhätische Bahn Gem 4/4 loco pulling MOB coaches up a rack section may have been a bit out of place, but it was really designed for children. The 'Gasthof Bahn' may not be as large as the one in the garden of the Hotel Bellevue in Wengen, but it is good fun just the same as anyone could operate it.

Apart from enjoying the model we made good use of the MIB between Innertkirchen and Meiringen during our stay and were very impressed by its level of patronage. On nearly every journey it made the stop on the shortest platform in

Switzerland (Aareschlucht Ost), either to pick up or set down at this station, which is inside the tunnel running alongside the Aare Gorge. The recent extension of the MIB into Meiringen station certainly made the transfer to both the Zentralbahn and the PostAuto much more convenient, with just a short walk up the platform to change trains or to the bus stop. Interestingly, all the fast trains on the Interlaken Ost to Meiringen section were hauled by the 69 year-old Class 110 De 4/4 locomotives which are still going strong in daily use.

Wiler, with its position on the Susten Pass road, was served by PostAutos on the routes to Engstlenalp, Gadmen and over the pass to Wassen, whilst a fifteen minute walk took you down to Innertkirchen with the trains to Meiringen and PostAuto connections to Grimsel and Gletsch. You could also walk to Meiringen in just over the hour. We returned home, hopefully a bit fitter from all the walking, a bit lighter in the pocket (due to the poor exchange rate), but with many happy memories of a wonderful holiday. 

130 001-1 at Meiringen awaiting its next duty.

