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Chairman's Notes

Some members may have noticed that the list of nominations for committee posts, contained in the December *Swiss Express* notice convening the AGM, does not agree with the elections held at the 2011 AGM. In fact, there have been two errors. Firstly, during the year following the 2010 AGM, the agreed order of elections was inadvertently altered at one of the committee meetings. This was not noticed at the time, neither was it noticed at the 2011 AGM, by either the committee or members, when the posts of Chairman, Sales Officer and one of the committee members were announced as being elected for 3 years, the remaining six posts being elected for 1 year. The second error was that the list of nominations to be included in the notice convening the AGM was amended to agree with the order following the 2011 AGM, but the original list not the amended one, was inadvertently published.

It was agreed at the 2010 AGM that we should change to a 3-year election system to avoid, as far as is possible, the situation of having the three principal officers, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, all standing down at the same time. The other six committee posts would also commit for 3 years, two being elected each year. The order of elections was to be:

1st year Chairman, Membership Secretary, Publicity/Exhibitions Officer.

2nd year Secretary, Sales Officer, one committee member.

3rd year Treasurer, Editor, one committee member.

This was a constitutional change, so the order of election became written into the constitution.

At a committee meeting during 2010, it became known that the Chairman and one committee member would not be standing for re-election at the 2011 AGM. This led to the misunderstanding of the order of elections that was perpetuated at the 2011 AGM. The second error, that of the wrong list of posts being published, has complicated the situation. After lengthy discussions, the committee has agreed that I explain the situation and, in order to comply with both what was agreed at the 2010 AGM, and the constitution, advise the amended list of invited nominations for the 2012 AGM. This is for the posts of:

Secretary (3 years - incumbent David Stevenson),

Sales Officer (3 years - incumbent Glyn Jones),

One committee member (3 years - incumbent Roger Kemp),

Membership Secretary (2 years - the incumbent Martin Fisher is standing down),

Publicity/Exhibitions Officer (2 years - incumbent Roger Ellis),

Treasurer (1 year - incumbent Malcolm Job),

Editor (1 year - incumbent Malcolm Bulpitt),

One committee member (1 year - incumbent Neil Wheelwright).

All other parts of the AGM Notice contained in the December issue of "*Swiss Express*" are correct. The three posts that stand for 1 year at the 2012 AGM will stand for 3 years at the 2013 AGM. Thereafter, three posts will be elected at each AGM, in accordance with the list above. Any additional post that becomes vacant will be elected for the number of

years remaining in the 3-year cycle. I apologise for the mistake, and for the long-winded explanation, but hopefully everyone will now understand what went wrong, the current situation and what needed to be done to put it all right.

As has been announced in a previous magazine, Martin Fisher is standing down after a number of years as Membership Secretary. He has already deferred his retirement, which is to allow him more time to spend with his family and follow other interests, by a year. During the time he has served on the committee, he has introduced an excellent system that allows the committee to compare membership and renewals year with year, month with month. I wish Martin the best of luck and my thanks for all the time and effort he has put in for the benefit of the Society.

Fellow SRS member Brian Shelton and I intend to visit the Nuremberg Toy Fair once again in February 2012. Abbreviated notes will be contained in the June magazine but, before then, my full notes and photographs will be posted on the SRS website.

AGM Update

Roger Ellis, who is organising the AGM writes: "By the time that you read this hopefully you will have organised your accommodation and transport to the great City of Bristol for the 24th March, as an incentive if you have not might be the prize we have on offer for the winner of the AGM Raffle. The Switzerland Travel Centre have given us two 4-day 1st Class Swiss Passes. Such generosity means that even I may be persuaded to buy several tickets! On a serious note the SRS is very grateful for this kind gesture. I have tried to ensure that we have a variety of layouts and trade stands, the former not exclusively Swiss, but that reflects the nature of the Bristol and Bath Branch. There is the usual Photo Competition and I hope that Tony Bagwell will, as usual, agree to judge the entries. I do hope that as many of you as is possible will make the pilgrimage to the Novotel and please be assured that we will try to ensure you have an enjoyable day. Full details of the AGM and its associated events have been in the last two editions of *Swiss Express*.

Advertising Manager

After some six years in the unsung, but essential, role of Magazine Advertising Manager, Hugh Edgely has decided to stand down due to a change of job and an associated house move. His input will be missed by all the *Swiss Express* Editorial Team. We are now seeking a person to take over from Hugh and would be interested to hear from any members who would like to assist in procuring and planning the advertising material that helps to defray the cost of producing your magazine. The role requires access to email and the availability and knowledge of spreadsheets to assist in organising the input. Knowledge of systems like Word/Adobe/Publisher would also be useful. Although some knowledge of German or French is not essential, Hugh found his ability to communicate with some advertisers in their own language helped on occasions. The role would be home-based and no travelling would normally be required. Hugh will try to assist any new recruit in the first instance. One member

has already expressed an interest in doing this but If anyone else is interested please get in touch with the Editor.

Membership Cards

Those of you who have recently renewed your membership for years 2012 and 2013 may have wondered why you have only received a card for 2012. In such cases you will receive your card for 2013 in November 2012. The reason is that labels are produced in advance for all members who are due to renew. This saves time when processing renewals as they come in. The Membership Secretary does not print for 2013 or 2012 and 2013 combined as there is no way of knowing in advance which members will opt for a 2 year membership, and there is not sufficient time to print off special labels. Also history shows that some people move or lose their cards, so issuing a second card in the run up to the second year helps these members too.

E-mail Addresses

Over the course of a year a number of members change their email addresses for various reasons. Unfortunately, unlike with postal addresses, most of these changes are not notified to the Membership Secretary, resulting in our contact list becoming dated. If you do change please make sure that you notify the SRS as well as all your other contacts. The society does not release any personal details to any outside person or organisation without the individuals permission.

Society Web Forum

Just a reminder that the SRS has a web forum, accessed via our website, that is exclusively for members. To gain access email forum.admin@swissralsoc.org.uk.

Information Requests

Member Peter Bowen writes: "Some years ago an SRS member built and exhibited a model of the MOB based on Rougemont station. The layout was subsequently dismantled - indeed I do not think it was ever completed. By a round-about route I acquired the completed buildings and various bits of work in progress and some plans. I would welcome any information about the layout, which I never saw, and indeed if the builder is still a member of the society, some help with understanding the various incomplete items." Peter can be contacted by email on peterbowen2@me.co.

Another request is from Switzerland. For a local friend Bryan Stone, our Swiss News Editor, is trying to track down information on the 'Auto-Couchette' train which in the 1960s made a return trip (probably over a Saturday) from Calais Maritime to Lyss. The person is interested in all aspects of this operation, especially the motive power used and the

routing(s). We cannot trace any reference to this train in the 30 year life of Swiss Express. If any member can help please get in touch with Bryan on stone@eye.ch. Any photographs would also be useful.

June 2012 BLS/Gotthard Walking Holiday

Roger Ellis who is facilitating this event writes: "Just to thank the members who have shown an interest in joining John Jesson and myself on this enterprise. There is still room for a few more members and their respective spouses/partners. The accent of the holiday is to be on photography and not on day-long route marches. The only "excursion" so far is a meal in Luzern on the Friday evening with Reudi Steinmann of the SVEA and afterwards perhaps a return visit to the nearby Mosel Railway Club which was so hospitable to us during "Erstfeld 2009". If you need to know more then please get in touch with me or make contact at the AGM."

Free 2012 Catalogues

For the second year Tim Mulhall from Ontracks International, the importers of Hornby International model railway brands Arnold and Rivarossi, is offering free copies of these manufacturers' catalogues to UK based SRS Members. Unfortunately they cannot be sent abroad. They are available now, but there will be a charge for the postage - £1.50 per catalogue. To obtain these either email Tim at info@ontracksinternational.co.uk or write to Ontracks International, Unit 2, Pontrilas Business Park, Pontrilas, Hereford, HR2 0AZ. You can either pay by PayPal (at info@ontracks.co.uk) or send a cheque payable to Ontracks International. As well as sending your name and address please also send your SRS Membership Number.

Society Sales Items

We are always looking for ideas of new items that members would like to see available from Society Sales. The income which comes in from this part of our activities, assists in keeping your membership subscriptions down to the comparatively low level that they are. If there are items which you think would be sure-fire sellers why not suggest these to Glyn Jones (see advert on the inside back cover).

Member's Sales

LIMA HO scale Re 4/4 1 in excellent condition, no marks or scratches, runs well, however the cab lighting works in one cab only. Only £29, including postage to anywhere in the UK, or £30 to anywhere in Europe. Payment by cheque or PayPal to Ron Smith, Rhus, Banff Road, Keith AB55 5ET, or email ronald-smith@lineone.net. 

Swiss Tip

Staying in the St Moritz-Pontresina area? The 'Engadine Inclusive' card is given to guests staying two or more nights in participating hotels. This gives unlimited travel on the Rhaetian railway between St Moritz/Pontresina/Samedan and Sinoos-Chel-Breil on the Scuol Tarasp line and Alp Grüm on the Berninabahn, as well as the St Moritz - Chantarella - Corviglia and Muottas Muragl funiculars. As well as all local cable cars and chairlifts. Good value in an expensive location. 