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100 YEARS CHUR-DISENTIS/MUSTÉR

Alan Conway & Tony Cutler



No. 353 on Landwasser Viaduct 15 June with the special working to Ilanz. All photos: Alan Conway

The weekend of the 16th/17th June saw the RhB celebrate 100 years of the line from Chur to Disentis/Mustér. Prior to the weekend we based ourselves at Samedan, wanting to seek out any ABe 4/4^{II} railcars still operating on the Bernina line. We also visited the new Bergün Railway Museum - highly recommended for anyone interested in the RhB. Returning to Bergün station, an "Extrazug" to Reichenau-Tamins was being advertised. This comprised Ge4/6 No.353 hauling RhB steam locomotive No.11, two vintage coaches (BC 110 and C 114) and assorted freight wagons. We boarded, only to find we had joined a private charter train! A fare was negotiated and we enjoyed a fantastic trip to Reichenau-Tamins. Ge2/4 No.222 then took the train to Ilanz, where the complete train was on display for the weekend. The fare we paid was worth every penny as it included a photo stop on the Landwasser viaduct where we were all allowed to get off and photograph the train which then came round to pick us up. We wondered what British 'Health and Safety' would have made of this.

The line's centenary was celebrated at many stations on the route, with most displaying their local flag. A number of stations featured a variety of activities, together with stalls selling local produce and crafts. Railway enthusiasts had to be content with the stall at Ilanz operated by the various locomotive and coach support groups that were involved with the previous day's special train. At Disentis/Mustér a passenger-carrying miniature railway threaded its way through the exhibits in the station yard, the street and even on the station platforms. Everyone was considered sensible

enough to step over the tracks without the need for barriers or tape - a refreshing change! A CHF20 local rover ticket was available on all services. The hourly Scuol-Chur-Disentis/Mustér services were strengthened between Chur and Disentis/Mustér giving 10/11-coach formations on most services, whilst on both days various special trains ran. These featured: Ge 4/4^{II} No.614 working a rake of the yellow open No. 414 at Tavanasa-Briel/Brigels 16 June.



carriages from Chur to Disentis/Mustér on the Saturday, before double-heading a service train from Disentis/Mustér to Chur with Ge 4/4" No.625; Abe 8/12 'Allegra' No.3515 worked in service on Saturday from Chur to Trun where it was then on display until mid-afternoon, before running to Disentis/Mustér to work the open carriages back to Chur; Abe 8/12 'Allegra' No. 3515 performed the round trip on Sunday; Ge 4/6 No.353 worked the Alpine Classic Pullman Express stock; Ge 6/6 'Baby Krok.' No.414 worked some historic green coaches; Ge 2/4 No.222 worked the Alpine Pullmans in service to Landquart on the Sunday evening. In addition Ge 4/4^{II} No.630 received a celebratory livery, featuring a base colour of lime green, with 100 year Chur-Disentis/Mustér branding in a similar style to Ge 4/4^{II} No.619's Bernina livery.

On the Saturday a folk band travelled between Disentis/Mustér and Chur on flat wagons, stopping at many locations to perform. Ge 4/4^{II} No.630 had the honour of hauling this, before working service trains on the Sunday. Many people took advantage of getting a pre-printed card stamped at station ticket validators. When this had two or more different station stamps, it could be exchanged for a 'goody-bag' donated by Siemens. At Chur the PTT was celebrating 10 years of the magnificent bus station and various PostAutos were on display and operating local trips. There was a lot to interest both the general public and railway enthusiasts. Many congratulations to RhB for a well presented event. We look forward to future events, as the RhB celebrates 100 years of Bever-Scuol in 2013 and 100 years Chur-Arosa in 2014. 

TOP: No. 353 at Tavanasa-Briel/Brigels 16 June.

MIDDLE: No. 614 at Tavanasa-Briel/Brigels 16 June.

BOTTOM: No. 630 at Landquart 17 June.

