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ONE OF THOSE DAYS...

David Nöel



The de-railed tram and damaged bikes.

Photo: David Nöel

On Saturday 27th July 2013, whilst in the city, we went to visit the Zürich Tram Museum on their running day. This is located in the old tram depot at Burgweis on VBZ Line 11. It shares the site of the former depot with a MIGROS store, the company that helped to fund the conversion, which opened in May 2007. Having made our way to the Bellevue tram interchange we found there was some sort of incident, with police cars zooming about and the road junction completely closed off. Deciding to walk via the back streets and try to get a tram on the other side of the blockage we got as far as Zürich Stadelhofen station, where we found a museum tram in trouble and causing chaos. It had apparently attempted to reverse, but the trailer car derailed on the points, then demolished a traffic sign that also had two cycles attached (as is normal in this location). The square outside the Bahnhof is a busy public transport interchange and is normally thronged with pedestrians and cycles. Apart from the SBB Station it is served by trams on VBZ Line 15, as well as those on Line 11, whilst trains on the S-Bahn service S18 of the street-running Forchbahn also terminate here (see *Swiss Express* No.109). This incident had stopped all the trams and trains and brought traffic to a standstill whilst it was sorted out. When we eventually got to the museum we were informed that museum trams would not be running for the rest of that day, but that the derailed unit was undamaged and would be running the following day. As many SRS members have found out the museum is excellent, and is run by a team of very friendly volunteers. At the end

of our visit we returned to the centre of Zürich on an S18 service, as Line 11 was still not back in action. 

TOP: Despite the problem, people still go about their daily lives.

Photo: David Nöel

BOTTOM: Zurich trams, the Forchbahn and bikes in happy harmony.

Photo: Jakob Jäger

