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Autoverlad Oberalp Services



MGB Class Deh 4/4 No. 22 'St Niklaus' had just left the Autoverlad terminal at Andermatt.

Photos: Don Gatehouse

Don Gatehouse provides an insight into this MGB service

The Matterhorn Gotthardbahn (MGB) metre gauge line provides car transport services that enable motorists to travel between the Valais, Uri and Graubunden. Details of both services can be found tucked away near the back of the MGB Fahrplan booklet that covers the entire annual timetable structure for the railway and of course, on the MGB web site. The Autoverlad Furka between Realp and Oberwald operates throughout the year, whereas the Autoverlad Oberalp runs only during the period when the Oberalp Pass (via Alpsu) is closed to road traffic.

The Oberalp 2014-15 winter schedule provided four return workings of the Autoverlad service linking Sedrun and Andermatt from the start of the new timetable on 14th December until Easter Monday, 6th April. During the respective autumn and spring periods either side of these dates, a single morning and evening return service was provided from the first closing of the Oberalp Pass road, through to its re-opening in the spring. The Andermatt Autoverlad terminal is located a short distance to the south-west of the passenger station on the other side of the Unteralpreuss railway bridge and the Sedrun terminal is at the west end of the station site. A basic train formation for the vehicle-carrying service may comprise, a Class Deh 4/4 motor luggage van, a B Coach for passenger accommodation and say three Skiv vehicle carrier wagons. At busier times the train would be increased in size and a Class HGe 4/4¹¹ locomotive may well be seen leading the formation.

For intending users, advanced reservations are compulsory and can only be accepted up to 18:00 for the following day's services. Cars, vans and minibuses can be carried although height and width restrictions apply. Loading is normally completed up to 30 minutes prior to the departure time and the overall journey lasts for approximately 60 minutes. The Autoverlad Oberalp trains make a welcome addition to the Regio passenger services, winter sports shuttles and *Glacier Express* workings that travel along this spectacular stretch of railway. 

MGB Class Deh 4/4 No. 23 'Randa' arrives at Sedrun.

