

From the chairman

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From the Chairman

It has been an eventful year for the Society, and for transport in Switzerland. With the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel the country has seen the biggest change in its railway network for many years. Regarding the Society, it will soon become a Company Limited by Guarantee, with the process of our change of status going smoothly. As promised, we held an EGM to formally accept the Articles of Association, and all members have had the opportunity to express their views. We wanted the process to be completely open and I believe we have achieved this. The new set-up will take effect from 1st January 2017 and the Society will still, as previously, be simply known as the Swiss Railways Society. So, as far as the membership is concerned, things will carry on as before. The seat in memory of Roy Dungalison is still waiting to be formally placed at Planalp by the BRB. The shell of the new station has been handed over to them for fitting out, and there will be a ceremony to fully open the station, at which time it is planned to dedicate the seat. Just when this will be is not known – a lot depends on the weather, which governs both works at, and access to, the location. The bypassing of the Gotthard mountain route by the base tunnel has already resulted in a substantial proportion of freight traffic using the new tunnel, with a corresponding reduction in freight traffic “over the top” and this proportion will increase as time passes. Also, from the December timetable change, passenger services across the Alps will change radically. There is a lot of information about all this in our Swiss News pages. For those of us who loved the old route, things will never be the same. Finally, I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year, together with my thanks for your continued support. Please maintain this, and perhaps consider volunteering to help run the SRS and also supply articles for 'Swiss Express'. ☑

SOCIETY WEBSITE - www.swissrailsoc.org.uk

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This is valid for 2017 and the password is printed on your 2017 membership card

You can continue to use your 2016 Username and password until the end of January 2017.

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If you are not currently a member of the Swiss Railways Society, and have only just discovered *Swiss Express*, why not join so you can keep up to date with railways and the transport scene in Switzerland? For a modest UK subscription of £19/year in addition to receiving four quarterly issues of this splendid publication you can also take part in the other activities organised by the Society.

For a Society Prospectus you can either write to
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or email him at membership@swissrailsoc.org.uk

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COVER PICTURE:

TPC No. 81 negotiates the roundabout near Bex station, 16th July 2016.

PHOTO: David Riches