

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2017)
Heft: 132

Vorwort: Chairman's notes
Autor: Jesson, John

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SWISS EXPRESS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS RAILWAYS SOCIETY

The Swiss Railways Society is a company limited by guarantee. Company No. 10368576
Registered office – 3, Aldersey Road, Worcester, WR5 3BG

Chairman's Notes

John Jesson

At the end of another year I can report that the SRS is on an even keel, with the transition to becoming a company having gone smoothly. The change has not made any difference to the Society as a whole. Finances and membership are satisfactory, although in common with most similar organisations our membership numbers continue to fall very slightly each year. If members have ideas to reverse the trend please inform us. As reported previously the dedication of the seat at Planalp on the BRB in memory of Roy Dunglison took place at the end of May. It was very gratifying to see so many people there to pay tribute to him. As usual, I thank all of you for your continued support. Following the appeal for volunteers to help in the running of the Society, several people came forward and have been put to work. All of the Board are members who chose to give up their time in order to keep the Society going. They all allow their contact details to be published in *Swiss Express* - for some it is a requirement that this is so. However, it is a concern that some members seem to believe that, by publishing these contact details, the individuals offer an information service about Switzerland that goes a long way beyond the remit of the Society, or that they have contacts and influence beyond those that could realistically be expected. The bulk of enquiries fall upon the Editor and our Swiss News Editor who put in considerable time and effort to produce this magazine. Unfortunately they do not have the time or resources to respond to enquiries about aspects of travel in Switzerland, or members' specialised transport interests. There are many commercial and Internet sources to supply such information. Nor, unlike some members' assumptions, do either of them or any of the Board have contacts in the senior management of the SBB - or the telephone number of the Swiss Ambassador! If you have questions about Switzerland, or its transport infrastructure, that you cannot find information about, consider submitting a letter for inclusion in *Swiss Express*. Other SRS members have a wealth of knowledge that could answer them. Finally I wish you all a very pleasant Christmas and a great 2018. ☐

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Advertising: Members' private sales and wants for Swiss railway related items are printed free of charge providing space is available. Trade rates on application to the Advertising Manager. The Society cannot accept liability for the actions of any advertiser.

Publication Dates: *Swiss Express* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

Copy Dates: Closing dates for the receipt of all copy material are the 1st of January, April, July and October respectively. Any queries concerning distribution of the magazine should be addressed to the Membership Secretary.

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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 £20/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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COVER PICTURE: Wengen in the snow.

PHOTO: Paul Hannant