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SRS 2019 AGM.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will find the formal notice of the 2019 AGM, which is being held in Derby on the 13th April. Three Directors' posts are required to be filled at the meeting and it is open to all paid-up members to put their name forward as candidates for election on that day. Our current Treasurer David Stowell is happy to continue in the role, and there is a vacancy for a Director in a Without Portfolio role that Neil Wheelwright is also prepared to continue with. As many members know, Malcolm Bulpitt the current Editor is standing down after some 12 years in the post and at the time of writing (early October), we do not have a confirmed candidate for this important role. Please see the information notice on P44.

Swiss News Editor.

After being our Swiss News Editor for some 10-years Bryan Stone has chosen to stand down from the role. Bryan will be 81 in 2019 and unfortunately has become less mobile in recent years restricting his ability to cover all the events around Switzerland that he is often invited to. Although he has kept very active since his retirement from railway consultancy in his adopted country, some time ago, his diminishing pool of contacts has also restricted the level of information he has been able to source. A number of our members with an involvement in Switzerland have been helpful in feeding news items to us, but it would be very useful if we had a replacement for Bryan, preferably if they were resident there. If anyone is interested in taking on this role please contact the current Editor.

"Thank You".

In my editorial in the September magazine I noted that the incoming articles cupboard was almost bare. Within days of *Swiss Express* reaching most of you my email went into overdrive, as a number of members settled-down at their laptops and either wrote something there-and-then or wrote to ask if their ideas for an item would be of interest. To all of you who so kindly responded – "Thank You". We now have a bumper crop of input to choose from and this is reflected in the items featured in this edition, whilst other pieces are already being lined-up for the March magazine. Do not stop now. If you have an idea for a potential article – write it please. Magazines consume words like a fire does fuel. Once they are published the fuel supply needs replenishing.

Warley 2020.

The Swiss Railways Society will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of its foundation in 2020. SRS Board Member Glyn Jones has been in talks with the organisers of the 'Warley' National Model Railway Exhibition, who have agreed that the 2020 event will have a Swiss theme in honour of our anniversary. To assist with the Swiss theme they would like to see a number of Swiss-based layouts at the show. One layout is already committed, so if you believe that you have an existing layout, or could develop a suitable one in the next 2 years, please get in touch with Glyn as soon as possible. His contact details are in the magazine.

Is there a lawyer in the house? A plea from Martin Fisher the Company Secretary.

The days have long gone when organisations such as ours could be formed and run on a relatively informal basis. Increasingly, various pieces of legislation have been passed which govern what we do. These may protect the Society's Officers, the membership and/or our customers. We are fortunate that the Board's Directors have considerable experience in many relevant areas, and can call upon some members with specialist knowledge, when there is a need to understand and abide by new legislation. But the Board does not include a lawyer and it would be good to know if there is a member of the Society who would be prepared to donate their legal services as an advisor from time to time for the Society's benefit. Anyone prepared to help the Society in this way should contact me, please (details on the inside front cover).

Website Members' Area

The 2019 password for the Members' Area is printed on your 2019 Membership Card. In previous years either the 2018 or 2019 password could be used during a changeover period, but this is not possible with the new website and consequently you must use the 2018 password until 31st January when the password will be changed to the 2019 one. Any new members who do not know the 2018 password can contact the webmaster quoting their membership number.

The Members' Area forum is not being used, please give it a try, you can ask questions, give answers and buy and sell Swiss related items, you know the saying - use it or lose it!

SRS on Facebook.

The SRS has a Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/swissrailwaysociety/>

It is hoped that being on Facebook will promote the Society and will be a vehicle where we can put announcements at short notice. We also have a Facebook Group page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/swissrailwaysociety/> Members can join, ask questions, post photos and videos. Please 'like' our Facebook page and join this closed group and make use of it.

Member's Letters.

From: Peter Bowen – By email

Like me, many members may have visited the Snowdon Mountain Railway at Llanberis in September to see a BRB loco working in the UK. I thought it might be worth pointing out that the Austrian company FERRO-TRAIN produce HOn3 models of a BRB loco and matching carriage as well as track and control systems, so modellers could replicate what they saw on their visit to North Wales. Although there is not a UK supplier, these models can be ordered via their website www.ferro-train.com. I was fascinated to learn that FERRO-TRAIN has contemplated making a model of a Snowdon Mountain Railway train, but of course they need significant interest to justify the investment. If any members would be interested in purchasing such models I am prepared

act as a co-ordinator of expressions of interest and liaise with FERRO TRAIN. My email is peterbowen2@me.com or text 07711 556243

Member's Advertisements

For sale:

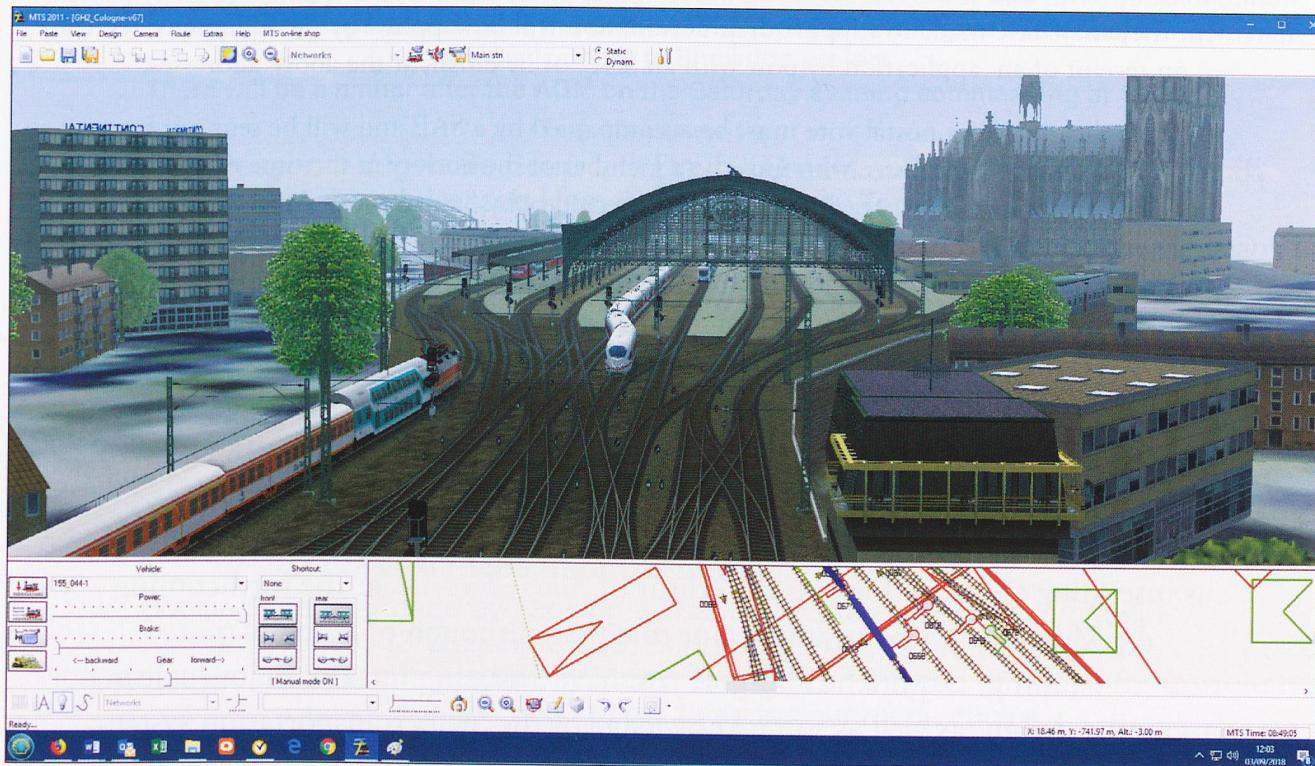
Swiss HOM Layout Surselva (RhB plus FO rack). Featured in January and December 2011 Continental Modeller. Overall size approx. 2.4m x 3.6m. 5 scenic baseboards plus 3 for the 2-level fiddle yard (plywood construction). Bemo code 70 track for the scenic boards. Sommerfeldt catenary. Working colour light signalling (described in December 2011 CM and featured on the 2011 RM/CM DVD). DC or DCC. Stock not included.

A bargain at £750 (offers accepted). Buyer will need to collect from South Devon. For more details please contact me by email jonathan.collinge@hotmail.com.

Swiss Narrow Gauge South and West (2017) and Swiss Narrow Gauge North and East. (2017): Softback books, A4, 36 pages, 120 colour photographs. Each book £10.00, or buy both for £18.00, including postage, direct from the author. Send to Jason Sargerson, 17 Muirfield Park, Westbourne Avenue, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU5 3JF. Contact Tel: 01482 446451 or email: Jasonsargerson88@gmail.com. Cheques payable to Jason Sargerson. Please see my website for further details: www.jasonsargerson.uk. 

Train Simulators

- a follow-up from Chris Harvey.



Following-on from Garry Peacock's article on p18/19 in September's *Swiss Express* about Train Simulators I have put together some thoughts on these interesting ways to create your 'own' railway, albeit in digital form.

While 'Train Simulator 2017' and the much earlier Microsoft version are well known, there are several similar products that provide the opportunity to build virtual routes and accompanying scenery. The degree of realism in some of these is excellent and provides the user with not only the opportunity to 'play the game', but also to view the scene from the driver's cab as it unfolds. This may prompt some individuals to visit the places represented in the program. I would recommend one other specific simulator which is based around the European rail networks and that is Trend Verlag's EEP. This is a comprehensive simulator, currently in

its 14th version and which has many European examples of rolling stock including a few Swiss examples (e.g. a 'Crocodile') but perhaps with an emphasis on the German environment.

There are also some excellent layouts based on real routes and stations, user timetabling, and optional automatic running - just watching the trains go by. One Swiss layout is based on Arth Goldau. In addition, there are several tutorials and video recordings on YouTube, as well as many optional add-ons available for purchase. The website <https://www.eepshopping.de> is mainly in German but some pages are available in English. Like many similar products, some game versions are available on 'Steam'. I attach a snapshot from the layout 'Köln' that, as its name suggests, is based around DB's Köln Hauptbahnhof. 