

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2019)
Heft: 139

Inhaltsverzeichnis

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SWISS EXPRESS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS RAILWAYS SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1980

The Swiss Railways Society is a company limited by guarantee. Company No. 10368576


Registered office – 3, Aldersey Road, Worcester, WR5 3BG

Editorial

Bill Salter

One hundred years ago this November the first of the SBB Crocodiles entered service between Bern and Spiez in advance of their appearance the following year on the Gotthard route, the line with which they were to be intimately associated for much of their working lives. Some of us were lucky enough to witness and possibly photograph the majestic sight of one of these iconic machines in their latter days. Unfortunately, that number does not include your new editor who is nevertheless fascinated by the story of their development and operation. I hope that readers will indulge an article from him in this issue sharing that fascination.

That does not mean that your editor is not also interested in the modern Swiss scene. Far from it. As Bryan Stone reports in Swiss News, an important step was taken by the political authorities in Bern last June to secure financing for the next stages of railway infrastructure development. The relentless and co-ordinated nature of Swiss development over many years is impressive. From Bahn2000, the Base Tunnels and now these new plans, the more one wonders how much better the UK rail system would have been if politicians here had had the same vision.

Many of you will have heard this before but it requires repeating. *Swiss Express* is a magazine for its members and it cannot exist without contributions from those members whether text or photographic. The volume of those contributions has reduced in recent times. There are, no doubt, many reasons for this. For some travel to Switzerland may now be more difficult, for others more costly and then there is still the B-word. Nonetheless more contributions are needed if the magazine is to continue to provide a wide range of interesting subject matter. 

SOCIETY WEBSITE - www.swissrailsoc.org.uk

The 2019 password for the 'Members Area' of the Society's website is printed on your 2019 Membership Card and will be valid until the end of January 2020. Please "like" our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/swissrailwaysociety and get involved with our Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/swissrailwaysociety

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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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Swiss Railways Society – Membership Details

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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or email him at membership@swissrailsoc.org.uk

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 1 EDITORIAL
- 2 THE RED ARROWS
- 3 PROGRESS ON THE JUNGFRAUBAHNEN V-BAHN PROJECT
- 7 FUNICULAR TO MUOTTAS MURAGL
- 8 AN OPEN DAY AT BAHNPARK BRUGG
- 9 WHERE'S HEIDI?
- 10 SWISS RAIL CENTRES; OLTEN - Part Two
- 13 BERNINA MONSTER IN THE SNOW
- 14 THE CROCODILE CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY THIS YEAR
- 18 THE STORY OF THE BODENSEE TRAIN FERRIES
- 20 SWISS WINTER WONDERLAND
- 21 DIFFERENT TIMES
- 24 MEMBERS' PHOTO GALLERY
- 26 BLS OPERATIONS CONTROL CENTRE
- 28 GIAN BRÜNGGER - ROLLING STOCK II
- 30 SWISS NEWS
- 37 ZWEISIMMEN GAUGE CHANGER SUCCESSFULLY TESTED
- 38 MODELLING NEWS
- 40 SOCIETY PAGES
- 43 SWISS EXPERTISE WORLDWIDE
- 44 THE SBB SAVER DAY PASS AND FINALLY...
- 45 WHERE'S HEIDI?
- 47 IVAN RODRIGUES FROM THE STC WRITES

COVER PICTURE:

An unidentified FART/SSIF ABe 4/6 crosses Ponte Brolla on the Centovalli line in September 2015.

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