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SRS 2020 AGM

Elsewhere in these Society Pages you will find the formal notice of the 2020 AGM, which is once again being held in the Hallmark Midland Hotel, Midland Road, Derby. The date will be Saturday 4th April. Three directors' posts must be filled. Whilst our Membership Secretary, Steve Buck, is happy to continue in his role, the posts of Chairman and Exhibitions and Publicity Director will both be vacant, as neither John Jesson nor Bill Salter are seeking re-election.

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.

SRS at Model Railway Exhibitions

The Society stand will be at the following exhibitions. If you are attending any of these events, please support the stand or at least drop by for a chat.

European Railways Association – The H Suite, 100 Icknield Port Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham on Saturday 28th September.

Warley Model Railway Show – The NEC, Birmingham on Saturday/Sunday 23rd/24th November.

2020 Calendar

The Society will again publish a calendar for 2020; this will be available from SRS Sales at a price of £10.50 including UK postage or £7.00 at exhibitions. This is a slight increase on the price of last year's calendar as we now have to pay VAT on them. Calendars posted to overseas addresses will cost £14.50 due to the increased postage charges and will be sent airmail within Europe and surface mail to the rest of the world. As in previous years numbers are strictly limited so early application to Glyn Jones at SRS Sales is recommended. More details in the SRS Sales advert in this magazine. When the calendars are actually in stock they will be available through the SRS on-line shop.

Advance notice of SRS Sales Christmas closure

Society Sales will be closed from Friday 13th December until Friday 10th January and no orders will be dispatched during this period. If you require items for Christmas then please order them in plenty of time, preferably before the end of November.

Clarifications and corrections

Your new Editor apologises profusely for the following errors in the June issue and promises to do better in future:

The caption to Photo 6 in the Photo Gallery was not of course one of Schynigge Platte steam locomotive No 5 at Wilderswil, but one of electric loco 13 Matten taken at the summit by Peter Arnold. Apologies to Peter and John

Kilby. In the *Swiss News* item "SBB – IC2000 carriages to receive a face-lift" we said that the space available for bicycles has increased to 360. This figure relates to the entire fleet – there are 40 driving trailers and nine bicycle spaces are provided in each. Additionally, in the item "RhB Allegra runs on MGB tracks west of Disentis", the gradients should of course have been shown as per mille (%) not per cent (%).

Letters to the Editor

FROM: Bryan Stone – by Email

Making Tracks for TRAXX!

Given the splendid article from "Minuteman" I was prompted to find this, my picture of the prototype 12X referred to. Here it was running under the number 128.001, registered in Germany, and was in Weinfelden, though I do not have a date noted; it might be around 2000.



The success of these and other contemporary locomotives responds to an act of faith, when the EU set through a Directive, 91/440, which deregulated intermodal traffic. I was seriously involved in the process, and we knew that although new operators could now run trains, a long road lay ahead; there were no multi-current locomotives, no-one wanted knew how to finance them, and international approval processes were hopeless (*that was one of my bits, working for 'interoperability'*). The EU policy makers were persuaded that, if it was an illusion to hope for harmonisation of overhead catenary conditions, (and the traditional railways were of course most reluctant to facilitate competition), modern electronics could lead to affordable multi-current locomotives. Siemens and Bombardier (in their earlier constituents) set about it. Equally, some courageous investors set about creating independent fleets of wagons for lease. Much had to wait, but it started; and every time I stand at Spiez, or Olten, or Flüelen, and watch the competitive mixture of trains which might not have been, I am thankful that the EU had the courage, backed of course by dissatisfied and impatient markets, to make rail intermodal really happen in Europe. By the way, Britain largely missed out on all this, as on so much more.

Now even the traditional earlier monopolists, SBB, BLS, DB, SNCF play the game themselves. 

SOCIETY PAGES

SWISS RAILWAYS SOCIETY (CLBG) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Railways Society (CLBG) will be held in the Hallmark Hotel, Derby on Saturday 4th April 2020.

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS

Directors who hold the following positions on the Board of Directors have completed their three-year term of office and the posts are available for re-election: Chairman, Membership Secretary and Director of Publicity & Exhibitions (3 years in each case).

Please note that the current Chairman and Director of Publicity & Exhibitions will not be seeking re-election so these posts must be filled by other members of the Society.

Job Description summaries for all three posts have been placed in the Members' section of the Society's website and are available by post or e-mail from the Company Secretary. Nominations are invited for all three directorships and nomination forms are available from the Company Secretary:

Martin Fisher, 15 The Boulevard, Middle Deepdale, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 3EX
or by email at <secretary@swissralsoc.org.uk>

Completed forms must reach the Secretary no later than Tuesday 31st December 2019. Any applicant who has not previously served on the Society's Board or Committee will be sent a document by the Company Secretary which summarises the basic requirements that have to be met by a Company Director.

Excluding applicants who are seeking to continue their existing SRS directorships, all applicants will be invited by the Company Secretary to attend a Board meeting on 18th January 2020, and will be interviewed by a panel of Board members that day. Subsequently, nominees will be asked to submit a statement to the Company Secretary in support of their application by 28th February.

It is important to note that all nominees AND their proposers and seconds will be expected to have paid their subscriptions for 2020 PRIOR to signing the nomination form. Failure to do so will render the nomination form invalid unless the relevant subscriptions are paid by 28th February. If a potential nominee does not know other Society members who could endorse his/her application, then he/she should contact the Company Secretary who will address the matter.

Members are advised that a list of nominees and a copy of the accompanying statements made to support their nominations will be supplied by the Company Secretary on receipt of an application by post with an SAE or by email at the above addresses.

Any application for a postal vote must be accompanied by an SAE and will be sent out by post only to the named addressee who must be a member of the Society at the time of application.

The application must reach the Company Secretary by Saturday 28th March 2020. Completed ballot papers must reach the Secretary no later than the start of the AGM meeting on Saturday 4th April 2020.

Notice is also hereby given that at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 4th April 2020, paragraph 34.2 of the Memorandum & Articles of Association be replaced with the following words:

"Nominations for Management Committee posts shall be received by the Secretary by 31st December. Unless the nomination is made by a current Management Committee member seeking to extend his or her term of office in the same role, all nominees will be required to meet representatives of the Management Committee by 31 January so they have an opportunity to learn more about the post and can discuss their suitability to fulfil the role in question."

"All nominees will be asked to submit a statement in support of their application to the Company Secretary by 28 February in order that it can be included in the printed brochure for the Annual General Meeting.

All nominations will be considered at the Annual General Meeting but the Management Committee reserves the right to offer a view on some or all of them where appropriate.""

**Martin Fisher
Company Secretary**

SOCIETY PAGES

SWISS RAILWAYS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SPRING GET-TOGETHER

Saturday 4th April 2020 – 10.00 to 16.30 (AGM commences at 14:30)

At the Hallmark Midland Hotel, Midland Road, Derby DE1 2SQ

Tel: 0330 028 3405

(Directly opposite Derby Railway Station)

Members attending the weekend events can park free of charge at the hotel but should register their vehicles on the terminal at the hotel reception.

The Get-Together will be held in the "Garden Room" and the AGM in the "Edale Room".

Guests and friends are also welcome to the Get-Together, but a donation of £2 per person would be appreciated.

Confirmed Traders: Contikits, Gerald Savine Prints, NScaleCh, Mount Tabor Models, Platform 5, SRS Sales. It is hoped that Switzerland Travel Centre will also attend. In addition there will be a "Bring and Buy" Stall and a Raffle.

Confirmed Layouts: Comburg (HO French Trolley Bus), Preuninger Alm (Austrian HOe), Schweizer Kleinstadt (Swiss Z Gauge), Santa Maria (RhB H0m) More Layouts to follow.

Swiss Railway Films will be shown in the Edale Room throughout the day.

There will be a dinner after the AGM on the Saturday evening commencing at 18:30.

The Menu will be:

Starters: Leek and Potato Soup with Crème Fraiche and Snipped Garden Chives. Or Freshly sliced ripe Honeydew and Watermelon topped with freshly picked Garden Mint and Mango Coulis

Main Course: Slow braised Feather Blade of Beef with a roasted Shallot Gravy.

Or Roasted Breast of Chicken wrapped in crispy Parma Ham with fresh Asparagus and Grain Mustard Jus.

Dessert: Warm Sticky Toffee Pudding with Salted Caramel Sauce and Vanilla Ice Cream. Or Meringue Nest filled with Whipped Cream, Fresh Raspberries, Strawberries and Blackberries.

Coffee or Tea.

In addition there will be a Vegetarian Option for each course.

The cost will be £25.50 per person excluding wine - this is cheaper than 2019.

There will be a quiz after the Dinner – suitable for all – devised and presented by Rob Morrey.

Bookings can be made by sending a cheque for the appropriate amount to:

Glyn Jones, 13 Welland Close, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs DE15 0AG

Please state your menu choices and include a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your tickets - don't forget to state your menu choice.

The last date for bookings will be 15th March.

WHY NOT JOIN US FOR THE WEEKEND?

There will be a talk in the Hotel's Edale Room on the Friday evening commencing at 20:00 by Martin Fisher and David Stevenson entitled: "All those books - the inside story".

Hotel Accommodation (per Room)

Single Rooms will cost £46.00 for one night or £90.00 for two nights,

Double Rooms will cost £74.00 for one night or £140.00 for two nights.

Rates include VAT, free Wi-Fi and full English breakfast.

A table d'hôte dinner will be available on the Friday evening - £22.00 for three courses, booked upon arrival at the hotel.

Room bookings should be made direct with the hotel quoting the "Swiss Railways Society".

These rates may not be the cheapest available and there are plenty of other hotels in the area.

But they are much cheaper than 2019.

It is worthwhile to sign-up to the Hallmark Hotels promotional email service.