

Society noticeboard

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal**

Band (Jahr): **2 (1988-1990)**

Heft 3

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

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SOCIETY NOTICEBOARD

The current level of Membership stands at **465**.

From the Chairman

I am pleased to say that astute members are taking advantage of the 10% discount offer for the **ANNUAL DINNER**. The more people who attend, the lower the price. The period for payment of the £5.00 deposit to qualify for the discount has been extended to September 30th.

If you have horrific memories of one particular dinner at the Great Northern Hotel, forget it. The catering is under new management and I have attended three functions there in the past 18 months or so (two organised by the Model Railway Club) and found them most enjoyable.

The date **SATURDAY, 19 NOVEMBER**; the venue the Great Northern Hotel right alongside Kings Cross Station and the time 19.30 for 20.00.

Why not bring your wife or girlfriend for Xmas shopping while you visit the John Jesson's Saturday afternoon extravaganza at Keen House, just up the road from Kings Cross? Then you can relax (after your wife has returned the empty cheque book!! Ed.) and refuel in the evening in the congenial company.

It will all be less formal than in earlier years but, gentlemen, jackets and ties please.

For those members who wish to spend time in London whilst attending the above dinner, the following rates have been negotiated with the Great Northern Hotel, Kings Cross.

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th:	Two people	£104.60
Saturday 19th:	Two people	£65.00
Friday 18th and Saturday 19th:	One person	£79.00
Saturday 19th:	One person	£52.30

All rates are for the room, bath and breakfast.

There are two notable events in Switzerland this year. With the introduction of the current timetables, the "William Tell Express" provides a spectacular trip using the lake steamers of the SGV on the Vierwaldstättersee from Luzern to Flüelen and the SBB to Locarno or Lugano. The other is the 75th Anniversary celebration of the B.L.S. Advance notice of this event was given in the May edition of the "Swiss Express". Indications are that so much will be going on that even the toughest traveller will find it difficult to see and do everything.

But remember that when you get to Switzerland, look out for leaflets advertising other centenaries, open days etc. It is rare for such events to be given notice much in advance and publicity is often confined to the immediate locality.

From the Librarian

May I please mention that the society holds a fairly comprehensive stock of books, reports, brochures and magazines all relating to the various aspects of Swiss Railways. To help with the stock improvement and upkeep a nominal charge would have to be levied, plus the postage charge for the transmission of material. If any member has books or documents that he would like to donate to the library, would he please let me know. If you would like a copy of the library list would you please send the sum of 60 pence and enclose a stamped (13p) addressed envelope (size 9in x 6.25in) to:—
The Society Librarian, 76 Brompton Road, Kingsbury, London, NW9 9DD.

From the Membership Secretary

The Manchester branch welcomes new members to its meetings on the first Wednesday of the month (see diary pages). At present members travel from Merseyside, Lancs, Staffs and West Yorkshire, so distance is no obstacle! We are always pleased to welcome the ODD member from London. (Is that right?) I particularly recommend the Quiz Night on the 5th October. Meetings are fairly informal and a number of ladies are always present. (I wonder if the members wives know of this fact, Ed.)

I have received word from a member in New York that he would be willing to act as co-ordinator and subscription clearing house. As soon as details have been sorted out the name and address will be published. If any U.S. based members are in favour of this method of subscription payment, please let me know and I will forward any name and address I receive.

A further response re the suggestion of forming contact groups. The contacts are listed below in areas of convenience.

CUMBRIA

Mr. Stephen Greenfield, Meadowside, 39 Horncop Lane, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4SR. Telephone: 0539 25494. A small group meets at the above address and Mr. Greenfield would be pleased to hear from one or two other people in the area who would care to join in.

EAST MIDLANDS

Mr. Glyn Jones, 13 Welland Close, Dalebrook, Winshill, Burton on Trent, Staffs. DE15 0AG. Telephone: 0283 67983. Mr. Jones is willing to act as co-ordinator for the area covering Staffs, Derbyshire, Notts and Leicestershire.

BIRMINGHAM

Mr. Richard Pinner, 1 York Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9HA. Telephone: 021 454 1251. Please contact Mr. Pinner if you live in this area and would like to meet fellow members.

My thanks to those of you who have offered help and please keep me informed of group progress.

I.M.R.E.X. '88

by Giles Della Gana

As many members will know, the society was represented by an information stand at the Model Railway Club's Easter exhibition this year. Although this was very much a 'scratch' affair, with the help of our friends at the S.N.T.O. and the efforts of various members, a reasonable presentation evolved over the six days of the show. I would like to extend both my personal and the society's thanks to the following, who took turns with the 'manning', Chris Elliott, Brian Macdermott, Alan Pike, Paul Rossenburger and Neil Wheelwright. Special thanks are due to Glyn Howlett who looked after things single-handed over the Easter weekend and plugged the gaps during the rest of the show. During the exhibition twenty-eight new people joined, together with four rejoining with a further thirty joining via post as a result of talking to us on the stand. Next year we intend to have a much more professional presentation with video and/or a working model railway. I would therefore be most grateful if members would let me know as soon as possible if they feel that they could help in any way.

SOCIETY NOTICEBOARD

RENEWALS FROM QUESTIONNAIRE (or – There are Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics)

John Jesson

Believe it or not, all those questions you are asked on your renewals form are not just to fill up the space! The information you, the members, have given us is used to find out the most popular type of material in 'Swiss Express', the most appreciated article of the year, and what you would like to see covered in future issues.

I have the job of analysing the answers, which I quite enjoy. It doesn't take all that long, and I get a few chuckles from it. I think that it is only fair that everyone should know the results, in order to encourage budding authors to put pen to paper.

The first section – the most popular type of material I is straightforward, and the most frequently answered. The result this year was a virtual tie between Prototype Features and Prototype News, followed by Travelogue, Modelling and Track Plans. This is similar to last year and shows, I think, that the S.R.S. is perhaps more interested in the prototype than model railways, but nevertheless has a strong modelling fraternity.

Only about 35% of members said what their favourite article was, but it was still interesting to see several articles emerge as leaders. These see-sawed back and forth until a final winner was confirmed only as the last form was dealt with. Those of you who attended the A.G.M. will know that the article by Vevey Engineering on the use of Transporter Bogies on the G.F.M. gained top place.

This brings us to the question of what you would like to see covered in future issues – the most difficult to tabulate. Some suggestions are specific, covering one particular line or station, while others are general. Apart from a few subjects there seem to be no really strong or consistent wants, but two do stand out. These are a desire to see articles on signalling (either covering the Rh.B. specifically or in general) and minor lines.

It is difficult to get a true comparison between last year and this, but I have tried and the results of my efforts are listed below.

In the final analysis, though, the magazine can only publish what is received, and it is hoped that the list will provide inspiration for subject matter.

Generally, you seem to like our magazine. Several members think there is too much model content, while a similar number think there is not enough. As the majority seem happy with the balance as it is, I can only ask for understanding of the other sides point of view. I would point out, though, that 'Swiss Express' is specifically Swiss, so general modelling techniques (layout wiring, loco maintenance, etc.) would be out of place as they are covered fully in the model press already. Similarly, subjects such as locomotive performance and diagrams, working timetables and the detailed workings of a large station are beyond both the scope and the capabilities of 'Swiss Express'. (The station working for Zürich Hbf runs to over 300 pages).

This still leaves plenty of subjects for you to write about, and to encourage you the Swiss National Tourist Office has generously offered a 4-day First Class Tourist Ticket to the author of the article voted the best of the year.

Cover Photo

BOB Triebwagen ABeh4/4. No. 307. at Lauterbrunnen

Photo: P. Russenberger

RESULTS 1988 (1987 figures in brackets)

TYPE OF MATERIAL

Track Plans	146 (150)
Prototype Features	208 (217)
Prototype News	207 (204)
Modelling	153 (148)
Travelogue	165 (162)
Advertising	78 (93)

BEST ARTICLE

Transporter Bogies on the G.F.M. (Vevey Engineering)
Runners-up
150 years on the Thunersee (G. Della Gana)
Storm Damage reports (B. Harper, J. Jesson, R. Pinner)

FUTURE ARTICLES

General on Rh.B./F.O.	9 (4)
Minor lines	7 (13)
Cablecars/Funiculars	4 (5)
Signalling	13 (14)
Train formations	3 (6)
Working methods	2 (7)
Locomotive articles	4 (7)
Historical	4 (4)
Urban transport	5 (5)
Railway-oriented walks	4 (4)
General modelling	4 (2)
Rolling stock drawings	10 (8)
Catenary	2 (4)
Model Reviews	2 (7)
Model shops/ Parts Suppliers	3 (1)

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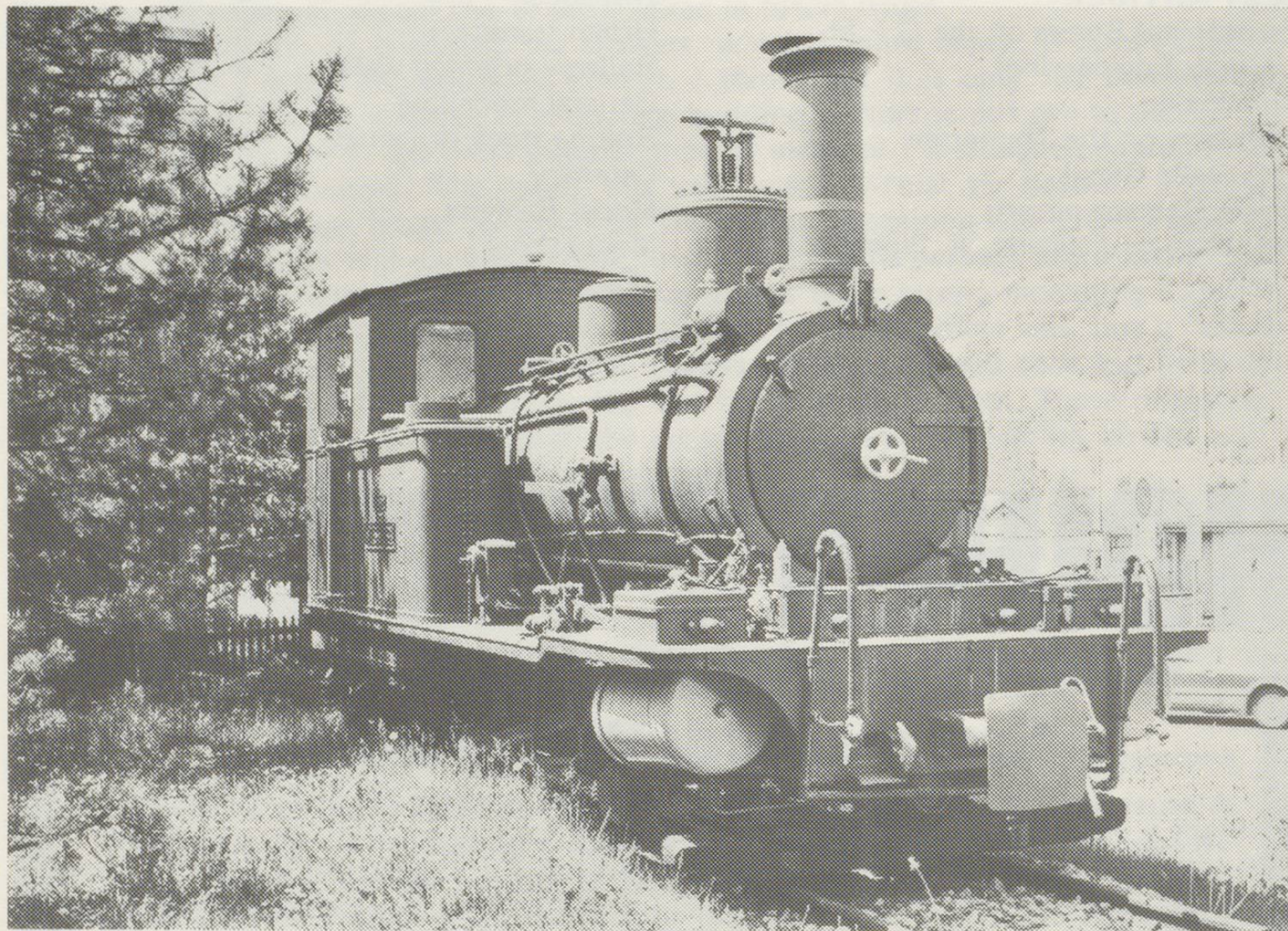
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of OXFORD

From The Editor

It is proposed to use this journal as a clearing house for members questions on Swiss Railway subjects. If you have any questions on this subject that you wish to have published please let me know. If I cannot get the answer from our archives I will invite members to answer via the journal. However, I am not able to answer individual questions by letter.

The Swiss Express Journal is now distributed to members in the United Kingdom and to those living in the following countries:— New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, U.S.A., Switzerland, Holland and Italy.



THE FURKA MOUNTAIN SECTION IS BEING RESTORED.

JOIN THIS ENTERPRISING SOCIETY WHOSE AIM IS TO RE-OPEN THE LINE BETWEEN OBERWALD AND REALP. 1988 WILL SEE MANY MILESTONES SET. SO WHY NOT BE PART OF THIS HISTORIC VENTURE. THE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES A QUARTERLY JOURNAL IN GERMAN, FRENCH AND ENGLISH. FOR MORE DETAILS WRITE TO:—

RUPERT TAYLOR, FELDHEIM,
CH 6027 RÖMERSWIL, SWITZERLAND.