

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Band: 4 (1994-1996)
Heft: 10

Rubrik: Secretary's report

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The AGM, held in March, was a first-rate show. Dave Howsam and his colleagues in the Manchester branch organised everything superbly, and I would like to give them my personal thanks, as well as thanking them on behalf of all those who attended. Perhaps Dave, who was running around like a - well he was running around a lot - didn't have time to enjoy it as much as the rest of us, but he can rest assured that his efforts were greatly appreciated.

The business part of the day passed an amendment to the composition of the committee, making the posts of Librarian and Branch Co-ordinator committee posts, and adding another Exhibitions Officer so that the country can be split in 2, to allow a better representation at Exhibitions. For the first time, the place where a person lives has relevance to the post held, as it will be necessary for the two Exhibitions officers to live one in the north and one in the south of an arbitrary line drawn across the country, roughly through Birmingham. Hopefully, I shall be able to keep the peace when we consider attending an exhibition located on that line!

To keep the committee to a manageable size, the number of committee members "without

portfolio" has been reduced to two. Finding suitable dates for committee meetings is a constant problem. Both the Treasurer and myself work shifts, which means Willie is working night shift one week in four, and I am doing the same one week in three. Les seems to be in Switzerland half the time, while most of the others have family commitments. It has been said that there is only one excuse for not attending a committee meeting - being in Switzerland. Even death is not permitted, unless that depressing event occurred in Switzerland.

However, whatever the composition of the committee, we will continue to try our best for the Society, and for you, the members.

To all members and their families I wish a happy holiday. For those who are going to Switzerland, please remember that membership of the SRS is not a passport to facilities on the various railways. There is plenty to see and do, though, which is open to all, and I hope you will enjoy it all.

Finally, do not forget the Minehead weekend at the end of August. Please do try to get there, as it promises to be a most entertaining weekend.

John Jesson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Management Committee met in Stevenage on the 13th April, 1996 when various matters were discussed, including the Swiss Model Shop list shortly to be formulated for circulation to members, the Hebden Bridge (West Yorkshire) publicity exhibition to be held in the Information Office from the period 1st June to the 16th, 1996 and the Minehead Weekend during the period 30/31 August and 1st September, 1996.

Steve Horobin was co-opted to the Committee as the new Sales Officer, to which all future correspondence should be addressed relating to Society Sales items (address to be found on page 3 of this copy of Swiss Express).

John Stokes agreed to continue as Branch Co-ordinator for which the Committee were most grateful.

It was reported that membership at the date of

the meeting was 856, a very successful position at this time of year.

It was agreed that the 1997 A.G.M. would be held in Carlisle on the 8th March, 1997.

As a result of Special events which will be taking place in Switzerland in 1997 (150th SBB celebrations) consideration is being given to the possibility of arranging a Society organised trip to Switzerland (more information later).

Peter Dransfield

**COPY DATE FOR
SEPTEMBER
SWISS EXPRESS
JULY 20th**