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Chairman's Notes

At the AGM in March, I celebrated my first year as Chairman. If that year taught me anything, it is that most of the work is done by the other officers! The support I have received from my colleagues has been exemplary, and I can honestly say I have seldom met such a dedicated and hard-working group of people. However, they are not alone. There are many Society members who also give their time and skills; running the branches; helping at exhibitions (either by taking their layouts or helping on the Society stands); writing articles or news items for the magazine. To all of them, I say thank you. I hope they get as much enjoyment from the Society as I do.

The holiday season is upon us, and many members will be visiting Switzerland. Recently, there have been a few instances of people being stopped from taking photographs, both still and video, from SBB railway property. Whether this is a change in official policy, we are still trying to determine, but it is always a good idea to let local staff know what you want to do, and assure them that you will not venture where you should not go. A friendly word can set minds at rest, as well as often opening doors you did not expect. Please remember, though, to respect both the railways and the Society. Have a good time!

John Jesson

Secretary's Report

On behalf of the Committee I am pleased to be able to confirm the amount of time and work carried out by the Officers, Voluntarily, for the benefit of the Society and its members.

As members will no doubt realise, as the size of the membership increases, the work load increases, but the enthusiasm of the Officers never seems to wain. The AGM in Derby this year saw the appointment of some new Officers and members to the Committee, and we welcome them to the loyal band of voluntary workers, and look forward to their ideas and contributions in the coming year. Many new ventures are being considered by the Committee at the present time which hopefully will be of benefit to members.

These include the Society Library list, a possible credit card facility for sales items, the sale of

members surplus model items with a commission to the Society, and attendance at more Exhibitions throughout the Country. When the Society's Sales stand and a Swiss layout are appearing at an Exhibition in your area, the Officers and/or members present would be pleased to meet you there for a friendly chat and would also welcome your support - so look out for news of the Swiss Railways Society in your area!

It was pleasing to hear recently from our Australasian Branch based in New Zealand that they are promoting the Society at Model Railway Exhibitions out there, having had an Hoe "Albula" layout at two events. Their own annual exhibition in Christchurch you will be interested to know attracted good crowds relative to the population (5000 over two days).

Junfraubahn

Be a VIP for a day?

That is what the Jungfrabahnen are now offering with their 'Eiger Ambassador Express', using the 1912 wooden coaches and engine, the trip to the Jungfrauoch includes the staff dressed in traditional uniforms, aperitifs in the Ice Palace or Sphinx, a guided tour, a film show, a Husky dog

sleigh ride and a four course meal in the "Top of Europe" Restaurant. This has only been possible in group travel by hiring the entire train, but now you can book seats on this 'Nostalgic Train'. Further details and a brochure from the Swiss National Tourist Office.