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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As usual, my note-writing is taking place nearly two months before the magazine is published and it is still a cold and somewhat white world. This year, the winter bout of illness seems to have been particularly virulent, and a large proportion of the Committee has been, or is still, laid low. For the first time ever, the Society has had to cancel its attendance at an exhibition because of illness (St. Albans), which highlights the reliance we place on individuals to fulfil their Society commitments. It also highlights the fact that, at the forthcoming AGM, we will be looking for a northern area exhibitions officer, so that we can better cover the excellent exhibitions held in that area. If you have the time, it is a most interesting pastime, and Andy Nelson would be most happy to provide details of what the job entails.

Last year, the Society finally published a list of members. As you are all aware, the renewals form asks that each of you state if you wish to be included on that list. Dave Howsam, who is handling membership matters until the AGM, has noted a fact which we had not considered. This is that some members have altered their view on being included. This is certainly not a problem, but it does mean that old membership lists will reflect the earlier wishes of those members. What we have decided is that, at the end of each year, all existing copies of the membership list will be

destroyed. The new list will be compiled and sent to all members with the June magazine. In this way, the individual wishes of members are honoured, as old membership lists will not be sent out once renewals have started to come in.

The December magazine was later than usual arriving on members' doormats. We try to attain delivery in the first couple of days of the month and, in this, we have become victims of our own success. We usually succeed in our aim so, when something goes wrong, it is more noticeable. This time, the magazine was a few days late getting through the printing stage. This caused the combination of magazine, inserts and envelope to take a few days longer, and then the Post Office did not send them out immediately (my own magazine was postmarked 7 days after being delivered to the post office). Finally, of course, they were caught in the pre-Christmas rush of mail.

We aim for the end of February for this magazine, so that it arrives before the AGM which, this year, is near the beginning of March. If you have not attended one of the AGMs before, and you are able to get to Carlisle, please come along. It is not all business, and everyone always seems to enjoy themselves. I look forward to seeing you.

John Jesson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Committee met on the 7th December, 1996 and discussed many interesting but at times lengthy items on behalf of the Society. Some of the major items which I am sure will be of interest to members was the fact that the long awaited Swiss Signalling book was now ready for publication (watch this space). For members' benefit the Librarian will be taking along to the AGM a small selection of books from the Library for perusal (so if you are looking for some special information look out for the Librarian for a chat).

The Committee is looking at the possibility of the Society being included on the Internet email

(sounds exciting stuff). The main item was the arrangements for the 1997 Annual General Meeting which will be held in Carlisle on the 8th March 1997, this also incorporates the 16th Spring meet, details of all the events taking place including the dinner are given elsewhere in this issue. At the AGM it is the opportunity for all the members to make their contribution to the Society. The Officers hope therefore to meet as many members as possible at Carlisle at what looks like being a memorable occasion. (Just come along and see?)

Peter Dransfield