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1998 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - PLEASE READ

The renewal form for 1998 subscriptions is included with this issue. **ALL renewals this year should be forwarded DIRECTLY to the Membership Secretary.** Members in the USA will still be able to pay in US dollar cheques but this must be included with the renewal form and forwarded to the MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

It is regretted that following the resignation of the Australasian co-ordinator all other subscriptions, for this year at least, **must** be paid in **sterling**. Subscriptions have been held at their 1997 levels except for 'The Rest of the World' subs and these reflect the very high bank charge imposed on the Society for individual sterling cheques drawn on foreign banks.

A small stamped envelope (we will use a pre-

printed label) should accompany ALL UK renewals for the return of the membership card - it will not be included in the March mailing of Swiss Express.

As the number of renewals is ever increasing - excellent news - it would be most helpful if no other correspondence was included and please note cheques can not be post dated. Any comments re the special 2001 AGM should be on the reverse of the questionnaire.

Finally, you may note the reference to publication of members names and addresses as an amendment to the constitution. This item is still on the renewal form as the information would be required should the amendment not be accepted at the AGM.

Dave Howsam

EDITOR'S JOTTINGS

I think I should start my jottings by apologising to you all for the late delivery of this issue of Swiss Express. Although there is a month on the cover we have never said that it would be delivered on the 1st of the month, although I have tried to aim for that in the past. I have for the past two years had a work load that was flexible, I could, thanks to a very understanding wife pop over to Switzerland several times a year, this year with all the different celebrations and other invitations arriving weekly, it was difficult to decide which to attend, or, miss out. The pressure increased during July and thanks to Marilyn holding the fort at home I spent part of July, all of August and most of September in Switzerland.

In October life changed dramatically. I was offered new employment, but the work load was very intense for the first six weeks involving 7 day weeks preparing items, and, I am sorry to say no time for Swiss Express, included in this period was two trips to Switzerland. I have now completed this project. The work continues, but only for 4 days a week, allowing time for Swiss Express.

I must thank Hans Kübler of the Hotel National, Interlaken, who provided not only

accommodation at a very generous rate, allowing me a base in central Switzerland. He also laid on dinners, one for the British press and one for the Eurotunnel people and British press, over the Jungfrau naming weekend, on behalf of the SRS totally free of charge.

As many of you that I have met know, I usually travel by car and ferry to Switzerland, in fact 8-10 times a year. But this summer I was tempted to try flying, see June, Swiss Express, this had advantages, cheaper if I was travelling alone. I have had 6 flights with Swissair this summer. I must say the service was superb, all flights left on time, one arrival was delayed, but this incurred a sightseeing trip over the Bernese Oberland as we circled for thirty minutes, and, to be honest the views were incredible. I am just about to depart for the power change over and new stock roll out for the Chur-Arosa line of the RhB, story to be in the March Swiss Express

Finally, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, with time to plan trips, real or imagined, to Switzerland to enjoy its magic.

Thank you for your support.

Les Heath



Above: The crowded scene at Därligen station. Re465-001 and ex BLS set now on the Sensital Bahn.

Below: pair of SBB steam locos arriving with a special train.

