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SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS - STOCK CHANGES

Corrections: RABe 514 004 – 007 were new in 5/06, 4/06, 5/06 and 7/06 respectively

September 2006

New: Re 482 049 RABe 514 008
Withdrawn: TemII 276/82/90/95/96 TemIII
335 Tml 446/72/73
TmlI 602/16/60, 769, 827
RBe4/4 1406 Ee3/3 16370, 16434 Em3/3
18801/11 RBe 540 072

October 2006

New: RABe 514 009
Withdrawn: TemIII 338 TmlI 646/72, 780
Bm4/4 18404 RBe 540 042

November 2006

New: RABe 514 001, 010, 011
Withdrawn: TmlI 817 Ee3/3 16431/43

December 2006

New: RABe 514 012 RABe 521 025 - 028
Am 843 026, 027
Withdrawn: TemII 289/93/97 TemIII 350
TmlI 439/49/84, 506 TmlI 787/98 Ae6/6
11418/75 Ee3/3 16426 Bm3/3 18504/9

SOCIETY NEWS

New Birmingham Branch

The first meeting of the new Birmingham Branch of the Swiss Railways Society will be held on Friday, 28th September 2007 at Stockland Green Methodist Church, Slade Road, Birmingham, B23 7JH. Proceedings will commence at 8.00pm. The church is about half a mile from Gravelly Hill station on the Birmingham - Lichfield Cross City railway line and just a mile from Jct6 of the M6. There is plenty of parking available.

The first meeting will be an opening social evening and slide show on "The Rhaetian Railway". All are welcome to come along to get the branch off to a good start. For further details please contact Steve Buck by e-mail gsdbuck@unisonfree.net or on 0121 382 5649.

Irish Connections?

One of our newer members, Roger Price, would like to hear from other members living in Ireland so that they can exchange news on Swiss

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Railways, Irish model railway shops stocking Swiss prototypes etc. Would anyone interested please contact Roger direct, please, at Ballina Lower, Blackwater, Co. Wexford, Republic of Ireland, or by 'phone on 00 353 (0) 862 289 340.

Editor's note: As the chart below show we have some 17 members on the Island of Ireland and some of our other members, including myself, visit/work there on a regular basis.

West of England Branch

Sadly, the organiser of our West of England Branch, David Skailes, has been ill recently and has asked to be relieved of his duties. David will be a hard act to follow and two people have volunteered to take on the tasks. Rupert Dove-Meadows, who has most successfully organised the branch annual dinners, will make the arrangements with our meeting venues, while Michael Farr will handle the administration.

We meet at noon on the second Saturday of the winter months, October to May, at the Railway Inn adjoining Newton Abbot station. Due to the perceived inaccessibility of Devon we can only occasionally persuade speakers to make the expedition westwards – much as we would like to see them - and so we tend to be self-sufficient, with branch members sharing slides, videos and DVDs. On one occasion the modelling experts from Plymouth, Mervyn and Louis, gave us a Masterclass in scenery building; I, for one, hope they may be persuaded to show us how to build catenary successfully!

Many people travel considerable distances to join us, some from other areas – and we would like to welcome even more! We break for lunch in the pub and then have a further session until the trains, by which most of us travel, are due to take us home. I suggest that any prospective visitors phone me to check that we have not had to change the date of our meeting due to bank holidays, the Society's AGM (I believe it will happen in 2008!) or a clash with a local model exhibition – in which case we usually meet at the show. My contact details are on the Society Diary page.

... and if any members are willing to share their Swiss railway experiences with us we shall be more than happy to show them some West Country hospitality.

Obituary - John Davey 1936-2007

Members of both the West of England and Bristol and Bath Area Branches will be sorry to learn of John's death at the end of February. He was a larger-than-life figure, and not only in his stature. Despite being diagnosed with cancer three or four years ago he continued to frequently visit his favourite country, in between some fairly drastic treatment for his condition.

After meeting him on a train on the Ferrovie Mesolcinese in 1999 we became close friends and, as well as belonging to his home group based at Bath, he started to attend the West of England Group meetings at Newton Abbot, travelling down either by train, or sometimes on his impressively-powerful motor bike

John began his working life as a fireman on the London Midland Region, which caused a lifelong interest in LNWR lines. He moved to Bristol when he married a local girl and, after service in the Navy, joined British Telecom.

So far as Swiss railways were concerned he travelled extensively and avidly collected post-cards, models and books, particularly bound volumes of magazines such as Eisenbahn Amateur. He timed his visits so he could attend bourses several times a year but as he became less able to get out-and-about he spent many happy hours at home poring over the books and cards. When I began to visit him in Bristol as his health deteriorated severely, I found his collection covered every wall of the ground floor of his home. John was always generous with his time and his knowledge

Wendy and Rupert Dove-Meadows joined me to represent the Society at his funeral in South Gloucestershire. As we approached Bristol Parkway station our train slowed to a halt and eventually we were told that a steam train had broken down ahead, blocking the line. Surprisingly, we moved within 15 min.; could John, we wondered, have had a hand in moving it in time for us to get to the crematorium. After the funeral we were able to pass on our sympathies to Sara and Phil, his daughter and her partner.

We in the West Country have lost a loyal and good friend and the Society has lost a gentle giant. *MGDF*

Where are we?

Although a number of our Members take attend the meetings of our existing Branches the Management Committee is aware that there may be many more readers who wonder whether there might be sufficient interest in setting up new branch in their area. The following list indicates how our membership is distributed (as at 1st April 2007 - with joint members at the same address counted as one). In a few cases I have made assumptions about where best to categorise an address. Of course, County boundaries can only offer a rough guide. For example in the case of Greater London we realise that members in some of the outer Boroughs will still have "County" postal addresses

If anyone is interested in setting up a new Branch, please remember that for reasons of data protection I cannot release details of members' addresses without their express permission. Instead, a brief article should be submitted to the Editor of "Swiss Express" which would invite anyone interested to contact the originating member by whichever means he/she specifies.

Bedfordshire	14	Leicestershire	17	Wales - north	12
Berkshire	23	Lincolnshire	10	Warwickshire	14
Buckinghamshire	18	Merseyside	14	West Midlands	25
Cambridgeshire	15	Norfolk	13	Wiltshire	22
Channel Islands	2	Northamptonshire	13	Worcestershire	21
Cheshire	37	Northumberland	7	Yorkshire - East	3
Cornwall	9	Nottinghamshire	14	Yorkshire - North	23
Cumbria	15	Northern Ireland	11	Yorkshire - South	17
Derbyshire	30	Oxfordshire	12	Yorkshire - West	45
Devon	32	Rutland	1	Australia	21
Dorset	23	Scotland - central	40	Canada	8
Durham	6	Scotland - south	9	Eire	6
Essex	39	Scotland - north	12	Finland	1
Gloucestershire	28	Shropshire	9	France	4
Greater London	60	Somerset	35	Greece	1
Greater Manchester	14	Staffordshire	25	Latvia	1
Hampshire	44	Suffolk	18	Luxembourg	1
Herefordshire	8	Surrey	51	Netherlands	4
Hertfordshire	38	Sussex East	19	New Zealand	5
Isle of Man	5	Sussex West	27	South Africa	4
Isle of Wight	2	Tyne & Wear	7	Spain	1
Kent	43	Wales - south	18	Switzerland	11
Lancashire	29	Wales - mid	2	USA	58

Members probably realise that their alpha-numeric membership code is based on the year in which they joined (or re-joined) with "A" being 1980 and "ZD" being 2006. If you have wondered how many remain from your intake the details are as follows, again based on the membership at the beginning of April 2007.

Letter codex	Present no. of members	Letter codex	Present no. of members	Letter codex	Present no. of members
A	2	K	43	U	46
B	44	L	48	V	45
C	11	M	45	W	71
D	16	N	33	X	61
E	17	P	50	Y	82
F	31	Q	30	ZA	88
G	15	R	41	ZB	91
H	58	S	58	ZC	88
J	35	T	42	ZD	35

Some of you may know the member with the lowest number (A1) is Roy Dungleison, followed closely by Timothy Stannard (A3). Three overseas members have "D" numbers, the earliest of which is held by Michael Bayly in the United States.

And finally, those of you who attended the last AGM will recall that an error was spotted in the report I had submitted about Membership numbers in 2006. The reason for the apparent shortfall of 17 members was that when I prepared the report for the AGM I had overlooked those people on my Excel spreadsheet that had resigned, or had sadly died, during the year (but were nonetheless paid-up for the whole of 2006). I apologise for the oversight. Martin Fisher – Membership Secretary.