

Editorial

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COVER PICTURE:

This composite picture shows just some of the glories of the "Queen of Mountains".

PHOTOS: Phil Emond

EDITORIAL Malcolm Bulpitt

Recently the Editorial Team have had members contact them about "missing" articles - ones they have sent in but that have not been published. There are several possible reasons why your submissions to *Swiss Express* have not made it into print.

The first is space - with alternating "thick and thin" magazines this has become an issue. These limits on the size of the magazine (due to escalating postal charges) also mean that we can no longer find space on a regular basis for massive articles. Any submission of 2,000-plus words, with relevant photographs, would take up almost half of the editorial space in a "thin" edition, and we have several of these large articles waiting in the files. However, a lot of words are not always necessary to describe your Swiss topic. In this issue Ron Smith paints a great picture of the 2006 Steam Day on the ST in only 780 words. Jakob Jäger describes the attractions and operations of Zürich's Line S10 in just 640 words and a few well chosen images. There will always be room in *Swiss Express* for a good article with 1,000-plus words but the general rule is - if you keep it is more likely to go in. The upside of submitting short items is that they take less time to put together, so there is less excuse not to write one!

Another problem that the team has had to contend with, and has possibly impacted upon your submissions, involves computer security. Both Liliana Wood and I have had our SRS electronic addresses "hit" recently. A potential scam involving over 200 spam messages a day brought Liliana's system down in July. In my case (despite having an expensive filter system in use on my system) it was spurious use of my address by an outside agency that appeared to have picked it up, having "secretly" accessed the address-book of someone I had corresponded with. How secure are your systems? Liliana's problems were so serious that her ISP had to shut-down her system whilst her machine failed. If you tried to contact her in July, August and September these e-mails (and any submissions) have probably been lost.

To assist the Editorial Team to be able to use our spam filters efficiently (I have to scan through some 50 items of electronic junk daily) please add "Swiss Express" in the Subject Box of your email when contacting us. Liliana now has a new electronic address (see this edition), and if you have sent either of us anything we will always try to acknowledge it once it has been received.

Some members have asked that we reintroduce the edition number on the cover of the magazine. This is No. 76, and is there.

JUST A SEC Roger Ellis

Yorkshire & Birmingham Branches

Firstly I am pleased to report a re-kindled interest in a Yorkshire Branch thanks to the efforts of John Stokes and other members. The Membership Secretary was able to send out a "flyer" to relevant members advising them of a November meeting, and I am hopeful that a future edition of *Swiss Express* will be able to detail further meetings and also include information on the Branch Organiser.