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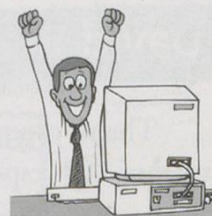
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THE EDITOR HAS HIS SAY!



I seem always to be apologising for late arrival/delivery of Swiss Express. No change this time then. Yet again I have had, albeit this time enforced through takeover and redundancy, a change of job. Good timing this one, right when the proofs were due I am away at roadshows and on training courses. You will all appreciate that one's employment must come first and so once again I am sorry but Swiss Express will be late and probably will not have been sent out before the AGM. I hope however that you enjoy it, particularly the use of colour.

I must say a big thank you to Joanna Hulme who proof read a lot of the magazine. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate this, as does my wife who visibly wilts when I arrive downstairs with the finished product. Joanna, you have the job!

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE

In one sense Switzerland seems to be becoming more like the UK. A constant round of rumour, conjecture, change and realignment, so much so that it is becoming difficult to keep up with what is going on. Although the omnipresent overview of the web enables information to be disseminated at high speed and in all directions I am convinced, by personal experience in the UK, that too much information leads to overload. There are only so many releases that can be read, websites that can be scrutinised and contacts that can be contacted. Time is always, and inevitably, the limiting factor. Like most people I have a family, job and yes interests besides Swiss Railways. Time allocation has or will become the next major management technique. How will this be achieved? Probably you have already guessed, through harnessing the ever increasing power of computers; Filofax is dead, long live the Palm Pilot (a kind of Filofax on speed and which is battery powered). By now I am sure you are wondering "what is this man on about?". Wonder no longer. I have the answer, and it is not 42, but a serious suggestion.

Take charge of your life by doing what you really enjoy. In my case that means taking pictures, I walk away from all the technology, information and time allocation problems by going out and taking pictures. Is what you really enjoy taking numbers?, then do it and forget the constant pressure of keeping up. Is what you enjoy simply watching trains with a beer, glass of wine or cup of coffee in your hand, then do it. Do not hesitate, go and do it whenever and wherever you can and stop trying to keep up.

Now the strange thing is that by following my advice, free advice, you will automatically begin to allocate time effectively. Facts, rumours and solutions will appear as if by magic. Answers to problems that had been troubling you for years will manifest themselves, such as why does Re 4/4 "1234 have a blue surround to it's O/S headlights? All this without any further effort on your part.

Enjoy Switzerland and it's wonderful transport, relax and let the world and it's trains go by. You know it makes sense.

No room this time for the competition. The winner of December's crossword competition was P Newton of Northumberland. A prize will be sent to him shortly. Next competition in the next *Swiss Express*

TRAVELOGUES

The following are available from the editor

1. Switzerland via the TGV - Summer 1999 - Phil Riley
2. How to get the most out of a Swiss Pass - Summer 1999 - Margaret Smith
3. ICN Special - March 2000 - A J Spencer
4. Switzerland with Festiniog Travel (RhB/FO/MOB) - Summer 1999 - Philip Elwin
5. Michael Farr's 2000 Diary - Summer 2000 - Michael Farr. An exhaustive survey!
6. The Toggenberg and Graubünden - Summer 1998 - David Stevenson

Send 50p in stamps to the editorial office for nos. 1 - 4 and £1.00 in stamps for nos. 5 and 6 which are very much longer and have more pictures.