

Editors notepad

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EDITORS NOTEPAD

Ballenberg Dampfbahn. During the period July, August and September 88 a steam loco type Ge/4 number 208 hauling a passenger train will operate between the towns of Interlaken and Meiringen. The backup loco will be HG3/3 no 1067.

BLS. Lötschbergbahn. From February this year an ontrain telephone service will be provided on certain trains running between Bern and Brig/Interlaken. At present the service will only be available as far as Spiez for trains running over the Lötschberg.

The BLS workshop has completed the restoration of the steam loco E3/3 GTB No 3. It is hoped that this loco will be available for the 75th year celebrations to be held in Interlaken West.

All Locos of the type Re4/4 are to be named and fitted with crests.

Geoff Dunster reported that on Saturday 13th February, there were several ski specials from DB land, Basle and Zürich running through Kandersteg to and returning from Brig with SBB motive power in the form of 4 x Re4/4II's and 5 x Ae6/6 and a Re6/6. The Re4/4II's were double headed both ways.

E.B.T. Public service special. Steam loco type Ed4/5 No 8 and DB BR64 518 will run on a special train for the whole day on Saturday 21st August. The route is between Burgdorf, Huttwil, Konofingen, Thun and Interlaken West and return. This is part of the "Rail in 88" celebrations for the BLS and SBB Brünig.

S.B.B. RIC coaches type B in the series 29-70 which were built in 1956/7 have been withdrawn from service and are being converted by SBB Bellinzona works into couchettes for the rolling road trains operated by HUPAC of Chiasso. The coaches are being repainted "Water Blue" and renumbered 99-30 490 etc.

The RIC coaches type Bm numbered 21 70 090 to 109 and 150 to 169 are being repainted from Orange to Green. This task is being carried out as and when they require overhaul in the works. Orange is now the colour reserved for air conditioned stock. The last of the Orange liveried Bpm coaches, 20 70 500 to 529, are being experimentally painted in the IC colours of Green and Grey.

Proposals for the Zürich to Chur line include the use of double deck coaching stock at the weekends, and a later train leaving Zürich after 23.00 hours.

During October 1987 an SNCF rail testing train, in the form of a converted type X2700 railcar, with ultrasonic equipment was demonstrated on the SBB.

An order for 12 coaches type SRm Panorama numbered 61 85 89-90 200 to 211 has been placed. The coaches will be used on the international trains to München, Stuttgart, Amsterdam and Milan. Weight is 48 tonnes, seating is 55 places and the delivery date is 1991.

The last of the five RAe II TEE trains are being withdrawn from service on the Zürich to Milan route, and along with the trains which were removed from the Bern to Frasné route will be refurbished in the SBB Zürich workshops. The units are being repainted in Grey/Silver Grey colours and reclassified as RABe. The RABe Nos. 1051 - 1055 will be painted with the new SBB logo and lettering and cars 1 and 6 will have the name Euro City painted on them. Configuration is Cars 1 and 2 will be first class with 2 + 1 seating (84 seats), Car 3 is the machine room and kitchen unit, Car 4 the Restaurant and Cars 5 and 6 are second class with 2 + 2 seating (147 seats). Service schedule in 1989 is EC 50, 51, 57 and 58 between Zürich and Milan and on service EC33, 34, 35 and 36 between Milan and Geneva/Lausanne.

SBB. Six sets of Air conditioned type IV coaching stock will be used on some of the Geneva to Brig fast trains, in addition to the normal reinforcements for the Eurocity services.

Telephones are being fitted into certain IC trains on the Basle/Interlaken and Geneva/St Gallen service.

Stock changes. Departures. Ae3/6I 10620, 10642, 10667, 10692 and 10708. De4/4 1664.

Arrivals due 1988. 23 Kolibri, 45 Coach type IV, 12 coaches type WR IV, 3 double-deck coaches, 100 wagons type Shimms, 51 wagon Uac's and 65 wagons Eanos.

SBB Brünig. During December 87, Triebwagen type Deh4/6 number 913 went through the Meiringen works for revision 3, as well as this work being done the central bogie (Riggenbach rack rail drive), was removed. The loco has now been reclassified as a De4/4II and will be used in the Meiringen to Interlaken Ost area. No 913 has now been painted in the standard Red colour.

Proposals have been put forward for a third rail to be laid between Interlaken Ost and Meiringen with a loop in Meiringen giving connection to the Seilbahnen.

Loco HGe4/4II Nos 1961-68 will be named: Horw, Hergiswil, Alpnach, Sachseln, Lungern, Hasliberg-Brünig, Brienz and Riggenberg.

Wagons type Eak6001, 6002, 6004 and 6009 have been converted by the Meiringen SBB workshops into passenger carrying view coaches type By, Nos 881 - 4. They will be used on special trains between Giswil and Meiringen during June to October 16th.

The two locos of the type HGe4/4II are to be withdrawn from service when the last of the eight engines ordered to have been delivered. They will be returned to SLM where they will undergo refurbishment. The bogies will be changed for ABT type units. SBB locos Nos 1951 and 1952 are in fact Furka Oberalp locos on loan to the SBB for trials, and the two engines will be handed over to the FO which will bring their total to eight HGe4/4II's.

RhB. Three more of the Personentriebwagen type ABe4/4 have been ordered for the Bernina line of the RhB. The numbers will be 54, 55 and 56. Delivery of the original order of three units numbered 51 - 53 is due this year.

A further order of three locomotives for use on the main line will be placed very soon. The Thyristor controlled locos will be either a type Ge4/4III or Ge6/6III. The decision on the type will be taken later this year.

The two locos Ge6/6II number 701 and 702 are being rebuilt as per the design of the remainder of the series numbered 703 etc.

W.A.B. Four new Gelenktriebwagens (Articulated driving coaches) are due for delivery this year, the type is BDhe4/8 rated at 804 kW. The units will be numbered 131 - 134. Also due this year is a new driving control coach number Bt 231.

MOB. The two DZe6/6's built in 1932 are to undergo general overhaul at Chernex to work on the historic trains.

MARKT PLATZ

For Sale

Liliput Swiss Express coaches, 2 x "B", 1 x "A", 1 x "AD", 1 x "WR", All at £7.00 each. Alan Morton, 77 Anstey Lane, Leicester. LE4 0FG.

Quantity of new and nearly new N gauge, mainly Swiss outline, for sale. A few locos left plus coaches and freight stock (latter includes a number of Swiss Toy wagons). SAE for list to Dave Howsam, 3 Balmain Road, Davyhulme, Manchester M31 3TE or Telephone: 061 748 7850.