

Thoughts from the big chair

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The Society's website is now at **SwissRailSoc.org.uk**

The original sites can still be accessed and the content will be identical at all three addresses.
New e-mail addresses have been allocated to all Committee members as follows:

Chairman	Chairman@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Treasurer*	Treasurer@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Secretary	Secretary@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Editor	Editor@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Membership@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Sales Officer	Sales@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Exhibitions Officer*	Exhibitions@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Roger Ellis (Committee)	Roger.Ellis@SwissRailSoc.org.uk
Geoff Thompson (Committee)	Geoff.Thompson@SwissRailSoc.org.uk

Those marked * are do not currently have Internet connection and e-mails will be routed via the Secretary. Please note that the previously advised email.com addresses are no longer operative
The Society Webmaster (currently Brian Hemming) can be reached at
Webmaster@SwissRailSoc.org.uk

THOUGHTS FROM THE BIG CHAIR - Paul Russenberger

It is March and the Annual General Meeting looms!

Really, it should not be seen as "looming", though with the work being done by the members in Derby, to them it must seem rather like that! Things have to be done – layouts organised, forms filled in, bookings taken and so on. But once that is done, in the spirit of it all there should be fun. It will be a get together to talk, enjoy things Swiss, look at layouts, browse at the trade stands, (make a purchase or three?) ...

And, yes there has to be business. Hopefully, the AGM itself can be kept to a reasonable length, but it is necessary and not an evil. The Society is growing and passed the 1100 membership mark at the close of 2001! (At the recent Committee meeting, Dave Howsam reported the fastest rate of renewal on record.) The Committee, sorry, your Committee, needs to hear your views, needs to learn what you want from the Society, needs to hear the debate about "where next?" which should be going on. Inevitably, the members are unlikely to speak with one voice and there will potentially be opposing views among us, the members. From those differing views, the Committee has to sense the direction in which to take the Society. But unless those views are made known, the Committee can only use its best judgement to take the Society forward.

Given the rate of growth, there may be changes in the years ahead. We ought to regard these as exciting times – come along to Derby and be part of the fun!

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Brian Hemming

If you have already looked at our website you will have noticed that included therein is a copy of my notes for the December *Swiss Express*. Unfortunately this item did not appear in that issue due to a virus infection problem, which occurred round about the time of its transmission to the Editor, and a failure on my part to ensure that it had been received correctly. This was unfortunate, because I wanted to explain my reasons for not seeking re-election at the forthcoming AGM and dispel any ideas, which might circulate that there had been major problems within the Committee. I have, since the 1994 AGM, been on the Committee for two years as Membership Secretary and will have been Secretary for four years at the forthcoming AGM. I feel I need to stand back from the duties of office to devote more time to the various aspects of my hobby. I have a model railway waiting to be built but furthermore, a recent change in my other commitments means that I would in any case be unable to devote sufficient time to the administration of the Society. I will continue to be an active member of the Society and hopefully, subject to the Editor's approval, be contributing from time to time in *Swiss Express*. (Note from ED-Trust me Brian you have my approval!!)

At the Committee meetings held on 6th October and 26th January consideration was given to a new design of