

# Chairman's thoughts

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## CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS - Paul Russenberger

There are some lessons I have great difficulty in learning. In Wengen in March I took an early evening walk to the station to purchase a pass for my wife. The day had been clear but after some fairly hard exercise I did not feel like taking my camera. As I left the station the sun was setting casting a deep pink hue over the clean snow on the Jungfrau. It would have made a wonderful photograph, perhaps even a competition winner. We will never know as my camera was at the hotel and the sun had set by the time of my return. A few days later the family were skiing together and had stopped, quite fortuitously (yes, honestly) by the Wengernalpbahn line. In quick succession three trains passed, first the modern BDhe4/8, then the more traditional BDhe4/4 to be followed by one of the latest blue HGe2/2 locomotives with two trailer coaches. Again, no camera with me.

This issue of Swiss Express contains a great increase in the colour content with pictures submitted by members who did have their cameras with them. The Committee hopes you enjoy this feature and we would like to thank those who submitted photographs and to hear from you what you think. Do not do as I do, do as I say. When in Switzerland always have your camera with you, there is so much worth recording.

Good colour illustrations always increase the impact of a magazine and colour will make this issue of Swiss Express that more noticeable. Again, while in Wengen, I discovered how much it is noticed. My copy of the March issue was lying on a table in the hotel lounge when the hotel owner passed by and commented We had another member from that Society staying last summer. I did not, unfortunately, recruit a new member during the ensuing conversation, but it demonstrates how the magazine can be noticed. It is sent to the SBB, to the Verkehrshaus and to other organisations. It acts as the illustration, the window into the Society, which shows who we are and the type of group we are. We know that it is read and that is the greatest complement that can be paid to the Society. It also becomes one of the Society's greatest responsibilities.

If you are going to Switzerland this summer, do take Swiss Express to read and definitely your camera to use.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES - Brian Hemming

By the time these notes are read the Annual General Meeting at Derby will be almost three months away. Following the precedent set last year the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor all submitted written reports which were available at the meeting and which will be appended to the Minutes. No nominations for the Committee had been received and therefore with the exception of Giles Della Gana and Steve Horobin who were not offering themselves for election your committee was re-elected. Giles remains as Librarian in an ex-officio role but the departure of Steve Horobin left a vacancy on the Committee for the post of Sales Officer. We are pleased to announce that this has now been filled by the co-option of Glyn Jones who will be known to many of you as the Organiser of the East Midlands Branch.

Your new Committee for the year to the next AGM is therefore:

**Chairman** - Paul Russenberger

<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Hemming	<b>Treasurer</b>	Ian Athey
<b>Editor</b>	David Stevenson	<b>Membership Sec.</b>	Dave Howsam
<b>Sales Officer</b>	Glyn Jones	<b>Committee</b>	Roger Ellis, Geoff Thompson
<b>Publicity &amp; Exhibitions Officer</b>	Andy Nelson		

The AGM weekend started with a meeting of the East Midlands Branch on the Friday evening which was held at their regular venue. The speaker was Richard Pinner who gave a very interesting talk entitled "Holiday in Brig" which featured slides of many of the magnificent views in the area taken from footpaths in the Rhône valley and around the Aletsch glacier. Those present were certainly left with the desire to explore the Brig area more thoroughly, and our thanks are extended to Richard for making the evening so enjoyable.

Saturday morning started early for many of those participating in the Spring Meet and their efforts were well rewarded by an excellent turn out of members. Elsewhere in this issue are photographs of some of the