

Thoughts from the chair

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TAKE A LOOK AT PAGE 56. THE SOCIETY INTENDS TO PRODUCE A CALENDAR AND GREETINGS CARD. YOUR PICTURES ARE NEEDED

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR - Paul Russenberger

WHO GOT THERE FIRST?

First I must thank those who responded to my request to find out which of our members was the first and/or youngest to reach Switzerland. So far, you have reached the 1940s for the first visit and the youngest is now below the eight years old I mentioned. If relations counted, the first visit would be pre-war and the youngest six weeks. I heard an unconfirmed rumour at the AGM of an unnamed member who first visited Switzerland in the 1920s! Where are you?

So, I am going to let this run for a little and promise to announce the result in the next "Swiss Express", the Editor permitting. Thank you for all those who replied. It is gratifying to discover that people read what I write!

EISENBAHN AMATEUR

Those of us who subscribe to *Eisenbahn Amateur* will all be experiencing the frustration of not receiving it anywhere near the publication date. I am very aware that the delivery has been getting later by the month; my copy of the April issue reached me on 1 May!

John Stokes has approached the British postal authorities, but at the time of writing a useful response is awaited. At the SVEA Conference in Switzerland at the end of April Alan Pike and I discussed the matter with the printers. They are concerned, but are clear that the magazines are dispatched as a single package close to, if not on, the 28th of the preceding month. We believe the delay is occurring in the UK.

In the meantime, while I would ask the patience of those who subscribe. If you do not receive your *Eisenbahn Amateur* by the second week of the month, please let John Stokes know and, when you do receive it, again, please let him know. This is cumbersome, but it should enable the Society to build a clear, detailed picture of the situation for presentation to the postal authorities. Nevertheless, I hope the matter will have been resolved by the time you read this!

John's address is: 19, Scatcherd Grove, Morley, LS27 9LY

GETTING THERE

Lastly, to all of you who will be going to Switzerland this summer, have a good trip!!

JUST A SEC - Roger Ellis

WE CAN'T KEEP ON MEETING LIKE THIS!

I think for next year's AGM we will abandon all other sections of the agenda apart from 'Any Other Business', as it is this section that always provokes the most discussion.

An idea raised again this year was that we should meet, as a Society, more frequently than only at the AGM. What we need is a Branch/member to take the lead and volunteer to organise such an event. The Committee would wish to be involved to help ensure that the event was a success, and I know from talking to the Trade stands at Derby that they would give their support. The meeting does not have to be held at a hotel - a village hall or pub function room would do. It needs to be accessible by road and public transport, and could take the form of a slide show and/or talk as well as one or two trade stands plus layouts. Nothing formal, but just an opportunity to get together.

The South West area of the German Railways Society do it each year at Newton Abbott with great success. I know, I've been there and hope to go again this year as a visitor.

It may be that we cannot do anything for say September 2003, but we really ought to think hard for the autumn of 2004. Can some kind, well organised Branch/member say in the words of 'Bob the Builder', CAN WE DO IT, YES WE CAN?'