

# Annual General Meeting report : derby 25th March 2006

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

## Derby 25th March 2006

The meeting started at 14.15 and was attended by approximately 90 members of the Society.

The Chairman, Paul Russenberger, welcomed those present and the Secretary listed the apologies from members unable to attend. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted without amendment. The only matter arising from the previous AGM was an update from Dave Howsam relating to the report he had prepared from the member questionnaire on visits to Switzerland and the reaction from Swiss Tourism.

The Chairman had very little to add to his report except to comment that both Dave Howsam, and Ian Athey were not seeking re-election to their respective Committee positions. They both had done an exceptional job during their time serving the Society. The members showed their appreciation by loud applause. He also noted how successful the Society's presence at Warley had been.

The Secretary, Roger Ellis, did not add to his report except to point out to members that Giles Della Gana's health was now much improved and he was present at the meeting.

The Membership Secretary, Dave Howsam, clarified the position on the number of new members recruited at Warley. He commented that the total number of members to date was less than 2005 but more than 2004. Of particular note, however is the fact that only 73 had so far failed to renew for 2006, which is very encouraging.

The Publicity and Exhibitions Officer, Paul Hannant, thanked all those who had assisted him on the Sales Stand during the year, in particular the West Midlands Branch for their help at Kidderminster in the Autumn. The Sales Officer, Glyn Jones, had nothing to add to his report.

The Treasurer, Ian Athey, stated that the accounts for 2004 had been audited without any substantial change. He expanded on the figures shown in his report but particular mention was made of the Society's possible liability to Corporation Tax - this was something that the new Treasurer would be looking into. The balance that we held in the various accounts was about right, but the Committee had looked (and was looking) at ways in which our profitability could benefit the membership as a whole. Various ideas were offered from the floor and the Chairman mentioned the free badge we had given, the purchase of a small number of books for the Library, and that the Editor was looking at the *Swiss Express* going to full colour in the near future. Reference was made to the Library at this point and it was pointed out that this facility was little used by members, although there were very few valuable books that could not be loaned. It was asked if the recently issued 'Library List' could be put onto the Society Web Site. The Accounts were adopted.

The Editor did apologise for the past publication problems of the magazine, but insisted that the new editorial team was now working well and members should start to see improved publication times. There were comments on the importance of the magazine to members, but most were happy with the quality of *Swiss Express* and wished the new team well.

At this stage tellers were appointed as the position for Treasurer on the Committee had two candidates, namely John Fisher and John Stokes. They were both asked to address the members and after they did so voting papers were handed out. The result was the election of John Fisher to the post.

The motion for a change in the Constitution & Rules was then discussed. Strong views were stated by those for and against the motion, and it soon became clear that the majority of members present were unhappy with the proposed alteration. The Chairman asked for a vote by a show of hands and the motion was heavily defeated.

Bristol & Bath Branch offered to stage the 2007 AGM. This will be held on Saturday 24th March 2007 at the Novotel in Bristol.