

# Society news

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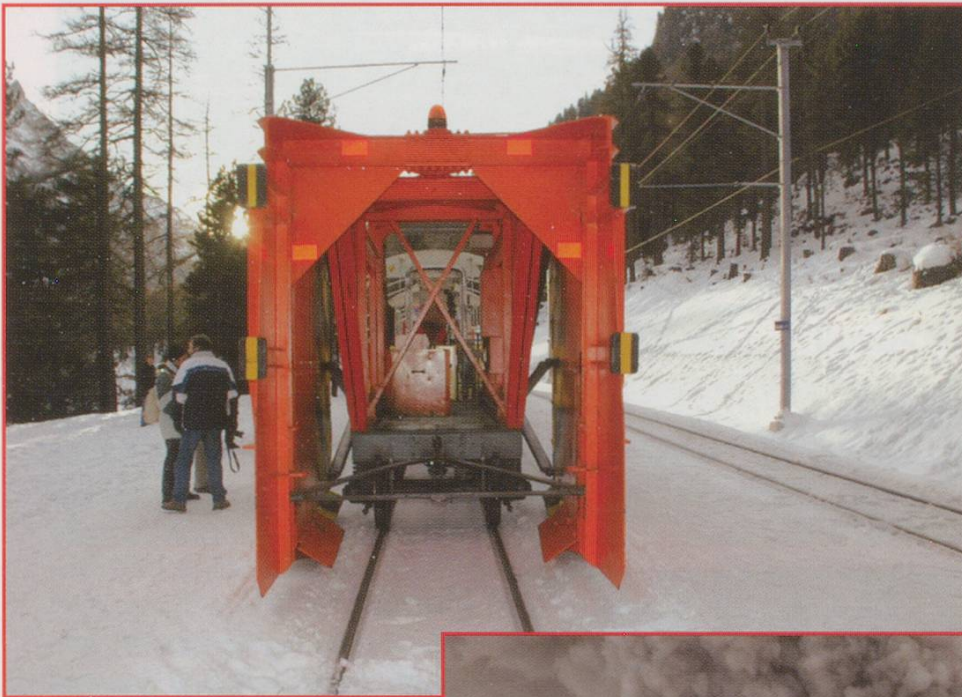
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# SNOW CLEARING ON THE RhB

Photos Bill Webber



This snow spreader is used on the RhB to assist in winter clearance work after a heavy snow fall. The vehicle has movable wings and is used to set the width of the path through the snow. It is pulled at the end of a works train to cut and funnel the snow to an area where it can be blown with the snow blower.

The steam driven rotary snow plough is another tool in the RhB's winter clearance fleet.



## SOCIETY NEWS

### Switzerland around the Solent

One of our members, Glyn Smith, would like to hear from any fellow members in the Hampshire area who would be interested in the formation of a local branch of the Society.

The June 2007 Swiss Express indicated that there are around 44 Hampshire members from which - with sufficient interest and participation - a viable group could be formed. There are also a significant

number of members in adjoining counties - 27 in West Sussex, 23 in Dorset and two on the Isle of Wight. As with other area branches the purpose would be to try to arrange fairly regular meetings in order to enjoy Swiss Railways in the form of social discourse together with local and visiting members giving talks, photo shows, etc.

Glyn would be delighted to hear from interested members, though he feels the need to explain that he is quite new to the



society and to the love of Switzerland and its railways. So - compared to the knowledge and experience of many people in the SRS he confesses to be a bit of a "lightweight" - but never-the-less enthusiastic.

If interested please contact Glyn by email on [glyn-di.smith@tesco.net](mailto:glyn-di.smith@tesco.net) or by telephoning him on 023 8084 9105.

## **Annual General Meeting - 21st March 2009**

The Annual General Meeting next year is to be organised by the London Branch but with a difference – it will be in Derby! Trying to find a reasonably priced venue in the centre of London for an event such as our AGM is becoming increasingly difficult so it has been decided that given the splendid service that the Society has enjoyed at the Midland Hotel in Derby the AGM will return there in 2009. It is a fairly central location for our geographic spread of Members, it is adjacent to a busy main line railway station with a good range of services and the rooms are reasonably priced for those who wish to stay. Make a note in your diary now, and watch out for more details appearing in *Swiss Express* during the autumn.

## **Swiss Railways and the Disabled**

A SRS member recently asked if we knew how people with disabilities, who intended to use the Swiss rail network, could access assistance. The question was raised at the AGM and a number of members came forward with information and useful suggestions. Basically people wishing to obtain this information should go to Page 1894 (or thereabouts) in the *Kursbuch*. This refers to a web site [www.rail.ch/mobil](http://www.rail.ch/mobil) that is most informative in a matter of fact, friendly and clear style. It also gives the

telephone numbers to use in Switzerland (toll free 0800 007 102) and for international calls, plus the minimum notice required, often only hours, for help to be made available.

## **Help wanted!**

Paul Hannant, who has successfully co-ordinated Swiss Railways Society appearances at exhibitions, etc. over recent years, is looking for two members to assist him over the next 12-months. Paul's business and personal commitments have recently increased and it would be useful for him to be able to call upon the services of a SRS member in both the south and north of the country to assist in running our stand at various events. Interested – then please contact Paul or the Secretary. Their details are in the front of the magazine.

## **2008 Autumn Meeting**

This will take place on Saturday 4th October in Letchworth, Hertfordshire between 10.30 and 16.30, and it is being organised by the London Branch. The venue is the Mrs Howard Memorial Hall in Norton Way South, Letchworth, SG6 1NX, which is just 10minutes walk from the Railway Station. There are two trains an hour from London Kings Cross – fastest journey time being 33 minutes on the XX.52 service. Letchworth is just off the A1(M) for those using private transport. There will be a mix of trade stands, model railway layouts, stands from various continental railway societies, film shows, etc. Neil Wheelwright is co-ordinating the organisation of the event and he is looking for more layouts. For more information contact him via [Neil.Wheelwright@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:Neil.Wheelwright@swissrailsoc.org.uk) (preferred) or by telephone on 01462 731 228 . There will be further details in the September *Swiss Express*.