

Editorial

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COVER PICTURE:

Following on from the Crocodile article in the last issue, this is the same train on its way down to Bergun in the early evening of 13th August against the unmistakable backdrop of Piz Muot.

PHOTO: Michael Robinson

EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

Once again at the AGM questions were raised about the production costs of this magazine, especially the item shown in the accounts as "outsourcing" and I promised to explain the need for seeking outside help. In this digital age the editor can take the raw copy, edit it and convert this to the typesetting which in times past would have required composing or casting hot-metal type. Similarly, someone as skilled in computer imaging as Tony Bagwell can get the best results possible from photographic originals submitted to him. This is time-consuming work which would have been undertaken by highly-paid picture "retouchers" in the past.

Between these jobs and the printing press there is what in the past would have been called the "Reproduction Process" for which printers quoted a charge for "First Costs" in addition to the price for the materials and printing. Some time ago the Management Committee decided that we required a professional-looking publication, not only for the enjoyment of our own members but also to help the standing of the Society - especially in Switzerland. To do this it was realised that we need skilled professional help to select type styles, size the photographs, develop the layout (essentially make everything fit) in order to present a pleasing layout. Many of us will have seen society magazines in which the unskilled editor struggles to fill space whilst using every fancy typeface in his font list - with disastrous results. This "make-up" task is quite time-consuming and has to be done both to a deadline and to a standard acceptable to our printers, so it was decided that money spent on outside help would be worthwhile. In fact, because our designer has a long-lived interest in Swiss railways, our costs in no way represent a commercial price for the time involved.

I hope this will help to explain to all members the "outsourcing" charge. I will try to find a more descriptive term for these essential tasks for future AGMs.

2009 AGM REPORT

David Stevenson

On Saturday 21st March the 2009 SRS AGM was held in Derby at the same hotel we regularly use but now renamed the Hallmark Hotel Derby, for some reason known only to that rarefied and generally useless breed known as image consultants. I digress.

The London Branch organised the event under the leadership of Ron Dawes; well done Ron, it was a very good day. Traders included Winco, Platform 5, Contikits, NScaleCH, Gerald Savine and finally and not least MITV, more on them later! Layouts included Hohtenn, Eric the Roundhouse, Wesslingen, Darlingen and Dave Howsam's new funicular.