

Editorial

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 2 SOCIETY SALES
- 4 SOCIETY PAGES
- 5 WHY SWITZERLAND?
- 6 SWISS EXPRESS STARTED HERE
- 7 SWISS RAILWAYS IN 1980
- 14 SVEA AT SOLOTHURN
- 16 AROUND AND ABOUT IN AROSA
- 20 WHY SWITZERLAND?
- 21 DIMINISHING STANDARDS - Part 1
- 25 CISALPINO – THE END
- 27 NOT ONLY TRAINS, BUT ALSO...
- 29 WHY SWITZERLAND?
- 30 THE ELECTRIC RAILWAY - Part 2
- 34 ROMANDE REPORTS
- 36 SHIP AHOY!
- 38 PHOTO GALLERY
- 44 ENGADIN ENGINEERING
- 48 TRACKS IN THE STREET
- 50 LES CHEMINS DE FER DU JURA
- 53 WHY SWITZERLAND
- 54 MODELLING NEWS
- 56 ERSTFELD 2009
- 59 SIDETRACKS...
- 62 MY FIRST SWISS PHOTOGRAPH
- 63 THE SWISS NUMBERING SYSTEM - Part 2
- 64 DVD AND BOOK REVIEWS
- 66 NOTEPAD
- 68 AGM 2010
- 69 SOCIETY NEWS
- 71 CHRISTMAS QUESTION TIME
- 72 SOCIETY DIARY
- 74 MEMBERS' LETTERS
- 76 SBB CARGO MODERNISE THEIR SHUNTERS
- 77 SWISS POST AND "THE LITTLE RED ONE"
- 79 AND FINALLY ...

COVER PICTURE:

A collage by Tony Bagwell our Photo Editor.

EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

Welcome to Edition 100 of *Swiss Express* - I wonder if the editor of Edition One realised, when sitting-down to write the words of the first editorial which we have reproduced on Page 6, that 25-years later his new magazine would still be going strong. When *Swiss Express* was launched the SRS had a total membership of around 350; this year our membership is just under 1,300, only slightly down on our 2006 peak of 1,377. Subscriptions in 1984 were £5 a year. It is just £15 a year to renew your membership for 2010 so I hope that you will realise what a bargain your subscriptions are - and that *Swiss Express* is.

Following its foundation in 1980 the Society produced, on an ad-hoc basis, a stapled-together set of A4 pages under the title of *Swiss Railway News* the last edition of which came out in 1984. The move to *Swiss Express* was a bold one. From something that could be written-up on a typewriter and reproduced on a simple copying machine to a properly published and printed magazine was a giant leap for a Society still feeling its feet. The early editions were thin (just 28-pages), obviously in black and white, and the photographic reproduction was "grainy", to say the least. They were so completely different to the full-colour magazine that the editorial team, with some professional assistance, now produce and that you are currently reading. I must thank the former editors, and the many contributors, for giving us 25-years of entertainment and education in all the editions between then and now.

Given that Edition 100 comes along almost at the same time as the 30th anniversary of the start of the SRS I have asked Bryan Stone, a member living in Switzerland, to recall just what the Swiss railway scene was like in the early years of the 1980s. Reading his excellent article you will realise how things have changed. Transport today in Switzerland is totally different from what it was in 1980 when the SRS was founded. Thanks to the discipline of the *Taktfahrplan*, that started to be introduced some two years later, things were already changing fast when *Swiss Express* came on the scene, and over the years through its contributors this magazine has reported on these events. I hope that we will continue to be able to do this as we enter the second decade of the 21st Century.

It has occurred to us that a way of involving members in the 30th Anniversary of the Society would be to ask those of you who have memories, anecdotes, observations, etc pertinent to Switzerland in 1980 to set them out for us. If you have vintage photographs we can get these digitized. In this edition there is the start of an occasional feature with the title "My first Swiss photograph". We have some other ideas along similar lines for items in future editions of *Swiss Express* but we would love to hear from you, our members.