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2011 AGM

Is it in your diary yet? Members who intend to stay in Derby will see from the AGM advertisement that the Hallmark Hotel is quoting a special rate for accommodation. We should point out that this may not be the cheapest rate available, either direct from the Hotel, on its website; or via independent websites such as "lastminute.com". It is however the cheapest rate available that does not require the full payment at the time of booking and allows cancellation, subject to the Hotel's terms and conditions, without charge. Also we have obtained a special discounted rate for the Saturday Evening Dinner, which is cheaper than 2010 and reflects the concerns with some aspects of the service that both the SRS, and the hotel management had, following the 2010 event. They have assured us that there will be no recurrence next year.

AGM Photographic Competition

A photographic competition will be held at the 2011 AGM. There will be three categories: Railways, Scenic and Humorous and members can enter a maximum of one photograph in each category. Entries must be prints (mounted or un-mounted), with a maximum size of 7 inches by 5 inches and titled. The photographer's name should be written on the back of each print. Entries can be made on the day or in advance by post to Glyn Jones (address details are on the main AGM advert). Please include a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your photographs.

WM on tour

On the 19th June some twenty-one members of the West Midlands Branch made their way, via a stop to admire the Llangollen Railway, to Llanberis to ride up Snowdon on its rack railway. They were blessed with an amazingly clear day

for their trip up the mountain hauled by SLM-built loco No.3 "Wyddfa". In addition to the journey on what is a Welsh version of the Brienzer Rothorn Bahn – sister locos, same rack system – the recently retired CME of the line entertained them to an in-depth discourse on the history of the line followed by a trip around the sheds and workshops, etc. Their trip was enlivened by the presence of a Swiss radio reporter so they subsequently featured in various reports including one on the swissinfo website. Space here is limited so for a much fuller description of their day it is suggested that interested members contact WM Branch Organiser Geoff Turner (his details are on the Branch Diary pages) and ask to be sent an appropriate copy of the excellent electronic branch newsletter "Rundschreiben" that he produces.

2011 Calendar

As we go to press there are still some copies of the calendar available. Ordering details were in the last magazine.

Please do not let us down

Following Kenneth Perry's letter in SE 103 describing his good fortune to get an unsolicited invitation to have a cab ride on the Gotthard, we have been asked to remind members that the policy and rules of the SRS dictate that they should not use society membership as a potential means to access any area of the operating railway when in Switzerland. Over the years the SRS has worked hard to develop a good reputation in that country, and some operators are prepared to work with us on a professional basis to host organised visits, etc. There is absolutely no implication that Kenneth acted incorrectly in the instance he described but we are aware that in the past some individuals have unfortunately used SRS membership to try and gain access to private, and potentially dangerous, locations. Enjoy watching the workings, but please do it safely and from a public place.

Swiss Railways Society Annual General Meeting & Spring Meet 2011

**In the Garden, Edale, & Wyedale Rooms of the
Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby
Saturday 26th March 2011 11:00 – 16:30 hrs**

(Guests and friends are also welcome but a donation of £2 per person would be appreciated)

The event is organised by the East Midlands Branch
with the support of the Management Committee.

Confirmed Sales Stands – Winco, Platform 5, Contikits, Hornby International,
Gerald Savine Prints, Society Sales, N-Scale Ch,
Bring and Buy Stall, Society Library Book Sale, Raffle.

Layouts and Displays – by Simon Ellis, Dave Howsam,
Barental (HOM) by Ray Williams, Radeberg Ost (HO) Alan Wardman
Photographic Competition.

Annual General Meeting - 14.00 hrs

To be followed in the evening by a DINNER in the Wyedale & Garden Rooms at 19.15 for 19.45 hrs

MENU

Melon and Pineapple Tower with a Fruit Compote
either

Lamb Rump accompanied by a Red Wine and Rosemary Sauce
or

Poached Salmon with a Hollandaise Sauce
Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes

Homemade Chocolate Brûlée with Shortbread

Freshly Brewed Filter Coffee with Swiss Chocolate

(A vegetarian alternative is available but must be booked in advance)

The cost is £25.00 per person including service and VAT, but NOT wine.

Early booking is advisable to avoid disappointment. Please state which main course you require.

There will be an after dinner talk by Andrew Cook CBE followed by one of Rob Morrey's (in)famous quizzes.

Bookings to:

Glyn Jones, 18, Robin Road, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4LB

Cheques should be made payable to Swiss Railways Society.

Please enclose an s.a.e. for the return of your tickets.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

A special bed & full English breakfast rate of £53.00 per person for a single room, or £47.00 per person for a double or twin room per night is available. This reduces to £50.50 and £45.50 respectively if booked for both the Friday and Saturday nights. In addition a table d'hôte dinner will be available on Friday 25th March at a cost of £20 per person. This must be booked with the Hotel a minimum of two weeks prior to the event and is also available to non-residents attending the Friday evening talk. Bookings should be made direct with the hotel, but please ensure you mention the Swiss Railways Society AGM when making your booking.

The full address of the hotel is: The Hallmark Hotel, Midland Road, Derby DE1 2SQ. (Tel: 01332 345894)

JOIN US FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND

The East Midlands Branch will be hosting their March meeting in Derby at the Midland Hotel on the Friday evening commencing at 20:00.

The Speaker is John Porter (former Crossrail Driver) and the talk is entitled "Freight Trains through the Alps"

There is still plenty of space available for additional layouts and displays. Please contact Glyn Jones if you have anything you wish to bring or display.