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North East England

Branch Organiser: Dave Ford, 29 Banbury Way, Blyth, Northumberland. tel: 0670-369 060 Please phone organiser for details of meetings.

Venue 10 Tern Close, South Beach; officially first Wednesday of each month, in practice every Wednesday evening.

Scotland

Branch Organiser: Willie McKnight, 4D Scott House, Hume Road, Seafar, Cumbernauld G67 1AR tel: 0236-729 499

Venue: Conference Room A, 8th Floor, Scotrail House, 58 Portdundas Road, Glasgow. 19:30
Please contact organiser for details of meetings. Proposed New Area Groups

Southampton and Essex

It is hoped to start Area Groups in the Southampton and Essex areas. Would any members ready to support such groups please contact the Membership Secretary, Les Heath as soon as possible so that something can be put in train for the coming winter..

1992 AGM

The 1992 Annual General Meeting was uncontentious and lasted a mere 35 minutes. The only events of note were the election of the new Secretary, Peter Dransfield, in place of John Jesson who as announced last year, has retired and the ratification of the proposal to publish a membership list. This left more time for everyone to enjoy the many excellent layouts present and to browse and buy from the enticing trade stands offering so many exciting goodies.

Congratulations are in order to both the Scottish and Cumbrian branches, who organised so enjoyable a meeting and found a hotel which coped magnificently with all our demands. A notable feature of the layouts was that, for once, the RhB was in the minority. The main attraction was a gigantic HO system (incorporating a bit of metre gauge) produced by the Cumbrian group. This model should do a lot to promote interest in Swiss railways at any exhibition looking for a first class centrepiece. Two N gauge SBB layouts added to the interest, there is no doubt that this scale is much more suited to a private Swiss layout, it keeps the size of the model within reasonable

bounds and is, of course, ideally suited to fly the white cross at exhibitions.

The meeting was rounded off, in traditional style, with an excellent dinner, followed by a slide based quiz. This was not, as has been suggested, won by the Hemel Hempstead Mafia, it turned out that two members on the winning table, Steve Horabin and Nick Freezer, knew most of the answers, the rest of us just sat there, sagely nodding as they identified obscure locations in Switzerland and equally puzzling locomotives and rolling stock.

PS Blumisalp

Within days of the receipt of the March Swiss Express by the BLS we received an information pack with a photocopy of page 44 where we reported the referendum with the comment "It is OK now". And so it is! The beautifully restored vessel will run daily in regular services in high season, except Mondays, from Sunday 14 June to Sunday 13 September, leaving Thun at 10:28, arriving at Interlaken West at 13:26. Should you still be eating your lunch, you can continue eating until the return journey at 14:20, arriving at Thun at 16:30. The ship will run on Sundays only from 20 September to 25 October. There is a "steam surcharge" of SFr.5.00 for adults and SFr.2.50 for children, or you can buy a family ticket which caters for children at no extra cost.

Special evening cruises will run on Saturdays from 11 July to 12 September, leaving Thun at 19:30, returning at 22:00 for SFr.19 second class + steam surcharge.