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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last Secretary's Notes were written the Committee has not met and therefore there is little new to report. You will see from the notes submitted by Dave Howsam, the Membership Secretary, that both the final membership figure for 1998 and renewals for 1999 are encouraging. We are now looking forward to another year in which the strength of the Society will be consolidated.

Enclosed with this issue will be the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Society in Bristol. At the time of writing these notes (early January) the full content of the Agenda has not been finalised. You will recall the closing date for items for the Agenda was 13th February, after which it will be a mad rush to get the Agenda printed for inclusion in the March Swiss Express.

The Committee has accepted with regret the standing down of Peter Marriott as Assistant Editor of Swiss Express with effect from this issue. Although his period in office has been

short, we must thank Peter for his valuable contribution towards the production of the issues with which he was involved. Such tasks are onerous to say the least, and any time given to them is much appreciated. We wish Peter well with his future journalistic work and look forward to reading his contributions in future issues of Swiss Express.

You will recall that I was co-opted as Secretary after the last Annual General Meeting, and under the Rules & Constitution of the Society have to be elected at the next AGM if I wish to continue in office. I am pleased to advise that after due consideration I have decided to stand for election as Secretary.

The Committee look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and thank you in advance for your support.

Brian Hemming

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The final membership figure for 1998 stood at 1023. This represented a fall of ten on the previous year, but this could be accounted for by the lower number of new members 145 in 1997, only 90 in 1998. The renewal rate was thus slightly over 90%.

The early response to 1999 renewals has been

excellent and within the first month of publication of the December Swiss Express - up to 7th January - we have 600 renewals. Your prompt renewals were very much appreciated as were the comments enclosed therein.

Dave Howsam

Eisenbahn Amateur Subscriptions through SRS

Would members who are subscribing to Eisenbahn Amateur through the Swiss Railways Society special rates scheme please note that any change of address must be sent to John Stokes (at 18 Maud Avenue, Leeds LS11 7DN) and NOT to Eisenbahn Amateur direct. John Stokes will arrange with the mailing house to have new address labels to replace the old ones.

The renewal applications for next year will be included with the September issue of Swiss

Express. Please DO NOT send subscriptions directly to Eisenbahn Amateur, if you are a member of the special scheme.

John Stokes

**Articles for the June
"Swiss Express"
by the 20th April**