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CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS - Paul Russenberger

In other parts of this issue of Swiss Express, you will read that two of the Committee members – Brian Hemming and Andy Nelson – are not seeking re-election to the Committee in 2002. This is not yet the time to formally recognise their contribution to the Society, though both have given voluntarily of their time and skills and wish to have time to devote to other aspects of their lives.

Obviously, that gives rise to two vacancies on the Committee and the opportunity to leaven the dough, so to speak. As I firmly believe, and have written before, this is immensely healthy, indeed almost necessary. It is the so vital route to enabling the ordinary members (are any of the members of this Society "ordinary"?!) to influence the make up and work of the Committee and to achieve a truly representative group to look after the best interests of the Society. It is open to any member of the Society to stand for election to the Committee.

If you want to stand for any of the posts, even if the present occupant is seeking re-election, or would like to try to persuade someone else to stand, Brian Hemming has the necessary form for you. On request, enclosing an SAE, copies of the Committee meeting minutes can also be sent to any member. It is part of the Society's Constitution that this should be so and Brian is struggling to remember if anyone has ever taken advantage of this! It is the constitutionally established method of making the work of the Committee as open as possible and it is surprising that requests for copies of the minutes are so seldom received.

Christmas is coming and as our thoughts turn to such seasonal things as mince pies and Xrot snowploughs, I wish to join my thanks with those of the Committee and the Presidents to all those who have given their time to the Society this year. Be they Branch Organisers, Swiss Express article writers, reporters of information for Notepad, photographers who bring their work to Branch meetings, all go to make up the Society and its life. Thank you all for what you have done.

May each of us and our families enjoy a happy holiday season and have every success in our endeavours in the New Year and throughout 2002.

EXHIBITIONS REPORT - Andy Nelson

Although I am writing this in October 2001 it is already time to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very prosperous and peaceful New Year.

I will not be standing for re-election from March 2002. This was a difficult decision, but unfortunately in working shifts for the Airline Industry (my whole world has been tipped upside down following September's tragic events) I can no longer guarantee my commitments to the Society. So my apologies for not turning up at the Warley Show, I had no choice but to cancel this. I have enjoyed my 6 plus years as Exhibitions Officer and meeting you all at shows. In the meantime should you wish to volunteer, a nomination form can be obtained from the Secretary. I will also be happy to discuss the post with you.

If you have a layout which you are Exhibiting and which our members might enjoy, or if there is any SRS sales item you may like and which I can take to Exhibitions, then please let me know, either by letter or on 01753 534313. I have also had a request for a Swiss Layout for the show at Newmarket on 8th June 2002

The Exhibitions Stand is booked to attend the venues shown below early next year, but at this moment I cannot guarantee to make any of the dates. Please ring to confirm attendance.

Jan. 12-13	St Albans show. St Albans Arena.
Feb. 23-24	Eurotrack Southampton. New venue at Eastleigh Sports Centre
Mar. 24	AGM Derby - Assisting the Sales Stand

SWISS THEMED WEEKEND IN MINEHEAD - JUNE 1st & 2nd 2002

Roy Dunglison is organising this weekend in Minehead which will include a two day Model Railway Exhibition. If any SRS member has a layout and would be willing to exhibit it please contact Roy at the address or telephone number below. Free accommodation for exhibitors will be provided on the Saturday night. SRS Sales will be there and of course members in general will be very welcome. Further details will be available in future Swiss Express's to come. Other ideas and suggestions would be welcomed to promote and enhance the Swiss Theme.

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