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COLOUR IN "SWISS EXPRESS."

When a committee has to take a decision one thing is certain: someone not a part of the committee will disagree with the decision. That was becoming clear as I received ideas, suggestions and comments from you on the possibility of introducing some permanent colour to "Swiss Express."

Very broadly, the majority of respondents were in favour of colour in the same proportion as in the June 2000 issue and would support an increase in the annual subscription to pay for it. However, there was also a significant minority, but definitely a minority, who were opposed to the introduction of colour and any necessary increase in the subscription. Remarkably, the relative size of this minority remained constant in the information obtained from those who emailed me (both from the UK and overseas) and those who were questioned at branches. I am grateful to all those troubled to express their views.

Before the October Committee Meeting your Editor and Treasurer inquired of printers and did their sums on the effect of costs and possible membership reduction if the annual subscription were to be increased – not a pleasant task the latter, but it had to be considered. At the Meeting the rest of us listened and thought and brainstormed, mindful that only 3.5% of the Society had expressed an opinion.

The final result was in the true British way of things a compromise. It was decided to introduce colour in alternate issues and to do so without raising the subscription.

It has been possible to do this by "good housekeeping." Only three Committee Meetings a year are proving necessary at the moment; income has been sustained by the high renewal rate; cost reductions in the production of "Swiss Express" will be achieved by using a slightly lighter weight paper which will be cheaper and ensure that postage charges are kept in a lower band. There is one negative aspect. The size of "Swiss Express" will be reduced from 64 to 56 pages in the colour issues.

Your Committee hopes you will agree with the decision we reached.

Paul Russenberger

EXHIBITIONS REPORT - Andy Nelson

The SRS Sales Stand will be at the following exhibitions in the New Year:

- January 13-14 : St. Albans
- February 24-25: Eurotrack, Southampton
- March 17: SRS AGM at Altrincham
- April 28-29: Derby Model Railway Exhibition. Bi-Annual continental theme.

If you are able to help man the stand at any of the above please give me a call. I like to have a look round as well! Don't forget also that, if you are going to an exhibition where the sales stand is going to be and you want a sales item, then give me a call on 01753 534313 and I can meet you there with it.

Swiss model railways are appearing, with their owners, at the following venues. If you are exhibiting a Swiss layout at an event then please let me know in advance for this page.

- March 3-4: San Giacomo. Mike Polglaze's layout gets it's first outing,
Read about the research in this issue of Swiss Express.

Sorry that I was unable to make the Minehead exhibition due to the fuel shortage. Mind you they had to cancel it too for the same reason! It will be rescheduled, probably in May.

Finally a very Happy Christmas and New Year.