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The 2008 AGM at Derby on the 8th March followed the usual pattern and was organised by Glyn Jones with the help of the East Midlands Branch and in particular Glyn's wife Pam. Thanks too to Heather Hall who manned the entrance with Liliana Wood and did much to ensure a successful raffle. The layouts and trade stands were excellent. Everyone who came seemed to enjoy it and the evening meal was as good as always at the Midland Hotel. After the meal members and their guests were entertained to a quiz devised by AGM regular Rob Morrey.

The meeting itself was opened at 14.00 by Paul Russenberger, the Chairman, who confirmed his retirement from the post and thanked all who had helped him during his period of office. Mention was made of the strengthened links with SVEA and Eisenbahn Amateur. The Secretary, Roger Ellis, spoke in particular about how pleased he had been in the formation of two new branches, one in Birmingham and another in Yorkshire, and brought to the meeting's attention the members in the background who had provided, and continued to provide, valuable help to the Society in particular Allan & Nan Mackie who organise the distribution of Swiss Express.

Martin Fisher, the Membership Secretary, gave details of the current numbers (1206) and to the increasing and very welcome membership amongst women, 20 in their own right and another 42 joint members. Paul Hannant (Exhibitions & Publicity) was unable to make the AGM but he was keen to recruit more help; two volunteers, one from the North and one from the South would be very welcome. Glyn Jones (Sales) revealed that a 2009 calendar was to be produced for sale later in the year.

John Fisher, the retiring Treasurer, said that the finances were in good shape. He advised that he had increased the advertising rates in *Swiss Express* to reflect their full cost. Paul Russenberger thanked him for all he had done in the two years he had been Treasurer. The accounts were adopted unanimously by the meeting. Copies of a summary are available to members not at the AGM on application to the Treasurer.

Malcolm Bulpitt, the Swiss Express Editor, thanked everyone who had helped with the magazine. He mentioned the forthcoming increase in postal rates in April and the affect this could have on his desire to return to four 60-page magazines each year. Currently two 60 and

two 44-page issues are produced each year, but the new committee may choose to review this. A long discussion took place about printing, production and postage but was brought to a close by David Baker who said that the management of the magazine was up to the new Committee. Malcolm also talked about the possibility of producing some Photo Booklets later on this year. The meeting showed their appreciation.

Roger Ellis told the meeting that although he had been nominated as Treasurer this had only been as there was no other nominee for the post but he did not feel suitably qualified. After some discussion surrounding this and after the Membership Secretary had confirmed that all nominees had complied with the requirements of the constitution the new Committee was voted in unanimously by show of hands as no elections were required. It was left to the new committee to manage the situation regarding the post of Treasurer.

After John Fisher had explained about the reason for the need for a change to clause 6ii of the constitution the resolution in front of the meeting was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

The date of the next AGM was agreed as 21st March, 2009. It was to be organised by the London Branch under the leadership of Ron Dawes and would be held once again at the Midland Hotel, Derby as no suitable reasonably priced venue was available in London.

The meeting was closed after Paul Russenberger had thanked everyone who had helped him. Immediately after this he too was thanked on behalf of the members by Alan Pike, a Joint President, for all he had done. The new Committee then took their seats and the meeting was opened to the floor.

Mention was made of the proposed Autumn 2009 meeting in Erstfeld to be organised by Roger Ellis and which now looked very likely. Neil Wheelwright spoke about the 2008 Autumn Meeting in Letchworth (details are available on the Society News page). David Stevenson outlined a proposed day trip to Zurich on the 25th June - details being available direct from him.

The Open Forum was closed by the new Chairman, Ian Athey, at 15.50.

Subsequent to the meeting the new Committee co-opted John Stokes for the post as Treasurer, whilst Roger Ellis agreed to remain on the Committee to provide an element of continuity.

AGM PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Pam Jones -
RAILWAY
Lunch Break in
Wengen



Heather Hall -
SCENIC
Halo Switzerland v1

Alan Pike -
HUMOROUS
Quick before the
HSE arrives

