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COVER PICTURE:

Two double-deck trains at Spiez.
Why not visit Spiez with the SRS in 2011. See page 37.

PHOTO: Michael R Wild.

EDITORIAL

Malcolm Bulpitt

Another full edition of Swiss Express due to all of our members (and others) who spend time writing articles, submitting photographs and sending in items of news. Thank you – and please keep it up. You will read elsewhere that the AGM decided that we should work towards an A4 magazine as this will give us more space to utilize your input and to broaden the scope of what we do. At the AGM I was asked why we did not use maps to make understanding articles easier. Space constraints with our current layout generally preclude this but it should be easier at A4. If you would like a map to accompany the magazine I would recommend acquiring the SBB/VöV/PostAuto “Official Map of Public Transport” published by Kümmerly+Freym which is available at most larger stations in Switzerland, and at Stamford’s Map Shop in London’s Long Acre. It is my constant travelling companion when using Swiss trains and on a recent trip it was seized upon eagerly by a Swiss lady who had an interest in rail travel but did not know of its existence. With this issue we welcome Lesley Johnston-Senior who will be joining the magazine team as our proof reader. Thanks too to the other members who responded to our request for a volunteer for this role. Lesley was first to contact me, but your offers are appreciated.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Ian Athey

At the Society's AGM on 20th March, the two proposed changes to the constitution were duly passed and therefore became effective at the end of that meeting. The proposal to allow electronic authorisation of payment from the Society's bank account was passed by a sizeable majority and without query. The other proposed change, concerning the election of Officers and Committee members for three years was also passed, with two minor amendments, by a sizeable majority. However, it seems that some present felt that the Committee were acting simply to secure their own futures. Nothing can be further from the truth. Two years ago we had the situation where the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all stood down at the one Annual General Meeting. As the incoming Chairman then, I was very concerned at the lack of continuity that would result. Furthermore, over the period 2005 to date we have had four Treasurers. In view of the above, the Committee decided, after long discussions, to take steps to change the constitution to help avoid a repetition of the above situations and provide the continuity that we feel is necessary.

One matter that occupied much of the open forum, after the official business of the AGM had been completed, was a discussion on the format of *Swiss Express*. This subject has been raised on several occasions in the past, and it has always been that the majority of members present expressed a wish that the magazine should remain A5 size. This, however, was not the case on 20th March when most present, having seen the mock-up of an A4 magazine that was on display, expressed the wish to change to A4 format. Over the coming months this possible change will no doubt occupy a substantial amount of time in Committee