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A Swiss Celebration

Malcolm Bulpitt



Photos: Malcolm Bulpitt

Bryan in CH
50 Jahre Jubiläum
Ausflugsfahrweis 1. Kl.
mit privatem Tramwagen
Gültigkeit: 25. Mai 2019
Hüslimatt (Abfahrt 11.00)
Heuwaage - Rodersdorf
ETTINGEN STATION
Verfügung am Gempenweg 20,
Ettingen
Nicht übertragbar
Auf- und Abspringen während der Fahrt
nicht gestattet
00009

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of Bryan Stone, the recently retired news editor of *Swiss Express*, moving to Switzerland. In 1969 Bryan was BR's North East Region Passenger Manager at Doncaster and in a career move he was

seconded by British Rail to be their representative at Intercontainer, a joint venture newly set-up by Europe's nationally owned railways. His posting was only for two years, but at the end of that period the Basel-based Swiss company offered him the chance to join their permanent staff. Perhaps unsurprisingly he chose to take up the offer and remain in Switzerland. Bryan remained with Intercontainer, finally as their Technical Director, until it was wound-up in the 1990s with the EU's opening-up of rail access to private competition. Bryan, his late wife Joy, and their children thrived in Switzerland and now, along with his two daughters, he is a Swiss citizen.

To commemorate his arrival in his adopted country Bryan chose to invite his family and many of his friends to enjoy a typically Swiss Apéro taken on a tour of some of the Baselland Transport (BLT) and Basler Verkehrs-Betriebe (BVB) tram routes in Basel, travelling on one of the historic trams preserved by the BLT. Unfortunately his chosen tram, former Birseckbahn Ce2/3 No.4, built in 1902, was suffering a mechanical problem on the morning of Saturday 25 May so the BLT substituted another Birseckbahn tram Ce2/4 No.12 dating from 1916. This vehicle has been superbly restored by the BLT and proved to be ideal for the party to enjoy their tour in the atmosphere of a century ago.

Bryan and Hanna, a German novelist whom he married several years ago, met their guests at BLT's Hüslimatt Depot where they joined No.12. This then set off into the city along the route of BLT's Line 10 with the Apéro being served en-route. After Heuwaage, the former terminus of the Birsigthalbahn, the trip joined the tracks of the BVB running to Theatre and on through the centre of the city to Schiffflände. Here it retraced its journey back down Line 10, with its brief

foray into Alsace to serve the village of Leymen, to the terminus at Rodersdorf in Canton Solothurn. The BLT has recently leased its now unused Depot at Rodersdorf to the Association Pro-BTB, who are converting it to a museum of the Birsigthalbahn. Bryan is a patron of the Association, and also its de-facto historian, and during the stop to look at progress on this project he took the opportunity to hand over to the President of Pro-BTB his personal collection of BTB, artefacts collected over his 50-years of living in Ettingen, one of the communities served by the BTB and now by its successor the BLT. The final leg of the trip was to return to Ettingen for the short walk to Bryan and Hanna's and a buffet lunch they had laid on at their home.

A very Swiss Saturday morning. ☝

ABOVE: End of the trip, Ettingen, 25. 05. 19.

INSET: Special Ticket, 25. 05. 19

RIGHT: Bryan and the driver, 25. 05. 19.

BELOW: No.12 at Rodersdorf.

