

West Midlands Rundschreiben

August 2019

Group News.

I hope everyone is well.

It seems a long time since our last meeting in April! The SVR Obbo trip takes place on Monday 9th September. Final call for bookings! Note this Observation car trip will be on the back of a service train leaving Kidderminster at 1000, it does 2 round trips and return to Kidderminster at 1710. Fare £20 inc. food.

SBB and other News

www.cgn02.ch

Again there is a great selection of photographs of Lake Geneva. One interesting image shows an artists impression of a new boat Ville d'Evian .

<http://www.bahnonline.ch/bo/bahnkalender-events/kalender>

LEB

Chemin de fer Lausanne-Echallens-Bercher has begun taking delivery of six three-car electric multiple-units being supplied by Stadler. The Be 4/8 EMUs were ordered in 2017

RhB

On 14.05.2019 628 hit a rockslide in the Surselva area. After inspection at Landquart repair was costed at over 1 Million franks and take around 18 months. As a result the loco has been withdrawn and will be scrapped after reusable parts have been removed. Coach A 1231 has also been withdrawn, AB 1569 will be repaired.

Due to the need to completely renovate both the Giarsun Tunnel and the Magnacun Tunnel on Rhaetian Railway's Lower Engadin line, the track must be closed for six months. From 11 March to 7 September 2019, therefore, the section between Susch and Scuol-Tarasp will be closed to rail traffic. During the six-month closure of the line, a rail replacement bus service will be in operation in the Lower Engadin. Direct connections currently running between Landquart and St. Moritz and the Vereina car transporter are not affected.

Sent out in the <https://www.verbanoexpress.it/> newsletter :

9-13 October Luino-wheels-rails-steam Steam event

30.11-1.12 Christmas Tour Luino - Constance -Stein am Rhein ***

Saturday December 14 Nikolaus Express Luino - Einsiedeln electric

*** Two-day tour to the Christmas markets of Konstanz and Stein am Rhein (In the studio)

Gotthard Panorama Express

0922 Lugano-Flüelen 1149 (3092)

1440 Flüelen-Lugano 1638 (3093)

This will run Tuesday to Sunday 19.04.2019 to 20.10.2019. It will now be Compulsory reservation FIRST CLASS ONLY plus a supplement of SFR 16

From Railway Gazette:

SWITZERLAND: Swiss Federal Railways has awarded Deutsche Bahn a contract to refurbish 93 Einheitswagen IV coaches at its Wittenberge and Neumünster workshops from 2020.

The first of the EW IV coaches were delivered to SBB in 1981, and they are expected to remain in service until the 2030s. The operator began an SFR90m programme to modernise 203 vehicles in 2017, with 15 being refurbished by Josef Meyer Rail AG in Rheinfelden, 93 by the German national operator and the rest in-house by SBB. The scope of the work includes internal refurbishment, corrosion treatment and repainting.

SWITZERLAND: Swiss Federal Railways and BLS AG have reached 'an amicable solution' to share the operation of long-distance services, the Federal Ministry of Environment, Transport, Energy & Communication announced on August 22. This will enable BLS to re-enter the long-distance passenger market with effect from the December 2019 timetable change.

The agreement follows discussions between the two railways' CEOs and mediation by representatives from the Federal Council and canton Bern, aimed at solving the stand-off which arose when the Federal Office for Transport decided to split the national long-distance concession and awarded two inter-regional routes to BLS. SBB immediately lodged a legal challenge against that decision with the Federal Administrative Court; this has been on hold since July to enable the talks and will now be formally withdrawn.

According to the ministry, BLS has agreed to waive its separate concession, so that SBB can retain an 'integral' licence to run the national long-distance network for the next 10 years. However, BLS will still operate the two routes that it had been allocated by BAV, 'with full ownership of its own rolling stock and its own train crew' but using SBB's operating rights.

BLS will operate RegioExpress services on the Bern – Biel route from December 2019 as planned, but the transfer of the Bern – Burgdorf – Olten service has been postponed until December 2020. At that point, BLS will also introduce hourly RegioExpress trains on the Bern – La Chaux-de-Fonds route, which will switch from the current locally-funded regional traffic concession to the long-distance network, with SBB contributing to support the enhanced service. This route is expected to transfer to SBB 'in the medium-term', as part of plans to improve connections between La Chaux-de-Fonds and other towns in western Switzerland.

Welcoming the signing of the co-operation contract between the two railways, which avoids the prospect of lengthy litigation, Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga said 'the joint solution strengthens public transport in Switzerland', adding that canton Bern, as majority shareholder in BLS was also pleased with the agreement. 'The re-entry of BLS into long-distance traffic is a great opportunity, which strengthens public transport in canton Bern and the neighbouring cantons', she explained.

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From SBB.ch web site

Between Palézieux and Moudon, engineering work is in progress. Duration from 23.05.2019 02:00 until 15.09.2019 23:55.

Between Wattwil and Nesslau-Neu St. Johann, engineering work is in progress. Duration from 03.06.2019 05:30 until 15.09.2019 22:30.

Yverdon-les-Bains - Ste-Croix: The rail traffic between Yverdon-les-Bains and Ste-Croix is interrupted. Duration from 06.07.2019 05:00 until 25.08.2019 23:59.

Between Herisau and St. Gallen Haggen, engineering work is in progress. Trains S2, S4, S81 + RE are cancelled between Herisau and St. Gallen Haggen.

Duration from 06.07.2019 01:40 until 26.08.2019 04:00.

Zürich HB SZU - Zürich Selnau: The rail traffic between Zürich HB SZU and Zürich Selnau is interrupted. Trains S4 + SN4 + S10 are cancelled between Zürich HB SZU and Zürich Selnau.

Duration from 13.07.2019 05:00 until 01.09.2019 05:00.

S-Bahn trains S 20 + S 21 are cancelled between Fribourg/Freiburg and Belfaux-Village.

Replacement bus services are operating Fribourg/Freiburg - Givisiez - Belfaux-Village.

Duration from 09.08.2019 21:20 until 26.08.2019 04:00.

Between Herisau and St. Gallen Haggen, engineering work is in progress.

Trains VAE are cancelled between Herisau and St. Gallen.

Trains S2, S4, S81 + RE are cancelled between Herisau and St. Gallen Haggen.

Replacement bus services are operating . Duration from 06.07.2019 01:40 until 26.08.2019 04:00.

The funicular service between Sierre/Siders (funi) and Montana Gare is suspended. Duration is indefinite. Passengers travelling from Sierre/Siders (funi) to Montana Gare or vice versa travel via BUS 421 + 422.

Between Lugano and Mendrisio, engineering work is in progress.

Please allow for cancellations as well as changed journey times and changed connections.

Duration: 12.08.2019 - 14.08.2019

Duration: 16.08.2019

Duration: 19.08.2019 - 23.08.2019

Duration: 26.08.2019 - 30.08.2019

12.08.19 until 05.09.19 Regional trains TER La Chaux-de-Fonds - Morteau - Besançon-Viotte are cancelled.

Replacement bus services are operating Le Locle - Morteau - Besançon-Viotte.

The CFF R / RE La Chaux-de-Fonds - Le Locle regional trains are running on schedule.

Between Capolago-Riva S. Vitale and Mendrisio, engineering work is in progress.

Please allow for cancellations as well as changed journey times and changed connections.

Duration: 12.08.2019 - 16.08.2019 , 19.08.2019 - 23.08.2019 and 26.08.2019 - 30.08.2019

International trains EC are cancelled between Lausanne and Genève.

Please switch to existing connections . Duration from 24.08.2019 06:00 until 25.08.2019 21:05.

, 05.10.2019 06:00 until 06.10.2019 21:05 and from 02.11.2019 06:00 until 03.11.2019 21:05.

.2019 Presentations- Offers of presentations are welcome!

Many thanks for the offers of presentations, a couple of short presentations for the Christmas event would be appreciated.

August 28th – ‘

September 25th – ‘T-Z in Switzerland’ Marin Fishers talk presented by David Stevenson

October 30th – ? by Rupert Chambers

November 27th- ‘Eastenders without the Duff-Duffs’ by Don Gatehouse

December Christmas event – provisionally Thursday 12th December.

Regards, Richard Shaw (shawrichard@pobroadband.co.uk)