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News from the Colony

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Annual Picnic:

Thanks to the changed date, we were able to have our annual picnic under blue sky and bright sunshine, both not taken for granted this summer! A happy large gathering enjoyed the well organised activities and meeting old and new friends. As usual the two Kegelbahnen were very busy all day. Seventy-seven competitors won a delicious Lyoner-Wurst and there were 165 tries to win the new, very nice Kegeln Trophy sponsored by Mr A. Muller. This year's "Schwingen" was reinforced by tough members from the Taranaki Schwinger-Club. There were some real exciting fights and the sawdust was flying in all directions. The Hamilton Club didn't have the best day for these sports events and lost both trophies. Nevertheless, the President, Mr E. Staheli, was pleased to hand them over to the winners. Well, Waikato boys, better get in behind, start training so we can recover our losses!

The first three placings were:—

Schwingen: 1, Nik Werder, Taranaki; 2, Gerhard Hodel, Taranaki; 3, Sery Odermatt, Hamilton.

Kegeln: 1, Arthur Muller, Auckland, 29 points; 2, Karl Waldvogel, Hamilton, 26 points; 3, Herbert Staheli, Hamilton, 25 points.

Another fine picnic belongs to the past. Many thanks to all the willing helpers, especially the E. Rust family, who managed the Schwingen so successfully, the Villiger family, who let us use their lovely grounds, the ladies behind the "counter", the men behind the bar and grill, and last, but not least, all the supporters for this Swissy event!

—R.E.W.

The Swiss Chalet:

We note with regret that Bert and Josy Fluhler have given up their well known Swiss Restaurant.

The Swiss Chalet cuisine has been well known for the exquisite Wiener-Schnitzel menu. Bert Fluhler's friendly face in the homely surroundings will be sorely missed. Many thanks go to Josy and Bert Fluhler for their advertising support in our Helvietia. We wish them both well for the future and bon voyage to Bert for his coming trip to Switzerland.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Inter-Club Competitions:

We realise that Wellingtonians sometimes have to turn their backs on Wellington to find better weather elsewhere, but why do they have to take it with them? Do they get homesick without it?

Despite the weather, 10 members from the Wellington Swiss Club arrived in Taranaki on Saturday, 7th February, for the annual Inter-

Club Competitions. These were to have been held at Te-Ngutu Park, but had to be transferred to our President's, Mr Len Chamberlain's large shed at Kapuni.

After a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies, the Kegeln Steintossen and shooting was held, with the cards being held in the evening at the Kapuni Hall. Taranaki was the eventual overall winner of these competitions.

On the afternoon of Sunday, February 8th we gathered with our visitors for a pleasant afternoon at the Kegelbahn on Mr Kiser's property at Eltham. All too soon it was time for our friends from Wellington to make their homeward journey.

We would like to thank the Wellington Swiss Club for travelling up in such unfavourable weather, and making the best of it. We can assure them that we do have better weather at times.

—R.W.

Annual Picinic:

The Taranaki Swiss Club had a beautiful summer's day for its picnic at Te Ngutu Park, on February 29th, with over 700 Swiss and their friends attending.

On arriving at the park gates our President, Mr Chamberlain, welcomed everybody and distributed free ice cream tickets for the ladies and children. As you drove the cars in it was a beautiful sight to see the Swiss flags flying gently in the breeze and the excellent Swiss music being played through an amplifying system provided by Mr A. Kuriger.

During the day we had races for the children, and free lollies and also Steintossen, skittles, and the big attraction for the day watched by hundreds was the Swingen.

The day passed very quickly and those who did not have to go home stayed for a barbecue tea which appeals to many.

Results of competitions were:—

Steintossen: 1, Mr B. Dudli; 2, Mr K. Buhler. Juniors: 1, Mr I. Coombe; 2, Mr P. Moulder. Men's Skittles: 1, Mr M. Suter; 2, Mr A. Meier. Ladies' Skittles: 1, Mrs M. Dudli; 2, Mrs L. Benkert. Swingen: 1, Mr N. Werder; 2 equal, Mr B. Dudli and Mr G. Hodel; 3, Mr U. Wenk.

—L.K.

TO ALL INTERESTED IN SCHWINGEN

Dear Schwinger Friends,

During these last few years I had the privilege to follow our old sport of Schwingen with a few willing and tradition-conscious Swiss. There has always been a certain difficulty to bring young, courageous competitors into the ring. On account of these difficulties I would like to make a few suggestions:

Firstly, I would like to propose and would welcome if the successful competitors at the picnic-Schwingen (Taranaki and Waikato) received the same awards as the winner in other sports such as Jassen and Kegeln etc.

In my opinion this move would help to foster the interest in this, our oldest national sport. I would be pleased to supervise or offer my services in any way in accordance with the appropriate sport regulations.

For the benefit of those interested I would like to explain some competition rules.

It must always be remembered that in Schwingen, as in all assessable sports results are open to queries. The ultimate goal of the competitors is to throw his opponent on his back so that both shoulder blades touch the sawdust. The OK of the referee signals the finish of the bout (Gang) and losers and winners are assessed on points. The diversity and true-to-rule performance can have a great bearing on the total points awarded. To count as a valid throw the winner must have a grip with one hand on his opponent's "schwinghosen". Either 9 or 10 points are awarded for a win. A draw gets 8.75 to 9 (according to individual performance). Even a loser can gain a maximum of 8 to 8.75 points. The duration of one bout is according to the rules five minutes, but can be either shortened or lengthened by the discretion of the referee. The referee's reminder to the competitors of the bout's last minute results often in renewed fighting spirits. The referee pairs the competitors as equally as possible, having regard to size, weight and known experience in order to achieve the most competitive performance. The beginning and end of each bout is marked by a friendly handshake of the competitors. The starting grip must be strictly according to rule and from then on the competition is on as long as limb and body are not endangered. Dislocating limbs, and strangulation grips are not permitted, as well as pushing while opponent is in bridge position (supported by head and feet only). The referee is responsible for a fair and safe competition. Each competitor's points are continuously recorded. According to points gained competitors are from time to time newly paired and therefore some delays during the competitions are unavoidable. The competitors with the highest points are called upon for the final bout (Schlussgang) which will give the overall winner (Schwingerkoenig).

These suggestions are put forward in the endeavour to foster old Swiss traditions and to give young Swiss a chance to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers.

Ernst Rust, Hamilton.

P.S.—Any comment regarding the above would be most welcome. Please write to the Editor.

500 Sulzer Looms in Sweden

A few months ago, the 500th Sulzer high speed loom to be delivered to Sweden by this Swiss firm was installed in a Swedish cloth mill. There are at present some 1,200 Sulzer looms in the Scandinavian textile industry as a whole, divided almost equally between factories using cotton, wool and fibres. (SODT)