

Social and personal

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1922)**

Heft 69

PDF erstellt am: **01.05.2024**

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SWISS BANK CLUB.

GALA DAY—September 23rd, 1922.

Despite the drizzling rain which prevailed almost throughout the afternoon of Saturday last, our friends of the Swiss Bank Club succeeded in bringing off the first of what is hoped will be a long series of Athletic Meetings. The weather was enough to dismay the keenest of sportsmen—in fact, Mr. G. F. Blake, Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation (who distributed the prizes owing to the unfortunate absence, through indisposition, of Mr. X. Castelli, the General Manager) very aptly described the meeting as a fight against the elements in which the Club emerged triumphantly victorious—but the unpropitious conditions only seemed to spur the officials and competitors on to greater efforts.

Those who braved the elements and wended their way to the venue at Preston Road, near Harrow, were rewarded by witnessing close and exciting contests in the serious events and some extremely funny situations in the humorous events.

The weather conditions were all against fast times, but nevertheless some good performances were put up. Judging by the results, some of the competitors should be capable, under better conditions, of rendering a good account of themselves even in the strongest company.

The Tennis Mixed Doubles final had to be abandoned owing to the state of the ground, and for the same reason it was decided to cancel the High Jump. Otherwise the whole of the lengthy programme was carried through without a hitch.

The results of the races, etc., were as follows:—

100 yds. Handicap.—1, H. R. Tobin (scr.); 2, W. Schwendener; 3, H. Herzog.

220 yds. Handicap.—1, W. Zurcher; 2, L. Stutz; 3, W. Schwendener.

440 yds. Handicap.—1, W. Peter; 2, W. Schwendener; 3, H. W. Lichtensteiger.

100 yds. Handicap for Ladies.—1, Miss Kiener; 2, Miss M. Curths; 3, Miss Waller.

Veterans' Race (80 yds.).—1, Mr. W. L. Smith; 2, Mr. F. H. Besson; 3, Mr. A. White.

Putting the Weight.—1, H. W. Lichtensteiger, 30ft. 10½in.; 2, W. Schwendener, 29ft. 2½in.; 3, G. Wangler, 28ft. 7½in.

Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, W. Zurcher, 246ft. 3in.; 2, C. B. Holton, 237ft. 3in.; 3, Havery, 231ft. 1in.

Humorous Race.—1, G. Hassell; 2, E. Moser; 3, H. W. Lichtensteiger.

Mixed Humorous Race.—1, G. Hassell and Miss M. Curths; 2, W. Schwendener and Miss G. Hayter; 3, A. Gates and Miss H. Curths.

Tug-of-War.—Book-keeping defeated Conti-Nostri by two pulls to one.

Sack Melée.—A. Gates defeated W. Wyss.

Children's Race.—1, Master Kiener; 2, Miss Searle; 3, Master Batt.

Three-legged Race (mixed).—1, C. B. Holton and Miss H. Curths; 2, G. Hassell and Miss M. Curths; 3, W. Wyss and Miss Havery.

Long Jump.—1, W. Zurcher, 16ft. 7in.; 2, H. Herzog, 15ft. 10½in.; 3, H. W. Lichtensteiger, 15ft. 9in.

Mr. Thomas, of the L. C. W. & P. Bank, rendered invaluable assistance in judging the events, his long experience of athletic contests being of great help.

As evidence that the unfortunate weather had failed to damp the spirit of the meeting it need only be mentioned that Dancing was carried on until a late hour, the music being provided by the Band of the 2nd Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), which had also played during the afternoon.

The Club were honoured by the presence of Cav. F. Montuschi, M.D., whose interest in the proceedings was much appreciated.

NICE BIG FRONT BEDROOM, with use of Piano, to let; breakfast if required.—J. Manzoni, 42, Kimberley Gardens, Harringay, N.

SWISS HOUSE, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W. 1.

We have received the Annual Report of the Swiss House, familiar to our readers as providing a congenial and moderate home for Swiss governesses while seeking a post or taking their holidays. This report covers the year ending 31st December, 1921, and shows an increase on the activities of the preceding year, the number of boarders received being 765, as against 725 in 1920. 572 of these were Swiss and 193 of other nationalities. The upkeep of the Home cost £3,424 14s. 6d., against which the boarders contributed £3,125 10s. 9d., showing a deficit of about £300. This deficit was partly covered by interest on investments, the Federal subsidy and Cantonal contributions, the remainder being subscribed by friends of the Home having the welfare of this patriotic work at heart.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Professor and Madame Borel had the pleasure to entertain at a luncheon party in their villa, near Geneva, the Swiss Delegation to the Assembly of the League of Nations, on September 5th. The guests were: Federal Councillor Motta, Head of the Federal Political Department; Mr. Usteri, Member of the Council of States; National Councillor Forrer; Professor Burckhardt; and the Secretaries Dr. Rüegger and Mr. Secrétan. President Ador was prevented from attending.

Three days later Professor and Madame Borel gave a dinner at the Hotel Beau-Séjour in honour of the Delegations of the British Empire and of Japan. The party included—besides the three Japanese Ambassadors, Baron Hayashi (London), Viscount and Viscountess Ishii (Paris), Mr. and Mrs. Adatci (Brussels)—Lord Chelmsford and Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer (India), Sir Edgar and Lady Walton and Professor Gilbert Murray (South Africa), Sir Mark and Lady Sheldon and Mr. Justice Rich (Australia), Sir Cecil Hurst (Great Britain), Mr. and Mrs. Lapointe, Mr. and Mrs. Larkin (Canada), Sir Francis Bell (New Zealand).

Mardi matin, à Janthod près Genève, M. Eugène Borel, avocat (fils du Prof. Eug. Borel, bien connu à Londres), a été tué dans un accident d'automobile. La voiture est venue se briser contre un arbre et M. Borel est resté étendu au milieu de la route étant tué sur le coup.

Mr. P. A. Carminé, who left for the Continent some four weeks ago in order to submit to surgical treatment, has successfully undergone a first operation which was carried out last Monday at the Victoria Clinique, Berne.

THE SWISS TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE.

With reference to the "Kurtax," on the imposition of which some English newspapers have commented adversely, we are officially informed that there are many resorts in Switzerland where no tax at all is levied. Where a tax is imposed it is for the arrangement of concerts, plays, sporting centres, etc., for the benefit of the guests, and holders of tax cards are entitled to reduced entrance fees to concerts, museums, etc.; also, as a rule, to free entrance to the Casino, and it is to the interest of visitors to purchase these cards. The tax varies from 10c. to 70c. per day, though in some winter stations with special sport arrangements a tax from 2 frs. to 7 frs. per week is imposed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, *Swiss Observer*.

Re your article "*Des nègres qui parlent le Schwyzerdütsch*," in your issue of 16/9/22, you may be interested to hear that I had a similar experience as the man in Tampa some few years ago, when I was stationed in Houston, Texas. One bright morning on my way to the office I was accosted by two burly negroes with the familiar street cry "Shine, Sir, Shine." Encouraged by their hearty invitation, I climbed upon the high chair and exposed my dusty footwear to their very efficient treatment. Imagine my surprise when I overheard their conversation about their previous night's exploits in the Tenderloin district, which was in almost pure Züridütsch. My curiosity being highly aroused, I made enquiries about their peculiar idiom and was told that they had grown up on the farm of one of the many Swiss settlers in the fertile plains of lower Texas, and had acquired some knowledge of his lovely and sometimes very expressive language.

F.A.S.