# Federation of Swiss societies in the U.K.

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# The Swiss Observer

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# FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE U.K.

As was announced in the last issue of the "Swiss Observer", a Federation of Swiss Societies in Great Britain was founded on 5th October. The rules were unanimously accepted after some slight alterations had been made. Most of the London societies and institutions agreed to join the Federation immediately, and others have since become members. All the societies and institutions have been most cordially invited to join before or at the first Annual General Meeting to be held some time next May.

The Swiss Ambassador has graciously consented to be Honorary President and was elected by the meeting. Members present also decided that the five members of the Special Committe for a Cultural and Social Centre should act as the first committee of the Federation until May 1966. The President was elected on 5th October in the person of Dr. H. W. Egli, and the other members are Mr. J. P. Christen (Vice-President), Mr. E. Bonvin (Hon. Secretary), Mr. A. Kunz (Hon. Treasurer) and Dr. X. M. Speckert. The purpose of limiting the term of office of the present committee is to enable all societies not yet in the Federation to participate in the elections at the first Annual General Meeting.

**Rules adopted by the Presidents' Assembly on**

**5th October 1965**

1. The name of the Federation shall be THE FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (hereinafter called the Federation).
2. The address shall be the Swiss Centre at Leicester Square in London or such address as the Federation at a General Meeting shall determine.
3. The **objects** of the Federation shall be:
   a) The representation and promotion of the common interests of the Swiss Community in the United Kingdom;
   b) The co-ordination of the activities of the Swiss groups, clubs, societies and institutions in the United Kingdom;
   c) The promotion of cultural and social activities in the interests of Switzerland's image in the United Kingdom, in co-operation with all other institutions and agencies able to assist.
4. The individual groups, clubs, societies and institutions, though retaining their independence, shall co-operate in every respect with the Federation, which shall be recognized as the co-ordinating and only body entitled to speak for the Community as a whole.
5. The Federation shall seek to achieve its objects through its Members.
6. For the achievement of its objects, the Federation shall be entitled to appeal for and collect capital and other contributions from its Members as well as from outside corporations and private individuals. Capital payments thus received shall be held by Trustees.
7. Subject to the Rules hereunto following, the Federation shall be entitled to negotiate and conclude agreements with third parties on behalf of the Swiss Community, and if required to form a limited company.
8. The Federation shall co-operate closely in all matters with the Swiss Embassy in London. The Swiss Ambassador shall be the Honorary President of the Federation entitled to participate in all deliberations in an advisory capacity, either in person or by deputy.

**Membership**

9. Acceptable as corporate Members are all Swiss groups, clubs, societies and institutions in the United Kingdom willing to subscribe to the aims and Rules of the Federation. Each corporate Member shall nominate one permanent delegate to the Federation.
10. The admission of new corporate Members requires the agreement of two-thirds majority of the Members voting.
11. Distinguished Swiss persons who are in a position and willing to give particularly important assistance towards the fulfilment of the Federation's aims and tasks may be elected at General Meetings as honorary Members, who shall have the right to speak at meetings but not to vote.
12. The establishment of the Federation shall take place at an extraordinary general meeting of the Assembly of Presidents of Swiss Societies in Great Britain by the signing of the master copy of these Rules by the presidents or their deputies of all participating societies and institutions.

**Subscription**

13. The Federation shall levy annual subscriptions from the corporate Members by agreement between the Committee and each Member individually, having regard to each Member's particular circumstances, as well as the needs of the Federation as agreed at General Meetings, including the contribution to the cost of sending delegates to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad. Such subscriptions shall normally not be less than five pounds sterling per annum, but the Committee shall have discretionary powers to

accept less or waive the subscription entirely in special cases.

**The Committee**

14. The Federation shall be governed by a Committee composed of: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and one other Member, all of whom shall be elected for a period of two years at the Annual General Meeting, and each of whom shall be eligible for re-election. The first Committee, however, shall be elected at the Constituent Meeting and remain in office until the first Annual General Meeting.

When a new election to the Committee becomes necessary in the course of the two-year period, such election shall take place at the next following Annual General Meeting and must be notified in the agenda.

15. The Treasurer shall submit yearly accounts as at 31st March to the Annual General Meeting and such accounts shall be audited by a delegate, not being a member of the Committee, who shall be nominated each year by the Annual General Meeting.
16. Power to sign on behalf of the Federation is vested jointly in the President or Vice-President and any other Member of the Committee.
17. The President represents the Federation at all times and shall send his Annual Report to each Member at least ten days before the Annual General Meeting.
18. Two Trustees shall be elected at the first Annual General Meeting and all capital sums received from Members shall be vested in such Trustees under terms agreed with each contributing Member.
19. The Trustees shall report to the Annual General Meeting regarding the Trust Funds.
20. The Committee Meetings, requiring a quorum of three, shall take place at the President's discretion and shall be informal. Where necessary, decisions may be taken by majority vote.
21. The Committee shall manage the business of the Federation. It shall have power to sign agreements with third parties binding the Federation; major agreements, however, shall be submitted in draft to each Member concerned, whose approval may be presumed after six weeks unless objections, with detailed reasons, have been lodged in writing. Such objections shall be circulated to all Members and a vote of all Members shall be taken by correspondence; a two-thirds majority of all Members shall entitle the Committee to sign such agreements; Members still dissenting cannot be financially involved by such agreements. By the same majority such differences can also be settled verbally at an Annual General Meeting or an extraordinary general meeting.
22. Economic interests shall be exclusively managed by the Swiss Economic Council, whereas social and cultural tasks of the Swiss Colony shall be delegated by the Committee to other suitable Members.
23. Each Member shall report to the Committee the dates and nature of its functions as much in advance as possible in the interest of co-ordination.
24. The Committee shall not involve any Member in any particular activity without prior consent of such Member.
25. The Committee shall administer the assets of the Federation (other than Trust Funds). It shall manage any necessary appeals for the financing of the Federation's aims.

**General Meeting**

26a) The Annual General Meeting of the Federation shall be held in May every year. Notice of the day, time and agenda shall be posted to Members at least three weeks before such day.

26b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be so convened immediately upon any five Members delivering to the Committee a written request to that effect, stating the reasons and the questions they wish to have discussed at such Extraordinary General Meeting. Notice of such Meeting with the agenda, including the requested items, shall be posted to the Members at least two weeks before the Meeting.

27a) At any General Meeting every Member shall have one vote on questions concerning the Swiss Community in the United Kingdom and on the acceptance or rejection of the President's Annual Report and the Treasurer's accounts.

27b) Voting shall take place by show of hands, or by ballot if requested by any one Member; Members resident outside London shall be entitled to vote by post, the vote to reach the Federation's address at least one day before the Meeting.

28a) A simple majority of members voting shall be sufficient to pass ordinary resolutions concerning the Swiss Community and the election of delegates to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad and to the Solidarity Fund.

28b) A two-thirds majority of Members voting is required for the acceptance of the President's Report and the accounts, as well as decisions arising under any other business.

28c) A two-thirds majority of all existing Members is required for changes in the Rules, the suspension of Members and the liquidation of the Federation.

29. Resignation from the Federation shall be notified by registered letter to the President, but shall not become effective before outstanding obligations have been honoured.
30. In case of unsolved disputes arising in connection with the present Rules the Swiss Ambassador in London shall arbitrate between the disputants in final settlement.

## 650 YEARS AGO AT MORGARTEN

On 15th November it will be the 650th anniversary of the battle of Morgarten. It was the first encounter in Switzerland's fight for independence. The inhabitants of what is now the Canton of Schwyz, who had sealed a "perpetual bond" with the citizens of Uri and Nidwalden in 1291, decisively defeated a numerically superior Austrian army at Morgarten. A commemorative celebration will be held at Schwyz and Sattel on 14th and 15th November, to which representatives of the Federal Government, the cantonal administrations, and religious and military leaders have been invited. On the evening of the 14th, there will be the official première of the modern pageant, "Letzi", by Dr. Paul Kamer, professor at the Kollegium Schwyz, which will include an address by Federal President Dr. Hans-Peter Tschudi. The actual memorial celebration will be held on the 15th, marked by a parade from Sattel to the little Morgarten chapel. There will be a weapons show and the traditional marksmanship competition at Morgarten itself. On 2nd October, students of the Cantons of Schwyz and Zug organized a marching rally to Morgarten, followed by an outdoor assembly of Swiss youth.

(S.N.T.O.)