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As all the other retiring members of the Committee had offered themselves for re-election the meeting elected them unanimously for the ensuing year. Furthermore Dr. A. Greber of the Swiss Embassy, in replacement of Dr. J. R. Gaechter, was unanimously elected as an additional member of our Committee and Mr. Sidney B. Stray, ACIS, was elected as our Hon. Auditor.

The Chairman reported that in order to be exempt from paying income tax on the income from our investments, the Committee has taken steps to be registered under the Friendly Societies Act 1896 to 1960 and Charities Act 1960.

It was decided to hold again a Christmas Draw in 1971 instead of a Bazaar.

Finally the Chaplain thanked Mr. Grob for conducting the meeting.

The final composition of the Committee for 1971/72 is as follows:

Chaplain, Rev. Paul Bossard; Chairman, O. Grob, KSG; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. K. A. Grob; Vice-Chairman, E. Bonvin; Hon. Secretary, E. P. Siegfried. Members: Miss C. Affentrager, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. E. Bonvin, Mrs. C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. I. R. Daetwiler, Mrs. E. Käufeler, Mrs. F. McKenna and Miss E. Rüttiman. Messrs. L. F. Ackermann, G. Bartholdi, G. Bazzani, I. R. Daetwiler, F. de Maria, E. Eha, B. Frei, Dr. A. Grober, P. R. Gut, P. Jacomelli, E. Käufeler and Mr. Schneebeli.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. Sidney B. Stray, ACIS.

*(The Hon. Secretary)*

## YORKSHIRE SWISS CLUB

On Saturday, 1st May, 1971, our Annual Dinner and Social was held at the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds, and it proved to be a big success. The reception was at 6.30 p.m., members and their friends gradually gathering together for the customary greetings and some welcome chat. Soon we had to move to the dining-hall where we were immediately entranced by its festive appearance. The well-laid tables were very tastefully decorated with British and Swiss bannerettes, the menu cards with the Kantons-Wappen attracted much attention and so did the interesting decorations on the walls. In the corner we could admire a well-stocked raffle table, the proceeds of which, later in the evening, proved to be a great help towards our expenses.

Our good compatriot Mr. Paul Lerch in the Berner-Landestracht and armed by an imposing cowbell, the real thing, proved to be an excellent toastmaster and he acquitted himself in the course of the evening with great credit and to the enjoyment of everybody.

Our President finally stood up to welcome everybody present, our guests in particular, singling some people out such as our Consul in Manchester, Mr.

Born, who had come a long way, alone, Madame Born being absent in Switzerland. His presence amongst us was very much appreciated by everybody. He then greeted Mr. Arthur Percival, a long standing friend of his and once the leader of the Halle Orchestra in Manchester, but now retired and living in Harrogate, with his wife. Mr. Percival is not only a great artist and connoisseur of music but also a most interesting and witty entertainer, as we found out later on.

We were also particularly happy and pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hanna with us, a very stout and loyal friend of Switzerland and for all which stands for it. On this occasion he helped us along with a most sophisticated and complex music equipment.

It was a unique occasion when our President announced that the Yorkshire Swiss Club had decided to make Mr. Hanna an honorary member and this was most warmly applauded by everybody present. Concluding, he thanked the Committee "en bloc" for the much hard work put into the organisation of this function and it was indeed an example of good team work.

After, our Vice-President said grace and everybody sat down to a very hearty, well chosen and appetising meal. The selected wines of the Hotel were also properly appreciated. Whilst sweets and coffee were served our Vice-President stood up expressing our pleasure to have again our President's wife, Lucille Inebnit, with us. He regretted that Mr. David Fletcher and his wife were unable to be with us on this particular evening, both being great friends of the Club and prime mover of the Swiss Week which precedes our yearly Landsgemeinde, and giving us help in many other ways. He continued by saying how happy we were to have also this year Mrs. Mary Briggs and her husband. Mrs. Briggs was secretary to our past-president Mr. Richard Mueller at Sandoz, Horsforth, and as such has done an important work of communication and information for many years. She leaves the firm for a very happy event and our best wishes follow her, coupled with the hope to see her again soon.

He then asked the members and their friends to join him in the toast to her Majesty the Queen, followed by a toast to Switzerland, the last one accompanied by our wish that our homeland may prosper and overcome all present and future difficulties and that it may preserve its image and vitality in all the spheres of human thought and activity.

Our Consul, Mr. Born, expressed his pleasure at being able to take part in the evening's activities and how impressed he was by the way members had responded to this effort. He continued by explaining to us some of the aspects in the day to day life in Switzerland and how it was that quite often

also the "Ausland-Schweizer" may be touched or involved by it. At the end of his address he was warmly applauded and everybody agreed that this part of the evening and its speeches were a fine example of the intrinsic quality and moderation.

As the evening went on several surprises were in store for us. It was delightful to listen to Mr. Percival who let us partake of his bounty of reminiscences and he did this with great gusto and exceedingly good humour. It was a whirlpool of happenings touching such famous names as Sir John Barbirolli, Sir John Beecham, Ernest Ansermet and many more personalities about whom he knew so many intimate facets, a great enjoyment for all of us and final and prolonged applause was the only way we could show to him our appreciation.

It was then the turn of Mr. Robert Muir, a Scotsman of course, to entertain us with his singing, accompanied by piano. Particularly unusual was Mr. Muir's falsetto voice, giving him a range from his normal base singing voice to that of a female soprano. "Two singers for the price of one", what more could we ask? His performance had its own very special interest and charm and our audience was certainly impressed.

Sing songs, dancing and party games were also very much appreciated and the very few interludes were filled by a discreet and sometimes romantic "Heimat-Music" produced by the impressive installation of our good friend Mr. Hanna. At interval times raffle tickets were sold. They were in great demand and this might give the Committee something to think about for the next time.

Alas, the hours rushed on, much too fast for all of us and we all felt sorry that such a lovely and lively evening neared its unavoidable end, but this was done in the gentlest possible way, and it was "Au Revoir" all round, coupled with the hope that we will all meet again.

*(E. Berner)*

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## MR. WALTER BION

Mr. Walter Bion has been elected at the last Annual General Meeting of the City Swiss Club as its new President, in succession of Mr. Alfred Kuhn.



Mr. Bion springs from a Huguenot family which emigrated to St. Gall in 1707. He is therefore a citizen of that city, and in addition is an Honorary Citizen of Zurich. Born on 4th April, 1913, he went to school at the Berne Gymnasium and then passed a commercial diploma in Basle. He joined the Bally Shoe Company at Schoenenwerd in 1932 and was sent by them to England in 1937, where he remained throughout the war.

In 1943 he married a Londoner, Miss Barbara Joyce Thomas. They have a son, Richard, born in 1946, who is a B.Sc. Honours and who has a diploma of Industrial Administration.

Mr. Bion is Managing Director of Bally's Shoe Company Ltd., who are wholesalers and sole agents for all Bally products in the UK and some other territories. Since 1971 he has also been appointed as co-ordinator for the activities of their factories and the retail organisation in the UK (Bally Shoe Company). We wish him a most enjoyable tenure of the City Swiss Club presidency.

(PMB)

## SWISS BANK CORPORATION— RETIREMENTS

Nearly half a century of service terminated with the retirement of Mr. André Jaccard from the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation at the end of April.

Mr. Jaccard joined the Geneva Office of the Bank on 4th July, 1921, as a lad of 15 years; he came to London as long ago as 1930 and thus stayed to share in the vicissitudes of the war years. Promoted to Attorney in January, 1950, he took charge of the Staff Office from May, 1951, from which post he now retires.

Although he was a one-time member of the now, alas, extinct Swiss Male Choir, Mr. Jaccard will be best

known through his long association with the Swiss Mercantile Society of which he is now President, an honorary but responsible post which he has held since 1963.



We wish to extend to him our best wishes for his retirement—indeed, we hope it's going to be the nicest chapter of his life!

Mr. P. A. L. R. Reeves, who will be remembered by those visiting the West End Branch, where he was cashier, retired at the same time.

Mr. Reeves joined the London Office in May, 1923, and also retained close associations with Geneva where he spent three of his early years. He was promoted to Attorney in January, 1951, and completed 48 years with the bank.

## MRS. ALICE STREIT

We have the deep regret of announcing the loss of *Mrs. Alice Streit*. She died on 7th June in hospital, suffering from cancer, and aged just over 70. Mrs. Streit impressed all who knew her with her great kindness and gentleness. It was with the help of her immense courage and devotion that her husband, Mr. Fred Streit, managed to pull through a very long and very serious illness. It is indeed a sad irony of fate that we should have begun to hear of Mrs. Streit's worsening condition at a time when, to the joy of all who knew him, Mr. Streit had almost miraculously recovered and begun to taste life again. Mr. and Mrs. Streit need no introduction to the Swiss Colony. Mr. Streit has been one of the most devoted promoters of Swiss life in London, having been founder member of the Swiss Philatelic Society, President of the Fête Suisse, member of the SMS Council and held many other honours. They were married in 1927 and were a most united couple. They have three children, Robert, Sylvia and Mary. We should like to convey to them all, and in particular to Mr. Streit and Miss Sylvia Streit, our most sincere sympathy.

## ALBERT STRITTMACHER

Mr. A. Strittmacher, Managing Director of Cosmos Freightways Ltd., has retired. He still maintains an active interest in the firm and remains a director.

He and Mrs. Strittmacher will live with their daughter at Baretzwil, in the Zurich Oberland, but Mr. Strittmacher will be making the journey to London on business three or four times a year.

Born in 1906, he has spent his professional life in transports. He started his apprenticeship with World Transport in Basle in 1921. There he worked for seven years. From 1928 to 1930 he was in the firm's Paris offices. He came to this country in 1930. In 1944 he left World Transport to enter the service of Cosmos Freightways, a British company owned by a Swiss.

He has a daughter and a son, Peter, who is a Cambridge astrophysicist, currently working in the USA. He will be succeeded at Cosmos by Mr. P. B. Debling, an Englishman. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Strittmacher a most happy retirement and extend to them our very best wishes.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

We have the pleasure of announcing the 70th anniversary of *Mr. Paul Buechler*, of "Tomirac", 94 Gill's Cliff Road, Ventnor—a decisive day which for him falls on 16th June. Another happy event for us to report is the birth to Mr. and Mrs. Egon Frey, of 13 Lammas Lane, Paignton TQ3 1PS, Devon, of *Hugo Jame Frey* on 1st April. Our warmest congratulations to Mr. Buechler and to the Frey family!

## CORRECTION

An error regarding the City Swiss Club's contribution to the Swiss Benevolent Society has cropped up in our report on the AGM. The Swiss Benevolent Society is to get £75 for the year 1970, and *not* £150 as wrongly quoted. With respect to our report on the meeting of the Federation of Swiss Societies, we have noticed that our enumeration of Swiss Societies was without the Swiss Relief Society of London. It certainly didn't deserve to be left out and we apologise to all concerned.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We should like to thank all those who have sent us donations and gift subscriptions.

During the past ten weeks we have received most welcome support from Mr. H. Trepp, Mrs. E. Kueng, Dr. Armin Daeniker, Dr. Paul Stauffer, Mr. F. Magnin, Mrs. L. S. Haussauer,