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UNION HELVETIA CLUB.

"Ye Olde Members" had their gala day on Thursday, May 8th, when the Fifth Family Gathering and Banquet took place at the club premises at 1, Gerrard Place, W. About 130 people sat down to a substantial dinner, over which Mr. F. H. Rohr, who was accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Rohr, presided.

After the two loyal toasts had been proposed and honoured, the Chairman stated that by order the length of speeches had been limited to two minutes, but as they were two hours late, though the dinner was served with exemplary despatch, he was afraid the few speakers would have to submit to a further curtailment. In fact, the remaining two toasts were nothing if not brief, Mr. F. Isler, in speaking of "The Ladies," expressing his inability to do justice to his task in the short space allotted to him.

The tables having been cleared for some preliminary dancing, a large number of the party were marshalled to another part of the building, where a rehearsal was proceeding for the opening of the "Swiss W.E.M.B.L.E." exhibition, an original parody on its great namesake. In the meantime Monsieur Paravicini came over from the Hotel Cecil, where he had been attending an official function; Mr. Stoddon, with some members of his famous orchestra, installed himself on the platform, and presently a town crier, with bell and stentorian voice, announced that the exhibition would now be opened with all the pomp and flourish necessary for the occasion. A little disturbance was caused by a couple of workmen, who, before giving the finishing touches, demanded additional pay, but their grievance was quickly dealt with in a way which, contrary to present dictates, entirely ignored their susceptibilities. Heralded by trumpets, then entered the Oberbürgermeister in cocked hat, wearing a huge chain of office, and accompanied by several frock-coated gents in top hats and white gloves. In a bombastic speech he proclaimed the aims and purpose of the exhibition; they had succeeded in assembling exhibits characteristic of all parts of the Confederation; every canton was suitably represented, in fact, the different cantons had never been brought so close together than that evening. They had surmounted tremendous difficulties, but he regretted to admit that the valuable collection representing the canton of Thurgau had mysteriously disappeared and not yet been recovered. He read out a long list of complimentary cables that had been received for the occasion. A pageant then followed, personifying the 22 cantons, each entry being greeted by the orchestra with the appropriate tune; they assembled in a circle, from which emerged a girl dressed in snowy white, advancing towards Monsieur Paravicini, presenting on a silver tray the golden key with which he was asked to officially open the exhibition. Followed by the Oberbürgermeister and the frock-coated gents, he successfully performed this part of the ceremony, returning with Helvetia, who had been awaiting her release in the exhibition pavilion. Monsieur Paravicini, in a humorous address, thanked the organising committee for their efforts; he had been struck by the variety and originality of the exhibits, and as a memento had been presented with a large onion. The 22 banner-bearers reassembled, and Monsieur Paravicini took the salute as they marched past—thus ending the stately ceremony.

Long applause and bursts of laughter often interrupted this clever burlesque, so originally conceived by Messrs. Wyss and Isler, and which Mr. Stoddon's orchestra invested with the necessary pomp and glory. But more than anything else, everybody was struck with the way in which Monsieur Paravicini fulfilled his unexpected and unrehearsed part: he found himself thoroughly at home and seemed to enjoy the joke immensely.

Dancing was indulged in until an early hour of the morning.

Amongst those present were:—Councillor and Mrs. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Emmenegger, Mr. and Mrs. Wullsleger, Mr. and Mrs. Indermauer, Dr. and Mrs. Schroeter, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Wetter, Mr. and Mrs. Brüllhart, Mr. and Mrs. Burger, Mr. and Mrs. Cusi, Mr. and Mrs. Schmutz, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Weideli, Mr. and Mrs. Rossier, Mr. and Mrs. Nanzer, Mr. and Mrs. Lutz, Mr. and Mrs. Sandoz, Mr. and Mrs. Krebs, Mr. and Mrs. Bardet, Mr. and Mrs. Numa Bardet, and Mr. A. Haller.

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The improved weather conditions brought quite a number of visitors to the shooting grounds at Hendon last Sunday, and the officers-in-charge enjoyed a busy afternoon, but they are prepared for more.

The 100-metre automatic target was in strong demand. Here are the three best results of the day:—Mr. J. Haesler 81 points, Mr. A. Schmid 80 points, Mr. Krucker 78 points. During the afternoon a handsome cup was presented to the latter, who was first in the 25-yards miniature competition of March last.

It was whispered that the next cup should, if possible, be of a somewhat more appropriate size to allow of its proper christening.

The 300-metre target, now fitted with the latest wireless telephone apparatus, will, it is hoped, become as popular as the 100-metre one before long, and there will be a special range commission at work to overcome all existing obstacles.

A modest prize is offered by a committee member for next Sunday's best results; the competition to be open to members only.

A few subscriptions are still outstanding, and the Hon. Treasurer will be pleased to receive same now, as well as applications from others who desire to become members.

Will all members and friends please note that on the 31st May (Saturday) there will be no shooting on account of the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill?

At the State Ball.

At the State Ball, given on Wednesday night at Buckingham Palace by the King and Queen in honour of the King and Queen of Roumania, the Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini were amongst the official guests invited for the occasion; they were accompanied by M. and Mme. J. Borsinger and M. Henri Martin.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Marc Peter, the Swiss Minister at Washington, and Madame Peter, née Lachenal, are spending a few days in London; they are staying at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, W.

Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Wyss have acquired the Swiss Hotel in Old Compton Street, Soho, W., and will take possession at the beginning of next month. For the last eleven years Mr. Wyss has been the popular steward of the Union Helvetia Club at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Our compatriot, Mr. Maeder, has returned from his provincial tour, and, together with his fair partner Marise, will appear next week at the Finsbury Park Empire.

SWISS BANK CLUB

Rifle Section.

Final scores of the season 1923-24:—

CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION.

Total points of 10 best targets (max. 1000)			
Mr. H. P. Holliger	982	Cup and 1st Prize.	
Mr. W. Peter	976	2nd Prize.	
Mr. G. P. B. Hassell	967	3rd Prize.	
Miss M. C. Curths	959		
Mr. A. Gates	949		
Mr. A. Jeves	935		

The Cup (presented by the Managers of the Swiss Bank Corporation) now becomes the property of Mr. Holliger, as he has won it three years in succession.

HANDICAP COMPETITION.

Handicap on 10 best targets dropped points incl. handicap (max. 1000)			
Mr. G. P. B. Hassell	30%	993.—	1st Prize.
Miss M. C. Curths	50%	988.50	2nd Prize
Mr. W. Peter	...	Scratch	3rd Prize.
Mr. H. P. Holliger	...	Scratch	4th Prize.
Miss H. Curths	75%	985.25	
Mr. O. DeBrunner	85%	982.60	
Mr. A. Jeves	30%	968.50	
Mr. A. Gates	...	Scratch	
Mr. R. Higgins	75%	956.25	

SPOON COMPETITION.

Mr. G. P. B. Hassell	3 Spoons.
Mr. H. P. Holliger	3 Spoons.
Mr. W. Peter	3 Spoons.
Miss M. C. Curths	1 Spoon.
Mr. A. Gates	1 Spoon.
Mr. F. Gunther	1 Spoon.
Mr. A. Jeves	1 Spoon.

The Committee regret that the weekly attendance showed a marked drop towards the end of the season, thus accounting for the few competitors completing the minimum number of targets required in each competition.

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Dimanche, 18 Mai, 11h.—M. Jacot.

6.30.—Pfr. Urner.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, May 20th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS: Delegates' Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Saturday, May 31st, at 2.30 p.m.—SWISS SPORTS at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds.

Thursday, June 19th, at 7 p.m.—55th FETE SUISSE at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Tea at 5 o'clock. (See adv.)

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