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SWISS SPORTS.

(By our Special Correspondent.)

May 23rd—at last the great day has arrived, but behold, Jupiter Pluvius appears to bear a grudge against the Swiss Colony, for rain falls copiously, and matters look very black indeed for our "red letter" day.

Undaunted, the Hon. Secretary—to whose zeal and energy so much credit is due—sets to work to get into wireless communication with the Weather Clerk, and by a little judicious promise that he would be remembered during the distribution of prizes, the urgent entreaties to have the leakages in the great water-tub immediately seen to, were heeded just in time, for soon after the official opening at 2.30 p.m. the sun made a valiant effort to brighten up the proceedings on the Herne Hill Sports Ground. Indeed, what looked like a dismal day turned into almost ideal weather conditions for the strenuous sports activities.

One could not help being struck by the large array of cars parked in the grounds, and it would indeed seem that the London Swiss Colony is fast outclassing the American craze of "1 man—1 car." Many an owner-driver was seen to stand proudly at the side of his "Rolls-Along," and some of them are reputed to have received very tempting offers of purchase on the "much deferred" system. Others again are stated to have been bitterly disappointed upon learning that the "A.A.A. Rules"—as interpreted by "one who knows"—did not permit of "Tin Lizzies" being entered for the Ladies' Hurdle Chase in "Costume de campagne"!

But we digress, and we must not turn the Editor's wrath upon us by filling his columns with "stuff" that should by rights suffer the stigma of his blue pencil.

In giving you below a complete list of the sporting events and the results achieved, we feel it our duty to single out a few features that appear fully worthy of some editorial colouration.

C. Krebs finished the 100 yards in 10 seconds, which is indeed a splendid performance, especially as he is a newcomer.

The 100 yards Ladies' Race in Sports Costume was won by Miss A. M. Cast, a member of the well-known London Olympic Athletic Club, in 12 seconds.



The 120 yards Veterans' Race—a new event—for competitors between the ages of 35 and 45 years was won by A. Boog (42 years) in the short space of 15 seconds, J. Haesler (45 years) being second.

As last year, the 400 yards Veterans' Walking Competition was again won by J. Sermier (42 yrs.), whose splendid style was greatly admired. He was followed closely by J. Haesler, while G. Riederer finished 3rd, Kiener 4th, F. Riederer 5th, and C. Haesler 6th, a special consolation prize being awarded to Mr. Steiner, who was placed 7th, and finished in excellent form, in spite of his 75 years.

The victory of the 220 yards Flat Handicap Race for Swiss Competitors fell to C. Krebs, who disposed of the distance in 24 2-5 seconds, a most creditable performance. Krebs is certainly a highly promising athlete.

For the third year in succession the similar 220 yards Race for Competitors of Subscribing Firms was won by a member of the staff of Messrs. Nestlé, G. C. Peplow taking exactly one second longer than Krebs. Indeed, it would seem that the close contact with Nestlé's Milk produces excellent athletic qualities. [No "gratuity" for this testimonial, please, as our reporters are "adequately" remunerated by the "firm."—Ed. S.O.]

One Mile Walking Handicap: Unfortunately, Donati, last year's winner, whose style of walking is first rate, did not compete, and success attended the efforts of our Ticino friend, W. Casada, who finished 2nd last year.

Once more it is our pleasure to mention the name of C. Krebs, namely, as winner of the 120 yards Hurdle Race, followed by Oggier and G. Sturm.

The laurels of the Relay Race, always a most interesting feature, fell to the Union Helvetia Club, while the runners of the Swiss Mercantile Society secured second place.

The Tug-o-War provided an amusing incident, well worthy of special note. The Union Helvetia having trained two teams (among them being several members of the Swiss Rifle Association) the latter officially "adopted" one of the teams after they had been "regrouped."

The genial captain in charge of the Rifle crew is reputed to have promised each of his men a "cocktail" if they succeeded in dislodging their "crack opponents," and behold, the deed was accomplished! It is to be hoped that no accusation of bribery and corruption will be levelled against the winning team!

A great deal of enjoyment was derived by the large gathering of onlookers from the splendid

efforts of the various "Push Ball" teams, the ground becoming literally strewn with human forms "out of breath" or "bowled over," all sorts of artistic as well as inartistic tumbles being witnessed. Even the staid Editor of the S.O., who usually "stands his ground," was seen to "hop it" when the monster ball threatened a rearward action. It is rather a pity that his precipitate flight—pipe tightly clenched between his teeth—should be for ever lost to the Swiss film industry!

All thanks are due to Mr. Fred. Suter, whose autocar became greatly "attached" to the monster ball, and during a four hours' mechanical struggle infused it with "life." This inflation process was looked upon with particularly keen satisfaction by one of our jovial Stock Exchange friends, since he contends that the large petrol consumption is sure to stabilise the market in "Swiss Controlled Oils." Well, let's hope so!

We now come to the Long Jump, and meet once more our young friend, C. Krebs, who, in spite of the burden of so many victories to his credit, secured yet another distinction by jumping a distance of 21 feet, a record for our Swiss Sports in London. A jump of 20 ft. 10 in. stands to the credit of Nozières (1922), and one of 20 ft. 2½ in. was accomplished by G. Sturm last year. — The British record of 24 ft. 11½ in. is held by P. O'Connor, of Dublin. (This worthy athlete is probably engaged in the drapery line, or assuredly he would have made it a "level bob" instead of 11½!)

The High Jump was won by Pietsch, who momentarily departed from the face of this earth to a height of 5 ft. 2in., repeating his winning performance of 1923. The London Swiss record is, however, held by Schoenholzer, who managed 5 ft. 3 in. in 1922. — The British record of 6 ft. 5 in. stands to the credit of B. H. Baker, secured at Huddersfield in 1921, but as one or two of our more prominent Committee members would seem easily to go "into the air" at debating time, we look confidently forward to the World Championship coming our way in due course!

The British amateur record for Putting the Weight (16 lbs.) is held by R. Koss, who in 1908 threw it from the top of Ben Nevis right on to the village green of Kilmallock, and our young Swiss athletes have yet a long distance to go to emulate the example. G. Sturm topped the list with 31 ft. 3in. last Saturday, but last year J. Muller managed a length of 35 ft.

The catch-as-catch-can Wrestling proved most interesting, and some of the competitors are to be congratulated that they tackled so cheerfully much "heavier" propositions than they were themselves. It always reflects credit upon sportsmen who, at the most, stand upon the opponent's toes, but never on "ceremonies," when finding out that they are matched against someone of considerably enhanced "embracing power."

But now let us turn to the youngsters, who, full of excitement, had lined up for the Boys' and Girls' Races respectively. Very large fields started, and one small sonny modestly remained behind at the post, evidently not being quite sure whether his daddy had put up the necessary *finance d'entrée*.



In both heats of the 100 yards Ladies' Race (town dress) English friends proved the winners, our Swiss ladies being placed 2nd and 3rd in both events. A little more "porridge," Swiss sports-women, and you will attain the necessary stamina that leads to victory!

The two Egg-and-Spoon Races were won by Miss G. Bosshard and Miss G. Kiener respectively; while the Potato Race winners proved to be the Misses G. Kiener and C. Chenappa. — We here feel impelled to make a few observations for the serious consideration of the referees and others who may or may not "know their business." It would appear that neither the eggs nor the potatoes were "weighed in" upon making their respective appearance on the field, and it was further observed that the contents of some of these "new-laid" showed a noticeable tendency to "rise on wings and go home to the mother hen" at the winning post. It logically follows that in future the handicapping of performers carrying "volatile eggs" must be done with proper forethought. It was noticed also in the potato race that one of our eminent engineers, "spacing" the potatoes, had forgotten the formula that "the shortest distance between two points is a straight line," but, fortunately, this rule having been mastered by a young lady competitor, our erring friend was soon put wise. In the meantime, however, serious trouble had broken out in another part of the potato patch, where a tiny football player of some 3 springs did his best to get sparks out of the neatly aligned

potatoes by forcibly hitting them with his nether wear. And last, but not least, upon the "census" being taken, it was found that a couple of these "new Jerseys" were missing, and strong suspicion rests upon a member of our hotel industry that is reputed to "make the most of things."

Our eye now gets rivetted upon the Pillow Fight that was in progress, and speedily the conviction crept over us that *prima facie* the married gladiators had the advantage over their bachelor opponents. The suggestion naturally presents itself to our mind that they must have had better 'domestic' training for this particular kind of exercise than is open to the 'unfettered' sportsman.

As regards the Three-legged Race, it was noticeable with what alacrity some of the married ladies "tied themselves on to new partners," but being the embodiment of fact, we do not propose to enlarge upon this subject-matter, except to place on record that "celibacy" gained the victory in the persons of Miss Dutton and Master Deubelbeiss.

Thanks to the minute "Orders of the Day," drawn up by the indefatigable Hon. Secretary, things went off with a "click" that would have been the envy of a Prussian Guard Officer, and the large audience was certainly highly pleased with the entertainment they had witnessed and the good musical programme that the band in attendance provided.



Fortunately there were only three minor accidents, and these were splendidly and effectively dealt with by the members of the St. John Ambulance who were on duty.

Our sympathies were, however, with the "Brothers Roberts," who, apart from having to enquire into the status of the 1001 Swiss Sports officials—directors of Sports, referees, judges, linesmen, snappy "whippers-in," hefty "chuckers-out," handicappers, masseurs, starters, time mathematicians and other shining lights, most of whom lacked the "distinctive insignia of merit"—must have found time hanging rather heavily upon them in watching over so orderly a crowd.

When the day's work was done, Miss B. Barbezat, one of the charming daughters of our very dear President of the Swiss Sports Committee, distributed the wonderful galaxy of prizes, in the unavoidable and much regretted absence of Madame C. R. Paravicini. Much enthusiasm was displayed by the various winners, all of whom had richly earned their respective rewards, and it is to be hoped that future sporting events in the London Swiss Colony will prove as successful as the Sports Day of 1925 has undoubtedly been.

Results.

- 100-yards Flat Handicap (Men).—1 C. Krebs (10 secs.), 2 O. Ullmann, 3 J. Ryter.
- 100-yards Flat Handicap (Ladies, Sports Costume).—1 A. M. Cast (12 secs.), 2 P. E. Harris, 3 C. E. Cast.
- 120-yards Veterans' Race (35-45).—1 A. Boog (15 secs.), 2 J. Haesler, 3 J. Christen.
- 120-yards Hurdles.—1 C. Krebs (18 1-5 secs.), 2 E. Oggier, 3 G. Sturm.
- 220-yards Flat Handicap (Swiss).—1 C. Krebs (24 2-5 secs.), 2 J. Ryter, 3 W. Weber.
- 220-yards Flat Handicap (Staff of Subscribing Firms).—1 G. C. Peplow (Nestlé, 25 2-5 secs.), 2 L. Mac Masters.
- Veterans' Walking Handicap.—1 J. Sermier (42 years), 2 J. Haesler, 3 G. Riederer, 4 Kiener, 5 F. Riederer, 6 C. Haesler; special prize: 7 Mr. Steiner (age 75 years).
- 1 Mile Walking Handicap.—1 W. Casada (7 mins. 57 secs.), 2 J. Sermier, 3 E. Nussle.
- Relay Race.—Winners: Union Helvetia; Runners-up: Swiss Mercantile Society.
- Tug-o-War.—Winners: Swiss Rifle Association; Runners-up: Union Helvetia.
- Long Jump.—1 C. Krebs (21 ft.), 2 H. Schneider, 3 G. Sturm, 4 M. Pietsch.
- High Jump.—1 M. Pietsch (5 ft. 2 in.), 2 R. Buchli, 3 G. Sturm.
- Wrestling.—(Lightweight) 1 R. Jaquenoud, 2 A. Demaria; (Middleweight) 1 W. Schenberger, 2 F. Rohner; (Heavyweight) 1 W. Widmer, 2 J. Christen.
- Pushball.—Winners: Union Helvetia; Runners-up: City Swiss Club "B" Team.
- Putting the Weight.—1 G. Sturm (31 ft. 3 in.), 2 H. Schneider.
- Pillow Fight.—1 Bessier, 2 Rohner, 2 C. Haesler.
- 100-yards Ladies' Race (Town Dress).—Heat 1: 1 C. M. Williams, 2 Mrs. Lambert, 3 Mrs. Haesler; Heat 2: 1 G. Lane, 2 Mrs. Muller, 3 M. Breuamann.
- Egg-and-Spoon Race.—Under 12 years: 1 G. Bosshard, 2 C. Chenappa, 3 M. Hopkins; Over 12 years: 1 G. Kiener, 2 M. A. Smith, 3 M. Bambettini.
- Potato Race.—1 G. Kiener, 2 M. Breuamann; 1 C. Chenappa, 2 G. Bosshard; 1 G. Lane, 2 M. A. Smith.
- Three-legged Race.—1 Miss Dutton and Master Deubelbeiss, 2 Miss Williams and Mr. Ullmann, 3 Miss Kiener and Mr. Kiener.
- 60-yards Girls' Race.—Up to 8: 1 J. Pavlik, 2 M. Bexley, 3 A. Buchi; 9-12: 1 E. Mathier, 2 C. Vallon, 3 P. Dutton, 4 J. Philipps; 13-15: 1 M. Lane, 2 L. Vallon, 3 C. Bosshard, 4 M. Hopkins.
- 80-yards Boys' Race.—Heat 1: 1 J. Glatworthy, 2 J. Holliger, 3 A. Jurien, 4 A. Mathier; Heat 2: 1 Frank Pavlik, 2 A. Deubelbeiss, 3 O. Boehringer, 4 W. Keane; Heat 3: 1 R. Riederer, 2 R. King, 3 C. Riederer, 4 A. Shield.

FOUND.—Among the various articles found at Herne Hill are a "Turnerband" and a wallet containing private papers apparently belonging to a Miss Desmond Van Zwanenberg.—Kindly apply to Mr. C. Kiener, Hon. Sec. 68, Eastcheap, E.C.3.