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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Annual General Meeting, held on April 12th at Pagani's Restaurant.

This Meeting, held under the Presidency of Mr. G. Marchand, as well as the preceding dinner, was very well attended, fifty-five members and two guests being present. It was a pleasure to see a number of the "old guard" turning up once more, and it is to be hoped that during the next year we shall have similar satisfactory attendances at our monthly meetings.

The President, Mr. G. Marchand, proposed the traditional toasts to H.M. the King and "La Suisse," and extended a cordial welcome to the guests present, Mr. Jules Gerber and Mr. W. Deutsch.

The President asked the members to observe a moment's silence in memory of our much respected passive member, Mr. Charles Haag, who was called to a better land on 5th April.

At 8.40 the meeting was declared open, the Secretary reading the minutes of the last monthly meeting, held on March 1st, these being unanimously approved and adopted. The following five members tendered their resignations, mostly on account of departure, which were noted with regrets: Mr. A. Dumoulin, Mr. J. Thierren, Mr. H. Margot, Mr. Ch. Mistely, and Mr. O. H. Honer.

Mr. F. Zogg, in his capacity of auditor, was called upon for his report, and he informed the Meeting that the accounts had been duly examined, checked and found correct.

The President called upon the Members for their comments. Messrs. Baume, Dupraz, Chapuis and Piaget scored heavily on account of various unfortunate misprints, to their and the members' huge delight.

Mr. Th. Ritter enquired how much the Club paid for French bonds sold, according to the Balance Sheet of the "Club House Fund," for £41 9s. 4d. Mr. De Cintra replied that the total cost was approximately £160.

Mr. A. Rueff enquired for details of the bonds in which the Club House Funds were invested, Mr. Zogg giving the following information: £900, 5% War Loan; £400, 4% Tax-free War Loan; £500, War Savings Certificates; £300, Australian 5%.

Mr. J. Oltramare drew attention to the excess of expenditure over receipts during 1926-27. He enquired whether the outstanding subscriptions due from members could be reckoned as good or not. The Treasurer, Mr. De Cintra, explained in detail why, during the year under review, expenses had exceeded receipts, viz.: Special transfer to the Club House Fund, £100; considerable increase in the printing account; substantial loss on the occasion of the Annual Banquet and Cinderellas; the full amount for the rent of the Club Room appearing for the first time in that Balance Sheet; the Donations voted by the Club being also substantially higher than before. As regards the revenue for next year, the Club could reckon with an income of approximately £200, and the Treasurer pressed the members to be prudent as regards incurring fresh commitments.

The accounts were then submitted to the Meeting, and were unanimously approved and adopted.

Mr. C. Chapuis undoubtedly expressed the sentiment of the meeting by stating that all honour was due to the Treasurer and Auditors for the perfect way in which they had discharged their duties, and the manner in which they had taken the fun poked at them during the meeting.

The President read a letter received from our doyen, Mr. J. Geilinger, who very much regretted that he could not venture out, that being the first General Meeting he had missed for a great number of years, and wishing the Club a successful evening. The Meeting drank to the health of Mr. Geilinger, and the Secretary was instructed to send him a letter in reply.

Mr. Boehringer asked the Treasurer to give his opinion concerning a transfer to the Club House Fund. Mr. De Cintra was very loth to depart from tradition, but mentioned that under the special circumstances he would not feel himself justified in suggesting any larger amount than perhaps £25.

Mr. M. Gerig drew the attention of the Meeting to the fact that the capital of the Club was reduced as compared with March, 1926, by an amount of approximately £132, and he urged the Meeting to wait until they had some funds to transfer, before doing so.

Mr. De Cintra agreed, stating, however, that there had been an alteration in the drawing up of the accounts by putting the outstanding subscriptions this year *pro memoria* only, but the fact remained that we were approximately £90 worse off than last year. He, therefore, agreed that it would be better to wait before making any transfer to the Club House Fund. Mr. Piaget endorsed Mr. Gerig's opinion.

Mr. Oltramare proposed, seconded by Mr. De Cintra, that the new Committee bring forward a proposition in six months' time as to what amount should be transferred to the Club House Fund, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. G. Marchand expressed his sincere thanks to the Committee for the help he had received during his year of office, and also thanked all the Members for the amiability continually shown him. He thereupon ceded the Presidential chair to Mr. L'Hardy for the election of the new Committee, 1927/28.

Mr. L'Hardy, when taking the Chair, expressed thanks to the outgoing Committee, having a good word to say for every Committee Member, and complete discharge, with thanks, was unanimously voted.

Mr. Schupbach proposed the re-election of the Committee *en bloc*. Mr. Marchand, however, said he was unable to accept re-election and he proposed as President Mr. L. Jobin, seconded by Mr. De Cintra.

While the tellers, Mr. J. Oltramare and Mr. Dupraz, were busy counting the votes, Mr. L'Hardy continued the agenda, and Mr. Chapuis gave us further details of the *Fête des Vignerons*.

He informed the Meeting again that he had had a discussion with Mr. Friederich in Vevey, who would be very pleased to make all arrangements as regards reserving seats, etc., should the City Swiss Club decide to have a Meeting in Vevey this summer. There could also be a little banquet arranged, a "Tourné des Caves," etc., but a decision had to be made quickly. Mr. W. Strebel, of Lucerne, is also very anxious to help to bring this Meeting about, and Mr. Chapuis felt certain that something suitable could be arranged. Mr. Despond wished to take the opportunity to enquire of those present who might possibly be of the party, and there were about a dozen members in agreement. Mr. Boehringer was of opinion that such a nucleus of twelve was very encouraging, but there should be a party of at least twenty-five to be able to make the necessary arrangements, and get the benefit of reduced fares. Mr. Despond thought it would not be possible to get a big party to leave together from London, but he rather relied on Members being already in Switzerland, congregating at Vevey on a certain date. Mr. Boehringer was of the opinion that, to make a success of it, the party should go out together.

Mr. Chapuis thought Mr. Boehringer's suggestion sound, and that no doubt if the party went out together it would make matters easier, but whereas this was sound in principle, the party need not be too big from London as there would be bound to be members already in Switzerland who could join them in Vevey, and he thought that would be quite practicable.

Mr. De Cintra suggested that it would be best to decide in principle. Mr. Chapuis proposed that the day fixed should be Monday, August 1st, and that it should be left to Mr. Boehringer to arrange the party with the aid of the Committee. Mr. Duruz pointed out that the party should not leave on the Friday previous on account of August Bank Holiday, as this would be the worst day possible, and it would be better to go on Saturday, owing to the great congestion on the railways at that time.

The proposition as given above was carried unanimously.

Mr. De Cintra read a letter from the Swiss Sports Committee appealing for support, and Mr. H. Senn passed round a list, which realised the handsome sum of £19 2s. 6d., collected amongst those present.

The result of the elections was then declared, as follows: President, Mr. L. Jobin; Vice-President, Mr. M. Gerig; Treasurer, Mr. R. De Cintra; Vice-Treasurer, Mr. W. Notari; Secretary, Mr. E. Werner; Vice-Secretary, G. Jenne; Librarian, Mr. J. Geilinger; Auditors, Mr. H. Pfirner and B. Sigerist.

Mr. Jobin thereupon took the chair, cheered uproariously by the members, and expressed his sincere thanks to the Meeting for the confidence placed in him, which both he and the other members of the Committee, by faithfully following the traditions of their predecessors, would do their best to merit.

Mr. P. Bessire and also Mr. A. C. Baume complained that the Cinderellas were not as well frequented as they ought to have been. Mr. De Cintra concurred with Mr. Baume on that point, but blamed the mosaic floor for the falling off in attendance as it was very fatiguing.

Mr. G. Laemlé strongly supported Mr. De Cintra, and pointed out that admittedly the dinners were excellent, but the fact remained "did one want Cinderellas for the good dinner or for the dancing." "*Pour danser il est préférable d'avoir l'estomac léger.*"

Mr. H. Senn was of opinion that a definite choice had to be made then. If Pagani's should put parquet flooring down no better place could be had.

Mr. Chapuis asked the Meeting to look deeper, below the surface to the bottom, to find the real reason for the poor attendances. Similar falling-off in numbers had taken place at other functions, and he was inclined to think that the poorer attendances were due more to the present unsatisfactory economic conditions than to anything else.

Mr. De Cintra further stated that it was very regrettable to find so few English friends attend-

ing nowadays, and so far as he could find out it was always due to the unsatisfactory dancing floor.

Mr. Laemlé suggested making a trial at Prince's Restaurant, as it was better to have one good Cinderella only than three poor ones.

Mr. Defrenne was of opinion that this question should be left to the Committee, and Mr. Valon made a formal proposition, seconded by Mr. L'Hardy, to the effect that the Committee should come forward with a definite proposition at the next monthly meeting. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. Jobin took the opportunity thereupon to express cordial thanks to Mr. L'Hardy for the effective manner in which he had handled the Meeting during the election of the new Committee.

With regard to the Summer Meetings, Mr. Bessire proposed, seconded by Mr. Corbat and unanimously carried, that the usual Monthly Meetings in June and July, and perhaps September, should be held at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

A letter was read by Mr. Jobin from the Swiss Legation concerning the League of Nations Union Festival of Youth, to be held at the Crystal Palace on the 18th June, and the Secretary was instructed to advise Mr. C. R. Paravicini that the Members of the C.S.C. had been duly informed.

Mr. Boehringer raised a very important point by drawing attention to the fact that on several occasions when an old Member had departed this world the attendance at the funeral by Members of Societies to which he had belonged was extremely sparse, and consequently most disappointing. He rightly laid stress on the fact that this was bound to make a very painful impression on the wife or near relatives, if in such a case Swiss friends stayed away. In the days of their beloved and respected Member Mr. G. Dimier, he never missed one funeral, and whereas Mr. Boehringer did not wish to go as far as that he wished to impress the younger generation now in office that there was a duty to be performed in such cases. He suggested that the Committee should attend *in corpore* funerals of Members. Mr. Despond fully agreed, as one of the younger Members, but drew attention to the fact that very often the circulars advising Members in such instances were received at the last minute, and it was very difficult to attend under such circumstances.

Mr. Suter fully agreed that the position sometimes may be very difficult, especially as one often lost touch with the older members. He proposed that at least one member of the Committee should be deputed to take part at such funerals. Mr. Boehringer was of opinion that this proposal was not in the spirit he meant, and he wanted to have the Committee *in corpore*, to set an example to the Members.

Mr. De Cintra endorsed all that had been said, and he also laid stress on the fact that it was very often difficult for everybody to attend, not all being independent, but the Committee generally tried to be present if at all possible.

Mr. Suter proposed that the Committee should depute somebody who knew the family if possible in such cases, and this proposition was seconded by Mr. Ritter and carried, one vote being cast against.

Mr. Suter also drew the attention of the Meeting to the fact that recently two distinguished Swiss musicians had been in London. He considered it a great omission on the part of the C.S.C. not to have invited them to a dinner.

In reply it was pointed out that the C.S.C. always tried to entertain distinguished visitors from Switzerland if the opportunity offered, but in the cases mentioned by Mr. Suter it appeared to have been impossible. However, in the future, as in the past, such cases will always receive due consideration from the Committee.

The President, Mr. Jobin, asked the Members to approve the dates fixed for the Annual Banquet and Ball, 25th November at Hotel Victoria. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Baume laid stress on the fact that the attendance of Members at ordinary Tue-day Meetings had been most satisfactory of late, and that three or four Members of the Committee, in particular, were present every Tuesday. Mr. Boehringer suggested that, in order to increase the attendance further still, special medals should be struck!

Mr. Chapuis thought that it was lack of enterprise that the two gentlemen referred to by Mr. Suter had not been entertained, pointing out that years ago the C.S.C. always did so. He begged the Meeting to do so again at every opportunity, and if anyone should hear of any distinguished lights from Switzerland being in London, to try to get up a special dinner for them.

Mr. Boehringer added that during the last few years the Club had entertained many distinguished visitors from Switzerland at their Meetings, and they had always tried to make such arrangements, but sometimes it was not possible.

The Meeting closed at 11.12. M.G.

A Pioneer of Alpine Tours.

The conclusion of this article is unavoidably held over until next week.