

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1929)

Heft: 398

Rubrik: London Swiss Sports

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 16.02.2026

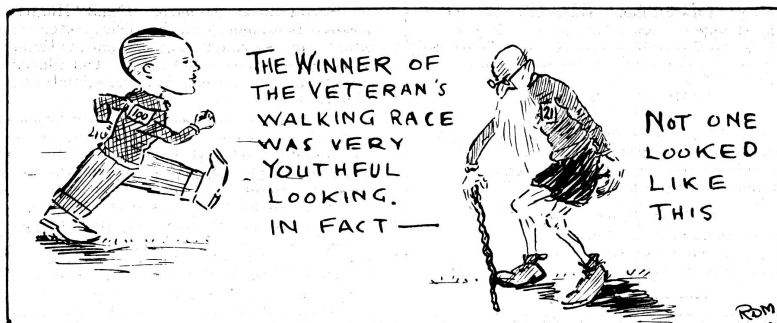
ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

LONDON SWISS SPORTS, 1929.

The "great day" has come and gone, and in spite of the gloomy prophecy of a German scientist that the British Isles would meet their doom through a tremendous earthquake on Saturday last there was rejoicing in all quarters due to the truly magnificent weather. Everything passed off wonderfully well and not a single accident of any kind has to be deplored. The onlookers were perhaps not quite so numerous as in past years, but any lack of quantity was made up by quality. The Swiss Minister, M. Paravicini, accompanied by Mme Paravicini—as charming and gracious as ever—was early on the tribune, and our guests of honour were accorded a very hearty welcome.

M. Paravicini, in a short address, expressed regret that official functions prevented him from spending more than an hour or two among the members of the Colony, and expressed the hope that the Sports Meeting would prove an unqualified success. He referred to the regrettable absence of the President, Mr. C. A. Barbezat, detained in Paris on business, but was glad to observe that his "spirit" was among us. Indeed, those who were subsequently privileged to participate in a "séance" were unanimous in the view that it was a very "refreshing" experience to meet the President's spirit in the "cave"!

One of the outstanding events was the Veterans' 440yds. Walking Handicap, splendidly won by M. C. Donati of the Unione Ticinese (40 years), who gave a fine example of what a well-trained walker can achieve, especially when



lent displays in wrestling, and Mr. G. F. Rohner, the winner of the middle weight competition, is to be congratulated on his vigorous tackling—immediately after two bouts in his own category, thus being tired—of the heavy weight wrestler, Mr. J. Speck, almost two stones heavier than himself, and though he lost in this particular round, he gave a very creditable account of his strength and abilities. The winner of the Light Weight Competition was an English friend, Mr. L. E. Wallis.

There were no end of races for little boys and grown up girls, and some amusing incidents resulted from the efforts of these "tiny tots." One,

The fancy events, such as Thread-the-Needle Race, Egg-and-Spoon Race, Three-legged Race and Wheelbarrow Race, all proved of a very enjoyable and well patronised character, and we refer to the list below for the winners. As it had been discovered that at a previous Sports Meeting a winner of the Egg-and-Spoon Race owed victory to the brilliant idea of having dropped some chewing gum on to the spoon before nestling the egg thereon, particular care was taken that all adhesive adjuncts should be dispensed with, though the suggestion has been mooted that the Committee might approach some American manufacturing concern of this commodity to contribute a useful subscription to our Sports if we propagate their wares.

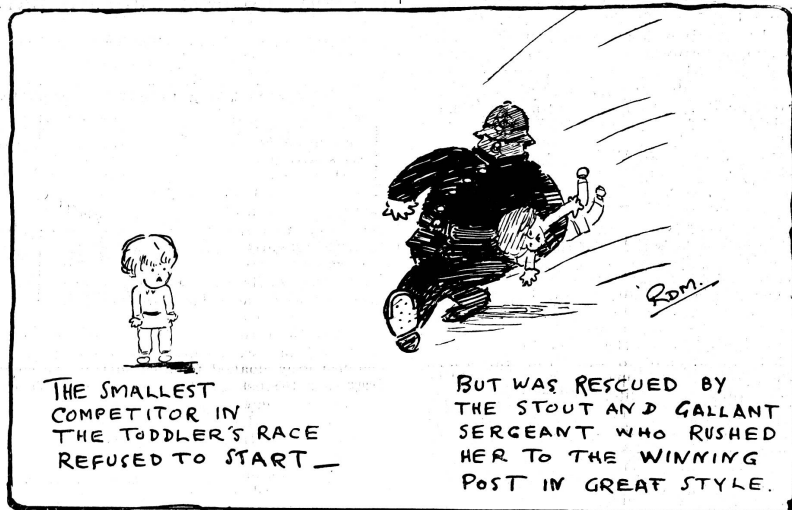
The Relay Race gave an excellent opportunity to our younger sprinters, and the Unione Ticinese are to be congratulated on the victory gained by their athletes. It should prove a wise policy if in future the course is properly controlled by officials—of whom there are plenty—so as to avoid "pacing" taking place by friends of the actual competitors, who are not themselves engaged in the race, and also to keep at bay visitors who may be unintentionally strolling across the path while this swift race is in progress.

Undoubtedly the greatest event was witnessed at the Pillow Fight barrier, where Messrs. Boehringer and Strubin had to cope with a long queue of would-be warriors, and some of the latter had to undergo rather lengthy ordeals before finally coming to the top. The winner, M. A. L. Despond, was grimly determined not to be beaten, and although the whole contents of a pillow blinded his eyes and filled his lungs, he did not lose his equanimity for a single moment. In fact, he proved very "hard-headed" over the whole contest.

After the Vice-Presidents, M. de Cintra and M. Kiefer, had expressed appreciative thanks to all participants in the Sports, including Members of the Committee, donors and helpers of any sort, Madame de Cintra, at 7.30 p.m., very kindly undertook to present the prizes, numbering well over 100, and which also included Cups and other trophies to the successful competitors at the Rifle Range, who were as follows: 100yds.—1, J. Haesler (94); 2, Alfred Schmid (94); 3, Arnold Schmid (93). 300 metres.—1, A. Suter (50); 2, P. Hilfiker (48); 3, Ed. Brüllhard (47).

A vote of thanks and a beautiful bouquet of flowers, representing our national colours, were awarded to Mme de Cintra for her courtesy, and a very happy and successful gathering found its conclusion.

THE OFFICIAL REPORTER.



there are rumours of earthquakes in the air! The winner of last year's competition, M. J. Haesler, of the Union Helvetia, was second, and M. E. Oggier, of the Cercle Valaisan, was third.

Very creditable performances can be recorded in the Long Jump, there being a dead heat for the premier position, both Messrs. Kurth and E. Mueller clearing 19ft. 2in.

The Tug-of-War proved, as usual, most interesting, and it was almost a foregone conclusion that the splendidly trained team of the Cercle Valaisan—the winners of the previous Cup—would again give evidence of their superior prowess. The Cercle Culinaire Suisse made strenuous efforts to carry off the victory, but unfortunately the Captain allowed the rope to slide too far in the wrong direction before he assumed command of his crew. The Union Helvetia, in spite of the fact that the Captain had to deplore the last-minute change of front of two members he had "booked" for his team, and who had switched over to another group, managed to be the "runners-up," while the team of the Swiss Mercantile Society was rather badly licked, owing principally to the fact that they were not captained at all, and thus there was but little rhythm in their pulling efforts—which shows that strength should always be properly marshalled if the best result is to be attained.

The Pushball event attracted much attention also, but it seems a matter for regret that the square within which the game takes place is not clearly defined, and in the writer's opinion also rather too small, with the result that competitors are generally of a short-lived character. One feature stands out clearly, namely, that those teams with a "long reach" have a decided advantage once the heavy ball is over their heads, and it becomes then merely a question of sending it forward in any given direction. Incidentally, these views are expressed in the hope that some of our compatriots from "Most-India" may form into a team, since the quality of a "long reach" would seem to secure for them natural advantages! The Swiss Rifle Association were declared the winners, the City Swiss Club came next and the Swiss Mercantile Society third. Members of the Swiss Gymnastic Society gave some excel-

lence in particular, after being well in front, suddenly changed her mind, stood still and allowed others to pass, and not even the kindly intervention of the Police Sergeant on duty—who hurriedly picked her up and ran with her to the goal—could rectify the mischief done. It may perhaps be apropos to suggest that for all these races the goal posts should be properly mapped out beforehand, since it was noticeable that in some instances the length goals of the course were haphazardly fixed.



Tell your English Friends
to visit

Switzerland

and to buy their Tickets
from

The Swiss Federal Railways,
Carlton House, 11b, Regent St., S.W.1.

COME & GRAMOPHONE at my shop
or let me send you Records, post free, on appro. if desired

M. T. NEWMAN

(25 years a member of the Swiss Merc. Soc.)

Gramophone Salon, 2, LOWER PORCHERSTON ST., W.2

Phone: Paddington 4300.

3 minutes from Marble Arch.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
at every meal—for Health!