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SWISS SPORTS at HERNE HILL

SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1934.

Three cheers! This year's Sports were actually held with the kind collaboration of the sun; what a difference it made from previous occasions, when a steady down-pour used to interfere most unpleasantly with the various items.

Taking the weather conditions into consideration, one might have reasonably expected a record attendance, but somehow or other the numbers present did not greatly exceed those recorded on former occasions, when the weather was less favourable.

Has this Annual Meeting lost its pull?, or have many of our compatriots been so disheartened by the bad weather under which the Sports during the last few years were held, that the mere name of Herne Hill makes them think of an Umbrella Parade?

There might be another reason, and I am sure the Committee will not take it amiss, when I offer some slight criticism; it is after all the privilege of the Press to make fair comments. I find that these meetings have become rather dragging, there is not enough *entrain*; and I might perhaps be allowed to make one or two suggestions.

The announcing of the various items on the programme was done with the aid of a microphone, and let me tell you that the operator handled this instrument in a very efficient manner, it was done exactly the same way, as at any of the large sporting events which take place in and around London, and here, is where I consider lays the snag. The Swiss Sports, besides being, as the name indicates, a sports event, is also to a certain extent a social meeting, and the announcer would have a great opportunity, in making various other comments, apart from the purely sporting ones, to liven things up considerably. Take f.i. an announcement with reference to the pillow fight: On the pole are now the Editor of the Swiss Observer, and the Hon. Vice-President of the Sports Committee; they shake hands,—they smile,—the Vice-President disappears,—they are on the pole again,—the Editor gets a tremendous smack in the eye, and falls off like a log! What a tremendous cheer would greet such an announcement; or: the Secretary of the S.M.S. has just been heavily defeated, it looks as if a certain ornament of his face has been knocked off, no; it is still there; great applause from the entire field, and the swooning wife recovers. Then he could have mentioned that a young couple on the border of the track have taken it into their heads to make violent love to each other, with the result that all the young ladies and young men would get a bit closer to each other, and would squeeze their hands, what an inspiring view that would be, and how it would demonstrate to our English friends what a united and loving family the Swiss are.

Apart from such announcements, I would suggest, that the operator should make a few explanatory remarks about events like f.i. "Throwing the Javelin" and "Throwing the Discus," as a good many of the spectators have but a hazy idea what is really to be done with these "gadgets." I am convinced that if the announcer takes a more active and more intimate part in the happenings, things could be considerably livened up.—

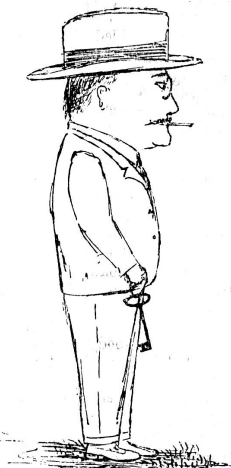
The start was made punctually at 2.45 and in rapid succession the various Flat Handicap races for men, boys and ladies followed each other. As the results of the various events will be given at the end of this narrative, I will, with a few exceptions' desist from commenting on the achievements of each individual performer. As usual these races and competitions were followed with great interest by the onlooker, and each winner received a great and well merited ovation.

The Swiss being a musical nation, a musical programme was provided by an Ampligram, which was fed from Mr. Newman's inexhaustible stock of Swiss gramophone records, and some of the popular tunes must have inspired both competitors and spectators alike. When the stately "Bärner" March was played, I nearly joined the Veterans who were lined up to run (I beg your pardon) to *walk* for their lives, but reason prevailed, and I went instead to the Bar to drink to the health of my native town, a performance which was less strenuous.

Soon after 3 o'clock, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame Paravicini arrived, and received a spontaneous ovation.

The musical honours were rendered, by playing "Trittst im Morgenrot daher" which somehow disturbed me, considering that it was then already early afternoon. When the popu-

lar President of the Sports Committee M. Barbezat appeared, a record was played entitled "Ich geh jetzt fort, auf ewig fort," which was rather unkind. Here is his portrait:



but this time I could not detect the famous key, which in former years was such a welcome attraction, and faithful companion.

Suddenly I perceived a certain commotion amongst the spectators, all eyes were focussed on a certain spot, and there they were, over a dozen valiant veterans lined up for the 440yds. Walking Handicap (Meh over 40), all smiling, all happy, all looking in the pink. I thought it was quite unfair to brand them with the stigma of being "Veterans", as they did not look a bit like old men. A shot rang out, and off they went, gone were the smiles, to make way for looks of grim determination, the expression on some of the faces quite frightened me, their features became distorted almost too painful to behold, and yet I always thought that sports were a pleasurable occupation, some people do take their pleasures sadly.!!! The race was won by Mr. von Bergen, for the third time in succession and the cup will become his own property.

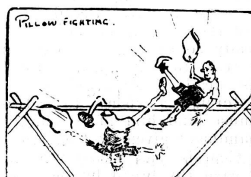
A no less interesting event proved to be the Tug-o'-War which was won by the Cercle Valaisan by two pulls to nil, the captain of the Cercle Valaisan team played a great part in leading his men to victory. The Union Helvetia team fought gallantly, but the better team no doubt won.

Amongst the classical races, the Relay Race was followed with the greatest interest, and the Swiss Mercantile Society only just missed keeping for good the Challenge Cup, which they won for the last two years in succession. The Unione Ticinese won this race in grand style, and are to be congratulated on their fine performance.

An equally fine performance was the win of Mr. H. H. Baumann, in the 120yds. Veterans Handicap, he is indeed a remarkable sportsman, and as he has now won this race for the third time in succession, the cup will no doubt find a treasured spot in his abode.

There were innumerable races for little boys and girls, and also for grown ups which were full of amusing incidents.

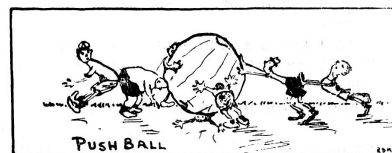
Such fancy events as the Cigarette, Egg and Spoon Race, and the Three-legged Race found many entrants and caused great hilarity amongst the onlookers.



The chief attraction proved to be again the Pillow Fight, and many a well-known personality in the Colony made a rather undignified

disappearance, but what a splendid opportunity to satisfy a grievance without making it look too obvious.

One of the last events to take place was the Pushball for which two teams had entered, namely the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Swiss Rifle Team. The latter were my favourites, firstly because their team contained many personal friends of mine, secondly they looked very substantial, and I am sure if sheer force would have decided the issue, they would have easily won; the first contact with the opposing team was tremendous, as a matter of fact I quite expected that the huge ball would explode. Some sarcastic gentleman nearby suggested that the teams should have been announced as follows: S.M.S. versus Brewers. This was rather unkind, because if they would have had any connection with that particular trade, they would have won, because remember the slogan: "Beer is Best," as they had not, they lost, but they went gallantly to their doom. They fought grimly and with determination, amongst them was the President of one of our biggest Societies in the Colony, who celebrated his birthday by charging the ball, as if he did not care whether this was his last anniversary, a noble fighter and a good loser.—



The "Georges Dimier Challenge Cup" for scoring the highest aggregate number of points, which was won outright by the S.M.S. two years ago, and replaced last year by Mme. Georges Dimier was awarded to the S.M.S. who thus won it two years in succession.

Previous to the distribution of prizes, M. A. Barbezat said a few words, thanking both organisers and competitors for their collaboration in making this year's Sports Meeting a success. Madame Paravicini, who kindly consented to distribute the prizes, was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, she rewarded each prize winner with a charming smile and a handshake.

Coming to the summing up, I must congratulate the members of the Committee for their untiring efforts to make this Meeting a success, which it no doubt was, in spite of a few items which might perhaps be remedied in the future. I wish to single out M. H. H. Baumann, the Hon. Secretary of the Sports Committee who worked very hard indeed, he was ably assisted by M. Levy, Headmaster of the S.M.S. College.

Judging from the happy faces of those who left Herne Hill, the 1934 Swiss Sports Meeting undoubtedly left to many happy memories, and not least to those little ones who, on departing, were offered a lift in Madame Paravicini's limousine.

The Official Press Reporter.

RESULTS.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Men) Heat 1. 1st. E. W. Casada, 2nd. A. Schmid, Time 10 3/5sec. Heat 2. 1st. W. Meier, 2nd D. Baumann, Time 10 2/5 sec. Heat 3. 1st. M. de Maria, 2nd. C. Combe, Time 10 3/5 sec.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Boys): Heat 1. 1st. H. Ehrsam, (walk-over), Heat 2. 1st. R. Verschuur, 2nd. C. Rossier, 3rd E. Volken. Time 12 4/5.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Ladies) Heat 1. 1st. K. M. Tiffen, Time 11 1/5 sec. Heat 2. 1st. K. S. Tulley Time 11 2/5 sec. Heat 3. 1st. M. H. Greenfield, Time 11 sec. Heat 4. 1st E. J. Green, Time 11 2/5 sec. Heat 5. 1st. M. Ashenbrenner, Time 13 sec.

440 Yds Flat Handicap: 1st F. V. Pritchett, 2nd. E. Sampietro, Time 54 2/5 sec.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap: 1st. W. Meier, 2nd E. W. Casada, 3rd. A. Schmid, Time 10 4/5 sec.



- 100 Yds Flat Handicap (Boys):** 1st, R. Verschuur, 2nd, C. Rossier, 3rd, E. Volken. Time 12 3/5 sec.
- 100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Ladies):** 1st, K. S. Tulley, 2nd, K. M. Tiffen, 3rd, H. Greenfield. Time 11 2/5 sec.
- High Jump:** 1st, E. W. Casada, 5 ft., 2nd M. Schneider, 4ft. 11ins., 3rd, A. Stingelin, 4ft. Sins.
- Throwing the Javelin:** 1st, M. Steidle, 136ft. Sins. 2nd, O. Henchoz 110ft. 3rd, W. Burren, 108 ft.
- 120 Yds. Veterans Handicap:** 1st, H. H. Baumann, age 46½, 2nd, F. A. Pont, age 43, 3rd, A. Tale, age 35. (H. H. Baumann wins the Challenge Cup outright) Time 12 1/5sec.
- 220 Yds. Flat Handicap:** Heat 1. 1st, A. Schmid 2nd, D. Baumann, 3rd, E. W. Casada, Time 24 3/5 sec. Heat 2. 1st W. Meier, 2nd, R. Meier, 3rd M. Motta, Time 24 sec.
- 440 Yds. Veterans' Walking Handicap:** 1st C. Donati (Hors Concours), 2nd, F. von Bergen, 3rd, Hauswirth, 4th, J. Oltramare, 5th, F. A. Pont, 6th M. Oggier, 7th, M. Jaquenoud. Challenge Cup taken by F. von Bergen.
- 220 Yds. Flat Handicap:** 1st, D. Baumann, 2nd, W. Meier, 3rd, E. W. Casada, Time 24 1/5 sec.
- Putting the Weight:** 1st, M. Steidle, 32ft. 2ins. 2nd, M. O. Henchoz, 30 ft. 7ins. 3rd W. Burren, 29ft. Sins.
- Throwing the Discus:** 1st, M. O. Henchoz, 100ft. 6ins. 2nd, M. Steidle, 98ft. Sins. 3rd, W. Burren, 81ft. 3ins.
- 880 Yds. Flat Handicap:** 1st, C. Meschini, 2nd, M. de Maria, 3rd, A. Hinderling, Time 2min. 16 sec.
- Long Jump:** 1st, M. O. Henchoz, 19ft. 2nd, W. Burren, 18ft. 9ins. 3rd, M. Steidle, 18ft.
- Tug O'War:** Winners: Cercle Valaisan, by 2 Pulls to Nil.
- 100 Yds. Handicap (Ladies):** Heat 1. 1st, Miss Jenkins, 2nd, Miss Lillywhite, 3rd, Miss Bowes. Heat 2. 1st, Miss Stolz, 2nd, Miss Hauswirth, 3rd, Miss Burkhardt.
- Girls' 60 Yds. Handicap:** Heat 1. 1st, M. Piccanillo, 2nd, Peggy von Bergen, 3rd, Georgette Jaquenoud, 4th, M. Beken. Heat 2. 1st, M. Tall, 2nd, E. Chapuis, 3rd, J. Burkhardt, 4th, L. Hauswirth. Heat 3. 1st, P. Bushford, 2nd, J. Bangeter, 3rd, E. Dawson, 4th, D. Lillywhite. Heat 4. 1st, S. Lachat, 2nd, P. Dupraz, 3rd, Y. De Cintra, 4th, O. Ray.
- Pillow Fight (Men):** 1st, H. Bähler, 2nd, A. Tall, 3rd, R. Dupraz, 4th, M. Motta.
- Boys' 80 Yds. Handicap:** Heat 1. 1st, D. Miller, 2nd, J. Amrein, 3rd, Marco Silvain, 4th, Arthur Roth. Heat 2. 1st, M. Deubelbeiss, 2nd, Donald Mayers, 3rd, D. Bungeter, 4th, J. Bungeter. Heat 3. 1st, Master Ernst, 2nd, Master Bloom, 3rd, Master Tall, 4th, J. Müller. Heat 4. 1st, Master Mitchell, 2nd, Master L. Jaeggi, 3rd, Master Wehrli, 4th, Master R. Pianca.
- Cigarette Race (Mixed):** Heat 1. 1st, Miss Mary Smith and M. S. Kayles, 2nd, Miss Hauswirth and Mr. Hauswirth. Heat 2. 1st, Miss Assenbrenner and Mr. Schottländer, 2nd, Miss L. Jaeggi and Mr. J. Ströhli. Heat 3. 1st, Miss J. Bowles and Mr. Eric Hewlett, 2nd, Mrs. Pont and Mr. Pianci.
- Egg and Spoon Race (Ladies):** Heat 1. 1st, M. Bushford, 2nd, P. Bushford. Heat 2. 1st, Renée Charroux, 2nd, P. Dupraz. Heat 3. 1st, M. Jenkins, 2nd, L. Jaeggi.
- Relay Race:** Winners: Unione Ticinese, Time 4 min. 8 1/5 sec. Runners up: Swiss Mercantile Society "A" team.
- Three Legged Race:** Heat 1. 1st, Miss Hauswirth 2nd, Miss L. Jaeggi, 1st, Mr. Pianci, 2nd, Mr. L. Jaeggi. Heat 2. 1st, Miss Potter, 2nd, Miss J. Bowles. 1st, Mr. Potter, 2nd, Mr. Eric Hewlett.
- Pushball:** Winners: Swiss Mercantile Society
- Georges Dimier Cup:** Winners: Swiss Mercantile Society, (55 points), Unione Ticinese (23 points), Union Helvetia, (9 points).

TIR FEDERAL 1934.

EIDGENÖSSISCHES SCHUTZENFEST 1934.

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The subscription list will shortly be closed, and we shall be glad if would be subscribers would send in their donations as soon as possible.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

THE "UNIONE TICINESE" OUTING TO SOUTHSEA.

1st July, 1934.

"... In South-East England the weather will be mainly fair and warm..." thus the B.B.C. announcer last Saturday evening. The weather conditions of the following day, Sunday the 1st instant, provided the "quod erat demonstrandum" to the Organizing Committee's meteorological theorem.

A summer outing is no serious matter, offering as it does a welcome escape from custom and routine, as the happy faces, aged, middle-aged and youthful, that filled the capacious coaches showed only too plainly.

An exhilarating early morning motor ride on the Thames Embankment has, I now must admit, its compensations. To forget the Metropolis and all that is in it, be it just for fifteen fleeting hours, is of itself a tremendous relief. A cosy seat, a pleasant smoke, picturesque scenery rushing by, petty cares and worries outside the range of thought, this all gives free play to paradisaical musing. Somebody cynically remarked once that nobody would know nature was so beautiful if he had not read so in books. Needless to point out this individual cannot have been a town dweller to the country as a matter of course.

Yet the casual town visitor misses at present the deep-set green of the countryside; the yellowish ting of the grass recalls to mind the sun baked pastureland of our mountains rather than the peacefully undulating English meadowland; the reason is obvious, the drought. Once Guildford has been passed changes of scenery are frequent and varied. Above them all towers for sheer beauty the Devil's Punch-bowl, close to the brim of which, so I was reliably informed, two criminal sailors were hanged in the not so distant past.

Unlike Peter the Great—who, it is recorded, once upon a time stayed at Godalming with twenty friends and a colossal luncheon order; to be exact: three stone of beef, a sheep, a lamb, two joints of veal, assorted capons and rabbits, and four dozen of sack and wine—we pushed on, over the South Downs to Southsea for lunch at Mr. C. Ferrari's Café Royal, where our host himself, and his charming family, extended to us a very cordial reception. As regards the lunch I can find but one word, excellent.

In the course of the afternoon all feeling very adventurously disposed, by degrees, braved the open sea: some armed with just a bathing costume, others aboard the Isle of Wight steamers.

Tea time arrived all too soon, and afterwards the return journey on a beautifully clear summer evening was no less pleasant.

In the distance on the road, are they fire-flies? No, an optical illusion provided by the rearlights of a noisy motorcycle club on the way home.

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DANCE RECITAL.

MARCELLE VALERIE.

One could have wished that a greater number of our compatriots would have attended the above recital at the Rudolf Steiner Hall on Tuesday last.

Those who attended must have felt fully satisfied with Mme. Valerie's performance. Her sense of rhythm and grace of movement succeeded in expressing with unusual charm and beauty the various dances.

A slow dance to Bach music was specially impressive, and demonstrated her great technical control. In her amusing "Modern Punch" Dance one had to admire her vitality, her hands and arms were most expressive.

One of her most original efforts was undoubtedly "Ahrimana," this dramatic dance portrays the subtle spirit of Evil which returns repeatedly in different guises. The masks were designed by G. van Schnell.

An Amazon dance set to Schubert's music was capably executed and I liked the Prayer on a Choral by Bach. Mme. Valerie is foremost a creative artiste and her dances show a wonderful sense of rhythm and perfect poise.

Gustave Ferrari in his interpretation of old French songs was inimitable, his facial expressions were both in turn humorous and sad to behold, a capital artiste indeed.

PERSONAL.

Mr. J. H. Speich wishes to thank all his friends most cordially for their great kindness shown to him during his illness, and to inform them that he has now left the nursing home.

SWISS BANKING CONTROL.

Final stages in the progress of the draft for the new Banking Law, a Law that will set up a control over banks and banking, are being successfully passed. The Departments of Justice and Finance saw the necessity for such a Law over 20 years ago, but were compelled by the outbreak of the war and by its economic after-effects to postpone definite action in the matter. The collapse of several important banks during the past few years, necessitating Government intervention, compelled a revival of the project, however, and a commission of experts was appointed about a year ago by the Finance Department to draw up proposals for a Banking Law. These proposals were submitted in the beginning of this year and, after being studied and amended by the Government Departments concerned, were presented recently in the form of a Bill to the Swiss Parliament.

The protagonists of the new Law have made their view quite clear, that they do not believe that the recent banking losses could have been avoided had a special legislation already been in force, and they urge that Swiss bankers cannot be held responsible for the consequences of the collapse of important foreign currencies and of the unexpected weakness of so many foreign and home debtors. The same authorities take into account, however, the facts that certain bank directors, who were under only vague control, acted inadvisedly, that certain banks expanded irrationally, and that, as the law stands at present, there is no power to prevent individual action that might develop into disregard of shareholders interests. The main purpose of the new Law is to protect the depositors and the shareholders of banks, but there is no thought or suggestion of placing the multifarious daily business of the banks under State control. There is also no question of socialising the banking system, or of granting concessions for banks; any person may, under the new Law, open a bank, if he shows to the Banking Commission that is to be established that he has sufficient means to maintain the full liquidity of his undertaking.

The aim of the Law is to educate the banks to self-control, and with this object in view new regulations are introduced concerning statutes, annual reports and balance sheets. Both the Swiss National Bank and the Government Department for Finance have refused to assume the responsibility for the control of banks, so that it has been decided that the control shall be placed in the hands of a Commission of five experts chosen by the Federal Council from the banking and bank accountancy professions. This Banking Commission is absolutely independent: it is not answerable either to the Federal Government or the National Bank, and appeals against its decisions must be taken before the Supreme Court of the Confederation. It is prescribed that all balance sheets are to be placed in the hands of the National Bank, though merely for statistical purposes in the interests of the Swiss currency and monetary system. The National Bank will not control these bank balance sheets in any form, it will not have the right even to comment on them, and assumes no responsibility for their correctness. The National Bank is, on the other hand, to be consulted by private banks before these undertake transactions of considerable extent involving the export of Swiss capital. It is not intended to check the investments of Swiss capital abroad, if only because there is not sufficient scope for it at home, and it is admitted that very little control is necessary, for, notwithstanding the various financial troubles since 1931, most of the Swiss banks have held their own, the rates of interest at home have not manifested an upward tendency, the currency has remained stable, and it is considered that the short-term loans in foreign countries are even to-day intact. The control by the National Bank over the export of capital merely gives legislative confirmation to a system already in force, and which enables the central body to exert its influence in the interest of the national balance of payments, and to use the Swiss financial forces in obtaining compensations.

The effective control of the Swiss banks under the new Law consists in the obligation to have their books and the conduct of their business examined once every year by recognised bank accountants. If, as the result of this independent revision, all is found to be in order nothing further is done or said, but if the examiners discover anything that leads them even to suspect a wrongful conduct of any part of the bank's business they have to mention this to the bank's directors and managers. Should the cause of suspicion not be removed the matter has to be reported to the Banking Commission, which has strong powers to deal with recalcitrants.