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SWISS SPORTS at HERNE HILL

SATURDAY, MAY 25th, 1935.

For the last few years, with one or two exceptions, the weather authorities have been very unkind to the Swiss Sports, as a matter of fact "Swiss Sports weather" has become quite a joke in the Colony. —

On waking up on Saturday morning, I heard a steady downpour of rain rattling on the roof, I hardly dared to open my eyes lest my fears should be confirmed, but "somewhere a voice was calling," Swiss Sports Weather!!! — Yes, it simply poured, I felt very disheartened, as I could imagine how disappointed many of the children would be, when father declared, before leaving for business, that the outing was taboo. But once again the saying, that "every cloud has a silver lining" proved itself true. Soon after noon, those who are responsible for the wind and the rain felt remorseful and allowed the sun to appear, and I am glad to say, the latter kept us company right from the beginning to the end of the meeting. But, I am afraid the damage was done, and the attendance undoubtedly suffered from the whimsical way with which the weather had seen fit to tease us.

Last year, in my report, I asked the question, whether this Annual Sports Meeting has lost its pull; and judging from appearances at Herne Hill on Saturday, I am almost inclined to answer this question in the affirmative. True enough the attendance must have suffered through the dismal outlook in the morning, but I honestly believe that the enthusiasm of a few years ago, which manifested itself by large numbers has greatly diminished. Many of our compatriots in London, who could or should be coming along, stay away for no valid reason, they seem to have lost interest in any doings of the Colony, they don't even turn up anymore even to "grumble"!!! In making this statement, I do not wish to criticise the Committee, who, I know have made strenuous efforts to make the meeting as interesting as possible, I am merely voicing the opinion of many of the spectators. The really fine prizes which are given, alone should be an inducement. One hears various reasons put forward, one old member of the Colony told me that the Swiss Colony suffers from rapid consumption, another one assured me that in ten years time the Colony will have disappeared. These rather gloomy statements did not exactly help to make me feel very jolly, and I was glad that arrangements had been made to "refresh" one's mind and body, — and I gradually regained my optimism. — Last year I made one or two suggestions to brighten things up a little, I wrote in the report which appeared in the "Swiss Observer," as follows:

"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. —

My suggestion apparently did not find favour, and I must think of a better one. I understand that the Sports Committee have in view another ground, nearer town for next year's meeting, which might attract a larger crowd, and thus reward those who have worked very hard to arrange this annual sporting event. —

The first events were the 100 yds. Flat Handicap races for boys and men: as the results of the various events will be given at the end of this report, I will, with a few exceptions desist from commenting on the achievements of each individual performer. A very attractive event was the 100 yds. Flat Scratch (for Ladies in Sports Costume) not so much as far as the performance was concerned, but that the ladies looked so sweet in their outfit! Oh my! What would our grandmothers have said!!! —

This year again, a musical programme was provided by an Ampligram; this instrument consumed a great number of fine gramophone records which were supplied by Mr. Newman; some of the yodels and popular Swiss folk songs must have inspired both competitors and onlookers alike.

During the afternoon, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame Paravicini, arrived and received a hearty reception. The musical honours were rendered by playing the "Schweizerpsalm" to which the audience listened bareheaded. —

Very remarkable results were registered in the throwing of the Javelin and the Discus, two items which require much skill; a no less interesting event proved to be the 120 yds. Veterans' handicap (40 years and over) and the winner, Mr. Baumann, received much applause for his creditable achievement. Year after year this fine sportsman simply "romps" home in the various races, in spite of his getting very near the half century mark. As can be seen from the list of results Mr. Baumann has been first in three other races.

One of the star turns of the meeting has always been the Veterans' 220 yds. race, for men over 40, it was changed this year to an obstacle race, which made it even more amusing. They had to run on the track to the parallel bars between which they had to pass, one at a time, in the order of their arrival. At the other end of the bars they had to hop on one leg to a line 10 yds. further on, and then run again the final distance. Nearly a dozen of these valiant and gallant Veterans lined up at the start, and when a pistol rang out they ran for dear-life, cheered by their respective wives, and supported by the lusty voices of their off-spring. With grim determination, and strangely set faces they started on their "test of endurance" to the sounds of a martial tune. The race was won by Mr. Haesler who well deserved to win.

The Tug-o'-War could only muster two entries this year, namely a team from the Union Helveticia and a team of the Cercle Valaisan.

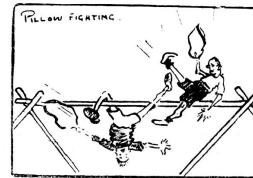
The "Union Helveticia" team took revenge for their last year's defeat by the same opponent, by winning easily by two pulls to nil. The "Cercle Valaisan" team fought gallantly, but the better team no doubt won.

In former years the teams for this item used to make a spectacular entry on the field, this year, however, that was dispensed with, which was rather a pity, as it used to be very effective, and reminded me somehow of the entry of the gladiators into the arena.

Amongst the classical races, the Relay Race was followed with the greatest interest, and some fine sprinting could be seen. The Union Helveticia won this race in grand style, and they are to be congratulated on their splendid performance.

A short break was made in the programme, to allow the Swiss Minister to address the Sports gathering, which he termed in his short address the "Swiss Sports Jubilee" assembly. The Minister expressed his pleasure to have again been able to attend, if only for a short time, at this annual event, and he congratulated the organisers on their splendid efforts. M. H. Senn then called for three cheers for the Minister and Madame Paravicini which were heartily responded to. At this stage I should like to mention a rather amusing episode, a charming young lady, apparently

very excited was enquiring for the "Press Reporter," and was directed to me. She acquainted me with a bewitching smile, that she was the lucky finder of a sixpenny coin, telling me quite confidently that she was an Aberdonian, which, of course, greatly impressed me; fancy an Aberdonian giving up a sixpence!!! I was just going to suggest to her what could be done with this lucky find (as I had some vision) when I saw her disappear in order to hand the coin over to some gentlemen sitting at the Committee table. It was a remarkable coincidence that an Aberdonian should ask a Bernese for advice, certainly I was too slow in this particular incident. —



Another attraction proved to be again the Pillow Fight, this event used to be judged for many years by Mr. P. F. Boehringer. Unfortunately, this year he was unable to be present owing to illness, his efficient handling of this amusing event was greatly missed. It is to be regretted, that few of the older members of the Colony took part, personally I always found it a splendid opportunity to satisfy a grievance without making it look too obvious.

There were, of course, innumerable races for little girls and boys. Such fancy events as the Cigarette, Egg-and-Spoon, Obstacle, Blindfold, and Three-legged Races caused great hilarity.

On interviewing one tiny tot who looked obviously upset and distressed, he mournfully acquainted me with the fact that he was disqualified by the referee for some technical offence, and with a knowing look he whispered in my ear "that there was some twisting going on." His face, however, soon brightened up, when Mr. Senn, with his great heart, presented him with a large bar of "Toblerone." Another little girl was so disgusted with the performance of her boy partner, that she tried to pull a few curls from his head, no doubt to be kept as a souvenir. When she was told that it was not very sportswomen like behaviour, she returned: with sobs, — the fragments of hair, which she had kept in her tiny fist. — Another bar of chocolate soon dried her tears.

A large gathering watched the High Jump, and some fine results were registered, equally interesting was the Long Jump.

Shortly after 6 o'clock, the distribution of prizes was announced, unfortunately Mlle. L. Paravicini was prevented from presenting the prizes, and her place was taken by one of the charming daughters of M. Barbezat, President of the Swiss Sports Committee, who bestowed on each one of the winners a charming smile and a hearty handshake. It was most delightful to watch the happy faces of some of the little ones who carried off their prize with great pride and happiness.

The "Georges Dimier Challenge Cup" for scoring the highest aggregate number of points, which was won outright by the Swiss Mercantile Society, two years ago, and replaced by Mme. G. Dimier was awarded again to the Swiss Mercantile Society. (These points have all been obtained by old London Members, and no student who won prizes were qualified for points.)

Coming to the summing up, I must heartily congratulate the members of the Sports Committee for their untiring efforts in making this Sports rally a success, and I can only express the fervent wish, that their endeavours will be rewarded in future by an attendance which is in accordance with the hard work they render year by year to provide the Colony with a first class entertainment. I wish to single out M. H. H. Baumann, the Hon. Secretary of the Committee who bore the brunt of the work, as well as Messrs. Senn, Dupraz, Mayr, de Cintra, Schneider and Levy, who ably assisted him in his work. The attendance was about 250 competitors and spectators, and I hope that next year this figure will be doubled. There is still enough kick left in the Colony, to make the Sports Meeting a real success and a patriotic demonstration.

The Official Press Reporter.



RESULTS.

100 yds. *Flat Handicap (Boys)*: Heat 1. 1st, F. Ernst, 2nd, Th. Kummer, Time 11 4/5 secs. Heat 2. 1st, M. Bloom, 2nd, B. Jaeggi, 3rd, T. v. Bergen. Time 12 2/5 secs.

100 yds. *Flat Handicap (Men)*: Heat 1. 1st, D. Baumann, 2nd, W. Meier, Time 10 4/5 secs. Heat 2. 1st, H. H. Baumann, 2nd, A. A. Rossi, Time 10 4/5 secs. Heat 3. 1st, R. C. Engel, 2nd, E. W. Casada. Time 11 sec.

440 yds. *Flat Handicap*: 1st, H. Barnfield, 2nd, J. Delmar, Time 55 secs.

100 yds. *Scratch Race (Ladies)*: 1st, Miss Deloff, 2nd, Miss Brodbeck, Time 13 4/5 secs.

100 yds. *Flat Handicap (Boys)*: 1st, F. Ernst, 2nd, B. Jaeggi, 3rd, M. Bloom, Time 11 4/5 secs.

100 yds. *Flat Handicap (Men)*: 1st, H. H. Baumann, 2nd, D. Baumann, 3rd, E. W. Casada, Time 11 secs.

Throwing the Javelin: 1st, M. Heider, 146 ft. 10 ins.; 2nd, M. O. Henchoz, 106 ft. 2 ins.; 3rd, G. Fischer, 104 ft. 9 ins.

Boys 400 yds. Relay Race: 1st, City Swiss Club, 2nd, Swiss Gymnastic Society; 3rd, Swiss Club (Schweizerbund).

220 yds. *Flat Handicap*: Heat 1. 1st, W. Burren, 2nd, W. Meier, Time 24 2/5 secs. Heat 2. 1st, D. Baumann, 2nd R. Hemmeler, Time 24 4/5 secs. Heat 3. 1st, G. Fischer, 2nd, M. De Maria, Time 25 secs.

Throwing the Discus: 1st, M. O. Henchoz, 102 ft. 7 ins.; 2nd, G. Fischer, 81 ft. 11 ins.; 3rd, W. Burren, 78 ft. 3 ins.

120 yds. *Veterans' Handicap*: 1st, H. H. Baumann, 2nd, F. A. Pout, 3rd, G. Gysi, Time 13 3/5 sec.

220 yds. *Veterans' Obstacle Race*: 1st, Mr. Haesler, 2nd, Mr. F. von Bergen, 3rd, Mr. Delaloye, 4th, Mr. Jobin, 5th, Mr. E. von Bergen, 6th, Mr. H. Senn.

Tug O' War: Winners: Union Helvetic; Runners-up: Cercle Valaisan.

220 yds *Flat Handicap (Final)*: 1st, D. Baumann; 2nd, G. Fischer; 3rd, W. Meier; Time 25 secs.

High Jump: 1st, H. Heider, 5 ft. 6 ins.; 2nd, G. Fischer, 5 ft. 4 ins.; 3rd, E. W. Casada, 5 ft. 4 ins.

100 yds. *Handicap (Ladies)*: 1st, Miss Lilywhite, 2nd, Miss R. Charnaux, 3rd, Miss P. Hill.

Girls' 60 yds. Handicap: Heat 1. 1st, Miss Betty Hauswirth, 2nd, Miss H. Jaeggi, 3rd, Miss M. Mayes, 4th, Miss P. v. Bergen. Heat 2. 1st, Miss M. Bond, 2nd, Miss M. Baumann, 3rd, Miss L. Hauswirth, 4th, Miss E. Chapuis. Heat 3. 1st, Miss R. Burkhard, 2nd, Miss C. Affeltranger, 3rd, Miss J. Hoch, 4th, Miss J. Bangerter. Heat 4. 1st, Miss D. Leighton, 2nd, Miss Y. de Cintra, 3rd, Miss C. Oltramare, 4th, Miss S. O. Gerard.

Pillow Fight (Men): 1st, A. M. Gerig, 2nd, E. Hardmeier, 3rd, A. Laffranchi, 4th, A. Unden.

Boys' 80 yds. Handicap: Heat 1. 1st, Ch. Berti, 2nd, Mc. Cullagh, 3rd, Jacky Norris, 4th, A. Keen. Heat 2. 1st, D. Bangerter, 2nd, F. de Maria, 3rd, R. Sterchi, 4th, D. Mayes. Heat 3. 1st, P. Oswald, 2nd, B. Jaeggi, 3rd, J. v. Bergen, 4th, F. Ernst. Heat 4. 1st, A. Wernli, 2nd, L. Jaeggi, 3rd, Th. Kummer, 4th, Chas Strubin.

Putting the Weight: 1st, Hans Heider, 31 ft. 4 ins.; 2nd, R. Ch. Engel, 30 ft. 10 ins.; 3rd, G. Fischer, 29 ft. 8 ins.

Cigarette Race (Mixed): Heat 1. 1st pair, Mr. Meridisan, Mrs. Mc. Cullagh; 2nd pair, Mr. S. Ruch, Miss Bowers. Heat 2. 1st pair, Mr. Delmar, Mrs. Delmar; 2nd pair, Mr. Kunesdi, Miss Deloff. Heat 3. 1st pair, Mr. Bennett, Miss Leger; 2nd pair, Mr. Norris, Miss Hauswirth.

Egg-and-Spoon Race (Ladies): Heat 1. 1st, Miss Charneaux, 2nd, Miss Deloff. Heat 2. 1st, Miss Lilywhite, 2nd, Miss Bianci. Heat 3. 1st, Miss Streuli, 2nd, Miss G. Hauswirth. Heat 4. 1st, Miss M. Buchford, 2nd, Miss C. Bushford.

Boys' Obstacle Race: Heat 1. 1st, L. Jaeggi, 2nd, L. Chapuis. Heat 2. 1st, B. Jaeggi, 2nd, C. Rossier. Heat 3. 1st, P. Oswald, 2nd, T. v. Bergen.

Long Jump: 1st, H. Heider, 20 ft.; 2nd, G. Fischer, 18 ft. 4 ins.; 3rd, W. Burren, 18 ft. 3 1/2 ins.

Blindfold Race: 1st pair, Mr. Künsli, Miss Deloff; 2nd pair, Mr. Streuli, Miss Streuli; 3rd pair, Mr. Oggier, Miss Bowers.

Three-Legged Race: Heat 1. 1st, Miss G. Hauswirth, Mr. Bianca; 2nd, Miss Bowers, Mr. Bennett. Heat 2. 1st, Miss D. Hauswirth, Mr. Norris; 2nd, Miss Potter, Mr. Potter.

Relay Race: Winner: Union Helvetic; Runners-up: Swiss Mercantile Society; 3rd, Unione Ticinese.

Points for Georges Dimier Cup:

Swiss Mercantile Society 24 Pts. (Retain Cup)

Union Helvetic 18 "

Cercle Valaisan 4 "

Unione Ticinese 3 "

Swiss Gymnastic Society 1 "

THE SWISS COLONY IN DUBLIN.

An "At Home" in honour of their first Consul-General to the Irish Free State, Dr. C. J. Benziger, was given by the Swiss Colony last Saturday at the Red Bank Restaurant, Dublin.

The President of the Colony, M. E. J. Hess, welcomed Dr. Benziger, and said, on behalf of the company, that they sincerely hoped he would long stay in the Free State to enjoy the wonderful hospitality which the Swiss always had received from the Irish.

Dr. Benziger then replied as follows:

Whenever a foreign representative takes up a new post he feels like an actor on the stage before the curtain rises. He knows that he will be in the eye of everybody and that it is up to him to get into contact with the audience.

Everything especially this gathering goes to show that you have lessened this feeling in me, and I wish to refer to two facts which I have been pleased to note from the beginning: Your unity and your readiness to help me. Without rivalries you have succeeded in standing together and I feel sure that through the creation of a Consulate General in the Free State this mutual understanding will be given a new impetus, and I hope that you will see in us an addition to your large family, ready to share your joy and your sorrow.

If each one of us is prepared to give his best and to be a worthy representative of Switzerland, we need not be afraid of the future of our country; loyal citizens abroad have always watched and will always watch over the ideals of which our homeland prides itself. The more serious the times, the bigger the task to fulfill and it is well to remember that not only the man but also the citizen grows in troubled times — let us face them full of love for our Country.

Although the creation of a Consulate representation in the Free State had long been under consideration, the realisation of the plan is partly due to the crisis. The cordial reception which I have been given by the people and the Authorities of the Free State proves that there is a will for furthering the relations between our two countries. Real friendship and good understanding will lead to new connections which can only be of advantage to both Ireland and Switzerland. You have helped to prepare the ground for this development and I trust that I may rely on your future collaboration in the accomplishment of our common mission for the good of our homeland.

Now that Switzerland has an official representative in this Country our small Colony will be more observed by our hosts. We thus take upon us a greater responsibility and national activity. If each one of you makes only ten Irish friends the number of friends of Switzerland will increase by 500. I need not tell you what this means in international relations: Small Countries must particularly rely on such friendships, in the same way perhaps as large Nations rely on their power.

To enlist your friends' sympathy for Switzerland is made easy for you in this country of traditional hospitality. Our hosts' gay nature and their idealistic disposition will also help you to overcome these troubled times. It is an are to go into the future with a cheerful mind and a clear apprehension; may all of you ever be guided by this art.

Among those present were: — Dr. C. J. Benziger, Swiss Consul-General, and Mrs. Benziger; Miss Benziger, Mr. O. A. Schneider, Chancellor of the Swiss Consulate; Miss Waldenburger, Miss Stalder, Mr. W. Javet, all of the Consulate; Mr. E. J. Hess, President of the Swiss Colony; Mrs. M. Hess, Miss Evelyn Hess, Mr. Ch. Baumann and Mrs. Baumann, Mr. Ch. Oppermann, Mrs. Oppermann and family; Mr. and Mrs. Gygax, Mr. E. Chamartin and family, Mrs. Oaks and family, Miss Davies, Mrs. Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Smyth and family, Mr. J. Karrer, Mr. A. Schnetzler, Mr. Seehauser, Mrs. Seeds, Mr. Albert Vatkin, Miss Muller, Mr. Scheps, Miss Lang, Mr. T. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Taffe, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. Malaire, Mr. Sean Dempsey, Miss Gleyre, Miss Hauser, Mr. and Mrs. Waldmeyer, Mr. H. D. Fisher, and a large number of friends.

HOFFNIG.

Sturm u Räge muesse sy
Müh u Lust u Plag,
Dunkli Wulche, Sunneschy
Warm u chalti Tag.

Dä allei cha d's Glück verstoh
Wo viel Sorge hetze,
Wär dün d'Nacht het muesse go
Weiss der Tag wohl d'schette.

Rächtli Freud cha keine ha
Wo si nie verlore,
Us em Unglück wird fürwahr
D's reine Glück gebore.

H.E.

STAINED GLASS PAINTING.

Mr. Alfred Werck, Artist in Stained Glass from the Holbein-Studio, Mardley Hill, Welwyn (Herts.), has left with the management of the Hotel Foyer-Suisse, 12-15, Upper Bedford Place (Russel Square), London, W.C.1, a series of glass panels representing the various cantonal coat of arms of the Swiss Confederation.

The beautifully executed shields in all their various hues, and with the masterly conception with which they are rendered, restore an almost forgotten art to a much deserved prominence again, as they are equivalent to the prototypes of the old masters.

The connoisseur, at the first glimpse he catches, is almost compelled to secure the arms of his native place to beautify his home by placing these panels in the windows, thus giving the room a touch of colour that no other material can give. The comparatively low price will enable anyone to acquire a panel or two and be happy ever after.

P.H.

Madame et Monsieur A. Biéri ont la grande douleur de faire part à leurs amis de la mort subite de leur petite chérie

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