

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: - (1943)

Heft: 1019

Artikel: An historical football match

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689604>

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: 15.02.2026

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

wheels and two pinions. During his sojourn in Paris, from 1776 to 1785, Franklin accompanied by Thomas Jefferson visited, among others, the Swiss chronometer-makers established in Paris, and whose renown had reached America. In 1789, after having been elected President of the United States, George Washington went to New York to take the oath of office. On his way, he was received everywhere with important demonstrations of enthusiasm and gratitude. On this occasion the population of Purysburg, in South Carolina, which had been founded by Swiss immigrants, offered a magnificent gold repeating watch to the President, as a testimony of veneration and gratitude. This watch had been made by Messrs. Courvoisier, Houriet & Co. of Le Locle, in Neuchâtel, and the great chronometer-maker Jacques-Frederic Houriet, a former rival of Ferdinand Bethoud and Abram-Louis Breguet in Paris, had himself given it the last finishing touches. For a long time, George Washington's features were very popular in the Swiss watch-making world. Swiss manufacturers made alarm-watches with the dial bearing the portrait of the first President of the United States. These watches were made for important American personalities. From the very beginning of the post-Colonial period, namely from 1790 onwards, relations between Swiss watch-producers and the United States grew ever closer, thanks to the quality of their products and to the honesty of watch-dealers of Swiss origin established more particularly in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and New Orleans. In the United States, the high quality watch, of Swiss manufacture, has always been in favour among leaders of industry and commerce. The highly technical perfection of Swiss watches has never ceased to be appreciated by technical and scientific personalities of the United States. Moreover, artistic creation of the Swiss watch industry have always been highly esteemed by eminent Americans. Ever since the rise of the industry, rich and valuable watches, as priceless as any jewel of great worth, have been worn and appreciated by royalty and rulers of the State and Church. During the past few years, the Swiss chronometer has rendered invaluable services to the leaders of American aviation and to explorers, such as Lindbergh, Hughes, Elsworth and Byrd, whose performances now form part of world-history.

For his many flights all over the world, where exact time was important, Col. Lindbergh conceived a special watch for aviators. The most expert technicians of the Longines Watch Co. of Geneva created such a type of watch; it contains many new features and inventions most helpful for aviation and navigation.

Really old watches, manufactured laboriously by experienced watch-makers two or three hundred years ago and more, are to-day most valuable pieces for collectors of watches and museums gathering scientific and historical objects. Our secretary in Portland, Oregon, Mr. Alfred Noyer, has in his possession such an old masterpiece of a watch, an heirloom, which was made in Switzerland some 300 years ago, and therefore fore is of considerable value. The old watch not only tells the time, day, week, month, year, and the position of the sun and moon — but it still runs on time, and that is the primary function of any kind of timepiece or watch.

(From the Nov. issue of "The Swiss-American.")

AN HISTORICAL FOOTBALL MATCH.

A subscriber kindly sent us the following cutting from the "News of the World," October 31st, which publishes the football memories of Stanley Matthews, the famous International. As a report it is somewhat belated but our correspondent who we believe hails from Berne, thinks that it will make excellent reading for our football enthusiasts with which we agree.

Before I finish my reminiscences of overseas trips, I must mention a match between England and Switzerland in Zurich a year before the war.

Somehow Switzerland didn't strike us as being a place which bred footballers. We had heard very little of her Soccer ability and there seemed no reason to suppose that the mighty England eleven would find the match more than a pleasant canter, with a nice winning margin at the end of it.

The Hardsturm Stadium in Zurich looked a typical English ground in mid-winter — sticky as treacle. After much rain its surface had reached the state most England teams prefer when playing on the Continent, and to say that we were confident of beating the Swiss on such a "home sweet home" pitch would be an understatement.

The local football fans told us we should romp home by half a dozen goals, and as for my own opponent — the Swiss left-back — well, "he would be finished inside 20 minutes"! And for why? Because he was leader of a popular night-club dance band and never ceased work until four or five in the morning.

"You are in for a picnic, Stan," smiled Alf Young, the Huddersfield half-back, when he found out about this. Alf was able to smile for the first time in several days, by the way.

Gnawing a piece of chicken at a banquet a few days earlier he had lost a tooth, and while his dentures were being repaired there had been no "tooth-paste advertisement smiles" from Alf!

We lined up for the kick-off before a packed mass of Swiss spectators yelling their heads off. But there was no kick off.

Instead, an aeroplane flew low over the ground, manoeuvred for position and the pilot dropped the ball plum on to the centre spot! The game had begun.

For a while it looked as if our expectations of an easy win were to be realised, for the England attack functioned beautifully. Gradually, however, it dawned on me that Lehmann, the band leader full-back I was facing, knew how to play other things than a trumpet.

The first time I took the ball down to him he came in like quicksilver and swept it from my toe just as I thought I had him safely left behind. That was a shock, but there was more to come.

Fast as a young racehorse, and with the staying power of a Marathon runner, he ran me off my legs. Out of breath, I said to Alf. Young: "Hey, when's that four o'clock in the morning merchant going to get tired?"

But Alf was having his own worries, too, and all he could say was: "These blokes must have trained themselves by running up and down the Alps for months."

The Swiss took the lead with a very slick goal, and the crowd went crazy with delight.

While they were still cheering however, Cliff Bastin equalised from a penalty.

We gave everything we had after that, but the Swiss defence, with Maestro Lehmann as the mainspring, held us out without a great deal of trouble.

Lehmann by this time had my measure, and he showed what he thought of me by repeatedly deserting my side of the field to help out his pals on the other wing!

Yet whenever the ball came out my way there was Lehmann, sprightly as a cricket. His signature tune that day must have been, "I'll Walk Beside You"!

England had become more or less reconciled to the fact that the best we could hope for now was a 1-1 draw, when suddenly Bert Sproston accidentally handled the ball in the penalty area. The long-legged, cycle-breeched German referee, Dr. Bauwens, promptly gave a penalty and the home country scored from it, to win.

When the whistle blew for "Time" the crowd stormed on to the pitch, grabbed up the Swiss players in their flaring red jerseys and carried them shoulder-high in triumph.

It was a great day for Switzerland, and, frankly, they deserved to beat us.

We were put completely out of gear by a side which specialised in the first-time tackle and shoulder-charge — "niceties" of the game which we had thought were the prerogative of Britain!

This football is a queer business, isn't it?

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Monthly Meeting at Swiss House on Saturday, December 11th.

About 70 members were present when the Chairman, Mr. J. J. Boos opened the proceedings. One new member, Mr. C. Roth, was admitted and there were no resignations.

The Chairman then gave the latest S.K.V. news. He was pleased to report that Mr. Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, General Secretary of the S.K.V., had been re-elected to the National Council. The following National Councillors representing S.K.V. interests had also been re-elected: Dr. Albert Maag-Socin, Zurich; Fritz Schmidlin, Berne and Alfred Baumgartner, St. Gall (President of the St. Gall Section).

The S.K.V., the Chairman announced with regret, had lost one of its most ardent members through the death of Mr. Henri Strahm. The deceased was an Honorary Member of the association and one of the leading members of the French-speaking Sections (Union romande), who bestowed the Honorary Presidency on him in April last when they celebrated their 25th anniversary.

Referring to recent issues of the "Kaufm. Zentralblatt," the Chairman informed the meeting that the Central Secretariat in Zurich had started a collection amongst the S.K.V. Sections and firms in Switzerland for the benefit of the Milan and London Sections, both of them having had their buildings destroyed or damaged. The Chairman pointed out that whilst the London Section may not need support now, the Society would gladly welcome any addition to its funds which will be required to make suitable arrangements for re-starting the College when hostilities cease.

Finally Mr. Boos gave a brief account of the most interesting talk delivered by Professor Keller to the members of the City Swiss Club and their invited guests at their last Monthly Meeting. Owing to his brief stay in London, Professor Keller will not be able to address the S.M.S., but it is hoped that the members of the S.M.S. will have an opportunity of hearing him when next he comes to London.

This concluded the official part of the meeting, which was followed by a film show.

Through the kind offices of Mr. Gottfried Keller, the Society was able to show four excellent talkies of the Ministry of Information. The first, "Malta Convoy," vividly portrayed the epic struggle of the Navy getting supplies to the heroic defenders of the George Cross Island. Under the title "Listen to Britain," another film depicted the daily life of people in all walks of life in war-time Britain. Yet a third film, A.B.C.A. (Army Bureau of Current Affairs), gave an insight into the intelligence training of the army, how soldiers are educated in everything which goes to make up modern warfare through lectures, debating circles, etc. The fourth and last film of this series, "Workers' Week End," gave a graphic account of workers in an aircraft factory spending their week-end not at leisure, but assembling a giant bomber in record time.

The *pièce de résistance* of the afternoon's entertainment was a re-showing of the Red Cross film "Flag of Mercy." This film was recently shown to the Colony under the auspices of the N.S.H., as already reported in these columns. However, as many of our

