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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 main-spring, 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



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members and friends were unable to attend its *première* in London, it was decided to give them an opportunity of seeing this excellent film at Swiss House. The picture shows the wonderful work which is done by the International Red Cross in caring for prisoners of war, the wounded and afflicted. The film formed a striking contrast to the first part of the programme, giving the other side of this global conflict, with Switzerland in its traditional rôle of relieving the suffering of innumerable war victims all over the world.

In conclusion, Mr. W. Deutsch paid a warm tribute to Mr. C. Fer, who had projected the films on his famous Paillard apparatus. This well deserved vote of thanks was heartily endorsed with prolonged acclamation by an appreciative audience.

This being the last meeting of the year, the President extended the Society's best wishes to all members for a peaceful Christmas and every happiness in the coming year.

WB.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Monthly Meeting.

The Monthly Meeting of the City Swiss Club took place on Tuesday, December 7th, at Brown's Hotel, and was preceded by the customary dinner, which was attended by 102 members.

Professor Keller, at present on a Swiss Government mission in this country, addressed the members of the Club on the Economic position in Switzerland. The very interesting and lucid *exposé* which the speaker put before the members was greatly appreciated and heartily applauded.

Two new members were admitted. The Secretary of the Club was invited to send a telegram of congratulation to Dr. F. Calonder, a former President of the Swiss Confederation and Honorary Member of the City Swiss Club, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

RUTLI LADIES' CLUB TEA-DANCE.

19th December, 1943.

As announced in the Swiss Observer the "Rütli Ladies' Club" held its first function at the Schweizerbund in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society, in form of a Tea Dance.

Quite a large number of Swiss girls, boys and their friends were present, and the strains of a good dance band soon set their feet in motion. Tea with a variety of cakes and biscuits given by Mr. J. Webber, Mr. Burkhalter and Mrs. Bolla, were enjoyed by all. An acrobatic turn was given with much skill by Mr. O. Smith. Miss Uebersax kindly obliged with a few Yodels. Very much appreciated were the Swiss vales played by Mr. Haeusermann and Mr. Rossier. Later followed the draw of the tombola for which many splendid prizes had been given. The afternoon which passed only too quickly for everybody came to a happy ending with a few Swiss Xmas Carols. Many thanks are due to all those members who contributed to the success of the dance.

The proceeds of the function, £22, are to be presented to the Swiss Benevolent Society.

O.M.B.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Choral Society was held on October 29th, 1943, at the Swiss Club, Charlotte Street, W.1.

The President, Mr. F. G. Sommer, opened the meeting at 7 p.m. with words of welcome to 31 active members present.

The Hon. Secretary then read the Minutes of the last meeting and the Hon. Treasurer gave his report on the finances of the Society, both reports being received with prolonged acclamation and unanimously accepted.

The most important event of the evening was to discuss the proposal formulated by the President and seconded by Mr. F. Conrad, to elect His Excellency the Swiss Minister, Monsieur W. Thurnheer, as Honorary President of the Society. Various speakers supported the proposal and after a short discussion the meeting decided unanimously to approach Monsieur Thurnheer asking him whether he would honour the Choir by becoming an Honorary President. I have purposely delayed this report so as to enable me to put on record here the good news that Monsieur Thurnheer has very kindly accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Swiss Choral Society. The Choir was delighted to hear His Excellency's reply at a subsequent rehearsal and feels greatly honoured; there is no doubt that His Excellency's acceptance will give great impetus and encouragement to all the Members to continue the practice of those customs which are so treasured by our people at home.

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