

Swiss Club Manchester

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E. R. COTTET,
President, Swiss Club, Manchester.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

Annual Banquet & Ball

at the

MIDLAND HOTEL - MANCHESTER

on

SATURDAY, 15th NOVEMBER, 1952

The last time I travelled to Manchester to be present at a function of the Swiss Club in that town, was just over two years ago, when I attended, together with a delegation from London, headed by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, the Centenary celebration of the Swiss Club, Manchester, which was not only a great and important event for that Society, but also for the whole Swiss Colony.

In the past, I have witnessed 25th, 50th, 60th and 75th anniversaries of Swiss Societies in Great Britain, but never yet a Centenary celebration. All those who were privileged to take part in this auspicious event were deeply impressed by the simple and yet impressive way in which this 100th anniversary was observed.

The then Chairman of the festive gathering, Mr. G. Senn, assured the company that the Club would not rest on its laurels, but would carry on to uphold the old traditions; that this was not an idle boast was proved on Saturday, November 15th, when the Society held its 102nd Annual Banquet and Ball with an attendance of about 120 members and friends.

This most enjoyable evening was unfortunately somewhat marred, owing to the sudden illness of the popular President, Mr. E. R. Cottet, who was thus prevented from taking the Chair, and as bad luck would have it, the Vice-President of the Society was also on the sick list. In their absence, Mr. E. Berner, a former President, accompanied by his charming wife, kindly consented to occupy the Chair, which proved to be a happy solution.

Previous to the dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Berner received the members and guests in the spacious ante-rooms where cocktails were served.

Punctually at seven o'clock the company adjourned to the Banqueting Hall, which was superbly decorated with red and white carnations, and behind the Presidential Chair the banner of the Club was exhibited.

A most excellent dinner, comprising Hors d'oeuvre Riche, Consommé Double Madrilène, Délice de Sole Bonne Femme, Poulet Roti en Casserole au Beurre Noisette, Haricots Verts Fins, Pommes Olivettes, Poire Belle Hélène, Biscuit Glacé Vanille, Gaufrettes and Gâteau Fédéral, (made and presented by a member of the Club, Mr. Allenspach), was served.

The Management of the Midland Hotel is to be congratulated on their culinary efforts, but I am sure,

the famous Chef of this equally famous establishment had received some "special instructions from higher quarters".

Towards the conclusion of the dinner, the Chairman proposed the toast to H.M. the Queen, which was followed by the toast to "Switzerland" given by Mr. O. Schneider, Swiss Consul in Manchester.

Casting a glance at the Toast List, I noticed, that only one speech was to be made, namely the one of the President, Mr. Etienne R. Cottet, which came as a great relief, and even as a surprise to me, as at so many Swiss functions, orators or "would be" orators are usually very prolific in their performance.

After a heavy knock with a gadget, which looked like a sledge hammer, and which brusquely interrupted a very pleasant and interesting conversation with my two charming neighbours, on "Votes and rights for Women", the Chairman, Mr. Berner, informed the company, that he would now read the speech which Mr. Cottet intended to make, had he been present.

In his introduction, he extended a hearty welcome to the only "official" guest of the evening, Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer" (London) and read a letter received from the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, who conveyed his best wishes for the success of the evening; he also expressed his regrets at the absence of the President, wishing him a speedy recovery.

The President in his speech had mentioned, that the date which was chosen for the Banquet, coincided with the anniversary of the battle of Moorgarten, and after referring to this historic event and its salutatory consequences for our country, he gave an extensive *compte rendu* of the manifold activities of the Club during the last twelve months, consisting of lectures, film shows luncheons, rambles, patriotic demonstrations, etc. etc.

Amongst the many activities, special mention was made of the foundation in 1951, of the Manchester Swiss Rifle Association, which is a sub-section of the Society. The winner of the Competition, Mr. J. P. Locher, was heartily congratulated on the fine result of his marksmanship (90 points from a possible 100), and was later on presented with the silver Challenge Cup.

The Presidential address also referred to the

regular attendance of Mr. Cottet at the periodical meetings of the "Assemblée des Présidents" in London, and a warm tribute was paid to the former Chairman of this "Assemblée", Professor Inebnit of Leeds.

In conclusion, the President mentioned, that Mr. H. Monney, Hon. Treasurer of the Club, had just completed twenty years as a member of the committee, and thanked him for the long and loyal services he had rendered, and for his enthusiasm and hard work in connection with the Centenary celebration two years ago, in which he played such a conspicuous part, expressing the hope, that the Society would enjoy his help and collaboration for many more years to come.

The applause which greeted the Presidential address had hardly died down, when the Chairman asked the "only guest" to address the company. Being the "lonely one", I was somewhat taken aback by this unexpected announcement, as it is unusual for the Press to indulge in oratorical exercises. We are supposed to listen and occasionally to criticize which more often than not, gets us into hot water, but not to make speeches; however there was no way out, but to obey and the "Editor" shortly referred to the important rôle which Swiss Societies in the Provinces play and are playing. He recalled the Centenary Celebration, at which he had the privilege to be present, which was such an outstanding event in the annals of the Club, closing his address with the following words: "We, who live in other parts of this hospitable land, are proud to know, that in some little part of this great realm there exists a corner where Swiss traditions and Swiss culture are upheld with such dignity".

It is, of course, not for me to say what the response to the few words spoken, was, but one remark made to me by a former President of the Club, and a "Basler", struck me as rather original, he tapped me on my "broad back" and said; "Sau guet", — well, I must leave it at that.—

Before the official part of the evening came to its close, the Challenge Cup won by Mr. J. P. Locher, was presented to him by a very pretty young Lady, who smilingly and blushing stepped forward and handed the cup to the winner, chastely kissing him on both cheeks. (Lucky chap!) I am not quite sure whether he returned the "compliment". (I would have done so in any case.)

Dancing started shortly after 9 o'clock; one or two "Paul Jones" greatly added to the gaiety and mirth which was such a happy feature throughout the whole evening.

There remains nothing else for me to say, than to congratulate the Swiss Club, Manchester on their wonderful function, which was a success from beginning to end. I would like to single out the Hon. Treasurer of the Society, Mr. H. Monney, who bore the chief burden of the work, and who had a big share in the success of the evening.

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CITY SWISS CLUB. Annual Banquet and Ball.

A full report of the above mentioned function will appear in our issue of December 19th, 1952.

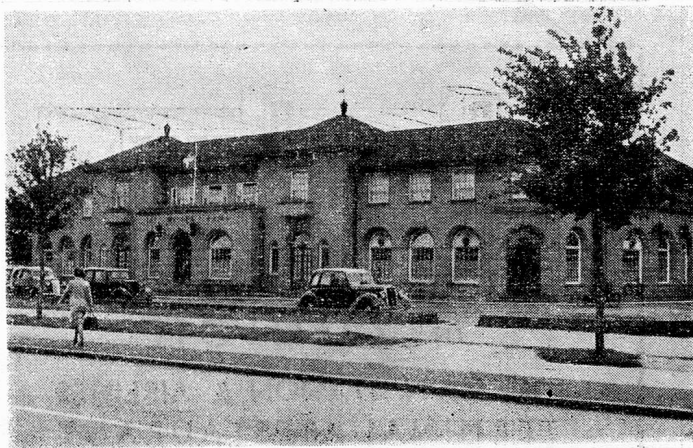
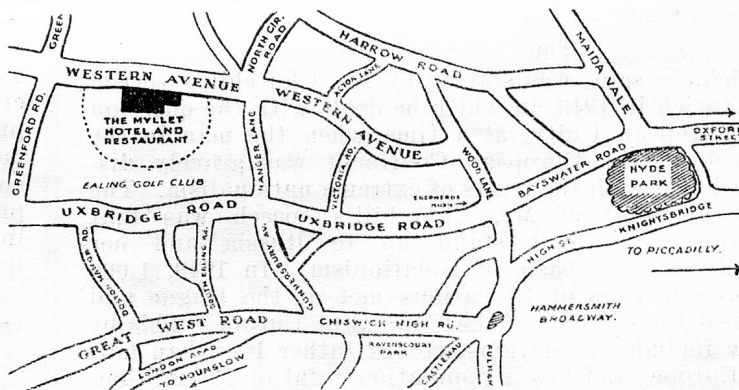
The Myllet

HOTEL and RESTAURANT

WESTERN AVENUE - PERIVALE

Principal, Albert Widmer

TELEPHONE: PERIVALE 4793 - 2427



THURSDAY, 25th DECEMBER, 1952

XMAS DINNER

TICKETS: 1 GUINEA

FRIDAY, 26th DECEMBER, 1952

BOXING NIGHT DINNER & DANCE

TICKETS: 1 GUINEA

WEDNESDAY, 31st DECEMBER, 1952

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA DINNER & BALL

SOUVENIR PRIZES FOR THE LADIES

TICKETS: 2 GUINEAS

Evening Dress.

Admission by Tickets only