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**ERMANO BERNER**

President: Swiss Club, Manchester.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

Annual Banquet & Ball

at the

MIDLAND HOTEL - MANCHESTER

on

SATURDAY, 13th NOVEMBER, 1954

In the Chair: ERMANO BERNER

As we were leaving the Midland Hotel in the small hours of Sunday many remarked that the evening had been "better than ever", a feeling that can only mean that our Banquet and Ball has been a great success. The attendance numbered 118 which is very satisfactory for the small Manchester Club.

The reception — with cocktails — enabled everybody to get acquainted and the Foyer of the Derby Suite, decorated with Red and White Carnations, with our Ladies in charming evening dresses, made a pretty picture.

Dinner was announced without delay and we all admired the magnificence of the tables, again with decorations of Red and White Carnations intermingled with small silk flags of England and Switzerland, and a huge basket of the same flowers in front of the Presidential chair. And of course the club flag in a prominent place.

Grace was said by the President. As always at The Midland Hotel the fare was of the choicest and the management and staff must be congratulated for their splendid service. This year, as a change from the customary poultry, we were served with a succulent Carré d'Agneau, quite a revolution for our annual banquet.

The Toast to "The Queen, Duke of Lancaster" was proposed by the President and the Toast to "Switzerland" by our friend Dr. K. A. Evans, of Rochdale. Before raising his glass Dr. Evans gave a short eulogy on the many virtues of the Swiss, bringing many happy laughs and may be a few blushes.

Telegrams from our Minister to the Court of St. James, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté and Madame de Torrenté, expressing regret for their absence and wishing us a pleasant evening, and from Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, Editor of the Swiss Observer, as well as a message from Prof. J. P. Inebnit, were read. After a short interval Mr. Berner rose to deliver his Presidential Address:

He expressed regrets that our Minister Monsieur Henry de Torrenté had been prevented by other functions to be with us, especially as this would have been his last visit before his departure for Washington, and he wished him success and happiness in the New

World. He welcomed our esteemed Consul Mr. Oscar Schneider, representing our homeland, voicing the feeling of us all in thanking him for his invaluable advice and help in our many problems. Next he voiced the pleasure we all felt in having with us to-night Mr. and Mrs. Etienne R. Cottet, who had made the journey from London to be a few short hours with us, despite the inconvenience such a visit must be to a very busy man. He welcomed also Mr. and Mrs. Sam. Hanna, of Burnley, who have been practical and active friends of the club, with lectures, films and slides, many taken at some of our own functions. Leaving the "Sweet" to the end, as he aptly remarked, he spoke of our ladies, adding beauty, happiness, gaiety and warmth to the gathering.

This done, after an historical survey of the services rendered by the Swiss abroad from the foundation of our Country to the present time, and quoting also from the records of the activities of our Manchester Swiss Club, he concluded his address by relating the various functions of the past year.

Monthly meetings were well attended and it has been particularly gratifying to see the younger generation taking a more active part, although he would have liked to see more of them at the shooting range. At the "Radio Weltschützenfest für die Schweizer im Ausland" our section obtained an honourable classification. The Swiss Ladies Social Club met every month and is a rallying point for the many young Swiss girls coming to this district. Our ladies are doing a very useful work here and deserve our thanks. The various walks and rambles organized by Mr. Henri Monney were well attended and much enjoyed.

Now Mr. Berner commented on the several important functions of the year. As these have been reported in previous issues of the "Swiss Observer" a list of these events need only be given here:—

November 14th: Last year's Banquet and Ball. December 19th: The Christmas party. January 9th: The New Year "Choucroute" lunch, followed by films. February 4th: A Pianoforte Recital by Miss Annette Weisbrod, and a lecture by Prof. J. P. Inebnit on "La Légende des Siècles, de Victor

Hugo". April 17th: The traditional Easter Ramble, this year from Chapel-en-le-Frith, over Coombs Edge and Eccles Pike, to Whitehough. April 27th to 29th: The visit of "La Chanson de Lausanne", with dinner at this Hotel, coach excursions to Cheshire and Derbyshire, a visit to the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital, a civic reception by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at the Town Hall, a Public Concert at the Lesser Free Trade Hall — with full House — and an Audition by the B.B.C. June 2nd: A lecture by Madame Genevieve Davidson on "Lost Valleys". June 20th: The Annual "Landsgemeinde" to Hardcastle Crag, Hebden Bridge, with the Swiss Clubs of Bradford and Leeds, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer being the guests of honour. August 1st: National Day Celebration, with a visit to Whalley Abbey, around Pendle Hill, and a visit to Towneley Hall. Civic reception by the Mayor and Mayoress of Burnley. Official part at Towneley Hall. September 23rd: A social, when our young ladies, especially, distinguished themselves with their good turns. Followed by films and slides taken by Mr. Hanna, Mr. Cottet and Mr. Allenspach; and finally on October 15th: The Swiss Cabaret Rüblisaft.

After thanking the Committee as a whole and the Treasurer in particular for the organisation that has contributed to the success of all these activities, the President resumed his chair amid general applause.

Before leaving the dinner tables the Challenge Cup for the best shot of the year of the Manchester

Swiss Rifle Association was presented to the winner, Mr. J. P. Locher, by a charming young lady, Miss Carla Beretta.

After an interval of 20 minutes to prepare the room for the ball, dancing proceeded, from 9 o'clock until midnight, when we all joined in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

Our friend Mr. Sam. Hanna, was there with his cine-camera, and it is hoped that we shall in due course see again on the screen a few happy shots of this evening.

So ended a memorable evening that will be cherished for a long time. H.M.

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