

Annual Swiss sports & garden party

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ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS & GARDEN PARTY.

Saturday, May 25th, 1957, at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick.

Many amongst my readers will, no doubt, remember with pleasure the various Swiss Sports meetings which took place in pre-war days, either at the Herne Hill Grounds or at the Duke of York's headquarters at Chelsea.

These Sports Festivals proved to be very popular and hundreds of our compatriots regularly attended, and in time these yearly gatherings of the sports fraternity assumed the dimensions of a large "Lands-gemeinde".

Who will ever forget the names of the former promoters such as George Dimier, Ch. Barbezat, P. F. Boehringer, P. Hilfiker and H. Senn? — alas — all gone to the "Elysian Fields".

Then the war intervened and interrupted these yearly gatherings, which were such an admirable feature in the life of the London Swiss Colony; and to which the younger generation especially looked forward with much eagerness.

An attempt was made in 1949 to revive this Sports Festival, and it was held again at the Herne Hill Grounds in connection with the Swiss National Day Celebration, and, in spite of the dismal weather conditions which prevailed, proved successful.

This year's Sports Meeting is the 29th of its kind, and is held, as last year, at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick. Not all of us can afford to attend Swiss functions at luxurious West End Hotels, but we can all take part in this sports event, because there is no

entrance fee, and, best of all, by taking part in some of the competitions one might get a valuable prize!

Catering arrangements at the Stadium are excellent and reasonable, but those who wish to make a tea party *en famille* and *al fresco* are, of course, at liberty to do so — there is plenty of space available.

Unfortunately some of the Sports Meetings in the past were unlucky with the weather, but I hope that this year golden sunshine will once again favour us. Should the weather be doubtful on Saturday May 25th it should not interfere too much with the attendance, as practically all the stands are under cover and nobody need fear getting soaked. The competitors I am sure will not mind, they are sportsmen and are used to taking "the rough with the smooth".

This day can be a real field day for our youngsters, and they may look forward to having a really good time; their enjoyment and happiness will be ours too, so please do not fail to bring them along — the more the merrier!

There will be some events in which also those of "riper age" can take part and none should absent himself or herself using the excuse "I am too old for such things"; you are "as old as you feel", and that is that.

I fervently hope that this year's 29th Sports Meeting will get the support of the Colony which it deserves; so much work done by the organisers should receive recognition, and by attending you will show them that their labours were not in vain.

Au revoir then on Saturday, May 25th at the
CHISWICK STADIUM.

ST.

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