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# **UNIONE TICINESE TEA DANCE** **Held at the Dorchester Hotel on Sunday, 8th May 1960**

It may be just pure coincidence, but whenever the Unione Ticinese decide to hold a Tea Dance at the Dorchester, the weather is such that the mere thought of dancing in a confined space is enough to bring the beads of perspiration out on one's forehead. However, it would have taken more than heat to have stopped nearly 450 people from enjoying themselves on this occasion.

The afternoon's activities commenced at approximately 5 o'clock, and very little encouragement was needed to induce the eager couples to take to the floor and dance to the toe-teasing-tempo of that ever faithful band leader, Harry Vardon, and his Band. Year after year, Harry never fails to give of his best and the reluctance of the dancers to leave the floor at the end of a dance is a tribute to his capabilities. Even the serving of the tea was not enough to entice all the people off the floor.

The tea was followed by a few words from the ever popular President of the Society, Signor Pietro Iacomelli. In his welcome to the guests, he mentioned particularly Monsieur Roch, 1st Secretary at the Embassy, who was deputising on this occasion for His Excellency the Ambassador. Mention was also made of the purpose of the raffle, which we were told was

being held in order to raise funds to provide the men of the Corale with costumes, as they had grown tired of their scarves, pom-poms and sashes. In the joking words of the President, "They want to look as pretty as the ladies".

The cabaret which followed included the ever present Corale, who over the years have thrilled us all with their lively and melodious rendering of Ticinese folk songs. They were followed by Miss Maria Dubacher, who sang three yodel numbers — a very welcome innovation which richly reserved the applause accorded by the audience. Finally, Victor Barrett and his new dancing partner gave us a polished display of ballroom dancing. Incidentally, this was Victor's first appearance in public with his new partner.

By this time the guests were all recovered from their previous exertions and eagerly took to the floor to try and emulate, with varying degrees of success, the performance given by Victor Barrett and his partner. A brief respite was allowed at about 9 o'clock when the raffle was held. Among the many prizes were £6, bottles of wine and spirits, and a lovely yellow nightdress, to mention but a few.

Then once again the dancers took to the floor, intent on enjoying every precious minute of the time that remained. But all too soon the evening came to an end, and once more we can thank the Unione Ticinese for organising a most enjoyable function.

*JBD.*

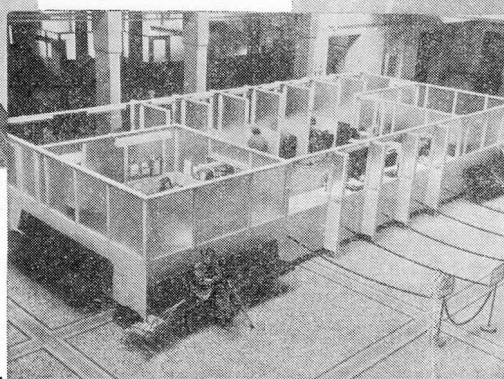


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