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WHAT'S NEW IN THE UNIONE TICINESE

On Sunday, 5th February 1961, the first Annual General Meeting was held at the Schweizerbund. The meeting commenced at 5.30 with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and the auditors' report.

The Secretary, Mr. F. De Maria, then gave the Committee's Report for 1960. He was able to report on another very successful year in which on the whole the members had given very good support. He paid particular tribute to the efforts of Mr. F. Bassi, the collector, who had succeeded in collecting the record sum of £181.10s. in subscriptions from members. This sum included £50 from members in arrears. The good yield from subscriptions together with the profit from two Dorchester dances and a very successful Christmas Raffle had enabled the Society to show an excess of income over expenditure despite rather heavy expenses. Two items of expenditure which were of a non-recurring nature were the purchase of a new duplicator and the long awaited costumes for the male section of the Corale. (The costumes received their "baptism" at the second Swanway Reunion, held at the Festival Hall on Friday, 3rd February, when the men of the Corale were at long last able to match the colour of the ladies.) The Secretary concluded by thanking members for their support and he expressed the hope that 1961 would prove no less successful.

The new committee

The election of a new committee for 1961 then followed. Mr. P. Jacomelli, our President, thanked the previous year's committee for all they had done, and then handed over to Mr. L. Bozzini, who was to act as President 'Pro Tem'. The new Committee is as follows :—

President, Mr. P. Jacomelli; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. L. Bozzini and Mr. V. Berti; Secretary, Mr. F. De Maria; Asst. Secretary, Miss B. Bozzini; Treasurer, Mr. J. De Maria; Collector, Mr. F. Bassi; Committee Members: Mrs. Bruni, Miss C. Polti, Mr. F. Allegranza, Mr. Z. Bianda, Mr. J. Pedretti, Mr. J. Diviani, Mr. L. Bruni and Mr. E. Valli.

The President then took the chair for the eighth successive year, a term which has only once been exceeded (by the late Mr. W. Notari — fifteen years). Mr. P. Jacomelli went on to explain the absence of Mr. C. Berti from the Committee. This was due to his illness, but he would not be lost to the Society as it had been decided to elect him an Honorary Vice-President. This step it was felt gave a just recognition of the unstinting work and support given by Mr. C. Berti to the Society during his many years in the Unione Ticinese. A lot of his work went on behind the scenes, and those who had had occasion to deal with him could testify to the value of his help and co-operation. Mention was then made of the fact that Mr. V. Berti, who had, after 14 years as Treasurer, been elected as Vice-President; his successor, Mr. J. De Maria, would have his work cut out to follow in the footsteps of such a conscientious Treasurer. The President ended his short address by asking the new Committee and all members to give their support in this present year. The remaining items on the agenda were quickly dealt with.

Coloured films

The meeting was followed by an exhibition of coloured films, taken by Mr. E. Valli and Mr. L. Jacomelli, of various functions and outings. After the film-show members were invited to partake of wine and castagne. After a few glasses the quiet of Charlotte Street was once again disturbed by the singing of our Ticinese songs, and the evening came to an end all too soon, a good time having been had by one and all.

JBD.

CHARITY CONCERT AT THE HOSTEL FOR SWISS GIRLS

Under the patronage of Mrs. Daeniker, wife of the Swiss Ambassador, the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls in Great Britain gave a concert on Tuesday evening, 14th February, at the Hostel for Swiss Girls. Quite a number of personalities from our colony came to hear Carola Grindea, pianist, and Mary Newcett, violinist, perform works by Haendel, Brahms and Mozart.

Miss Newcett, an Australian who studied under Professor Max Rostal of the Conservatoire de Berne, was replacing Miss Joan Spencer, who, owing to illness, was unable to appear.

Despite the programme being altered at very short notice, Miss Grindea and Miss Newcett gave a sensitive interpretation of Haendel's Sonata in G, and played with sure talent two other Sonatas, one by Brahms, in G Major (this was written while Brahms was holidaying on the Thunersee shore), and another by Mozart, in B.

One may say that the impeccable quality of the playing was certainly worthy of the reputation of the fine music being played.

The evening, which was presided over by Dr. Bircher, was preceded by a light buffet supper, and the proceeds were in aid of the Welfare Office.

P.H.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

The Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday, 18th February 1961, at the Midland Hotel.

Dr. H. B. Knuchel, who had been President for the past two years, declared that he was forced to retire due to business pressure. The assembly expressed their gratitude for the good work he has done. Dr. Knuchel has given a fresh impetus to the Swiss Club in Manchester, and great progress has been made under his guidance.

In his place, Mr. B. Simon was unanimously elected President.

The new Committee was elected as follows :—

Vice-President, Mr. E. Berner; Hon. Secretary, Dr. H. R. Bolliger; Hon. Assistant Secretary, Miss A. Rietmann; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Sohm; Members, Mr. H. Monney, Mrs. L. Themans.

Monthly Meetings will be held as in the past, every last Thursday in the month, 1900 hours, at the Midland Hotel, Manchester. Guests are always welcome.