

# News from the colony

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## AT THE CITY SWISS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the City Swiss Club was held at the Dorchester Hotel on Tuesday, 25th April, and was preceded by dinner. There were fifty members present, Mr. X. Speckert taking the Chair.

In opening the meeting the President welcomed the members, and voiced his disappointment at the small attendance. The members paid a silent tribute to the recently deceased Mr. Th. Siegfried. Three new members were elected. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. R. E. Gut, read out the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly accepted. Mr. H. Schmid, Honorary Treasurer, then presented the accounts, which close with a deficit of £283.16.0. After a few explanations given by the Treasurer concerning various items in the balance-sheet, the accounts were accepted with thanks to the "keeper of the purse".

The accounts of the Club House Fund were presented by Mr. E. Luterbacher, Trustee and Honorary Treasurer, who gave some particulars about the various investments, and declared that the value of securities held amounted to £5,662.18.9 (1959/60, £5,570.0.0). The accounts were passed with compliments to the Treasurer.

The President gave a résumé of the activities of the Club during the past financial year. He reported that the Club had received four resignations, and had enrolled sixteen new members. Four members had passed away during the last twelve months (F. Dannmeyer, O. Bartholdi, A. C. Baume, Th. Siegfried).

Mr. Speckert mentioned that a *Soirée Spéciale* was held on 10th June 1960 at the Great Fosters Hotel, Egham, Surrey, which was attended by a large number of members and proved a great success. The Annual Banquet and Ball was held on 18th November 1960 at the Dorchester Hotel. In the absence of the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker, who were at the time *en tour* in Africa, Dr. E. M. Bircher represented His Excellency. Among the official guests were present Sir Clifford Norton, former British Envoy in Berne, Air Vice-Marshal Bennett and his Swiss wife, and representatives of the Swiss churches and the Press. On that occasion, Mr. A. Stauffer, then editor of the "Swiss Observer", was elected Honorary Vice-President of the Club. The usual Christmas Dinner, which took place on 14th December 1960, was attended by well over a hundred members. Four card evenings were held.

The Shell Company showed three films on 10th October 1960 at the Dorchester Hotel — this evening was attended by 130 members and friends — and on 7th March 1961 the Rt. Hon. Lord Nathan, P.C., T.D., F.B.A.,

## NEWS FROM

addressed the members on "The House of Lords and its Function in the British Constitution", H.E. the Swiss Ambassador being in the Chair. On 25th January 1961 a "réunion spéciale" of the younger members of the Club took place at the Dorchester Hotel, "ayant pour but de mieux se connaître". "The City Swiss Club", the President said, "is in the happy position of having a fair number of younger members, which is a good omen for the continuance of the Club". Concluding his report the President expressed sincere thanks to his colleagues on the committee for their valuable collaboration; he also voiced his appreciation to H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, and Honorary Member of the Club, for the continued interest he is taking in the affairs of the Club, and Mr. G. A. Ronus, Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, for his always generous hospitality extended to the members.

Mr. Speckert's able report was accepted with acclamation.

The election for the new committee, 1961/62, followed under the presidency of Mr. A. Stauffer, who paid a sincere tribute to the outgoing President, who unfortunately felt obliged to relinquish the office which he has held for the last two years with youthful enthusiasm, tact and great charm. Mr. Stauffer said, "No President can carry on successfully without the collaboration of his colleagues in the committee, who are also entitled to the thanks of the members".

The following were elected on the committee for the year 1961/62:— President: Th. von Speyr; Vice-President: M. A. Keller; Honorary Secretary: A. Kunz; Assistant Secretary: Louis Jobin; Honorary Treasurer: H. Schmid; Assistant Treasurer: G. A. Ronus; Librarian: J. P. Christen.

Also elected were B. O. Cogliatti and H. Keller as auditors, and A. Stauffer as Press Reporter.

Trustees of the Club House Fund: R. de Cintra, E. Luterbacher (Treasurer), C. Mayr.

The newly elected President, Mr. Th. von Speyr, then took the Chair amidst acclamation. He thanked the President *pro tem* for having so ably conducted the meeting, and the members for having entrusted him with the leadership of the Club for the next twelve months. He announced various items which will take place in the near future, and promised that the question of making part of the funds of the Club House Fund available for the use of the Club would be studied by the committee and proposals made at forthcoming meetings.

Close of the meeting, 10 p.m.

Press Reporter,  
City Swiss Club.



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# THE COLONY

## IN THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

This year's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 16th April, at 7 p.m., in the Westminster School Hall, 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1. After the opening prayers the Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, extended a warm welcome to all present. He stated in his report that 1960 had been a year of steady progress in the Swiss Catholic Community life, in which both permanent and temporary Swiss residents in the Colony took an active part.

One function, however, stands out in the past year, which we should like to put on record:

As a token of our high esteem and in appreciation of the outstanding services rendered to us by our former Chairman, Mr. J. J. Boosa small silver sweetbox, suitably engraved, was presented to him. The presentation took place at an informal dinner party held at the Montana Hotel, 67 Gloucester Road, S.W.7, on 10th November 1960. We had the great honour and pleasure of welcoming the Right Reverend Monsignor F. J. Row, who represented the Administrator of the Westminster Cathedral, the Right Reverend Monsignor W. Gordon Wheeler, at this function.

In 1941, when the Swiss Catholic Community in London approached His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, to seek permission to establish a Chaplaincy in London, Mr. Boos was the prime mover in the formation of our Committee. His great and untiring work as our first Secretary, and from 1953 as our Chairman, made it possible for our Chaplain to look after the spiritual and moral welfare of the young Swiss, now in such large numbers in London, and to visit the older generation of the Swiss in hospitals or in homes for the aged who, during their working life in hostels, etc., were never attached to a particular parish.

Mr. Boos held the office of Chairman with great distinction until his departure from London for Hove in the spring of 1960, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

At the above-mentioned dinner party we had also the opportunity to say farewell to our Committee Member, Dr. R. Faessler, Counsellor of Embassy, Swiss Embassy, and Madame Faessler. Dr. Faessler has been appointed by the Federal Council as Swiss Ambassador to the Republic of Peru and Minister to the Republic of Bolivia, with residence at Lima.

We tender Monsieur Faessler our heartiest congratulations on his well deserved promotion to

Ambassadorial rank and wish him and Madame Faessler every success in their new sphere of activity.

We are very grateful for the assistance Dr. Faessler and his wife have given us for nearly seven years, in particular for the great help they have given us in connection with our bazaars and Christmas draws. In recognition of their valued services rendered and as a token of our esteem, Dr. Faessler was presented with a coloured picture book of London, suitably inscribed and signed by all present, and Madame Faessler with a sheaf of flowers.

We are very pleased to report that Monsieur Marcel Heimo, the successor of Dr. Faessler at the Swiss Embassy, and Madame Heimo have taken Dr. Faessler's and Madame Faessler's places on our respective Committees.

Our Chaplain, the Rev. Joseph Scherer, in his report said that the need for an assistant Chaplain is very acute considering the number of Swiss Catholics now living in London. He was pleased to say that the Sunday Evening Masses had been very well attended during the past year. Much time has been devoted by him to both spiritual and temporal matters for our young compatriots, and he asked all to let him know in good time whenever any of our compatriots are ill in hospital or at home, or in need of spiritual, charitable and social assistance.

We have had the special Services for the Swiss Catholics at St. Ann's for Easter, for the Swiss National Day in August, for the Swiss National Day of Prayer in September, for the opening of the "Swiss Fortnight" in London in October and for Christmas, each one followed by a social gathering.

The Swiss Catholic Youth Club (formerly the Alpenrosen Catholic Swiss Club) has organised socials each Sunday and excursions to places of interest. Among the places visited were Canterbury (100 people), Windsor Castle (130), Waltham Cross (180), Oxford (140), and the Isle of Wight (160). Other sight-seeing tours were made to the Port of London, Westminster Abbey, Tower of London and Houses of Parliament, which were greatly enjoyed by everyone.

The traditional Christmas Service was followed by a Christmas and New Year party at Westminster Cathedral Hall, when each child received presents from Father Christmas and the party ended with a dance for the members of the Youth Club.

The Chaplain expressed his sincere thanks to the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, especially to His Eminence Cardinal William Godfrey, for their kind support, and to Their Excellencies the Swiss Bishops and the "Sekretariat

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fuer Ausland-Seelsorge" for their efforts and great financial assistance.

He also thanked His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Madame Daeniker and the Members of the Embassy for their valuable help and expressed his appreciation to our Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. O. Grob and to all who have helped him in his work during the past year. Special thanks are due to Mr. E. Bonvin, Mr. E. Kaeufeler and Mr. G. Bartholdi for their most generous support of our Youth Club.

Our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. E. Frey, gave his finance report for the year 1960. Thanks to the generosity of all our friends the Grand Christmas Draw 1960 produced an income of £217.14.6. With this amount, the contributions from 98 donors, income tax recovered on Covenants and the Church collections, we had a total income of £659.4.9 with which we just managed to meet our expenses of £649.12.11, leaving a surplus for the year of £9.11.10.

The Chairman and Chaplain were duly thanked by Mr. E. Kaeufeler and Mr. Friberg for their respective reports. The adoption of the Treasurer's statement of accounts per 31st December 1960 was proposed by Mr. E. R. Cottet and seconded by Mr. R. Voegtli and was unanimously passed by the Meeting with sincere thanks to the Honorary Treasurer.

As mentioned before, Dr. and Mme. R. Faessler on leaving this country have resigned from our Committee. Further, owing to his departure for Switzerland, the Committee lost the services of Mr. J. Jordan, who has done such sterling work for us over a period of many years and in particular for the Parish of St. Ann's.

Mr. C. Gallo, leaving London in the near future to take up a University course, resigned as our Honorary Secretary, his place being taken by Mr. E. P. Siegfried. Our best thanks are due to them all.

The remaining members of the Committee had offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected. The final composition of the General Committee for 1961 is as follows:

Chaplain: The Reverend Joseph Scherer; Chairman: Mr. O. Grob; Vice-Chairman: Mr. E. Bonvin; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. Frey; Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. P. Siegfried; Members: The Misses C. Affentranger, L. Bonetti, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. F. McKenna, Messrs. G. Bartholdi, J. J. Boos, E. R. Cottet, F. De Maria, E. Eha, C. Gallo, R. E. Gut, M. Heimo, P. Jacomelli, E. Kaeufeler, L. W. Krucker, R. Voegtli.

The Ladies Committee consists of Mrs. E. Bonvin. Chairman: Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs.

C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. G. Gallo, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. M. Heimo, Mrs. E. Kaeufeler and Mrs. F. McKenna.

Finally, it was decided, instead of having a Bazaar in the autumn of 1961, to hold another Christmas Draw.

After the meeting the members of the Youth Club held a social gathering. *E.P.S.*

### OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 26th May 1961. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: T. M. Hagenbach, Max Ernst, Miss M. Dreier, A. Gomiero, H. Sidler, J. Muller, M. Weber, Dr. C. Hagenbach, W. Rueger, Mrs. L. C. West, A. Blumier, H. Schmid, J. Steiner, F. E. Brunner, J. J. Huber, A. C. Stahelin, Mrs. P. Reynolds, W. Graf, L. L. Portman, F. Heller, Mrs. B. Parkinson, E. Reitmann-Adam, V. Handel.

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