

Success of a London Swiss playwright

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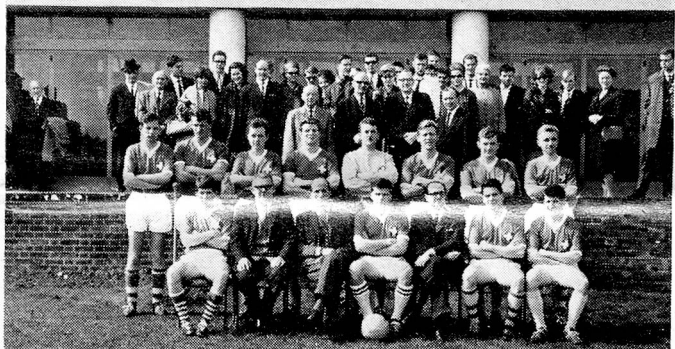
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THE TIMES FOOTBALL CLUB 1 SWISS MERCANTILE COLLEGE A.F.C. 7

An Englishman once said "I look on Switzerland as an inferior sort of Scotland". He would certainly have needed to eat his words if he had been at Ravensbourne on 11th April, for on that day the Swiss Mercantile College defeated *The Times* Football Club by seven goals to one, while up at Hampden Park Scotland could only beat England by one nil. Although the annual Ravensbourne match is classed as a "friendly", such is the rivalry between the two teams that this game almost assumes the importance of a full international.

The College were particularly interested in this year's result for they were keen to avenge a defeat that had ended their long run of success, and thus restore the Lints Smith trophy to Fitzroy Square.



The weather was perfect for the encounter, with the sun shining brightly, and having won the toss, Keller decided to let the home side face the sun in the first half. Shoebridge tried to break away down the left wing from the kick-off but his efforts were easily repulsed by Schuppisser. The College's reply to this was a clever passing movement between Citherlet, Dimmeler and Blom, but they were well held by the home defence. The game settled down to a fast pace with play switching from end to end. From an attack by *The Times* Kundig tipped a good shot from Hammond past the post, and from the resultant corner Winter headed just wide.

The clever interchanging of positions by the Swiss forwards began to baffle the home defence and they were forced to give away a corner; Blom floated over a perfect centre from the right, and Keller leapt high to head the first goal after eleven minutes. *The Times* were soon stung into action by this setback, and Shoebridge missed a fine chance of heading the equalizer when he mistimed a centre from Sexton. Citherlet always looked dangerous on the left, and the College went further ahead when Winter deflected the left winger's shot past Burton after Blom had pulled the ball back from the goal line.

The Times fought back bravely, but their finishing was weak and their forwards showed little imagination in trying to break through Bachmann's well marshalled defence. One felt up to this time that if the home team could score just one goal it would make all the difference. However it was the Swiss who looked the more likely to

score again, and but for the efforts of Burton in *The Times* goal they would have done so.

The College quickly asserted their authority in the second half, and Bachmann was prominent in some early raids that produced three corners in succession. With two goals in two minutes the College really put the result beyond doubt, Keller scored the first of these, but it was the goal scored by Citherlet that won the admiration of the crowd; the ball flowed sweetly from between Hahn, Blom and Dimmeler and the right winger's accurate pass was thundered into the net by Citherlet. *The Times* tried bravely to restore the balance, and Shoebridge just shot wide after a solo effort, and then Mackay scored a consolation goal by scooping a centre by Sexton into the net. For the remaining thirty minutes the College were constantly on the attack, and it came as no surprise when Blom, Dimmeler and Bachmann added three more goals to make the score *The Times* 1, Swiss Mercantile College 7.

After the match the Hon. Hugh Astor, president of *The Times* Football Club in presenting the trophy and medals to the two teams said "the sport is really just an excuse for a party", and judging by the enjoyable evening spent by those present he was probably right.

Teams:— *The Times*: Burton, Giles, Wright, Foxall, Winter, Hammond, Delmage, Sexton, Mackay (Capt.), McHugh, Shoebridge.

Swiss Mercantile College: Kundig, Schuppisser, Signore, Hahn, Bachmann, Dinner, Dimmeler, Blom, Keller (Capt.), Favre, Citherlet.

COLIN KYTE.

SUCCESS OF A LONDON SWISS PLAYWRIGHT

LAURENT LOURSON'S PLAY PRESENTED IN GENEVA

Last September I drew readers' attention to a German play "Der Bürgermeister" by Gert Hofmann, which was opening at the Garrick Theatre in London as "Power of Persuasion". This play had been translated into French by our compatriot in London, Mr. Laurent Lourson, and the French version known as "Chez les Molls" was a great success at the Théâtre de Carouge and on television of the Suisse Romande.

Laurent Lourson has now had his play "Le Robot Bien-Aimé" presented at the Théâtre-Club in Geneva, and the critics have hailed it as a great success. It is a one-act play of science fiction and was first produced in the English version as "Narcissus" by the Drama Department of Bristol University in December 1958. The play had its first performance in French in 1960 when a students' company presented it at Swansea. Incidentally, an international drama quarterly called "Gambit" published "Le Robot" in its second issue in an English translation by Donald Watson.

Laurent Lourson, a Neuchâtelois, has been living in London for six years. He received his training as an actor in Paris and has a degree in economics from the University of Geneva. He teaches French grammar and literature at a London school where tuition includes preparation for a dancing and acting career. He started teaching, hoping to find time in the long holidays for writing. But he discovered he really enjoyed teaching. He writes on art regularly in "La Tribune de Genève". Now with his reputation as a dramatist established, we may no doubt look forward to further plays by this promising young author.