

Swiss Benevolent Society

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1965)**

Heft 1476

PDF erstellt am: **28.04.2024**

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SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society was held at Swiss House on Monday, 22nd March 1965, and was well attended.

In the absence of the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur B. de Fischer, Hon. President of the Society, prevented by a previous engagement, the Swiss Embassy was represented by its First Counsellor, Monsieur M. Heimo, present also the Swiss Consul, Monsieur E. Tosio.

It was a meeting out of the ordinary and not without a certain sadness inasmuch as it marked the retirement of Mr. F. G. Sommer from the presidency, which he had held since 1954 and which he now felt very reluctantly compelled to give up for reasons of health, age and travelling distance.

In a prepared message, read out by Monsieur Heimo, the Swiss Ambassador conveyed to Mr. Sommer his and the Federal Authorities' great regret at his relinquishing his distinguished and devoted activity, adding that he had served the community and taken a leading part in the creation and establishment of the Swiss Hostel for Girls. With words of appreciation also to Mrs. Sommer, the Ambassador expressed thanks to Mr. Sommer and best wishes for a happy retirement. These sentiments were echoed by Monsieur Heimo and by the assembled members of the society. On Mr. Speckert's proposal, Mr. Sommer was acclaimed Hon. Vice-President of the society in recognition of his great services.

Mr. Xavier Speckert, hitherto one of the society's three Vice-Presidents, was unanimously elected to succeed Mr. Sommer as President. To fill up the vacancy created by Mr. Speckert's elevation to the presidency, Mr. M. Schneebeli, Sub-Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation and member of the General Committee, was unanimously elected a Vice-President.

The various committees were all re-elected for a further term of office and Mr. L. S. R. Asch, who for some time had taken an active interest in the society's work, was elected a member of the General Committee.

Outstanding in the annual accounts for 1964, presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. A. Rothlisberger, as reflecting the usual unchanged relief activity of the society, was the sad fact of the continuing and mounting deficit (£4,971 last year). The prospect of ever diminishing assets and ultimate danger of impairment of the society's aims was a matter of the gravest concern to the Executive Committee. Admittedly, a large part of this deficit had arisen from exceptional and unavoidable maintenance and renovation work during the last few years and extending yet — though it is hoped finally — into 1965 at the society's premises at 9-11 Belsize Grove leased to the Swiss Hostel for Girls. This additional heavy burden on the society's funds had induced a welcome gesture of help by the Federal Authorities in the shape of a small exceptional supplement this year to their last year's increased subsidy. Nevertheless, a not inconsiderable part of the deficit remained directly attributable to the yawning gap between Income and Payments on the society's traditional workings.

This unfortunate situation prompted both the retiring President, Mr. Sommer, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Rothlisberger, to make a strong appeal at the meeting for greater financial help. Many subscribers, they said, had answered earlier calls by the society for more realistic support, in line with a changed economy, but a wider response was now urgently needed from the colony.

S.B.S.



J. C. WETTER,
President,
Swiss Rifle Association.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

The months of March and April are the months when almost all of the Swiss Societies and Institutions render the accounts of their activities during the past twelve months.

There is little change to report about these meetings which take place; they follow an almost stereotype pattern. The respective presidents or chairmen render a survey of the activities of their societies or institutions, the treasurers announce either a surplus or a deficit (mostly a deficit) which, however, nobody seems to take very seriously, and finally thanks for services rendered are generously handed out to the various officers in charge.

The Swiss Rifle Association (founded in 1923) held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 2nd, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7.

Mr. J. C. Wetter was in the Chair, and there were about twenty members present (the smallness of the attendance was due to illness, absence from London, and a Meeting of another Swiss Society taking place the same evening). Mr. F. Magnin, Hon. Secretary, read the minutes of the last General Meeting, and Mr. H. Straub, Hon. Treasurer, presented and explained the accounts which close with a small deficit.

The President gave a survey of the activities of the Association during the past year. He stated that by the end of 1964, the Association numbered seventy-eight active members. Seven shooting practices were held at Bisley during the year, and 4,880 rounds of ammunition were used (1963: 6,130). This decrease is due to the fact that in 1963, the members went through intensive training for the Federal Shooting Competition in Zurich.

According to the presidential report there will be eight meetings at Bisley in 1965, namely 25th April, 9th and 23rd May, 13th and 27th June, 29th August, 12th September and 3rd of October. In 1964 medals have been won in the following competitions:

Zürcher Kantonal-Spezialstich competitors: Peter Fischer, 56 points; Marcel Bucherer, 55 points; Lucien Jobin, 54 points; Jack Wetter, 52 points.

Fernwettsschiessen, St. Gallen, competitors: Marcel Bucherer, 90 points; Peter Fischer, 89 points; Lucien Jobin, 77 points.

The President informed the Meeting that the old committee was prepared to carry on, and it was re-elected *en bloc*. Mr. A. Stauffer was confirmed as Press-Reporter of the Association. Mr. J. C. Wetter warmly thanked his