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FOOTBALL MATCH: COLLEGE OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY v. "THE TIMES"

Not by any stretch of the imagination could I be called an expert on football. I have never seen any football matches except the Cup Final once and the annual match of "The Times" eleven versus the team of the Swiss Mercantile College. For well-nigh thirty years — interrupted only by the war — I have been invited to this annual event, first because my late husband was Chairman of the Education Committee of the S.M.S. and then because he was President of the Society. That the Committee of "The Times" F.C. still invite me now, I consider a great honour, and this is the reason why I agreed to say something about this year's gathering, even though others would be far more qualified to report. It gives me a chance to put on record how much the Swiss Mercantile Society and the College appreciate the hospitality extended to them year after year by "The Times". It provides the students — the team are accompanied by scores of Swiss boys and girls from the S.M.S. College — a chance of visiting a beautiful English sports ground and of enjoying proverbial English hospitality on a large scale, for the match is followed by a tea and a dance in the evening.

This year's match took place on Saturday, 10th April, and it was once again one of the highlights of the football season for the Swiss team. One of the members of "The Times" has kindly written the following report on the game. This relieves me of the responsibility of commenting, and all I can add is that I thoroughly enjoyed the game in spite of the wind, the rain and my ignorance.

The annual fixture between "The Times" and the Swiss Mercantile College was won by the visitors 3—0.

"The Times", who have had mixed fortunes in their league pursuits in recent weeks, played with the defence that has remained consistent almost all season and with a slightly re-arranged forward line.



The Swiss team and some of their supporters

The pitch was damp, the sun shining at first, conditions ideal for football, and the twenty-two players were keyed-up as if they were to represent their respective countries. The large contingent of Swiss followers gave their team loud support as did "The Times" fans who were fewer in number, as usual.

"The Times" were the quicker side to settle down, and Jimmy Wray, the goal-keeper, had very little to do in the opening spell. Then, from a harmless looking free

kick, a Swiss forward headed into goal. This goal was somewhat against the run of play, but tighter marking would have prevented its being scored. After this encouragement the Swiss pressed harder and once, with Jimmy Wray beaten, Albert Wright was on hand to head away to safety. With the score 0—1 at half-time, the game was still in the balance.

"The Times" dominated mid-field play early in the second half mainly due to Johnny Eagland's tireless efforts and the splendid determination he showed throughout the game. However, his promptings were not readily appreciated by his fellow forwards who between them missed easy chances. (It was ironical that the player who could probably have snapped up the chances that went begging was Alan Small, first reserve, who lingered as a spectator on the touchline.)

Throughout, the Swiss forwards seemed upset by the quick hard tackles administered on them by "The Times" defence, and usually came no further than Jimmy Lubin who played a firm and commanding game at centre-half.

After fifteen minutes, though, of the second half, another harmless looking centre was converted into goal — a severe setback for "The Times" who, previously, had looked the more likely to score. But it is these sudden changes of fortune that make football interesting. And soon afterwards Albert Wright again positioned himself superbly to head off the line. It seemed now that the Swiss were having their own way, although Dave Cheesman was being brought more into the game and at moments he looked extremely dangerous but did not have the necessary luck to score goals and win games.

Towards the end Maurice Giles rather needlessly impeded a Swiss forward in the penalty area, and Ricky Bachmann allowed no mercy with his shot to put the result beyond doubt.

Still, "The Times" persevered and Colin Daniels and Dave Cheesman had fine efforts admirably saved by the Swiss goalkeeper U. Wysshaar. But all of no avail, and the score remained until the end.

It was a fine game, and more even than the score suggests, and several players deserve mention.

For the Swiss, F. Blom was here, there, and everywhere and was probably the most effective player on the field; Ricky Bachmann played intelligently and was dangerous whenever he gained possession; and goalkeeper U. Wysshaar looked unbeatable while both full-backs performed adequately.

Perhaps the major mistake "The Times" were guilty of was made at the team selection meeting when it was decided to play two forwards currently sadly out of form, Eric Shoebridge and Frank Mackay, and to omit Alan Small, who has hardly ever put in a poor performance for the 1st XI. Dave Cheesman proved he is the best winger in the club, but he is probably the best inside — and centre-forward also — and it was at inside-left and centre-forward that "The Times" were deficient. In defence, more decisive action by Jimmy Wray might have prevented the first two goals, but when it is pouring with rain and the ball is as slippery as ice, who has the right to criticise one playing in the most precarious of positions? Albert Wright, at left-back, played, after the first twenty minutes, with thoughtfulness and his uncanny positioning has been referred to. Maurice Giles played steadily throughout, while Johnny Hammond, although partially responsible for yawning mid-field gaps, played until he almost dropped — a quality which others playing next season might do well to acquire.

The fine handling by referee Ken Saull and his linesmen contributed to the enjoyment of the game. In the evening both teams and supporters stayed for the dance where the battles of earlier were forgotten and the incidents forgiven. Well until next year, at least.

"The Times": Wray; Giles, Wright; Miles, Lubin, Hammond; Cheesman, Eagland, Shoebridge, Mackay, Daniels.

S.M.S. College: Wysshaar; Bottini, Signore; Bigler, Blom, Fehr; Sproll, Bachmann, Golay, Keller, Duerr.

After the match young and old, player and spectator, expert and amateur, all partook of an ample high tea. This was followed by the presentation of the Lints Smith Challenge Trophy to the winning Swiss team and a medal to each player of both teams. Mr. C. W. Westcott, Vice-President, welcomed the Swiss visitors in his usual sincere manner. He and Mrs. Westcott have been great friends of the S.M.S., and the President of the society and Mrs. Jaccard, the Secretary Mr. W. Burren (himself a former member of the football team), the Principal and Vice-Principal of the College Mr. C. Slade and Mr. E. W. Makin, members of the teaching staff and myself (for once not as Editor) have come to know and value the warm reception and generous hospitality always extended to us. Another former member of the S.M.S. team and Chairman of the Education Committee for many years, Mr. H. H. Baumann, was also welcomed as a visitor this year.

It has been the custom for many years that a member of the Embassy attend match and tea. This year it was Monsieur Gallusser, First Secretary of Embassy, who ably represented the Swiss Ambassador. He referred to the value of Anglo-Swiss friendship and presented cup and medals. He had a friendly word for each player, winner or loser. After a short address by Mr. Jaccard, a small special ceremony took place when the referee awarded his fee to J. Eagland who, in his opinion, had shown the most promising sportsmanship and outstanding fairness during the afternoon's game.

Soon after 7 p.m. the dance started in the large panelled hall. It was a friendly social gathering much enjoyed by hosts and visitors alike. The beautiful silver cup will be proudly displayed at Swiss House during the year, to be competed for again in 1966. Thank you, "The Times", and better luck next year!

Mariann.

THE YOUNG FOREIGN WORKER AND AU PAIR STUDENT IN BRITAIN

A booklet with very useful information has been published by H.M. Stationery Office (No. FOP 4966). It was prepared for the Foreign Office and the Central Office of Information with the assistance of certain voluntary organisations. The booklet is addressed to young people wishing to spend some time in Britain either as employees or as "au pair" student workers, and it has been compiled in order that they may gain the greatest benefit from their stay. But it also contains information useful to would-be employers and hosts, and lists a number of most useful addresses.

The booklet may be had free of charge from Mr. R. F. Russell, British Vigilance Association, 17a Kings Road, London S.W.3. A stamped/addressed envelope (5 x 20½ ins. and 4d. postage) will be much appreciated. In Switzerland, as elsewhere abroad, the booklet may be had from any British Consulate.



PERSONAL

A little late, but none the less sincerely, we wish to congratulate Mrs. A. V. Berti, of 49 St. John's Villas, London N.19, on reaching her 75th birthday on 15th March. Mrs. Berti is known not only as wife of the late Mr. Carlo Berti, so well-remembered for his many activities in the Unione Ticinese in particular and in the Swiss Colony in general, but also for her own work as a founder member and for many years President of the Sezione Femile of the Unione Ticinese. Mrs. Berti still takes an interest in the affairs of the Swiss community, and we wish her many happy returns of her birthday.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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INTERNATIONAL SPRING FAIR

The International Social Service of Great Britain are holding an International Fair at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, 26th May from 10.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer are amongst the Patrons, and H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, will open the Fair at 11.30 a.m. There are interesting stalls of many nations, a Polish Restaurant, a Celebrity Bar, Fashion Show, Tombola and many other attractions. Entrance 2/-.

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