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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

WITH THE SWISS IN THE MIDLANDS

Annual Banquet and Ball Swiss Club Manchester

"What Manchester does today, the rest of the world does tomorrow" applies even to the Swiss communities in Great Britain; for the Manchester Swiss, every year, are the first to open the social season with the Annual Banquet, followed later by Swiss societies in London and other centres. The quality and success of the big event on Saturday, 11th November, at the Midland Hotel in Manchester augurs well for what is to come elsewhere. From the first moment when members and guests — six score and more — began to assemble for drinks, there was a special spirit of gaiety and friendliness in evidence. *"I have never before seen such a joyful, lively crowd. Gentlemen, have we ever seen more beautiful, attractive, charming, lovely, gracious and romantic ladies? Ever seen nicer, more fashionable and tastefully selected dresses? Ladies, have you ever seen more handsome, manly, virile, strong and determined Knights of the table round?"* Those were the Chairman's words, and he could not have given a more apt description. This was after an excellent dinner, and after the loyal toasts had been drunk. Unlike other clubs, the Manchester Swiss leave it to a British guest to propose the toast of Switzerland. This year, it was Major Nicholson of the Manchester Rifle Club. He referred to the long-standing and close relationship between his own and the Manchester Swiss Rifle Association, as well as with the venerable *Arquebusiers* of Geneva.

Major Nicholson was one of the guests of the Club, whom the President, Dr. K. P. Jaggi, introduced after Dinner and welcomed officially. First and foremost, however, the Club was privileged in having the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Olivier Long as their Guests of Honour. According to tradition, the Swiss Ambassador is an Honorary Member of the Club, *ex officio*, and thus, whilst in Manchester for the first time, Monsieur Long could be termed something of a Mancunian already. The appointment was sealed, as it were, with a token presentation and a floral tribute to Madame Long.

Of similar nature was the President's announcement that honorary membership had been awarded to Dr. H. B. Knuchel who would shortly be leaving Manchester on taking up an important appointment with his company in Basle. This award was made in appreciation of all the devoted work which Dr. Knuchel had been doing for the Swiss community in the U.K. in general (President of the Swiss Economic Council, Vice-President of the Federation of Swiss Societies in Great Britain and Delegate to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad) and as President of the Manchester Swiss Club for three years in particular. Dr. Knuchel duly acknowledged the honour bestowed on him and the warm applause given to him and his wife by the gathering.

The President welcomed the Swiss Consul and Madame Brunner who had made a great impact in the relatively short period of their presence in Manchester, for their interest and activities, their devotion and ready help went well beyond their duties as consular representatives.

Dr. Jaeggi also extended a warm welcome to what he called the Swiss community's "*publicity, public relations, information and press release manager*", Mrs. Mariann Meier, Editor of the "Swiss Observer" and Delegate to the

Commission of the Swiss Abroad. His eloquent recommendation of the Colony's Official Organ would have done credit to any professional salesman. His praise was warmly seconded by the Ambassador when he addressed the company. Monsieur Long singled out the fact that the S.O. generally carried some information not usually available in Switzerland newspapers. Unfortunately, his conviction that everybody in the room was a subscriber is not true to fact — in London no more than in Manchester — and if the Editor repeats, not without some embarrassment, the Ambassador's appreciation of the "skill and devotion" with which the paper is produced, she does it only in the hope that his words will have some effect and possibly help to induce one or the other to take out a subscription, especially at a time when only larger circulation and more general support can ensure the existence of the S.O. without the publishers being compelled to follow the general trend of higher rates.

The Ambassador began his address by thanking the Club for bestowing honorary membership on him. Even though he had no choice in the matter and the appointment was according to the rules, he still considered it a privilege, all the more because he was greatly impressed by the Club's lively activities. He also expressed appreciation of the work done by Monsieur Brunner and his able staff, work greatly valued in London and Berne.

Next, Monsieur Long warmly recommended the Solidarity Fund and appealed to those not already members to join at once, so as not to have to regret any omission later.

He conformed to the general expectation that the Head of the Swiss Diplomatic Mission should say something about federal political matters on an occasion like that. He referred to the federal elections just completed (*see leading article*) and gave an outline of Switzerland's policy regarding European integration. Much time would elapse not only until Great Britain's gallant efforts to join the Common Market would be crowned with success, but also before Switzerland would take any further steps. The six EEC countries themselves were not yet agreed on how to enlarge the Common Market. Switzerland's waiting attitude should not be misunderstood — she was very interested, but would only move once the time was ripe. For the moment, her best bet was to keep her economy sound, so that she would be in a position to move fast once the situation had changed, and then she would seek ways and means for the best possible economic arrangements compatible with her policy of armed neutrality. When that time would come, was impossible to say yet.

The Ambassador's address which was given without manuscript, was well received by the audience. Matters then went on in a lighter vein when another past President of the Club — Mr. B. Simon, with true Basle humour announced the winners of the two challenge cups of the Swiss Rifle Association. Mr. John Scheiwiller was the top scorer with 363 out of 400 points. Madame Long kindly presented the cup to the happy winner. The President's wife handed the Swissair challenge cup to Dr. H. R. Bolliger whose aggregate was 396.364!

That brought the official part of the evening to a close. The interlude was filled with the sale of tombola tickets and the excitement of receiving the generous winning prizes. The second part of the evening was given over to dancing, back in the Wedgwood-blue room. The white

and red flower decorations were no longer so much in evidence, but the beautifully embroidered flag of the Club still adorned the wall. It had been worked at the beginning of the century by the mother of Mr. Themans who, incidentally, was in charge of the Tombola with his wife. More than one of the older members — the immediate Past President Mr. E. Berner, no doubt — thought back on previous occasions and remembered friends no longer here now who had unselfishly devoted time, money and energy to build up the Club to its present strength. No shortage of young members in Manchester; just as in former years, the youngsters are very much in evidence and promise a rich future. They were there that evening, too, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Yet their obvious pleasure was equalled by that of older members and, may I say so, also of the guests. "What Manchester does today, the rest of the world does tomorrow" — we shall have a job to do it equally well. Thank you and good luck!

MM

HEINZ AND URSULA HOLLIGER IN LONDON Unique Concert

Opposite, readers will find an advertisement of a concert by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by John Pritchard. It announces Heinz Holliger (oboe) and Ursula Holliger (harp) as soloists. The concert promises to be an unusual one, for the programme includes Henze's Concerto for oboe and harp, which is the first performance in Great Britain. The concerto was written specially for Heinz Holliger and his wife, both well-known Swiss soloists. The work was commissioned by Paul Sacher and is dedicated to him and his wife Maja. It was first performed in Switzerland by Paul Sacher and his "Collegium Musicum".

There is one other reason why we should give the concert all our support, for its Managing Director is Swiss, Miss Ursula Strebi (Mrs. Ph. Jones). She hails from Lucerne, and it is largely due to her energetic and capable management that the English Chamber Orchestra has found the recognition it deserves.

So for three good reasons, a visit to the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 15th December would be worth it, Swiss artists, a first performance in this country and an excellent orchestra under the management of a young Swiss compatriot.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will be our double Christmas number on 15th December. For that we need articles and reports unusually early and shall be glad to receive them not later than Friday, 1st December. Short news items only can be accepted later.

Our next issue but one will appear on Friday, 12th January. Contributions for that number should reach us not later than Tuesday, 2nd January.

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BIRTHDAYS

The following subscribers are celebrating their birthdays: Mr. A. Dreux (Basle) on 29th November. Mrs. C. Renz has a birthday on 3rd, Mr. M. Ehrsam on 14th (71) and Mr. J. L. Guggenheim on 15th December (78).

Two Octogenarians

On 15th December, Mrs. Emily Delaloye, of 15 Bartholomew Villas, N.W.5, will celebrate her 80th birthday. She is the wife of Mr. Frank Delaloye, and both are connected particularly with the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund).

On 6th December, Mr. Hermann H. Baumann, of 22 St. Catherine's Court, Bedford Park, W.4, will be 80. His activities in the Colony are particularly well remembered in the Swiss Mercantile Society, where he was active for many years on Committees, especially dealing with educational matters. Mr. Baumann was an athlete, too, a sprinter of no mean standard, and his achievements at the Swiss Sports, both on his own account and with the S.M.S. Team are still remembered.

We wish all these trusted friends many happy returns of the day and send best wishes, too, to any other readers whose birthdays fall within the next three weeks.

PERSONAL

It is with great pleasure that we announce the birth of a second daughter Nicola Christine (25th October) to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard F. Simon, of "Nomis", 12, Pool End Close, Tytherington, Macclesfield, Cheshire. We wish them joy and happiness for the future.

HEINZ HOLLIGER *oboe*

URSULA HOLLIGER *harp*

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