

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1970)  
**Heft:** 1605  
  
**Rubrik:** Schweizerbund

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and glorious "Auld Lang Syne" at 11 p.m. All sing-songs depend for their success on the presence of at least one cheerleader or conductor who will lead his gay company into new songs and never tire. Father Paul Bossard assumed this function admirably and conducted the singing unfalteringly, leading us in the incredible variety of Swiss musical folklore.

(PMB)

## THE SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

The Swiss Rifle Association held its Annual Dinner on November 13th. As usual, this was a lively and fraternal evening, with plenty of cheer and wine.

Mr. Marcel Bucherer, the Association's President, welcomed the guests of the evening and regretted the absence of our Ambassador and Colonel Von Frisching, the Military Attaché at the Embassy, who were not able to come. He mentioned two letters he had received from members regretting that they had not been able to come. They were from Mr. Alfred Schmid and Dr. Carl Grob. Reviewing the activities of the year, Marcel Bucherer mentioned the three matches which the Swiss Rifle Association had fought with British clubs. His valiant Swiss marksmen had been "hammered" by the Kensington Rifle Club in a small bore contest, but the Londoners were duly beaten when they came to Bisley for a return match against the Swiss Rifle Association. But the most glorious event of the year was the Association's victory over the Surrey Rifle Association—the first time in twenty years. Marcel Bucherer was

pleased to note that many younger newcomers to the Association had won a growing share of the prizes of this year. Two of them, young Stefan Jaeggi and Mr. Fritz Häsler, had done particularly well. Marcel Bucherer ended his short address by congratulating Mr. Milani of the Glendower for the excellent meal which we had just enjoyed.

A question was then raised concerning the prohibition to shoot at Bisley on the Sunday afternoon in which the Farnborough Airshow was held. Why, it was asked, did shooting have to be interrupted while the "Concorde" was flying overhead? Was it because our range officers had feared that, because we were such bad shots, there was a tangible risk that some blundering sprayer among our ranks would shoot down the plane by mistake? Or did they apprehend that we would want to destroy this costly machine in legitimate tax-payer's protest, or, lastly, did they think that the loud snap of our bullets on the target would dismantle Concorde's shoddy workmanship. Peter Fischer rose to say that the Swiss Rifle Association was in no way responsible for this interdiction, but asked one of the evening's guests, Major Magnay, President of the Surrey Rifle Club and member of the National Rifle Association's Council, to clarify this matter. He told us that the shooting prohibition order for the whole duration of the Farnborough Airshow had come from the Ministry of Defence. In spite of many discussions and telephone calls to have the order lifted, the "Boffins of Warminster" had clung to their neurotic fears that the costly

machines on display at Farnborough would have been endangered by the activities at Bisley. This had disrupted other matches in which the Surrey Rifle Club had been due to take part.

Mr. Brown, the second friend from the Surrey Rifle Association to be the evening's guest, rose to say a few words in which he expressed his pleasure at being among us, and mentioned his Club's defeat against the Swiss Rifle Association and also its successful trip to Switzerland. Major Magnay gave us a few more precisions on this shooting trapeze to Switzerland, in which 16 members of the Surrey Rifle Club and some of their wives took part and which was, despite a constant series of defeats, thoroughly enjoyable.

The time had come for the distribution of prizes, aptly carried out by the Association's Secretary, Mr. Charles Abegglen. Prizes were handed out for the following competitions: Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup, Ambassador A. Daeniker's Senior Cup, Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup, Monsieur J. L. Revilliod Presentation Silver Cigarette Case, St. Gallen, Einzelwettschiessen, Zürich, Feldschiessen, Obligatorisches Schiessen, Grümpelschiessen and Handicap Competition 1970. One of the most coveted of these glorious trophies, Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup, was awarded to Mr. Fritz Häsler and thus taken away from Marcel Bucherer, who had held it for nine successive years. Another highly applauded winner was Father Paul Bossard, who won the Ambassador A. Daeniker's Senior Cup (the only competition in which he took part!). Prize-giving was followed



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