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people and au pair girls? In that case, Mr. Berti suggested that one could entirely do away with the patriotic and ceremonial half of the evening and devote it entirely to band music and dancing. This would naturally not be acceptable to residents, who would no longer attend. It was agreed that a compromise had to be found between the wishes of the young (mainly dancing) and of the elder residents (presumably to take part in a specifically Swiss gathering). One member suggested that the 1st August Celebration be abandoned in favour of a reception for the Colony in the Embassy. However, a member of the Embassy present said that this was quite unfeasible. Various possibilities, such as changing the venue and doing away with the reading of the Pact were suggested as a means of attracting more people, but it was eventually decided not to change venues and keep to the traditional programme. Whether or not the Federal Pact will be read in one of the national languages will be decided at a future 1st August Committee meeting. A film will probably be included in next year's programme.

The conclusion of the meeting was that it was premature to talk of abandoning the way our National Day has been celebrated in London for so many years. This traditional event, despite this year's disappointing attendance, should be given another chance by getting more and better publicity. Thus the 1st August 1973 Celebration in Wimbledon will be backed by energetic advertising, carried out not only by the Swiss Observer and the posters at the Swiss Centre and the Swiss Mercantile Society, but also by the Swiss societies towards their members. The 1st August Committee will see what kind of response will be obtained from more propaganda. It is essential to have more entries, as this is the source of nearly half the income. The Committee cannot afford to make such a heavy loss next year.

(PMB)

## CITY SWISS CLUB ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

An exceptionally successful evening: such is the consensus of those who attended the 1972 City Swiss Club Dinner and Ball. About 210 persons were present. As usual, this turnout was largely composed of guests. The attendance was slightly smaller than last year and this was due to the absence of one or two prominent and regular members of the club who usually reserve whole tables.

Efforts had been made to concentrate on enjoyment and reduce the formality always associated with such functions to a minimum. Thus Mr. Walter Bion, the President, made a short welcome address to the gathering and our Ambassador, Dr. Albert Weitnauer, delivered a speech mingling

humour with politics. Dr. Frank Ellis, a specialist who had spoken to the City Swiss Club last year on "spare parts surgery" was invited to speak on behalf of the guests. This he did in a most entertaining way.

Another innovation was the recourse to a new and younger band as a substitute to the Arthur Salisbury Band, the standing Dorchester Hotel Orchestra, which had performed at this annual function for many years. Unlike previous functions, no entertainer was invited and this helped to keep costs down. Tickets, in fact, remained at the same level as last year. The band had a vocalist which dispensed with the need for a solo vocalist anyway.

The food was, by general agreement, excellent. The attendance greatly appreciated the shortness of the speeches and the lively but still conventional tempo of the orchestra. As usual, a Tombola was organised with three days for two in a five-star hotel in Amsterdam as first prize. It was won by Mr. Armin Loesch, who had never come to the Annual Dinner and Dance before. The money raised was equivalent to the value of the prizes. Net proceeds amounted to just under £500 and will be entirely given to the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Churches of London. This will make the forthcoming AGM of the club somewhat less tumultuous . . .

(PMB)

## COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Many of our compatriots and friends have been kind enough in the past to support our Christmas Draw for the benefit of our Chaplain and the welfare of our young Swiss.

On account of the increased cost of postage, the printing of the Draw tickets and the decrease in the sale of these, we have come to the conclusion that the net profit of a Draw conducted through the postal service does not warrant the outlay and the enormous amount of time involved in running a Christmas Draw.

Our Chaplain, the Rev. Paul Bossard, in close co-operation with the Ministers of the Swiss Protestant Church has built up a new centre for the young Swiss at the John Southworth Community and Youth Centre at 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Up till now we have had an average attendance of 150 to 250 people every Sunday, many come to Sunday Mass, which is celebrated in the dance hall. The Protestants have their service in the Conference Room. Afterwards a simple supper is served in the Tea Room, a bar dispenses drinks, even Swiss beer can be obtained. A very modern and well equipped disco-

theque provides dance music. In the Conference Room there are discussions, talks and bible studies, so everybody can find something of interest.

As we shall miss the income derived in the past from our Christmas Draw (last year £240, the year before £333) we are more than ever dependent on the goodwill of our friends.

May I ask you kindly to consider helping our cause by sending a donation to me at 60 Seafeld Road, London N11 1AS. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

*Oscar Grob, Chairman.*

## Solidarity Fund

The Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad has changed premises and has moved from the Schosshaldenstrasse to the Gutenbergstrasse in Berne. Their new address is at Gutenbergstrasse 6, 3011 Berne. Telephone: 031 25 04 94.

## Swiss Credit Bank

The Swiss Credit Bank in London has a new manager. Mr. Henry Griffith Fry has been appointed manager of the Austin Friars new premises. Mr. George I. Williamson remains International Representative for the bank and London adviser to the General Management.

## The President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad in London

On Thursday, 16th November, the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique held their Open Meeting at the Swiss Embassy. Nearly 100 members and friends came to listen to Councillor of States Dr. Louis Guisan. In view of the importance of the speaker, the NSH had again invited other Swiss societies in London, and quite a number of presidents, officers and members accepted the invitation.

The President, Mrs. Mariann Meier, welcomed the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Albert Weitnauer, and introduced the speaker. Dr. Guisan gave a most interesting address in excellent English on "the activities of a Swiss Member of Parliament". He delivered his talk in three parts, the work of Parliament as such, how to become an M.P. and what specific work and duties fall to a National Councillor and to a Councillor of States.

The talk was followed by questions which went on for 1½ hours. But the standard was very high indeed, and the whole evening was one of great interest and lively spirit.

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique was glad to have an opportunity of thanking the President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, and Dr.