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thanks to the many helpers from other societies of the Federation who had lent a willing hand in setting up the exhibition stands.

Mrs. Goodman then pointed out that the Bishop Cup entries as well as a special display of stamps by some members of the London Swiss Society would be on show until 6 o'clock. There were also many interesting side shows and philatelic competitions and she urged people to buy raffle tickets with several Premium Bonds as prizes. Furthermore there was a great selection of stamps for sale at several dealers' stands and there was a special Post Office stand at which all recent commemorative stamps could be purchased. A souvenir cover was also on sale which would receive the circular district postmark if posted at this stand.

After announcing that the winners of the raffle and various other competitions would be announced at 5 o'clock, Mrs. Goodman closed the official part of the Convention and wished everybody a happy and enjoyable afternoon.

There was ample time to study the many interesting exhibits showing stamps or specialised studies of stamps of many parts of the world. The subject "Postal History" was particularly well represented with some most interesting entries showing great knowledge of this particular field of philately. There were equally as many entries with "Thematics" as the main theme and such subjects as "Sport", "Flowers", "Transport", etc. were well represented.

Those who wanted to fill some of the empty spaces in their albums had ample opportunity of browsing through the great array of stamps from the world over which were offered at the dealers' stands and it appeared that "business" was brisk the whole of the afternoon. Equally happy were the winners of the Premium Bonds and the many other prizes from the raffle and philatelic competitions, and it was well past 6 o'clock before the last visitors left the Hall.

*E. M. Huber*

#### "IT'S ALL HIGHLY INVOLVED"

The Hounslow Philatelic Society who won the "Bishop Cup", were the first to win the cup, in 1952. Its entry consisted of nine sheets representing examples of the postal seals issued to the British Army in Egypt by the NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Forces Institute) during the war. The historical background to this entry was that the normal postal services available to the forces in the Middle East were rather inefficient, and that the NAAFI, an organisation responsible for the Armed Forces' canteens and entertainment, consequently issued "postal

seals" used for payment of mail, which it undertook to send to Britain.

Hardly anyone thought at that time about preserving these seals, and that is why they are so rare today and constitute a most valuable thematic item. The winning competitor had presented the standard frames of 20 seals sold to the forces, the original pull sheet—as produced by the printers (Hanbury, Tomsett & Co. of Willesden, to be precise). But the achievement which must have caught the Judge's main attention was the "plating" of these frames of twenty seals, consisting in assembling used seals to build up the original frame seal by seal, their identification being possible owing to minute differences in each seal. The ardent philatelist who did all this actually managed to show that the printing plate used in the manufacture of the original pulls was slightly askew to the outline of the frame as cut for sale. No wonder he won the cup!

(PMB)

#### SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION AGM

The Swiss riflemen of London put up an exceptional attendance at the 1972 AGM, which was held as usual at the Glendower Hotel, on 17th April.

The Secretary, Captain M. Mathey, read the minutes of the previous AGM. These were duly approved. The accounts were commented by Mr. H. Straub. They showed a total income of £327.50 set against an expenditure of £267.80, leaving a healthy surplus of £59.70. It was noted that the sale of badges, which had been stamped only last year, produced the disappointing revenue of £2.40. Members present later contributed to improve this situation by buying from the box of badges brought by the President, Mr. M. Bucherer.

The main statements of his report referred to a record 5,300 rounds of

ammunition fired during the last season (as compared with 5,050 the year before, in 11 traditional competitions held during the eight annual shooting meetings at Bisley. Mr. Bucherer recalled two outside matches, one against the Surrey Rifle Association, and the other against the Kensington Rifle and Pistol Club. Although the Swiss team just managed to beat the Londoners at home, they were flatly beaten in an indoor competition away. Consequently, the Swiss Rifle Association have asked the Kensington club not to field their best men (which include international shots) in their competition with them in order to keep these matches "friendly".

The President recalled a recent outing to Holland, where he had taken part in a match against a Dutch team. One of the English team, a 22-year-old youth, scored 598 points out of 600, equalising the world record. He hit 58 tens and two nines. The second in that particular contest had 596 points. The President was too modest to reveal his own score.

Mr. Adolf Schmid, founder-member of the Association, took over as President *pro tem* and expeditiously handled the re-election of the Committee. Everyone naturally supported Mr. Bucherer's re-election as President. There was one resignation, that of Mr. Francis Magnin.

A few items were discussed under the AGM's "miscellaneous items".

Members were reminded that they could compete for the eleven cups whenever they chose, with the exception of the *Feldschiessen* and the *Obli-gatorisch*. These two contests will take place on 21st May and 16th June. The *Grumpelschiessen* is the only other competition fought out on a fixed date: 1st October, the last shooting Sunday. Earlier, Mr. Bucherer had pointed out that the match against the Marylebone Pistol Club will take place at Bisley on 25th June, and the match against

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the Surrey Rifle Association on 3rd September. The Swiss Rifle Association will try to field an automatic rifle team.

Further items raised included the question of ladies participation. This point had been debated at length at the previous AGM and the Association's policy remains firmly unchanged for several practical reasons, the two main ones being that there would be no time to organise 11 competitions in eight meetings and teach women how to handle a gun, and, secondly, that a great many passive members to whom the Association is indebted for their membership would probably not turn up at the "Old Boys" Annual Dinner if they had to bring their wives with them. The member who suggested the inclusion of ladies in the Association actually claimed that its shooting results would be improved if this were to be allowed!

The meeting also took due note of Mr. Charles Naegeli's election to the Committee of the Surrey Rifle Association as liaison officer with the Swiss Rifle Association. The meeting showed its overall approval of a novel social event: An outing on the Grand Union Canal, starting at "Little Venice", near Paddington. Catering would be organised by two club members. Invitations to this promising outing will be mailed to members in due course.

The time for dinner had come. There were enough people to fill a

large U-shaped table in the Glendower's dining room. We were well looked after by Mrs. Schmid and her attractive daughter and had ample supplies of ham, boiled meat, sauerkraut and potatoes and wine. For dessert, we had a huge meringue. This was followed by two films on the 1969 Federal Shoot in Thun presented by Mr. Adolf Schmid, and Mr. Peter Fischer. Both brought home happy memories to the many who had competed that year in Thun and at Oensingen.

### SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER

As part of a series of social events, members and friends were invited to a Film Show to be held on the 24th March, 1972 on the premises of Messrs. Ciba-Geigy, Healds Green, Manchester, and even if it was only for this venue, it would have assured us of a full success of the evening. The writer, and worse for him, was impeded for being there, and he felt certainly sorry for it, but it could not be helped. However, thanks also to information kindly received from Miss E. Rellstab, we are able to tell you more about it.

The large number of members and friends who all assembled at Messrs. Ciba-Geigy were most indebted to their staff who went all out to assure us of a splendid and friendly

evening, presenting us with a buffet very generously stocked with an excellent assortment of food which included also drinks and coffee. This was indeed a very pleasant start for what had to follow.

After the Buffet the guests moved to the Lecture Theatre, where they were welcomed by Dr. Bolliger. Before the film started he notified the audience of the upgrading of the Swiss Consulate in Manchester to a Consulate General, and of the promotion of Mr. Born, who was unfortunately not present, to Consul General. Mr. Leuenberger was asked to pass on to him the best wishes of the Club.

Dr. Bolliger reported that Mr. H. P. Riesen had been elected as Hon. Secretary of the Club by the Committee. He reminded the members again of the 50th Congress of the Swiss Abroad and expressed the desire that many of us would partake in this important meeting.

The film followed "Backerei Zurrer" which was made about 15 years ago, showed the story of a family quarrel. It was seasoned with good humour and ended with the solution of all the problems between the young and the old generation.

An enjoyable and interesting social event ended at about 10.30 p.m. and will certainly encourage our Committee to organise soon a similar come-together.

E. Berner



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