

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: - (1973)
Heft: 1658

Rubrik: Swiss Club Liverpool

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL Schweizer Maskenball

During an interval in a regular monthly Jazz-evening, two lady members mused over the idea of organising a "Maskenball", in view of their feeling of homesickness for a really gay Swiss Fastnacht. Our member Mrs. Zueger, generously offered the amenities of the Hotel St. Hilary for such an occasion. So, for the first time in the short life of the Swiss Club, Liverpool, this Masked Ball was organised to coincide with the Fastnacht of Switzerland. There were many doubts and words as to how far the courage and enthusiasm of our members would extend. But these were quite unfounded since most members turned up at the "Ball" in exciting, colourful and original costumes. A very splendid Emperor Nero and his Empress in their light togas must have felt the wintry chill! A buccaneer, a milkmaid, a Swiss schoolgirl with her nearly perfect Chinese husband and a genuine *Waggis* to name only a few – all contributed to making this evening a memorable occasion. Everybody enjoyed himself very much. By request, our Doris Zueger served her by now famous Swiss meringues, which never fail to gladden the hearts and palates of her compatriots! There and then, plans were made for next year's costumes and event. It seems that our small but lively Swiss Club has revived a tremendously enjoyable tradition. As often happens, the hands of the clock moved too quickly, but eventually everyone had to return to their more cosmopolitan homes.

Martel Moor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

The Nouvelle Societe Helvetique held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 22nd March at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Kensington. This hotel, managed by a compatriot, Mr. E. E. C. Michel, had been for the first time the venue of the society's A.G.M. last year. This had been necessary following alterations in the Swiss Hostel management no longer allowing for regular pre-meeting meals.

The room reserved for the A.G.M. was somewhat difficult to find and required threading a maze of narrow corridors. Re-election of the Committee was in full process as we arrived, a little late. The voting slips collected by Mr. Franz Fraefel, U.K. Manager of Swissair, revealed that the Society had chosen to re-elect all the 17 members of the Committee and add a new member, Mr. Bernhard Simon, formerly President of the Manchester Swiss Club. He has recently settled down in the London area, as recently announced in these columns.

Dealings of the Meeting were

expeditiously handled with Mr. Mueggeler, our new Secretary (he replaces Mr. Schneiter – who has returned to Berne and left the Political Department), read the minutes of the A.G.M. They were approved after an amendment demanded by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. L. S. R. Asch, regarding what had been said last time in respect of representation of Swiss societies at the Committee.

The President, Mrs. Mariann Meier, recalled that members were having their money's worth (for a £1.50 annual subscription) on considering the excellence of the speakers who had come to our monthly meetings. A look at the Annual Report shows that this was indeed true. Events since the 1972 A.G.M. were the following:

25th May, "A Scotsman looks at Switzerland", illustrated talk by Mr. Marshall Sloan.

22nd June, "Co-ordination of Schooling" – a key problem in Switzerland explained by Mr. Phillippe Garrauz, member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad.

13th July, the Society joins the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund) at a dinner in Richmond.

28th September, "U.K. Delegates report on the Jubilee Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Berne". Dr. H. R. Bolliger speaks on "Political Rights of the Swiss Abroad", Film.

19th October, "Social Security in Switzerland and how it affects the Swiss Abroad", by Consul F. Adams.

16th November, "The Activities of a Swiss Member of Parliament", a talk by Dr. Louis Guisan, Councillor of States and President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.

14th December, Christmas Party with Harpsichord Recital by Gloria Vanoli, Chur.

25th January, 1973, "L'histoire des boites a musique", talk illustrated by records and a film by Mr. Lucian Paillard, Deputy Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad.

22nd February, Film show by courtesy of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad and the Swiss National Tourist Office.

These meetings had taken place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls with the exception of those by Mr. Garraux (School co-ordination) and Dr. Guisan (the life of a Swiss M.P.) both of which were held in the new Swiss Embassy. It was the first that the modern facilities of the Embassy had been used by the Society and the President expressed thanks for the Embassy's kind co-operation.

The President noted a general increase of membership. The Society had lost ten members but gained twenty new ones during the past year. With several contributions from members and

reasonably low costs, the financial situation of the Society was deemed healthy enough not to require additional membership fees. The President said that the £2,000 Youth Club Fund which had been inherited after the war by the Society, and later held in trust by the Embassy, had been given to the Swiss churches. Mrs. Meier said that it was better to make use of this Fund right now, before the value of currency slipped any further. It had therefore been decided to place the money at the disposal of those in charge of the churches' youth activities. The matter had been raised for the first time at the 1972 A.G.M.

The present A.G.M. ended with the President inviting the attendance to make suggestions regarding the future programme and the choice of speakers. Unfortunately, no really useful suggestions were made and the President was left with the unenviable burden of finding adequate speakers for the coming programme.

Dinner was served in a neighbouring room after a half-hour period of drinks and conversation.

A very large attendance filled the U-shaped table. A simple and filling meal, starting with prawn cocktail and ending with fruit salad and coffee *via coq au vin*, chateau potatoes and brussels sprouts, gave rise to nothing but praise.

As usual, by the time the members were taking a second helping of coffee, the President rose and welcomed us all. She proceeded with greeting by name several guests and friends of the Society many of whom were warmly applauded by the table.

Mrs. Meier then revealed the subconscious anguish of preparing such events: She had dreamt of seeing nothing but an empty room with a lonely end-table while decorating the A.G.M. hall during what must obviously have been a nightmarish night. Fortunately, reality proved for once to be nicer than a dream.

The President of the Swiss Benevolent Society, members of its Committee, the President of the Committee of the Swiss Hostel for Girls,

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