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CITY SWISS CLUB JANUARY MEETING

The first monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club, held as usual at the Dorchester Hotel on the 22nd of January, proved to be a great success – not least, may be, thanks to the innovation of permitting members to bring their ladies on this occasion to help providing an adequate audience for the distinguished speakers of the evening. It was made much use of, thus increasing the attendance of members and guests to about eighty. This gratifying response might well encourage the Club to repeat the experiment on some future occasions.

The chief attraction of the evening, however, was the fact that the President, Mr. Ernst Tangemann, had succeeded to get two expert speakers to talk to us after dinner on the highly topical subject of British energy supplies apart from coal. They were Mr. R. W. Orson, Commercial Advisor of the Electricity Council, and Mr. K. Inglis, an economist of the British Petroleum Company, each discussing the theme from their respective angle, interlaced with many humorous asides, but stimulating the audience to a lively discussion at the end.

Our Ambassador, being unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, was represented by his second in command, Minister Jürg Iselin, who took the opportunity to bring along with him as very special guests the members of a Swiss delegation for environment protection who had spent a week in this country studying the British efforts in this field. They were: Mr. Werner Jauslin, States Councillor, Dr. Bruno Boehlen, deputy-director of the Federal Office for Environment protection, Dr. Peter Duerst, chief of the legal section, and Mr. Bruno Milani, chief of the section for the disposal of waste in that same Federal Office, as well as Dr. E. Iselin, deputy-director Sandoz A. G. and environmental specialist of the Swiss chemical industry.

After an excellent meal the President, having dispatched the Club's business including the admission of six new members commendably quickly, first invited Mr. Inglis to speak. Interpreting the familiar BP sign as meaning Better Petrol for Beautiful People, Mr. Inglis spoke reassuringly of the present oil crisis as a temporary phenomenon which will pass sooner or later with the ever changing circumstances of the oil industry. Before the last war, he declared, oil was a specialised fuel for limited uses. Today we could hardly live without oil for almost all our needs. In a way we ought to be grateful to the Arab sheikhs for making us realise how dependent we are on oil in our completely transformed lives. The competition of coal and atomic energy does not worry the oil industry, rather they take the work-load off its hands. There are no new alternatives to oil available – at least not for the next 10 or 20 years. After the phenomenal growth of the world's economy since the war based on low cost energy the oil

companies have as Mr. Inglis admitted, undeniably "suffered a hell of a beating" these last six months. Yet they remain as indispensable as ever before. The remedy is making a more efficient use of all sources of energy to which task the Arabs' new wealth, which must be invested somewhere, could make a vital contribution.

Mr. Orson of the Electricity Council, starting off with an impressive survey of the British system of electric supplies, arrived at not entirely dissimilar conclusions regarding the right solution of the present crisis. England has today, he declared, the biggest integrated electricity system in the world with assets of £5,000 million and an annual turnover of £3,000 million. Contrary to a widespread impression it has increased the use of coal in the last 10 years, consuming half its total production. Due to the action of the oil producing Arab countries the shortage of oil has come sooner than was to be inevitably expected some time in the future. It forces us to think ahead and seek to remedy the situation by more effective uses of the available energy, such as by better methods of heat conservation and insulation of all buildings and homes where two thirds of the energy are lost up the chimney. Nuclear energy will not rapidly displace coal when the right choice of the next generation of reactors has been made. With proper pricing and tariff policies on which the Electricity Council must of course be fully consulted, all needs of electricity could be met after coping with the immediate crisis situation, although on the other hand the new oil prices look forbidding. Much depends on the use the oil-producing countries make of their increased money flow.

Before the meeting ended both speakers had to answer a variety of questions from the floor, States Councillor Jauslin also contributing a short address to the discussion.

SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER

It was on Thursday, the 24th January, 1974, that an important number of members and friends of the Swiss Club, Manchester, flocked together at the hospitable Cottons Hotel in Knutsford for their traditional winter party, the "Raclette", for us always an enjoyable and friendly affair. This particular time we had looked forward to seeing our Consul General and Madame Born, an occasion which might be the last one prior to their departure for the U.S.

Our President, Mr. Peter Senn, opening the proceedings, informed us that Mr. Born, during his stay in Berne, was suddenly taken ill and was now in hospital but quickly recovering. This news came as a great shock to us and the most sincere hope was expressed that he may very soon be restored to his good health and that he will be back in Manchester, if even only for a short time, before leaving us.

Mr. Senn then continued by welcoming everybody present, especially the 14 members of our daughter club in Liverpool, who by their presence strengthened considerably our ranks. He then read a letter of good wishes for a successful evening, just received from Prof. Inebnit.

Following our traditional aperitifs taken at the well-stocked bar and everybody having assured themselves of a good supply of the excellent "Fechy" wine (made available to us thanks to the efforts of the immediate past President Dr. Bolliger, who was absent in Switzerland) we had made ourselves comfortable at the nicely set tables.

We were, however, soon directed to take positions in the queues leading towards the 4 Raclette machines, by now in full activity, worked by our President himself and some other Committee and other prominent members. This "Gomser" cheese was well-supplemented by boiled potatoes and other savouries and the popularity of this typical Swiss fare was best borne out by the

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never-ending pilgrimage to these centres of bounty, some of us, certainly the younger generation, getting six and more helpings.

All the time discreet recorded music, consisting mainly of "Laendlers" and "Yodlers" helped to create a real "Heimatstimmung" and creating a really warm and friendly atmosphere.

We came now to the highlight of the evening, which should have been a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. R. Born but had to be done in their absence. On view was a lovely inscribed silver salver, a gift of the Club to show them their deep appreciation for all the support and affection they had given to us. It was then for the President of the Yorkshire Swiss Club to entrust our new Vice-Consul, Mr. Wegmueller with the task of delivering to them a token of affection and esteem of their compatriots across the Pennines, coupled with the good wishes for a quick recovery in Berne. After this everybody was able to sign a good-wish message to our Consul-General.

We could now again revert to our social activities and as the music gradually switched to dancing tunes, the floor was soon taken over for what must have been a most agreeable physical exercise for many, of the highest "pop" standard, but not everybody's cup of tea.

This happy blend of dance, talk and drink made us not realise how quickly the time had arrived for us to return to our homes, near or far, happy in the knowledge to be looked after so well by a devoted Committee, whom we can only thank by our massive attendance, hoping to meet again under similar circumstances.

E. Berner

I am interested in buying a Swiss stamp collection or accumulation lots of older issues. Offers with full details to: Mr. E. M. Huber, 10 Linton Lawns, Golf Links Road, Ferndown, Dorset.

Birmingham-based Swiss business aircraft operator would appreciate opportunity to uplift light freight to/from Basle. Customs clearance at Birmingham airport. Write or telephone Midland Aero Charter (Birmingham) Ltd., 75 Woodcote Avenue, Kenilworth, Warks. CV8 1BG England. Tel: 0926 55148.

Swiss Hostel for Girls
9, Belsize Grove
London, NW3 4UX

The present resident WARDEN will be leaving soon and we are looking for a person capable of running the Hostel with approx. 70 guests. Rewarding position for suitable applicant. Please contact Mr. F. Robert, Hon. Secretary, at Swiss Embassy, tel. 01-723 0701, ext. 218, for further details.

Compatriot entertains Jersey team to the Commonwealth Games

Mr. Albert Gluck, Swiss proprietor of the Orpheus Club at St. Mary-at-Hill, Eastcheap and of the Pressala Club, Fleet Street, has a blow at a most authentically Swiss instrument. This attempt at re-living memories of the mountain freshness of the home country took place at a recent dinner at the Pressala Club for the 11-man Jersey team who were on their way to the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand. They were entertained by the Swiss Cheese Union and one of the leading exporters of Swiss cheese to the Channel Islands, Motto Foods Ltd. The man on the receiving end of the alphorn is Mr. Gabor Oliver, Sales Promotion Manager of the Swiss Cheese Union.

Says Mr. Oliver: "People in Jersey and Guernsey have a far higher per capita consumption of genuine Swiss cheese than anywhere in the UK. The reason for this is that they have a completely different attitude to life compared with British people - they are more continental and so, like the continentals, view Swiss cheese as part of a staple diet as opposed to a luxury item".

"Entertaining the team was a goodwill gesture to the Island's Swiss cheese distributors, some of whom are closely associated with athletics".

Adds Mr. Gluck: "I am very keen on sports of all kinds and I was delighted to be entertaining the team on behalf of the Swiss Cheese Union".

CULTURAL EVENTS

Wednesday, 27th February. Swiss Embassy, 16 Montagu Place, W.1, 8 p.m. (for free tickets apply to Cultural Attaché); Thursday, 28th February. University of Oxford German Society, 8.15 p.m.; Friday, 1st March. New University of Ulster, Coleraine, 8 p.m.; Thursday, 7th March. University of Bristol, 2 p.m.; Friday, 8th March. University College of Swansea, 2.30 p.m. Reading from his own works (in German) by the writer Adolf Muschg, Professor of German Language and Literature at the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, followed by discussions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE: Thursday, 28th March. Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

SWISS BENEVOLENT FUND OF SCOTLAND: AGM on Saturday, 2nd March, at 112 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, at 7 p.m.

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL: Card evening on 1st Friday of the month at the Dresden Hotel, New Chester Road, Bromborough, Wirral.

Swiss Churches

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH, tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 8 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club Hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15 and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme".

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, WC2, every Sunday at 9.45 a.m. Sunday School takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Liturgical Service takes place every second Sunday in the month. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, SW1 every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service at John Southworth Centre. Every second Sunday of the month at morning Services at Eglise Suisse. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUP S.E.21 and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

Supper at 7 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the month from 12 noon onwards at the Eglise Suisse.

MOTHER'S REUNION: third Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eglise Suisse.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTERS: Pfr. U. Stefan, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.