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LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Forty six members, their wives and guests attended this year's Annual Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel on Friday, 22nd February, which once again proved to be a great success. Following the cocktail hour, during which there were some animated discussions (not all on philatelic matters) the party sat down to an excellent dinner. The palate being well satisfied and spirits raised by some excellent wine, Mr. David Paschoud, President, proposed the loyal toast and a toast to Switzerland and then treated us with what he called his first ever speech in front of an audience. In his own inimitable and humorous way he made everybody laugh from beginning to end, helped by some good-humoured heckling by some of the members. He paid tribute to some members of the committee for the help given to him in organizing this function as well as for the work they had done during his first year as President of the Society. He was especially pleased by the great number that turned up this evening to support him on this occasion and he hoped they were enjoying themselves as much as he was.

Mr. H. C. Gay, winner of this year's Cup Competition, was presented with the Silver Cup, as well as a small replica for

his success the previous year. During coffee time some ladies circulated round the tables selling raffle tickets, which brought in a most satisfactory amount to help out the Society's funds. Whether the success was due to the charm of the ticket sellers or the attractive prizes displayed on a separate table I cannot say, at all events the tickets went like hot-cakes and soon the tables were covered with them in all colours.

There followed the traditional auction in aid of charities, ably handled by Mr. M. Uehlinger. This proved to be equally successful and some lively bidding for about 25 philatelic items resulted in a collection of £54 which was supplemented by a donation of £6 by one of the guests. The total of £60 thus collected will be donated in equal shares to the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Marie Curie Foundation for Cancer Research. Mr. Rothlisberger, Hon. Treasurer, expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Society as well as on behalf of the two charities, for the generous support given by all present and mentioned that both collections must have broken all records in recent years.

Thus came to an end another most successful annual event in the calendar of the London-Swiss Philatelic Society and the new President, Mr. Paschoud, must

have been well pleased with the enthusiastic support he has received on this, his first occasion in the chair.

E.M.H.

Dinner Dance of the Yorkshire Swiss Club

On Saturday, 2nd March, 1974 members and friends met at the Mansion Hotel, Roundhay Park, Leeds, for a social function, for the first time tried out in this way and it is to be hoped that this may be the beginning of a long series of similar happy events. The hotel, set in a lovely park, received us in a most pleasant way and we felt quickly at home and the meeting of many old friends, of new acquaintances, the animated chats during aperitifs soon created a warm and congenial atmosphere which would stay with us for the whole evening. We were particularly glad to meet our new Vice-Consul Mr. Wegmueller and his charming family who represented our Consul General and Madame Born, unable to be with us this particular evening.

As we moved on to the inviting dining-room we could admire the nice set-up, the tasteful flower-decorations and table-flags, all enhancing the Swiss character of the evening, so more so as our dear veteran member Mr. Paul Lerch appeared in a most attractive Bernese

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