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The following subscribers will celebrate their birthdays during March: Mr. F. G. Sommer will be 84 on 1st, Mr. E. Hardmeier, 88 on 3rd and Mrs. L. Gradmann, 78 on 9th March. The same day is the birthday of Mr. R. A. Marchand (Bienne) who will be 84. Mrs. L. Bucherer has her birthday on 13th of the month, and Dr. H. W. Egli will be 77 on 17th March. Mr. H. Vonwiller will be 82 on 20th March, which is also the birthday of Mr. P. Bessire. Albert Ferber will be 65 on 29th of the month. Mr. R. H. Senn has his 65th birthday on 30th March.

And, as a footnote, your editor George Sommer celebrates his birthday on 11th March.

To these and any other readers who will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, best wishes and congratulations!



Forthcoming events

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY, Friday, 27th February, 1976 — Annual Dinner at the Presscal Club, Fleet Street.

WEDNESDAY, 31st March, 1976 — Monthly meeting followed by C.P.G. slides.

10th FEBRUARY until 28th March at the Victoria and Albert Museum. OTTO KÜNZLI will be among the 25 leading artists participating in the Jewellery in Europe exhibition.

THURSDAY, 26th February, 7 p.m. at Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, NW3 — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — FILM SHOW — All Swiss and their friends welcome.

NOW at the Phoenix Cinema (opposite East Finchley Station), 2.05, 4.00, 6.15 and 8.30 p.m. — Rolf Lyssy's film KONFRONTATION: Assassination in Davos.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY, Wednesday, 10th March, 1976. Annual General Meeting at 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W1, at 7.15 p.m.

THURSDAY, 4th March — Schweizerbund Swiss Club — a.g.m. at 18.30. Dinner at 19.30 at Valchera's Restaurant, 30 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey.

Swiss Rifle Association-

DINNER AND DANCE AT THE PICCADILLY HOTEL

"Precious Memories — How they linger — How they ever turn my soul." Such words could be rightfully put over the successful event of the Swiss Rifle Association, who, for the first time, tried to celebrate the end of the shooting season with a Dinner and Dance. Already on receiving the invitation one realised that the organisers knew well enough what they had let themselves in for.

A Grümpelschiessen with plenty to eat and to drink, with trophies and medals and at the end the ladies in cars outside to bring their husbands safely home, such a thing could well be expected from Swiss Marksmen and Crackshots.

But an elegant Dinner and Dance in the Piccadilly Hotel, with the Ladies and Friends in a friendly and cheerful atmosphere of gentle restraint, one had to be present to believe it possible. A Captain Bürgisser, as a host in impeccable Swiss Army uniform and a stiff upperlip could have been imagined, but meeting him and be welcomed by him and his charming wife, who showed such graceful taste and real classical beauty, was a delightful surprise and a pleasure for everyone present. The entire evening was dominated by an open friendliness and comradeship and when, during the dinner, the two Guests of Honour, Mr. D. Cantlay of the Surrey Rifle Association and Mr. B. S. Adams of the Kensignton Rifle & Pistol Club, praised this quality of the Swiss Rifle Association as a great experience in their lives, everyone knew at once that they meant it and knew what they were talking about.

The President, Marcel Bucherer who, as usual, kept discreetly in the background was greeted with a joyful and sincere applause when he made his appearance by opening the Dinner. After a short prayer an excellent dinner, gracefully presented and served, was a joy for the eye as well as for the tongue. And there was happy dancing to the well performed and cheerful music of Peter Regen Ensemble. A splendid Tombola with precious prizes and many happy winners enlivened the evening. The highlight, of course, was the annual presentation of medals and trophies for

the 1975 season including the Grümpelschiessen prizes.

The Challenge Cup went to M. Bucherer with B. Kett and P. Fischer hard behind him. P. Fischer then overtook him for the Senior Cup and B. Kett won the Ruedisser Schield. Again the Talbot Cup was taken by P. Fischer with L. Jobin and M. Bucherer in second place. The "Einzelwettschiessen" showed again the same crackshots in slightly different positions: M. Bucherer — P. Fischer — B. Kett. St. Gallen was won by J. Tresch and A. Lötscher, Zürich by B. Jaeggi and B. Gygax. The champion of the "Feldschiessen" was B. Kett followed by P. Fischer and J. Tresch, and "Grümpel" went to L. Jaeggi and W. Trauffer. In the compulsory Army Programme M. Bucherer was again the hero followed by P. Fischer and J. Tresch. Though most of the honours went to the same people, no sign of envy showed up in the faces of the many other marksmen — they were kept with discretion and discipline in the heart. Applause and joy showed the pride and happiness of a team for their winners and even those whose name did not appear on any list of honours were proud of belonging to this excellent company of Swiss Marksmen and Crackshots.

It really was a very successful evening and the President expressed in his thanks the feeling of everyone present: Congratulations and gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of the evening. To the ladies for their charm and grace, to the guests for their joyful participation, to the marksmen for the spirit of comradeship and competition and always ready to help on the shooting range and last but not least to the organisers, B. Kett and A. Lötscher, P. Regen Ensemble and the management and staff of the Piccadilly Hotel. In the midst at one of the tables was the oldest member, one of the founders, Adolf Schmid, who will celebrate his 90th birthday this year and the big smile on his happy face made it clear to everybody that this was one of his very happy days, and that he is looking forward to next year's Dinner and Dance. And so do all who were present!