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CITY SWISS CLUB'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 30 members attended the Club's A.G.M. in the Dorchester Hotel on 27th April.

The President, Mr. R. M. Suess, reporting on the Club's activities referred to the Summer Dance at Great Fosters in Egham last July which was attended by over 150 members and guests. Equally successful were the 110th Annual Banquet and Ball which was attended by the Swiss Ambassador, Lord and Lady Sandford and Monsieur M. Ney and an evening dedicated to wine tasting in an old cellar south of the Thames. The Christmas Dinner was enhanced by the ladies present, carol singing and a warm atmosphere and 18 gourmets joined the Soirée Gastronomique César Ritz in January. Somewhat below par was the attendance at the October meeting when Madame Colett Muret spoke to an all male audience, in February when Mr. Brian Crozier, Director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, spoke on "the subversive apparatus of the Soviet Union" and at the two card evenings which took place during the year. A similar programme was envisaged for the next twelve months and it was hoped that by injecting new ideas the number of attendants could be raised.

The Treasurer, Mr. H. Jauslin, presented the accounts and reported that expenses of just over £500 were necessary in order to support the Club's activities during the year. Another heavy expense was stationery. The necessary envelopes to dispatch the Club's invitations were now produced by Computer and a bulk supply lasting for eight or nine years had to be purchased. On the credit side he was happy to report an increase in interest mainly from bank deposits and as far as the Charity Fund account was

concerned a large increase in the tombola proceeds from the Ball amounting to over £1,000.

The members' subscriptions having remained at a nowadays unrealistic level were raised.

Due to the increased tombola proceeds referred to above the meeting also approved an increase of the donations to the Swiss Charities in London by £100 to £250 for each charity for which Mr. M. Schneebeli thanked on behalf of the Swiss Benevolent Society and Father Bossard on behalf of the Churches.

All the Club's officers were re-elected under the Chairmanship of Mr. E. Tangemann. Finally the President briefed the meeting on the forthcoming events, i.e. on a card evening at the new "Swiss Imbiss" Restaurant of the Swiss Centre on 18th May, on the Summer Dance on 16th July, on the Annual Banquet and Ball on 19th November and on the Christmas Dinner on 17th December.

H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. E. Thalmann, joined the dinner which took place after the meeting. He thanked the Club for their hospitality and agreed to be their Honorary President. The year when the Club was founded, 1856, was also the year when the treaty of friendship, commerce and reciprocal establishment of 6th September, 1855 between the U.K. and Switzerland was accepted. The Embassy shared with the Club the common purpose of cohesion among the Swiss and of friendship towards the British and the Ambassador ended his speech by extending his best wishes to the Club and its members.

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AND PLEASE NOTE

The City Swiss will be holding its Summer Dance at Great Fosters, Egham, Surrey on Friday, 16th July. For details watch for advertisement in our next issue.

Protest lodged

ZÜRICH. The International Press Institute has protested to East Germany for banning three West German journalists from the Leipzig Trade Fair in March.

East Germany had claimed that the three journalists were working for radio stations interfering in the internal affairs of East European countries.

But IPI Director Peter Galliner, in a protest telegram expressing the Institute's "consternation" at the ban, described the East German action as inadmissible and incompatible with the spirit of last year's Helsinki declaration at the European Security Conference.

The International Press Institute represents nearly 2,000 publishers, editors and broadcasters in more than 60 countries.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS TAKE FAVOURABLE TURN

The Swiss Government has estimated that Switzerland's balance of payments for 1975 has reached a record surplus of some 8 billion francs. This compares with a mere 510 million the year before. The surplus represents about six per cent of the country's gross national product, a very high figure for a Western industrialised nation.

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