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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION FIRES ANOTHER VOLLEY

After a successful evening which crowned the activities of 1975, the Swiss Rifle Association ended its programme for the year with its second Dinner and Dance at the Piccadilly Hotel on the 2nd October, 1976.

It was only fair that the ladies who, during the year, have often accompanied their husbands, have watched and encouraged their performance and brought life and merriment to the social gathering, be present when the results and trophies were given and celebrated. And sure enough, there was reason for celebration. Seven successful meetings were held, 3,780 shots were fired and 22 members took part in the various competitions.

There were two friendly matches, one against Marylebone Rifle Club which was won by 8 points and one against the powerful Surrey Rifle Association which was lost with good grace. And — for the first time — pistol shooting was introduced.

In an atmosphere which at once made one feel at home, members and guests gathered at 7 p.m. in the reception hall and admired the marvellous flower arrangements, the rich assortment of tombola prizes and trophies, and were amused and thrilled by the roasted pig that dominated the display. The President and his Lady, Mr. M. Bucherer and Mrs. L. Bucherer, were welcomed with applause and it was felt that the members not only greeted their Club leader but also their admired crackshot.

In the absence of the chaplain, who was otherwise engaged but was able to join later in the evening, Vice-President P. Fischer said grace and opened the delicious dinner which not only delighted the members and guests but also the waiters and the chef de cuisine who joyfully watched the appreciation of their assembled guests.

When, after the loyal toast, cigar and brissago smoke began to rise, the Vice-President greeted the guests, Col. and Mrs. H. Fisher, the Swiss Military Attaché, Mr. and Mrs. J. Slater of the Surrey Rifle Association and Mr. and Mrs. G. Valler, Marylebone Rifle & Pistol Club and expressed his great appreciation of the friendship and the spirit of sport in which the English are masters and a constant encouragement to their friends from Switzerland.

And, of course, the oldest member who happily shared his brissagos around the table and will reach the age of 90 years in February, 1977, Mr. Adolf Schmid, had to be mentioned, how he appeared on the shooting range, fired just one shot — it was a 9 — stood up and said: "This is enough for to-day, I know that I still can do it". The pride of all for having members like him, echoed from the applause given to this true anecdote.

When the tables were cleared for the dancing the Ladies Dress Length Competition began. But no tape-measure was needed, instead everybody wondered whether they could guess the number of beans in a jar — which certainly was no man's guess.

At the presentation of prizes and awards for the 1976 Shooting Season it was no wonder that Marcel Bucherer, the President, took the cream from the milk: The Senior Cup, the Rudisser Cup, No. 1 in Obligatorium, Feldschiessen und Einzelwettschiessen. P. Fischer followed with

the Challenge Cup and the No. 1 Grumpelschiessen, W. Trauffer took the Talbot and No. 1 im Auslandschweizer-Fernschiessen, A. Lötscher was first in Zürich-Stich and J. Wetter proved himself to be No. 1 in Pistol-shooting.

The Dancing was led by Peter Regan Ensemble and was enjoyed to the full until 2 o'clock in the morning, the intervals being filled with announcements of Competition and Tombola winners and with the selection of the different Prizes.

And when the time came for departure, everybody remembered the word of thanks, expressed earlier in the evening to the Hon. Secretary B. D. Kett and Armin Lötscher for having so successfully organised the evening with so much imagination and hard work that it will remain a pleasant memory for weeks and months to come. One question still remains in the heart of many a lady — when will they be allowed to take part in the competitions — perhaps in 1977?????

PB

Advent concert and Christmas get-together

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

Two artists not unknown in the Swiss community gave a pre-Christmas Concert at the Swiss Church in Endell Street on Thursday, 16th December. Ian Mitchell (clarinet) and Lennart Rabes (piano) were welcomed by the NSH President, Mrs. Mariann Meier, and the artists in turn introduced the works performed. The concert opened with Grieg's Holberg Suite. This was originally composed for the piano, but today, one hears more often the transcription for orchestra by Grieg himself. Lennart Rabes played the suite with great competence and brilliance.

Next came Weber's Grand Duo Concertant, Op. 48, for clarinet and piano. The two artists played this delightful composition in excellent harmony, and the fine clarinet playing was particularly pleasing.

Mrs. Ian Mitchell then read two short poems on cats by T. S. Eliot, and

this was followed by the Cat Variations for clarinet and piano by Humphrey Searle. The audience responded with good humour and obvious enjoyment.

Lennart Rabes then played two Chopin studies in F minor and C minor, showing his great sensitivity and lyrical phrasing.

During the short intervals, the Christmas story according to St. Luke and a short prayer were given by Father Bossard and the Rev. Orna-Ornstein.

The concert ended by "Oh du Froehliche" sung by the audience accompanied on the organ.

Then followed the Christmas Get-together of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in the beautifully decorated hall of the Church. Some 800 members and friends sat down to seasonal refreshments, and thanks were expressed to Mrs. Meier for making such excellent arrangements.

MG



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