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RIFLE ASSOCIATION AGM – A BULL'S EYE!

On Tuesday, 22nd March, 1977, at the St. Moritz Club, 161 Wardour Street, on the occasion of the Swiss Rifle Association's AGM, the oldest member and co-founder of the club, Mr. Adolf Schmid with his 90 years behind him, helped the womenfolk to win a battle they had been fighting for behind the screens for many years. By a unanimous decision the doors of the club have been opened to them and a happy President, Marcel Bucherer, exclaimed: "Gentlemen, to-day, the Swiss Rifle Association has finally come of age!"

From a superficial view of an outsider it looked like a conspiracy – but I can assure you, it was not so. Anybody who had studied the previous report in the *Swiss Observer* (Feb. 77) could have guessed it was on the cards and it was just an unfortunate oversight that the AGM of the "men only" Swiss Rifle Association – which is usually well prepared and repeated every year and therefore not too interesting – collided with a "Swiss Bauernbuffet" and a conducted gourmet-tour through the kitchen of the Dorchester hotel, organised by the "men only" City Swiss Club.

But there is no doubt, this time the AGM shot a bull's-eye, the business part was short, to the point, in a friendly spirit of constructive suggestions and criticism, and the result was a victory of common-sense. It began at 7.30, after a refreshing drink from the beer barrel of the host, Armin Lötscher, and a deliciously prepared starter of something similar to

bull's-eyes, which was served with a twinkle in the eye – the last meal of a "men only society".

The president gave a short summary of the year's activities and ended with the good news that pistol shooting would be introduced on a general scale. Berne has promised to send four army pistols with ammunition and the Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club is prepared to introduce and coach the members on their Pistol Range. A special event was pointed out, the 13th and 14th May, when the Zofingen Rifle Association will visit London and accept a challenge of the Swiss Rifle Association in a friendly match.

B. D. Kett, the Hon. Treasurer, presented the accounts, well set out and carefully kept, proving that the club has offered the members good value of sport and entertainment for the money paid in membership fees. In view of the present situation a rise of membership fees to £6 – was proposed and accepted.

In a friendly ceremony the oldest member, Adolf Schmid, for the occasion of his fulfilled 90 years on 1st February, 1977, and for his great service to the club, was handed a memorial tablet. With his usual charm and humour he received it and expressed his appreciation and thanks without being ashamed of his emotions, while the chaplain desperately tried to shoot him with his camera, misfired and tried again until he seemed to get the target. That he had to pay him a visit some days later to have another

shot is something he does not like to talk about.

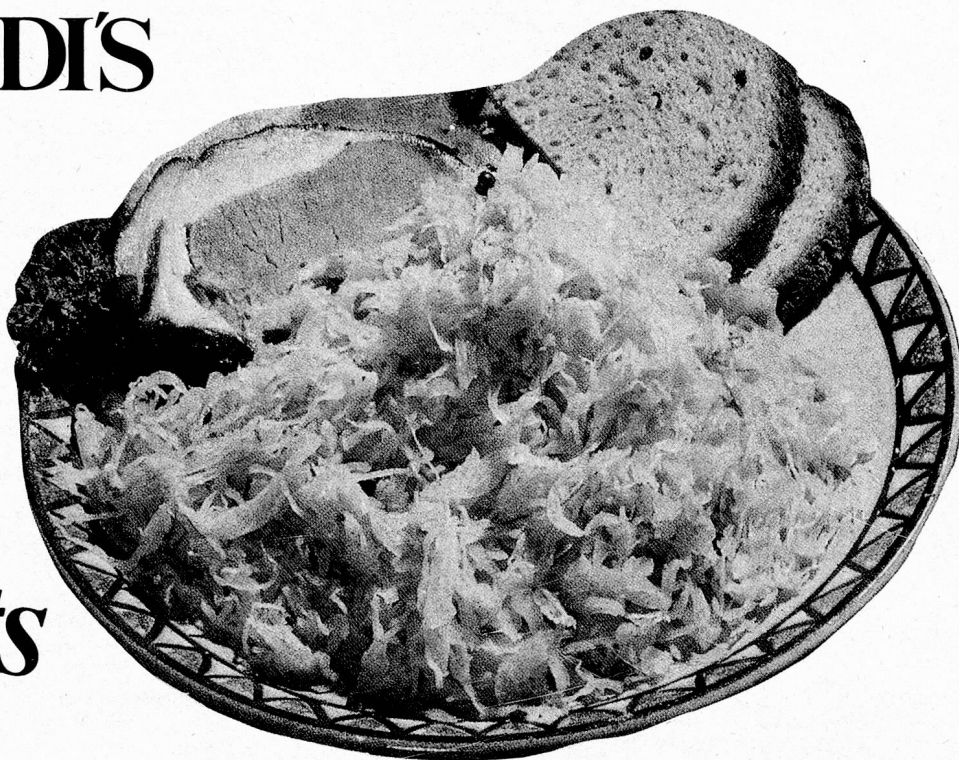
Mr. Schmid then took the chair, thanked the members of the committee for their great work and valuable service, especially the Secretary and Treasurer B. D. Kett and Armin Lötscher and all the members for their constant and loyal support and proposed re-election of the Committee en block which was done with applause before he could finish the sentence.

Then came the final volley, which had been gathering momentum throughout the meeting. It was a change in the Constitution which only an AGM could decide. (For anyone, who regrets this change it is a lesson: an AGM means business.) A vote, that the Committee be entitled to grant full membership to ladies of members and their daughters over 18 years of age, was unanimously accepted, and so the Swiss Rifle Association ceased to be a "men only club". Details of precautions for safety and shooting discipline were then discussed – after all, a loaded rifle and a pistol are instruments which have to be treated with respect and not with enthusiasm and emotions.

The meeting ended at 8.45 in a spirit of friendly satisfaction – but it was by no means the end. An excellent meal, prepared by the host, and a good amount of ammunition from the cellar of the St. Moritz, was waiting upstairs in the cosy Swiss Restaurant which kept the unofficial meeting going until well

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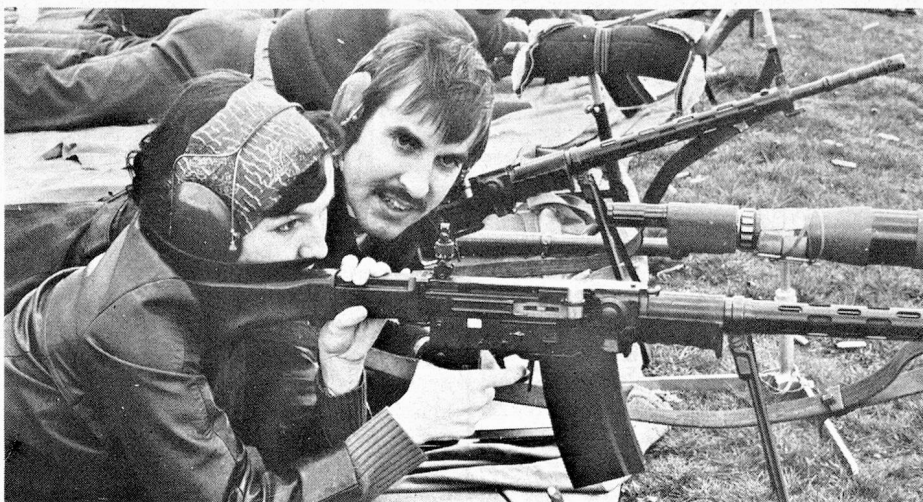
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towards midnight, when it was felt that the good result of the day's shooting had to be announced to the wife who was waiting at home and, perhaps, be present at the next annual general meeting. P.B.

On the following dates there will be shooting at the Bisley Range: 22nd May — 5th June — 19th June — 4th September — 18th September — 2nd October.



Adolf Schmid is presented with a memorial tablet by the Swiss Rifle Association to mark his 90th birthday. Photo by P. Bossard.



The first ladies to shoot at Bisley with the SRA are, above Marlene Schmid and, below Giselle Schaerer.



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