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THE annual dinner of the London Swiss Philatelic Society took place recently at the Throgmorton Restaurant in London. Some 40 persons attended, and, after the welcoming glass of sherry, sat down to the main meal that was to be followed by a tombola and an auction.

With refreshment time over, Mr Foster, acting as toastmaster, called on our president, Mr Burren.

After proposing the toast of the Queen, followed by Switzerland, Mr Burren recalled the previous dinners of the society. The first ones were held at the Glendower Hotel during the war. In those days evening meetings were difficult, so this event became a lunch time social.

After the war the society held its dinner at the Montague Hotel, the Dorchester Hotel, the Frescati Restaurant, and finally at the Throgmorton Restaurant.

Mr Burren then welcomed

Consul-General and Mrs Keller, Mrs Meier, hon. member and until recently president of the NSH, as well as Mr Mäder and his wife, who were almost guests since they had only very recently become society members.

A note of regret was sounded when he wished Mr Mathez a speedy recovery from the illness that had prevented him from attending.

Mr Burren then thanked the members of his committee for their help during the year, with a special mention to Mr Hausermann for his work as treasurer, Mr Huber for his packet work, and especially to Mr Foster for once again making all the arrangements for the dinner.

London Swiss Philatelic Society annual dinner

A round of applause echoed these views among those present. Mr Burren finished by proposing the toast of the guests.

Mr Roger Gould replied on behalf of the guests. He was grateful to do this as he had attended several previous dinners, and could now publicly thank all present for the excellence of these evenings.

He praised the tombola and auction as well-supported ways of helping worthwhile charities, and wished the society all the best for the future.

An excellent range of tombola items raised a total of £65 for the society.

Finally there was the auction. It started with four items that had

been put in from the tombola which raised £15.50.

A varied range of philatelic items was generously offered for sale. These included a Swiss mixture packet for £4, a Spanish Olympic set for £1.50 and a collection of 1920 Japan for £4.

As with normal evening society meetings, the auctioneer was Mr Huber, and the money collected by Mr Foster. At the finish Mr Hausermann informed us that sales and a donation had amounted to £83, and this was to be donated equally to the Swiss Benevolent Society and Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

So ended another most enjoyable evening.

M.M. Smith

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Patriotic reminder

EVERY year on the Swiss National Day great speeches of a patriotic nature are made. Bonfires are lit as signs of freedom. One wears the 1st August badge, a different one every year, and one buys the special "Pro Patria" stamps.

This year the proceeds of the sale will go to institutions and organisations benefiting the Swiss abroad – the Organisation and its Secretariat, the Swiss Schools abroad, the Solidarity Fund and any other similar body – all ultimately in our own interest.

This year's badge is rather pretty and imaginative, a folded printed piece of material with a Swiss cross pin. Not only something for the collection box, but useful as cocktail coasters – cheap at 60 pence a piece!

We abroad cannot use the special stamps, but we can ask our friends and relations to buy them on our behalf.

So remember to get your badge from your embassy, consulate or your local Swiss society.

Just one point in it

THE Swiss soccer season – which always lasts well into the summer – is heading for one of its most exciting climaxes in years.

With the leading clubs all facing their final match of the season, only one point still separates the top three teams.

Geneva Servette have 43 points, followed by Sion and Zurich Grasshoppers both on 42.

Servette and Sion have a far

superior goal average than the Grasshoppers – but an unusual feature of the Swiss soccer system is that goal average alone never decides the championship.

If any or all of these three teams top the table with equal points after the last game, then a play-off will be necessary.

Servette are chasing the coveted league and cup double and, as this month's Swiss

Observer went to press, were preparing to meet Lausanne in only the second all *Suisse Romande* final in 20 years.

Grasshoppers won the cup and league last year, beating Servette by one point in the league and defeating them in the cup final.

According to a pre-season computer prediction by a Swiss magazine the league champions this year will be Grasshoppers.

Football League tables up to and including June 5

'A' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts	'B' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Geneva Servette	29	19	5	5	66	30	Zug	29	15	9	5	61	32
Sion	29	18	6	5	71	36	Winterthur	29	15	9	5	55	43
Zurich Grasshoppers	29	18	6	5	56	31	Lugano	29	13	11	5	58	34
St Gallen	29	16	8	5	55	38	Martigny	29	12	7	10	44	36
Neuchatel Xamax	29	15	9	5	53	26	Baden	29	12	7	10	58	53
Lausanne	29	13	7	9	46	34	Mendrisio	29	9	12	8	41	33
Ch-de-Fds.	29	11	9	9	49	45	Bulle	29	11	7	11	46	45
Wettingen	29	12	6	11	42	40	Locarno	29	9	11	9	44	48
Basle	29	10	6	13	50	58	Chénois	29	10	9	10	38	46
Aarau	29	8	9	12	46	41	Biel	29	8	12	9	44	47
Berne-Young Boys	30	8	9	13	39	40	Laufen	29	8	12	9	38	45
Zurich	29	8	8	13	38	52	Grenchen	29	7	12	10	39	44
Lucerne	29	9	4	16	34	49	Monthey	29	7	10	12	33	40
Vevey	29	8	6	15	40	64	Fribourg	29	8	7	14	37	50
Bellinzona	29	4	4	21	29	74	Basle-Nordstern	29	6	9	14	34	59
Chiasso	30	4	2	24	26	82	Zurich Red Star	29	8	4	17	47	62

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