

City Swiss Club : annual general meeting

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CITY SWISS CLUB



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the City Swiss Club was held on April 28th at the Dorchester Hotel, London. The President, Mr. M. A. Keller, welcomed members and expressed his particular pleasure at the presence for the first time at a City Swiss Club function of H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Mr. Beat de Fischer, to whom he conveyed the members' gratitude for having accepted the office of Honorary President.

He announced the death of Mr. M. E. Hauwyler, who had been an active member of the Club since 1947. Mr. Hauwyler's memory was honoured by those present in the customary manner.

The minutes of the previous meeting, for the first time in English, were then read and accepted.

In accordance with established tradition, the Rev. F. Jaccot and the Rev. R. Kaegi were elected to honorary membership of the Club. Mr. E. Ribordy and Mr. W. F. Steinmann were also elected as active members.

In the President's report, Mr. Keller gave a brief résumé of the Club's activities during its 107th year. The year under review, he said, had brought only one major development and this was the project for the erection at Leicester Square of the Swiss Centre, which should be ready for occupation before the next annual general meeting.

He reported that the activities during 1963/64 included: July — dinner-dance at Great Fosters (attendance 100); October — address by Sir Stanley Rous (attendance 76); November — annual banquet and ball, address by Lord Mancroft, cabaret, tombola, which raised £85.5s. for the Benevolent Society (attendance 200); December — Christmas Dinner (attendance 100); February — Family

Evening, Film show (attendance 120); March — Swiss Centre/Club House Fund (attendance 43); May/September/January — Card Evenings (average attendance 17).

During 1963/64 four members had died, four had resigned and 14 new members had been elected. The total membership at the beginning of April, 1964, including honorary, passive, de passage, overseas and active members, stood at 237.

Mr. Keller thanked Mr. Ronus for his hospitality and congratulated Mr. Käufeler on the excellence of the food.

The Treasurer presented his report for the year. It showed an excess of income over expenditure of £45, after taking into account interest and dividends amounting to £160 transferred from the Club House Fund. In the absence of both auditors, the Secretary spoke on their behalf and proposed acceptance of the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted.

Mr. Keller then handed the meeting over to Dr. Speckert, who had agreed to act as Chairman *pro tem* for the election of the new committee. Dr. Speckert thanked the retiring committee for their efforts in the past and announced that, with the exception of Mr. A. J. Mattlé, Treasurer, and Mr. H. Keller, Auditor, all members of the committee were prepared to serve in their present office for another year. He proposed their re-election with Mr. A. Kuhn in place of Mr. Mattlé and Mr. H. Grueninger replacing Mr. H. Keller. The vote was unanimous in favour of a new committee consisting of: Mr. M. A. Keller, Swissair's General Manager for the U.K. and Ireland (President), Mr. A. Kunz, General Manager of the Swiss National Tourist Office (Vice-President), Mr. H. Jauslin (Secretary), Mr. L. F. Jobin (Asst. Secretary), Mr. A. Kuhn (Treasurer), Mr. G. A. Ronus (Asst. Treasurer), Mr. J. P. Christen (Additional Member), Mr. B. O. Cogliatti (Auditor), Mr. H. M. Grueninger (Auditor). The new elected trustees of the Club House Fund were: Mr. E. H. Burnier, Mr. R. Keller, Mr. A. Stauffer. Mr. A. Stauffer was also re-elected Press Reporter.

Mr. Keller, on resuming the chair, drew the members' attention to the Fête Suisse taking place on June 12th on board the "Royal Sovereign". It was important that everybody who could possibly do so should support the function, since a minimum of 1,800 tickets would have to be sold to make it a success. He asked members to reserve Friday, July 3rd, for the Club's dinner-dance at Great Fosters.

The Secretary then read the revised rules. A number of proposals, mainly of an editorial nature, was incorporated into the draft which was then accepted unanimously as the new constitution of the Club, with immediate effect. In pursuance of Article 14 of the new rules, the meeting decided to leave the annual subscription at £2 for 1964/65.

The President introduced the subject of the multi-purpose room at the new Swiss Centre. He recalled that the previous meeting had instructed the Committee to work out the text of a resolution for presentation to the annual general meeting concerning the contribution of the Club House Fund towards a sum of about £20,000 needed for decoration, furnishing and fitting out the multi-purpose room. For the benefit of those who had missed the previous meeting, Mr. Kunz again gave a brief description of the project and answered questions regarding the facilities which would be available.

After animated discussion the following resolution was agreed: "It is resolved that this meeting authorise the

Committee and the three Trustees of the Club House Fund jointly to negotiate and conclude an agreement regarding the use of all or part of the Club House Fund for the purpose of helping to create a multi-purpose room at the Swiss Centre. The authority to conclude such an agreement shall be subject to the following conditions: (a) that the negotiations currently being conducted with the Swiss Federal Government regarding their financial contribution towards this project are concluded to the satisfaction of the extended Committee and (b) that the City Swiss Club shall enjoy representation on the body administering the multi-purpose room commensurate with the Club's contribution."

In the ensuing vote, proposed by Mr. Bonvin and seconded by Mr. Tobler, the resolution was accepted, with 38 votes in favour and three against. The President informed the meeting that in accordance with Article 22 of the Rules — the resolution would be put forward for a second vote at the next meeting, which would take place on May 26th.

Mr. Bonvin proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ronus and Mr. Käufeler for the very friendly hospitality extended by them to the Club during the past year. This sentiment was enthusiastically applauded.

X.Y.Z.

* * *

The second annual general meeting, preceded by dinner, took place at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Tuesday, 26th May. Mr. M. A. Keller was in the Chair. In opening the meeting he welcomed Monsieur M. Heimo, Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy, congratulating him on his promotion to First Counsellor of Embassy, and Mr. E. Tosio, Consul.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted, and one new member was elected. The principal item on the Agenda concerned the re-submission (according to Art. 22 of the Club's Rules) of the committee's proposal regarding the use of all, or part of the Club House Fund for the purpose of helping to create a Multi-Purpose Room at the Swiss Centre.

For the benefit of those who did not attend the first meeting, the president gave some particulars about the scheme. After a short discussion the committee's proposal was accepted by a large majority.

A number of donations were proposed and accepted. Close of the meeting 9.50 p.m.

ST.

Press Reporter, C.S.C.

* * *

In the issue of April 10th it was mentioned in my report about the Meeting of the City Swiss Club (March 24th), that Messrs. Brown-Boveri would move into the "Swiss Centre" on completion.

This, I learn, is not so and I tender my apologies to Messrs. Brown-Boveri for any inconvenience this statement might have caused them.

ST.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 26th June. We shall be grateful to receive reports and articles not later than the first post on Wednesday, 17th June. Only short news items can be accepted later.

SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER

Members and friends met at the Midland Hotel on Thursday, 14th May, for a film show. The President, Mr. Berner and Mrs. Berner greeted Mr. and Mrs. Buchmann in the lounge and, together with about a dozen more club members, first had dinner in the Grill Room. Afterwards we went upstairs, where we found more members waiting to see the films of Mr. and Mrs. Buchmann's visit to the United States.

We were made nostalgic with a beautiful scene of Berne Glockenturm, the Bundeshaus and, of course, the bear pit. Then on to Miami beach with its white sands and deep blue sea, the very modern hotels, motels and private houses with swimming pools, which were so realistic, it seemed we could jump in! As did Mr. and Mrs. Buchmann in the film. The Oceanic Pool with its performing dolphins, the leaping porpoises and a friendly-looking shark were most interesting. On then to Cherokee, the Indian Village with traditional dancing and dress. Finally to New York, which looked a little grey in the early morning light. A plane at Idlewild was the last picture of a very interesting trip to the States. Back to Switzerland with scenes of the snow-clad village of Fidaz.

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Buchmann, for the pleasure these films gave us.

S. T.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

London Group

Tuesday, 23rd June, at 7.45 p.m.

Swiss Hostel for Girls,

9/11, Belsize Grove, N.W.3

OPEN MEETING

devoted to an informal discussion of current questions of interest to our colony raised by anyone present.

It is hoped there will be plenty of time left for a little sociability before the long summer break.

All Swiss and their friends welcome

N.S.H.

ACUTE PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN LABOUR AND EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND

Two of the most acute present-day problems in Switzerland were the subjects of the last meetings organised by the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique: that of the excessive dependence of the Swiss economy on foreign labour and the more general problem of maintaining a good level of all-round education in a period of increasing scarcity of truly devoted teachers. For each of these talks the N.S.H. was lucky enough to secure first class lecturers from Switzerland, who happened to take