

Swiss Rifle Association

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report ever issued about a function in the Swiss Colony. But then it was an unusual kind of gathering. The most striking thing about it was the sense of easy enjoyment which seemed to prevail. I have since heard that many of the younger generation did not enjoy themselves. This is in stark contrast to the views of the older compatriots who relished the chance of spontaneous chats, the lack of formalities and the freedom to do as one pleased. Perhaps the verdict is typical of the outlook of the generations. The older people are still capable of enjoying themselves, just by being together, whereas the younger age-groups who have been brought up with all mod. con. need entertainment, dancing and other stimulating media to create enjoyment. Yet, it was they who were admitted at half price. I have no doubt that some of them even blamed the organisers for the thunderstorm which broke shortly before the boat returned to the Tower. Yet, I know there were youngsters who truly appreciated the efforts made for their enjoyment and who spent a happy evening aboard M.V. "Royal Sovereign". Generalisations are always dangerous, and it is an old saying that the art to please everybody has never yet been mastered by any man or woman. I for one enjoyed myself greatly, and as far as I am concerned, the eighty-seventh Fête Suisse was a success.

Mariann.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Rifle Association took place on Friday, 15th May, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, the headquarters of the Association. Owing to the proximity of the Whitsun holidays the attendance was somewhat smaller than on former occasions.

The Swiss Rifle Association is one of the Societies which does not make much noise in the Colony — all the noise is made at the shooting range at Bisley — but it consists of a happy band of men enthusiastically devoted to carrying on our national sport.

Mr. Alfred Schmid was in the Chair. After the minutes of the last General Meeting were read by Mr. F. Magnin, Honorary Secretary, the latter in the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. H. Straub, presented and explained the accounts, which showed a balance on the "right side". Both minutes and accounts were accepted.

The President gave a survey of the Association's activities during the last year, mentioning that by the end of 1963, the Swiss Rifle Association numbered two Honorary Members and seventy-four active members (1962: 83), the slight reduction was due to some members having left the country. Eight shooting practices were held at Bisley, and 6,130 (1962: 4,170) rounds of ammunition were used.

Mr. Schmid referred to the Federal Shooting Competition which was held in Zurich in July-August last year, and which a team of twelve members attended, obtaining an average of 34.00 points, being classed fourth out of twelve teams who took part in the special competition for Swiss Societies abroad. The Association won a laurel wreath with silver acorns, and a fine pewter jug as a prize. Four members of the team won distinctions.

The President remarked that the results obtained in Zurich were highly satisfactory and congratulated the members who had competed. He made mention of the fact that several members also won medals in the "Feld-schiessen" competition (which were later distributed).

Before closing his report, which was accepted, Mr. Schmid informed the Meeting that he had received a letter from the former Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Armin Daeniker, in which he referred to the pleasant memories of the Swiss Rifle Association, when *en poste* in London.

The Meeting then continued under the presidency *pro tem* of Mr. O. Grob, who announced the retirement of Mr. Alfred Schmid as President for reasons of age. (Mr. Schmid also underwent an operation recently). On behalf of the members he voiced deep regret at losing him, thanking him for the long and faithful services he had rendered for so many years. A proposal to elect the parting President an Honorary Member, with a seat on the committee, was accepted with acclamation. Mr. Schmid, visibly touched, thanked the members for the honour bestowed on him, an honour, he said, he greatly valued. He also expressed his gratitude to his former colleagues on the committee for the support they had always given him.

Mr. John C. Wetter, for many years occupying the office as Vice-President, was unanimously and with acclamation elected President of the Association. On taking the Chair, he thanked the members for having entrusted him with the leadership. He paid a warm tribute to his predecessor and thanked Mr. Grob for having so ably conducted the Meeting as President *pro tem*. Mr. Peter Fischer was elected Vice-President. Mr. Wetter announced that there were no other changes on the committee, which was re-elected *en bloc*. Mr. A. Stauffer was confirmed as Press-Reporter. Mr. Adolf Schmid proposed a vote of thanks to the former committee, which was accepted.

The President put the proposal to the Meeting, that Monsieur Beat de Fischer, the new Swiss Ambassador, be elected Honorary President of the Association, this was agreed to amidst applause. Various items were then discussed, such as shooting programmes, revolver shooting, and arrangements at Bisley, etc. Before closing the Meeting, Mr. J. C. Wetter gave an interesting *exposé* of his visit to the EXPO exhibition in Lausanne.

Close of the Meeting 7.50 p.m.

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The members then adjourned to the dining room for an excellent dinner, which did full honour to the well-known excellence of the *cuisine* of the Glendower Hotel. During dinner a number of Toasts were proposed and honoured.

A. STAUFFER,
Press Reporter, S.R.A.

SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL

A report of the Annual General Meeting and Dinner which was held at the Dorchester Hotel, on Tuesday, 16th June, will appear in our next issue.

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