

Swiss Rifle Association

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

"Grümpelschiesset" Dinner.

"What a funny name", said an English friend of mine, when I told him to which dinner I was going; I agree, and also profess that I have never yet been able to find out what "Grümpelschiessen" exactly means. Not, even some of my friends of the Swiss Rifle Association could enlighten me satisfactorily, but I gather that it originates from shooting matches, where the competitors brought as presents for the winners, "any old rubbish" (hence "Grümpel") which was stored in their attics, very much like some people send "any old rubbish" to Jumble Sales.

Well, whatever it may mean, this dinner has been for years a most popular event amongst the shooting fraternity, and no wonder, not only does one get an excellent and "substantial" dinner, but one also meets "a very nice crowd" (although the members of this Association carry, and handle deadly weapons, they are of a peaceful and harmless disposition), and on top of it all, you get a nice present (far from rubbish), whether you shoot or not. This wants some beating. No wonder then, that 52 members and guests assembled at the Glendower Hotel, the headquarters of the Society, on Friday, December 3rd, in pleasant anticipation.

The dinner was preceded by a rather lengthy cocktail party, and came up to full expectation. The fare consisted of Soup, Fish, "Schwynigs, Blutwurst and Choucroute", followed by chicken, ice-cream, and various cheeses and concluded with "Café Kirsch"; everything most excellently cooked, and if the Chef at the Glendower Hotel has still room on his "bonnet", he can add another feather to it.

After the usual Toasts had been proposed and honoured, the popular President of the Association, Mr. A. Schmid, who also acted as "Mine Host", mentioned that the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, who is Honorary President of the Society, was unfortunately unable to be present.

He extended a hearty welcome to the following guests: Colonel Gygli, Air and Military Attaché, representing the Swiss Minister, Major Patrick, Major Talbot Smith and Mr. Brooks, all from the Surrey Rifle Association, to which the Swiss Rifle Association is affiliated, Mr. Ls. Chapuis, Consul J. Huber, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

Mr. Schmid then offered the Chair to Colonel Gygli, but before the latter took command of the proceedings, the President gave a short *resumé* of the happenings and the results obtained at this year's Federal Shooting Competition in Lausanne, saying that whilst the result in the "Sektionswettkampf" was perhaps a little disappointing, the team was very successful in three other competitions. They were first in the competition arranged amongst the Foreign sections, winning the Challenge Shield, 2nd in the Radio World competition, and 6th in another competition. Some members obtained striking results, and were presented with medals by the Chairman.

Our Military and Air Attaché then thanked the President and the Members for the invitation extended to him, acquainting them of his approaching departure from London, to take over a command in the Swiss Army, and saying that he will always remember how

cordially he has always been received by the Association. "I shall", he said in conclusion "take back home with me nothing but pleasant remembrances, and I wish the Swiss Rifle Association a prosperous future."

Major Patrick, on behalf of the guests, thanked the company for the invitation extended to them, and referred to the cordial relationship which has existed between the Surrey Rifle Association and the Swiss Rifle Association for the last 20 years; expressing the hope that the two Associations will be able to shoot together for ever, and that the shooting will always be confined to the shooting range.

Mr. Willy Fischer expressed thanks to Colonel Gygli for having been instrumental in getting the Association a number of new Swiss army rifles, free of charge, whilst Mr. J. Wetter, Vice-President, paid a tribute to Mr. Willy Fischer for the efficient way he fulfills his duties as Chief Range Officer, thanking also Mr. F. Magnin for the excellent work he is doing as Hon. Secretary of the Society.

Mr. Ls. Chapuis very amusingly recalled various incidents during the Shooting Competition which he attended at Lausanne as a spectator.

The Prize-giving and announcing of the results in the various competitions at Bisley was again in the hands of Mr. Magnin, limited space only allows me to give the top results, which are as follows:

Grümpelschiessen

Marcel Bucherer, 58 pts., Willy Fischer, 55 pts., Jack Wetter, 53 pts., Peter Fischer, 53 pts.

Handicap Competition

Alfred Schmid and F. Magnin, 60 pts., P. Odermatt and A. Deubelbeiss, 59 pts., J. Hess, 57 pts.

Challenge Cup Competition

Peter Fischer, 312 pts. (Winner of the Cup), Runners-up: W. Riesen and Mr. Bucherer, 306 pts.

Highest score of the year

Marcel Bucherer, 58 pts.

Best average of the year

Peter Fischer, 52 pts.

When everyone had chosen his prize, a suitable present was given to Mr. Magnin for the devoted services which he had rendered during the past year.

A most successful and agreeable evening, conspicuous by its good companionship and sportsmanship thus came to a close, and will remain in the pleasant memory of all those who were present.

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