

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SIR STANLEY ROUS AT THE CITY SWISS CLUB

A full meeting, with an attendance of nearly eighty members, could be registered on Tuesday, 8th October, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, in spite of the fact that unfortunately this meeting clashed with the farewell dinner by the Anglo-Swiss Society to the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker. It is to be regretted, that time after time, functions in the Colony are fixed on the same date which, with some collaboration, could, no doubt, be easily avoided.

The Guest of Honour at the City Swiss Club Meeting was Sir Stanley Rous, C.B.E., J.P., President of the F.I.F.A., and Hon. Vice-President and past Secretary of the Football Association. It is not the first time that Sir Stanley has made an appearance at the Club, in fact some four or five years ago he addressed the members at one of their monthly meetings. On this occasion he stated that he went every morning through the Obituary Notices in "The Times" to see whether he was amongst them. Fortunately the scanning of these lists has proved to be unsuccessful, and it is to be hoped that his further efforts in this direction will meet with the same result.

In opening the Meeting, the President, Mr. M. A. Keller — after an excellent dinner — extended a hearty welcome to the Guest of Honour. He remarked that Sir Stanley was not only a prominent personality in the football world, but also a great friend of our country, a great sportsman and an accomplished after-dinner speaker.

After a short business meeting during which three new members were elected, Mr. Keller gave the word to Sir Stanley who with delightful humour and sparkling wit held his hearers spellbound to the end of his address. Reminiscing — about his long career in the sphere of sports — he paid an eloquent tribute to the sportsmanship and friendliness of the Swiss. Mixing amongst many nationalities in the world of sport, he said that he found our compatriots at all times most helpful and collaborative. "Having to spend, owing to my position, long spells in Switzerland", he remarked, "I find your country almost a home from home".

The speaker, on resuming his seat, received a hearty ovation. The President warmly thanked Sir Stanley for having honoured the Club by his presence and giving its members such an enjoyable evening.

Close of the Meeting 9 o'clock.

ST.

Press Reporter C.S.S.

SWISS ARTIST EXHIBITS IN LONDON

An Exhibition of pictures by Bird Artists of the World will be held at the Tryon Gallery Ltd., 41-42 Dover Street, London W.1, from 23rd October to 20th November. (Weekdays 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

One of the artists exhibiting is Robert Hainard who was born in Geneva in 1909. He was trained as a sculptor and later became an engraver. He is a keen naturalist, has travelled widely in Europe and has written and illustrated "Mummifères sauvages d'Europe". All his woodcuts are derived from scenes actually observed and sketched at the time — the date and place being recorded on each. He has exhibited in many countries, and his first English exhibition was held at the Tryon Gallery in 1959.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Under the presidency of Sir Clifford Norton the officers and members of the Anglo-Swiss Society gave a farewell dinner for the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker at the Dorchester Hotel on 8th October. Among the eighty-five guests and members present we noticed: Viscount and Viscountess Bledisloe, Lord Merrivale, Sir Felix and Lady Brunner, Sir Patrick and Lady Reilly, Sir Colin and Lady Coote, Lady Norton, Dr. and Freifrau Catani.

After the loyal toasts Sir Clifford Norton made a most charming speech and emphasized the large circle of friends Monsieur and Madame Daeniker had made during their official stay in this country, who would all look with sadness to the day when the Swiss Ambassador and his wife would return to their home country, and on behalf of all those present he wished them a happy retirement.

The Swiss Ambassador, in replying to the toast, referred to the many important and interesting events which happened during his nine years of office. He referred to the mutual sympathy between the British and the Swiss and assured that no one could ever forget this country after having made so many contacts. He hoped that the Anglo-Swiss Society would keep in close touch with its opposite number, the Schweizerisch-Britische Gesellschaft in Zurich, and its many branches, and wished the Society every success for the future.

(From a Special Correspondent.)

ANNETTE WEISBROD AT WIGMORE HALL

It has long been a tradition that most recitalists present their works chronologically from the past to the present. Miss Annette Weisbrod, our young compatriot from the Midlands, reversed the process at her piano recital at Wigmore Hall on 11th October. Some critics objected to it, for, they maintain, it is not easy to muster concentration at the beginning of a concert to take in something as difficult as Janacek's "The Presentiment and the Death" (I.X.1905). I felt exactly the opposite — I could not have imagined anything more admirable to take my mind from worldly things into the realm of music than this exquisite piece. It put one in the right mood to appreciate Ravel's *Miroirs*, followed by Schumann's *Papillons*, Op. 2. Schubert's *Impromptu* in F. Minor, Op. 142, in its clear-cut simplicity in turn prepared for the final treat, Beethoven's Sonata in E. flat major, Op. 27, No. 1. I doubt whether this could have been played as well or received as readily had it been performed at the beginning of the concert.

It is not up to me to pass judgment on Miss Weisbrod's playing. I cannot but agree, however, with "The Times" critic who said that "Miss Weisbrod showed a scrupulous regard for detail, and at no time were her fleet fingers ever guilty of producing harsh or muddy tone". I feel that her play is constantly improving and if she progresses as she has done — after all she is only 26 — she will be a really great artist in very few years. To quote the critic from "The Times" again "Her nineteenth century composers . . . were all like buds, as yet unopened by the warmth of the sun". But they were beautiful buds to behold and will gradually open up to full beauty. Her encore, the slow movement of Mozart's piano sonata in

C major (K. No. 330), held more than promise and I felt it was a lovely and apt ending to an evening of real delight.

Mariann.

SWISS MALE CHOIR

In the earlier part of this year the Swiss Male Choir, which had at that time been reduced to a mere handful of members, decided to wind up, and the wish was expressed by some members that we should meet from time to time in good fellowship.

It was therefore in that spirit, on a recent Sunday afternoon, one of those beautiful late Summer days when all seems to be well with the world, that former members and their wives made their way to "Haverthorn", Effingham, Surrey, in response to an invitation from Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Ross.

For the benefit of the few who may not know Mr. Ross I should like to explain that he was for many years a Sub-Manager at the Swiss Bank Corporation. He had in those days, and still has for that matter, a beautiful baritone voice, and when our late friend "Johnny" Gerber persuaded him to join our ranks he was received with open arms as badly-needed reinforcement.

During the many years that he lent his support he was in turn soloist and relief-conductor, and he identified himself with us to such an extent that on one occasion, when we had gone to sing at an Anglo-Continental gathering, a stranger congratulated him on his faultless English. "Haverthorn", a beautiful place set in fields, among trees, was a delightful venue for such a reunion, and the hospitality extended to us was, to say the least, sumptuous, as befits the lady of the house who is used to entertaining on a large scale.

Someone had brought along song books and sheet music and after tea we tried out some of the old songs. Soon we gained confidence and sang lustily, if not always with polish.

It was always a source of wonder to us how Mr. F. G. Sommer, late President of the Choir and one of the most distinguished members of the Swiss Colony, could find the time to direct our affairs in view of his duties on all sides which he performed for the benefit of our compatriots. By his guidance and counsel allied to infinite patience, he managed to steer the Choir on a smooth and steady course and we owe him an immense debt of gratitude.

As a token of our esteem and friendship and in appreciation of all he had done for us it was thought to be a suitable occasion to make him a presentation, which he accepted charmingly, with a kind word for everyone.

Flowers were presented to Mrs. Sommer, and she, too, expressed pleasure at this unexpected gift.

More songs followed, and when after supper we took leave of our host and hostess night had long since fallen and we were left with the pleasing memory of a day spent in the company of old and faithful friends.

Our thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Ross for opening their home to us and for their generous hospitality.

A.J.

CHANCE OF SKI-ING FOR YOUNG SWISS ABROAD

As in previous years, the Youth Service of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad is again arranging a skiing camp for young Swiss from abroad. It will take place at Marmorera (Grisons) from 26th December to 6th January. There will be ski-ing instruction, and in the

evenings lectures, games, discussions, films and music will be organised. The price (exclusive of travel and ski lift) will be Fr.110.—. In special cases a reduction may be granted, provided the Embassy or Consulate can confirm the need.

Young boys and girls between 17 and 24 may apply before 1st December. As the number of participants is limited applications will be considered strictly in order of arrival.

Please apply to Jugenddienst, Auslandschweizersekretariat, Alpenstrasse 26, Berne.

CITY SWISS CLUB 98th ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL In conjunction with THE SWISS ECONOMIC COUNCIL

on
Friday, 15th November
at the
Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1

When the City Swiss Club, seven years ago, under the presidency of the late much regretted and well remembered Charles Gysin, celebrated its Centenary, he referred in his presidential address to the usefulness of the Club in being a close link between the Swiss residing in this country and their English hosts. Indeed, the City Swiss Club has diligently stuck to this age-long tradition up to this very day, by inviting prominent English and British personalities, in all walks of life, not only to its Annual Banquets, but also to the various monthly meetings, thus still further cementing the close and happy relations which exist between the two countries.

Again, on the 15th of November, at the Dorchester Hotel, a number of well known English people will be seated at the top table, amongst them The Rt. Hon. Lord Mancroft, K.B.E., T.D. and Lady Mancroft, and Sir Stanley Rous, C.B.E., J.P.

On this occasion, the Club will also bid farewell to its Honorary President, H.E. the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker, when a presentation, on behalf of the Colony, will be made to them.

As was the case last year, the Annual Festival will be held in conjunction with the Swiss Economic Council — one of the Colony's most prominent institutions — and it will be a "black tie" affair. In order to compensate those members who have, for one reason or another given up dancing, a cabaret show will be introduced, and a tombola with valuable prizes will take place.

The committee has spared no efforts to make this Banquet as attractive as possible, and it makes an earnest appeal to the members, both old and young, to give them their support by a numerous attendance.

All members of the Swiss Colony and their friends whether or not belonging to the City Swiss Club or the Swiss Economic Council, will be cordially invited to join, thus making it a real Colony affair.

Facilities will be given to reserve tables for intended parties (see advertisement).

A pressing invitation is extended especially to the ladies to grace, by their charm, this 98th Banquet and Ball, which promises to be a most enjoyable and happy evening.

The committee would appreciate early bookings, so as to enable them to make adequate arrangements.

ST.

Press Reporter, City Swiss Club.