

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

ACTIVITIES IN THE LONDON GROUP OF THE N.S.H.

True to its tradition, the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique again arranged a variety of interesting Open Meetings. Two of these were held at the Swiss Hostel for Girls in Hampstead.

On 16th November, Prof. Dr. Peter Gilg, Lecturer at Berne University, gave a talk on Switzerland's future seen from recent developments. (See leading article in last issue of "Swiss Observer"). An animated discussion followed the interesting address (in German).

A month later, the N.S.H. organised a *Soirée Familiale* by way of an intimate Christmas Dinner and informal get-together by candle-light and listening to Christmas music. Amongst the fine records played was one of Christmas hymns and songs made on the spot in Jerusalem and Bethlehem last Christmas.

The third meeting was organised on 29th November at the Assembly Hall of the Royal Commonwealth Society. Some 100 members and friends of the N.S.H. attended this special film show.

The evening started with a short, but fascinating BP film on the dangerous life-saving work of the Air Rescue Guard of Switzerland "Dial Double One", a film from the Swiss National Tourist Office's Film Library. Then followed the feature film, awaited with keen interest, the Praesens film version of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's famous play "Die Heirat des Herrn Mississippi". This film was presented by courtesy of the "Pro Helvetia" Foundation.

J.S.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

After the "Cease fire" on the Bisley battleground, members and many friends of the Swiss Rifle Association assembled at the Glendower Hotel, London S.W.7, the headquarters of the Association, for the traditional "Grümpelschiessen" Dinner on 1st December.

As always, cocktails preceded a delicious "Bernerplatte" and the dining room with its joyous atmosphere certainly presented quite an animated picture. Behind the presidential chair, the fine banner of the Association was placed, and the top table was embellished with silver cups and other trophies which had been won in many hard-fought competitions.

Towards the end of the dinner, the President, Mr. John C. Wetter, proposed the Toasts to the Queen and Switzerland. He then extended a hearty welcome to the company and especially to our guest of honour, Monsieur J. D. Grandjean, First Counsellor of Embassy. The President also conveyed greetings from our Hon. President, H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Olivier Long, also from Colonel Willy Frei, Defence Attaché at the Embassy and from Mr. E. Tosio, Swiss Consul, who had sent their regrets at not being able to join us for dinner because of prior engagements. Moreover, Mr. Wetter warmly welcomed the three representatives of the Surrey Rifle Association, Brigadier G. Laing, Major Patrick and Mr. Cannon, and last but not least, his personal guests, Mr. Theo von Speyr and Dr. H. Rast, as well as Mr. H. Schmid, Press Reporter.

The President also made it known that two valuable friends of our Association, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, former Swiss Ambassador in London and Mr. Burgunder, had sent us their sincere greetings from Los Angeles and the card signed by the two well-wishers was duly circulated among the entire company.

During his brief review of our activities at Bisley, the President thanked the committee, particularly the chief range officers, Messrs. Marcel Bucherer and Peter Fischer, and also Mr. Ch. Abegglen, Hon. Secretary, who was now taking a lively interest in our Association and coping most efficiently and conscientiously with the task he had taken over from his forerunner, Mr. F. Magnin. The President paid warm tributes to our senior members, Hon. Past President, Mr. Alfred Schmid, now in his 82nd year, and to another popular old timer, Mr. Adolf Schmid, who, although he had passed his 80th birthday, was still a frequent visitor to Bisley and scoring bull's-eyes with the greatest of ease.

In conclusion, Mr. Wetter expressed to the family Schmid and especially to Mr. Fred Schmid his appreciation for the generous hospitality the S.R.A. always enjoys at the Glendower Hotel and then asked all the members to raise their glasses and drink the health of our guest of honour and to all our guests and friends present. The President's address was of course greeted with much applause.

In reply, our Guest of Honour, Monsieur J. D. Grandjean, thanked the members for the cordial welcome and expressed his delight at being among so many excellent sharpshooters whom he hopes to see personally at Bisley during the coming season. On behalf of the representatives of the Surrey Rifle Association Major Patrick expressed their thanks to the company and made it known that it was their intention to ask the Swiss Rifle Association to participate in a "three nation competition", or better said a triangular competition at Bisley in 1968, when crackshots from Norway and the Surrey Rifle Association would be happy to measure their skill with our marksmen.

Monsieur J. D. Grandjean was then asked to present the following *Silver Cups*:

The Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup to Mr. Peter Fischer; *The Ambassador Armin Daeniker's Senior-Cup* to Mr. F. Ansermoz and the *Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup* to Mr. L. Waldmeier. The distribution of other prizes followed under the able direction of Mr. F. Magnin, amidst great excitement.

And so concluded a most enjoyable evening in the company of our friends of the shooting fraternity, an evening of good comradeship and good cheer.

H. SCHMID,
Press Reporter S.R.A.

Results 1967

Highest Scores attained during 1967 Season: Peter Fischer (57 points); *Grümpelschiessen*: M. Bucherer (55 points); *Handicap Competition 1967*: P. Fischer (54 points); *Einzelwettschiessen Schweiz. Schützenverein*: P. Fischer (92 points); *St. Gallen*: L. Waldmeier (87 points); *Zurich*: M. Bucherer (56 points); *Feldschiessen*: Jack Wetter (83 points); *Obligatorisches Schiessen*: Jack Wetter (110 points); *Monsieur J. L. Revillod Presentation Silver Cigarette Case*: P. Fischer.