

Swiss Sports

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1923)**

Heft 105

PDF erstellt am: **06.08.2024**

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LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. GROUPE LONDONNIEN.

Meeting of the Council on Wednesday, May 16th, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

1. Three new members were admitted, and there were no resignations.

2. The financial situation is very satisfactory. Our expenses have kept well within the limits of the Budget.

3. A letter from our representative in Switzerland, Mr. G. Gerber, concerning the attitude of the N.S.H. in general, was read and widely discussed. Mr. Baer will reply in the name of the Group.

4. Some modifications were agreed upon for our autumn programme. A lecture on "La Littérature contemporaine de la Suisse romande et italienne" will be given by Dr. Paul Lang on September 28th, and on October 18th we shall have a dinner with an intermediate report. On October 31st the N.S.H., in collaboration with the Swiss Institute Orchestra, the Swiss Choral Society and the Swiss Church Choir, will give a charity concert in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society at Caxton Hall.

5. The Group Aachen-Bonn-Cöln has published a list of their 400 members, which will interest people who trade with the Rhine provinces. It can be had for Fr. 1.50 from the Secretary of this Group. The London Group will get a copy, which will be at the disposal of our members.

6. Some visitors to the Basle Fair wondered how it was that they saw nothing of the collection of exhibits from the London Colony, which the Secretary had compiled with the help of members and the other Societies in London. The box in question was unfortunately mislaid and could, therefore, not be used for the exhibition. The following extract from a letter from the Mustermesse-Direktion gives the necessary explanation:—

"Il ressort de ces recherches que la caisse en question a été délivrée à notre magasinier G. au R., le 24 mars, et déposée dans un magasin. Lui seul avait connaissance de l'arrivée de cette caisse. Il est malheureusement tombé malade quatre jours avant l'ouverture de la Foire et il a omis de donner connaissance de la présence de cette caisse."

7. Mr. T. Schaerer reported briefly on his visit to the Basle Fair and conveyed the heartiest greetings from Messrs. Latt, Koch and Micheli. National Councillor Micheli hopes to be able to visit London in autumn.

8. A last informal gathering on May 22nd will deal with Swiss Art. There will be none until September again, and from that month onwards only one monthly.

9. The Secretary made a few communications:—

(a) The Swiss Minister has consented to take the chair at his first lecture at University College;

(b) The Secretary will give a causerie on Switzerland to the Students' Movement House on June 10;

(c) He has acted as middleman between the National Students' Union of England and that of Switzerland in connection with the forthcoming visit of English students to Switzerland. He proposes to get into touch with the Swiss students attending the Holiday Course at Bedford College.

10. Mr. Suter reported on the Concert Committee. A meeting took place to discuss the programme and other arrangements. The next meeting will take place in September. No soloists will be asked to contribute to the programme, apart from those belonging to the participating societies. The concert is to be representative of Swiss music as far as possible. The organisers will attempt to give as many new items to the Swiss Colony as they possibly can. Endeavours will be made to find the money necessary for the general expenses from donors, thus allowing the whole proceeds arising from the sale of the tickets to be handed over to the Swiss Benevolent Society, without any deduction being made for entertainment tax.

Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

SWISS SPORTS.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—The report of the "Swiss Sports," published in your issue of the 2nd June, fortunately supplies for me the opportunity to reply to some of the criticisms made, and explain at the same time to your readers how the hands of the Committee were tied in respect of the placing on the field of many of the contests.

First of all, as Director of Sports, I felt, more keenly than anybody else, how unpleasant for the spectators must have been the delay in the carrying out of the various events. The chief cause is that most of our young athletes do not specialise, and enter for practically every event on the pro-

gramme, and it is, therefore, necessary to wait until they have finished in one event and had a chance to rest a little while, before the next item can be proceeded with. That is why we had to wait often five minutes or longer, after calling the competitors, before they finally answered the call and came on to the field. The same reason affects the weighing of the tug-of-war teams, and that is how, when the time came for weighing up, one whole team was engaged in other events, and another loss of precious time occurred.

These few details will enable every one to realise what difficulty there is in keeping strictly to the time schedule. Further, the inclusion of so many events on the programme, for which entries are accepted on the ground, adds to the difficulties, and as the judges do not know whether they will be having 50 or 100 competitors, and these have to be sorted out, handicapped to some extent, according to age, size, etc., this all takes time.

I now come to the reproach that the more interesting events were placed too far away from the spectators. It is well known, from experience, that the minor events, such as the boys' and girls', ladies' or mixed races, cannot be held on the cinder track, as, in the first place, it is too narrow to accommodate the great number competing, and, secondly, it would be dangerous, as a fall on the hard cinders invariably results in some very nasty scratches, such as lacerated hands and knees, etc. The part of the grass nearest to the stand is all taken up with various obstacles and implements, and, further in the field, hurdles are again in the way, so that the only spot available is right away from the stand, in the centre of the ground, which unfortunately cannot be helped. The spectators will recollect that we were going to have the tug-of-war contest take place right in front of the stand, as in previous years, but the owner of the ground on no account would allow it to be carried out there, as this narrow patch of grass is in a very bad state, and he is having a great deal of trouble in trying to put it into proper condition again. That is why we had, unfortunately, to go to the opposite end of the grass from the stand for this event also.

The unkind remark has been made about "Too many cooks . . .", speaking of the numerous badges on show. A glance at the first page of the programme will inform the spectators that these Sports are organised by all the Swiss Societies in London, who each send a number of delegates, and these are certainly entitled to committee badges. All these committee members cannot actually take part in the judging, etc., as this requires a certain amount of experience, which few possess, and that is why quite a number of them seemed to have no particular duties. In addition, a number of them take part themselves in the races, and therefore cannot be judges at the same time.

If it were not for a body of disinterested committee members, such as Messrs. Golay, Bloch, Beck, Boehringer, Lucca, Pfister, Rueff, Seem, Sermier, to name but a few of those who devoted their whole time to the carrying out of the Sports, the whole meeting would have been a ghastly failure, and spectators should realise that it is quite a heavy task to cater for their enjoyment. Our Swiss Sports are a mixture of a real Sports Meeting and a Garden Party, and therefore far more complicated than either one or the other taken singly, as you cannot run both on the same lines, and I can say, without exaggeration, that the task of the Director of Sports is a difficult one, far more difficult than it appears at first glance. However, as next year I cannot see my way to fill the post again, I hope that one of my critics will come forward and undertake these pleasant duties, when he will have full play to organise the meeting to his liking, and introduce the many improvements of which he evidently knows.

On no account would I omit to mention that a great deal of gratitude is due to Mr. Kiefer, our hon. secretary, whose task was one of the most arduous kind for weeks before the meeting, and it is a pleasure to find somebody willing to devote himself so entirely and unselfishly for the benefit of the Colony in general.

Please excuse the length of this letter, but it may possibly clear up some of the doubtful points for the spectators, so that at future meetings they may understand more fully the difficulties which have to be overcome.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

M. PASCHOUD.

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le
Vendredi 15 Juin 1923 à 7 h.

à
CAXTON HALL (Westminster)

(Thé à partir de 5 h.)

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CITY SWISS CLUB.

Le Comité porte à la connaissance des membres que la prochaine Assemblée aura lieu le MARDI 12 JUIN, à Kingston au Restaurant Nuthall. Cette Assemblée sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h. (sh. 6/6) converti et suivie d'une danse, auxquels les dames sont cordialement invitées.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande que les participants s'annoncent au plus tôt à M. Georges Dimier, 46, Cannon Street, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: Central 1321).

Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

Trains pour Kingston: de Waterloo, Perrons 1 à 6.

Un char-à-banc partira à 6.15 h. précises de Mansion House Place, E.C. et quittera Kingston à 11 h. pour Trafalgar Square. (Prix du billet aller et retour: sh. 3.)
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THE COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

Dr. L. Veillon (154), W. Seiler (154), J. C. Dekker (116), C. Duruz (135), E. Meyer (144), Mrs. L. Detloff (110), Th. Trost (127), Ch. Haesler (129), W. Haag (115), J. Sermier (156), M. Jutzi (156), G. Aeschlimann (156), J. Nessenon (117), J. Wetter (129), Dr. A. G. Pluss (123), G. Marchand (124).

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 10 Juin, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.

Répétition Extraordinaire du Choeur à 8 p.m.
Dimanche, 17 Juin.—"Hospital Sunday." (Collecte en faveur des hôpitaux.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, June 12th, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.
Friday, June 15th, at 5.30 p.m.—University College, Gower Street, W.: PUBLIC LECTURE by Dr. Paul Lang on "The Contemporary Literature of French and Italian-speaking Switzerland."
Friday, June 15th, from 5 till 10.30 p.m.—FÊTE SUISSE at Caxton Hall, Westminster, W.
Wednesday, June 20th, at 8 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual General Meeting at 1, Gerrard Pl., W.1, preceded by a Supper at 7 p.m.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOEHRINGER, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 21, GARLICK HILL, LONDON, E.C.4.