

London Swiss Sports Day

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London Swiss Sports Day

24th May 1930.

A pre-paid wireless enquiry sent to the "Hotel Univers" midway between Saturn and Venus having established the fact that the Clerk of the Weather had left for a week-end Air cruise without having properly turned off the bath tap, the "executioners" of the Swiss Sports Committee made frantic efforts to get hold of a plumber to stop the leakage, only to find, *he las*, that these Experts had all gone to the community singing: "It ain't goin' to rain no more!"

As is usual, however, in times of emergency, a well-known member of our "Colony" remembered his at one time justly famed "sealing wax" as being likely to prove a temporary measure of relief, and behold! even the Sun smiled for a number of hours upon the ingenuity of our master mas... pardon me, master plumber, I should say.

The "Deputy" Official Press Reporter, who had already in the early morning prepared his report on this year's Swiss Sports in the cut and dried terms: "It rained all day long!" was now "pressed" into service and though sorely chagrined that the dignity of his office should have found no little publicity the prospects of meeting that sparkling "Etoile de St. Blaise" on the Herne Hill grounds encouraged him to seek access to the "inner ring," mingle with the 101 "Directeurs des Ceremonies" and thus be able to place on record the "doings" of our London Swiss Colony on its 14th Annual Sports Day. And now here goes!

"Schoe toe gratuel" one could hear over and over again in the purest "Frangsay federal" as groups of "young bloods" admiringly surrounded the Winners emerging from the various contests.

Our Minister, M. Paravicini, was an early and welcome visitor, speedily diving into the throng of humanity and becoming an interested eye-witness of the prowess of his temporal flock. We were also glad to see quite a number of our other diplomats and the presence of Herr Pfarrer Hahn, whose broad-minded spirit has won him so many hearts, was likewise much appreciated by the organizers.

Due in a large measure to the most successful activities of the S.M.S. "Day-School," we happily had a plentiful supply of the "right brand" of athletes of both sexes, and the formidable list of prize-winners at the foot hereof is prima facie evidence of a very busy and eventful afternoon. It was noted with particular pleasure and satisfaction that our good friends from the Ticino had sent quite a respectable quota of competitors. That the "renommé de la cuisine Pagani," as a "stamina" builder, maintains its famous traditions was speedily proved by the stalwart sons of Messieurs Meschini and Notari.

As usual the Tug-of-War contest proved one of the outstanding features of general interest, and the rush of would-be onlookers was so great that the safety of both teams hung in the balance for some time. For reasons which up till now have remained a baffling mystery the members of the "Cerclé Valaisan" team did, after a well-earned first success, entirely mistake the purport of their mission by quietly "settling down," as if preparing for one of their local bob-sleigh runs. The Referee being taken entirely unawares he had to admit quite frankly that he was no expert in matters pertaining to Winter Sports, and in the circumstances felt constrained to give his award in favour of the "Union Helvetia" team. Seldom, if ever, was there such a keenly fought Tug-of-War competition witnessed on the Herne Hill grounds, and the stern command "Take the strain" was obeyed to the letter until both sides were nearly exhausted. We take off our hats to both teams and venture to hope that the decision given by the Referee will leave no soreness on anybody's part and thus react unfavourably on similar events in coming years. May we be permitted to suggest that in future an adequate space of ground be roped off, so that the competitors will not again be almost overwhelmed by spectators eager to get the closest view of an enthralling bout.

Our well-liked Chancellor appeared in his proper element when captaining the amusing race of the "Woodbine Bills and Marias," but we are sure some of the latter would have preferred, as a more palatable means to an early arrival at the winning post, a certain Eastern brand, with which our Chancellor seems to be well acquainted. For his remissness in this particular direction he more than made up by the expert and charming way in which he extracted "identity" particulars from the sweet young winners.

"Did you fall or was you pushed, Daddy?" I heard a little mite ask her papa, who had returned from the "Daily Mail" battle ground with decorations all over his breast and tattoo marks on his wiry arms, which would have been the envy of any enterprising laundry girl out for a good day's washing! And behold, this particular daddy was not the only one, judging by their respective appearances, who had been

"knocked out" by the big push ball and the "hauling" of which by so many sinewy frames of humanity caused no end of merriment. A note of sadness was, however, introduced by our eminent Editor being witnessed to wander round the ball (at a respectful distance be it stated) in a somewhat disconsolate manner, swinging a hellowered black pillow. Was he actually looking for customers for his own booth, the Pillow Fight Department? or was he, as is suspected, making propaganda for the special "line" of satin cushions at 3/11^d. from Messrs. Torn, Rags & Co., Ltd., for whose "deferred stock" our Editor (who is reputed to know a good thing when he sees it), had shown his preference?

We recommend our implied suggestions to the attention of our "Dibs" collectors.

Soon after 4 o'clock the glad tidings came through that that "Ace" of all sportswomen, Miss Amy Johnson, had successfully achieved her marvellous and courageous venture and the fact that the completion of her historic flight to "right below us" should have synchronised with our Swiss Sports Day fully entitles her to an especially hearty acknowledgment at the hands of our Committee.

Meanwhile our Editor was able to get into his stride and in due course his customers num-



SOME OF THE WINNERS.

Top Left: K. Kopp (S.M.S.), Long Jump and Putting the Weight. Top Right: T. Delmar (Swiss Bank), 220 yds. H'cap. (Firms). Bottom Left: C. Donati, Veterans' Walking H'cap. Bottom Right: V. Laemmlin (S.M.S.), High Jump and 100 yds. H'cap.

bered many, some of them getting even more than they bargained for, in the nature of "thick ears" and the like. The "finalists" proved to be very stubborn and their respective courteous bows "Après vous, Monsieur!" reposed on egotism and not amenities; in fact in this case the teachings of "Blessed be he who gives" became entirely reversed, since the one who "had received" more than his fair share now figures on the winning list.

By this time Father Sun had retired and a sudden "blöst" drove most of the visitors to the "5 o'clock Tea Pavilion" while the "overflow" meeting took refuge in the Orange Grove, where a huge pot of "Montarde de Dijon" soon made the round amidst such defiant expressions as "Es ist mir 'Wurst' dass es regnet." Some "touching" scenes were also witnessed under the village chestnut tree, to the stimulating refrain of our famous Swiss Yodel Quaintance: "Our lips have met, but not our hearts!"

The long string of attractive competitions which seemed never ending considerably delayed the distribution of Prizes, at which Mlle Barbezat officiated in the unavoidable absence of Mme. Paravicini, a function which brought a highly successful and much appreciated sports gathering to a close.

An *revoir en 1931!* and meanwhile get your muscles ready!

RESULTS.

100 yds. Flat Handicap for Men: 1st—V. Laemmlin (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) 11-1/5 (3 yds.); 2nd—W. Meier (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) (Scratch); 3rd—J. Meschini (Unione Ticinese (4 yds).

220 yds. Handicap for Swiss: 1st—C. A. J. Kipfer (Unattached) 24 3/5 (8 yds.); 2nd—E. W. Casada

(Unione Ticinese) (9 yds.); 3rd—W. Meier (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) (Scratch).

High Jump: 1st—V. Laemmlin (Swiss Mercantile Soc) 5 ft.; 2nd—E. W. Casada (Unione Ticinese) 4 ft. 11 in.; 3rd—M. J. Wyser (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) 4 ft. 11 in.

Long Jump: 1st—K. Kopp (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) 19 ft. 10 in.; 2nd—J. Meschini (Unione Ticinese) 19 ft. 9 in.; 3rd—V. Laemmlin (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) 18 ft. 6 in.

440 yds. Veterans Walking Handicap: 1st—C. Donati (Scratch) age 41; 2nd—J. Haesler (Swiss Rifle Association); 3rd—G. Riederer (Schweizerbund); 4th—E. Oggier; 5th—L. Jobin and Charnot, dead-heat; Consolation Prize to Mr. Hagenbuch.

120 yds. Veterans Race: 1st—H. H. Baumann (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) 14 secs. (7 yds.); 2nd—F. A. Pont (Cerclé Valaisan) (3 yds.); 3rd—A. Notzli (Schweizerbund) (8 yds.).

Relay Race: Winners—Unione Ticinese, 4 min. 1-1/5; Runners-up—Swiss Mercantile Soc., 3rd place—Unione Ticinese B Team.

Tug of War: Winners—Union Helvetia; Runners-up—Cerclé Valaisan.

Putting the Weight: 1st—K. Kopp (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) 34 yds. 4 in.; 2nd—J. Meschini (Unione Ticinese) 33 ft. 11 in.; 3rd—J. Speck (Swiss Gymnastic Soc) 33 ft. 9 in.

Wrestling (Middle-Weight): E. Hangartner (Swiss Mercantile Soc.) beat H. Schellenberg (S.M.S.).

Pushball: Winners—Swiss Mercantile Society; Runners-up—Cerclé Valaisan; 3rd place—Schweizbund.

Georges Dimier Challenge Cup: Winners—Swiss Mercantile Society 40 points; Unione Ticinese 23 points; Cerclé Valaisan 8 points; Union Helvetia 5 points; Schweizerbund and Swiss Rifle Assoc 3 points each; Swiss Gymnastic Society 1 point.

220 yds. Handicap for Members of Subscribing Firms: 1st—J. Delmar (Swiss Bank Corporation), time 24 1/5 (7 yds.); 2nd—J. A. Cutts (Credit Lyonnais) (12 yds.); 3rd—W. Murphy (Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss) (9 yds.).

100 yds. Flat Handicap for Boys under 16: 1st—A. Schmid (2 yds.); 2nd—V. Berti (4 1/2); 3rd—E. Berti (6 1/2); 4th—M. Berti (7 1/2). 13 4/5.

100 yds. Handicap for Ladies in Sports Costume: 1st—D. Carver (Lyons A.C.) time 13 2/5 (4 yds.); 2nd—D. Archer (Lyons A.C.) (1 1/2); 3rd—C. M. A. Chinappa (Unattached) (1).

Girls 80 yds. Handicap: Heat 1. 1st—E. Hayes; 2nd—Joan Petit; 3rd—Helen Mascidi; 4th—Doris Mayer. Heat 2. 1st—Margaret Schmid; 2nd—Gabrielle de Cintra; 3rd—Marion Roll; 4th—S. Abersold. Heat 3. 1st—S. Lachat; 2nd—Elsie Wullschlegler; 3rd—Lily Ody; 4th—Renee Charnot. Heat 4. 1st—M. Henderson; 2nd—Rosina Linder; 3rd—J. Dalliard; 4th—Rosemary Fahrner.

100 yds. Ladies in Towndress: Heat 1. 1st—Miss W. M. Hanson; 2nd—Mme. Lachat; 3rd—Miss Kitty Schutz. Heat 2. 1st—Miss R. Prater; 2nd—Miss Pearce; 3rd—Miss Martha Meier.

Boys 80 yds. Handicap: Heat 1. 1st—John Notari; 2nd—Roger Sterchi; 3rd—Donald Waters. Heat 2. 1st—Ernest Drew; 2nd—Teddie Baumann; 3rd—Bernard Jaeggi; 4th—Leon Jaeggi. Heat 3. 1st—A. Wernli; 2nd—Alfred Burkhalter; 3rd—A. Clivaz; 4th—John Streuli. Heat 4. 1st—A. A. Juricns; 2nd—Oscar F. Boehringer; 3rd—Matlie; 4th—George Borgeat.

Cigarette Race: Heat 1. 1st—Miss Carver & Mr. Moser; 2nd—Miss Archer & Mr. Zindel; 3rd—Miss M. Fuchs & Mr. Delmar. Heat 2. 1st—Miss Meta Benz & Mr. E. Oggier; 2nd—Miss M. Meier & Mr. Guggenheim; 3rd—Miss Tillio & Mr. C. Bolla. Heat 3. 1st—Miss R. Prater & Mr. J. Dinmore; 2nd—Mrs. Oggier & Mr. F. Pont; 3rd—Miss Drewery & Mr. Steiger.

Egg and Spoon Race: Heat 1. 1st—S. Lachat; 2nd—Violet Niggli; 3rd—E. Graham. Heat 2. 1st—Anna Streuli; 2nd—Doris Diethelm; 3rd—Joan Bosshard. Heat 3. 1st—Miss D. Archer; 2nd—Miss R. Linder; 3rd—Miss Maud Driberer. Heat 4. 1st—Miss Fuchs; 2nd—Miss Anna Schalter; 3rd—Miss Nancy Day.

Blindfold Race: 1st—Miss Peters & Mr. Weber; 2nd—Miss Suter & Mr. Barbezat; 3rd—Mrs. Sheridan & Mr. Oggier.

Pillow Fight: 1st—C. Krebs; 2nd—R. Bessire; 3rd—Gaston Guyr. 1st. junior prize. Oscar F. Boehringer.

Three-Legged Race: Heat 1. 1st—Miss Archer & Mr. Steiger; 2nd—Miss Day & Mr. Zindel. Heat 2. 1st—Miss R. Linder & Mr. Potter; 2nd—Miss Woodward & Mr. Meschini.

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