## Swiss sports at Herne Hill

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## Swiss Sports at Herne Hill,

saturday, may 23 rd , 1936.

Faithful to traditions, Swiss sports day, started with a steady downoour, and in more than one Swiss Home there must have been disappointment, when father authoratively declared that a trip to Herne Hill was " taboo."

In fairness to the weather authorities, however, it must be said, that not one drop of rain or one gust of wind interferred with the Sports arrangements, and half way through the afternoon the sun appeared and smiled beneignly on the sporting commonity; but I am afraid the damage was done, and the attendance un doubtedly suffered from the whimsical way with which the weather had seen fit to tease us.

The attendance at Herne Hill was about the same as last year, i.e. about 300 , which is insufficient, and goes to prove once more, that this sporting event has lost its pull. I amsure many of my readers will remember how not so many years ago, an attendance of 600 to 800 could be registered.

Many excuses have since been mentioned, why the attendance has dwindled year by year; the weather has had to take principal blame; then the slowness in armanging the varions events, the ont of-the-way position of the gromid, and the fact that no new Swiss are arriving here, etc., etc.
some of the above reasons might have con tributed in one way or another to reduce attend ances, but I maintain that the chief factor of the poor meeting, is simply that the majority of members of the Swiss Colony have lost interest in an event, which used to be at one time, apart from the sports side a social affair. There are still enough Swiss residing in London, to fill the seat ing accommodation at Herne Hill. If one con siders that every rear over a thousand Swis attend the ". Fete suisse," at Westminster Hall surely to muster at least half that number for the Swiss sports should not be very difficult. There were many faces missing last Saturday, who ought to have been there, and that so many were absent, contirms my belief that the Swiss Sports before long the Committee will have to seriously consider a total reoreanisation of this event.

It would be a great pity if the ". swiss Sports " should have to be discontinued ; because those who have watched the children and saw with what eagerness and delight they entered for the various events, and with what joy they re ceived their prizes, would not have the heart to deprise them of their little pleasures.

Unless the Colony as a whole shows a greater interest, the Swiss Sports are doomed to die a natural death; as it is to-day, the result can be in no way justified with the heary expenses and the liard work which is entailed.

This is plain speaking, and I quite expect that I shall be called over the coals for it, and that my appointment as "Official Press Reporter" will be terminated forthwith; but the Press has a privilege to critisize and I am taking full adran tage of it.

It is, of course, not a bit of good only to grumble and critisize, and I heartily invite the readers of the Swiss Observer to come forward with suggestions as to how the Swiss sports of this paporded in the future; the column of this paper will be at the disposal of anyone Who can furnish ideas to bring the sports back th Committee will study these with an open mind.

Now having relieved my mind, I will try to discribe the Sports events, mentioning that on the whole it was a successful afternoon.

The first event started punctually at 2.45 p.m. and consisted of a 100 yds. Flat Handicap for Boys: as the results of the rarions events will be given at the end of this report, I will, with a ew exceptions, desist from commenting on the chievements of each individual performer. A Race for Ladies although the entries were rather poor The Ladies in their sports costumes looked poor. The lat mothers have sald about the santiness of the mothers hal tire.

As in former years, a musical programme was provided by an Ampligram; this instrumen consumed a great number of fine gramophone records which were supplied by our compatriot, Mr. Newman: some of the hearty vodels and popular Swiss folk songs must have inspired both competitors and onlookers alike.

During the afternoon, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by his daughter, Mademoiselle Livia Paravicini arrived. The arrival of the head of our Colony was made known by the announcer through the microphone, and much to the surprise of the Community the Ampligram gave forth a tune which nobody seemed to know. Some of my friends told me that the tume played was the new swiss Anthem, but I had my doubts, and afterwards found out that it was called " Prière Patriotique;" by an oversight the wrong side of the record was inserted, the other side being the National Anthem. The praver, which thas greeted the Minister, was answered by the celestial authorities, because later on Monsieur Paravicini actually won one of the events, but about this later.

Very remarkable results were registered in the Putting the Weight and the High Jump, in the latter M. Hans Alioth of the Swiss Mercantile Societs equalled the record established at former Swiss Sports of 5 feet 8 inches; this fine achievement received great applanse.

Once again that fine sportsman, Mr. H. H. Bammann, (S.M.S.) won the 120 yds Veterans' Handicap, in fine style.

An erent which always attracts the attention of the onlookers is the Veterans' 220 yds . race for men over 40 ; there were about a dozen valiant men lining up on the track, and I do not agree with the disparaging remark of one of the spectators who exclaimed " look what a mouldy lot!"

They were far from mouldy, as when the shot rang out, they started to walk like heroes, some were even so keen to get to the post that they indulged in little spurts of " running," which resulted in being asked by some of the judges to "" step out." Mr. r. Bergen, a former winner of this race, was leading almost the whole way, but a few yards from the post, he was overtaken, by Mr. Hauschmid, who kept a steady pace throughout the race. So once again our veterans have come well out of this "test of endurance.

The music then played some martial tune, and in single file the two teams for the Tug-o War marched out. They were the team of the "Union Helvetia" and the "Circle Valaisan. The latter won the first pull with comparative ease. The secoud pull was also won by the "Cercle Valaisan" and thas they took revenge for the defeat which they suffered last year from their opponents. The " Tnion Helretia" team was perhaps a little unfortmate to lose the second pull, as they were not quite ready when the referee gave the signal but it must be said that the "Cercle Valaisan" team was undoubt edly the bettel one I noticed that the wife of one member of the "Cercle Valaisan"" team arrivel hot and hothered with a olase of beer to arivel her allant wariors aur that is uo doub why this team won remember the slogan "c heer is best!"

Amongst the classical races, the Relay Race, Which was won by the Swiss Mercantile team, wa followed with the greatest interest, the fine sprinting was a treat to watch.

Another attraction proved to be again the Pillow Fight, this event used to be judged for many years by Mr. P. F. Boelringer. C nfortun ately, this year he was unable to be present and Mr. Ch. Strubin efficiently handled this amusias event.


A stir went through the community, when it was announced that the Swiss Minister was going on the poll with Mr. Ch. Barbezat, the popular President of the Swiss Sports Committee, a race began from the four quarters of the field to wit ness this " historical" event. Within 5 second the portly countenance of the Sports Committe President disappeared and the splendid victory of our Minister was greeted with deafening cheers. And thus the prayer for our Minister was befit tingly answered.

If only all diplomats would settle their accounts in this way, the world would undoubt edly be a better place to live in.


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It was then further announced that the ". Swiss Observer,', would fight a member belonging to the Stock Exchange profession, there was a fairly big attendance to witness this event, and I am convinced that many amongst the onlookers, who, for one reason or another bear a grudge agatinst the official organ of the Swiss Colony, wished that its editor would get a hefty "smack in the eye." It must have come as a sad disappointment to them, when his opponent received a hearty smack on his " rosy" cheek, which brought him to earth before he could count two. Two stalwart St. John's Ambulance men, tried hard to massage the face of the loser into its proper proportion.

Two other prominent members of the Colony, MIr. Alfr. Achmid and Mr. A. C. Baume, sat on the pole like two fighting cocks, one lightning blow from the pillow of Mr. Schmid, ended the aspirations of Mr. Baume.


There were, of course, innumerable races for little girls and boys. Such fancy erents as the Cigarette, Egg-and-Spoon, Obstacle, Blindfold and Three-legged Races caused great hilarity.

On interviewing one tiny tot who looked obviously upset and distressed, he mournfully acquainted me with the fact that he was disqualified by the referee for some technical offence, and with a knowing look he whispered in my ear "that there was some twisting going on." His face, howerer, soon brightened up, when Mr. Semm, with his great heart, presented him with a large bar of "Toblerone." Another little girl was so disgusted with the performance of her boy partner, that she tried to pull a few curls from his head, no doubt to be kept as a sourenir. When she was told that it was not rery sportswomen like behaviour, she returned; with sobs, - the fragments of hair, which she had kept in her tiny fist. - Another bar of chocolate soon dried her tears.

A short break was made in the programme, to allow the Swiss Minister to address the Sports gathering. The Minister expressed his pleasme to have again been able to attend, if only for a short time, at this ammal event, and he congratulated the organisers on their splendid efforts.

Punctually at 6 orblock, the distribution of the prizes was amomaced; mofortunately Mlle. Livia Paravicini was prevented from presenting the prizes, and her plate was taken by Mlle. Joan Barbezat, the dalughter of the President of the Sports Committee, who bestowed on each one of the winners a charming smile and a hearty handshake. It was most delightful to wateh the happy faces of some of the little ones who carried off their prizes with great pride and happiness. Mlle. Barbezat was presented with a beantiful Bouquet of tlowers.

The * Georges Dimier Chatlenge Cup " for scoring the highest aggregate number of points 15 points: rmmers up were the Swiss Merantile Soriety with ! points.

In summing up, I must heartily congratulate the members of the sports Committee for their unseltish efforts in trymg to make this ammual sports raty a success, ferent wish, that their untiring endeavours will be rewarded in future by an attendance which is in accordance with the hard work they render year by year to provide the colony with a first class entertaimment. I wish to single out M. H. H. Banmann, the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, who bore the bront of the work, as well as Messrs, Schneider, Levy, Semn, Dupraz, Hiltiker, Ritzmann and De Cintra.

The attendance for next year should be doubled so that it will be a real demonstration of a patriotic gathering, and I appeal sincerely to those who have been conspicious by their absence.
(Official Press Reporter). RESCLTS.
100 Yds. Flat. Handicap (Boys): Heat 1. 1st, Albert Wernli: Ond, Ernst Frank. Time $11 \frac{1}{2}$ secs. Heat 2. 1st, T. v. Bergen; 2nd, $11 \frac{1}{2}$ sers. Heat 2. 1st, T. V. Bergen; 2nd,
Ernest Volken. Time $12 \frac{1}{2}$ secs.
Putting the Weight: 1st, Hans Alioth, 35 feet 9 inches: 2ud, M. Amiguet, 34 feet 11 inches. 100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Men): Heat 1. 1st, W. Meier: Snd, H. Schmitter. Time 11 1/5 Secs. Heat 2. 1st, M. Weber: 2nd, R. I. Hiatl. oml II Amisuet. Time $109 / 10$ secs.
 H. Barntield. Time $551 / 10$ seces.

109 Yils. Ncrateh Race (Laties): 1st, Mrs. Meier. 2nd, Miss Ris.
High Jomp: 1st, II. Mloth, 5 feet $\&$ inches ; 2nd. R. P. Kneffer, 万feet: Brd, A. Stammbach, 4 feet 10 inches.

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100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Men): 1st. R. D. Glaser: 2nd, M. Weber ; Brd, M. Amignet.
440 Yts. Relay Race (Boys): 1st, Swiss Gym nastic Society.
Long Jump: 1st, H. Alioth, 18 feet 3 inches; 2nd, F. Kaelin, 17 feet 8 inches; 3rd, A. Keller, 17 feet 2 inches.
220 Yds. Flat Handicap: Heat 1. 1st, Maurice Weber ; 2nd, D. C. Lock. Time $234 / 5$ secs. Heat 2. 1st, H. Schmitter; 2nd, M. De Maria. Time $25 \frac{1}{2}$ secs. Heat 3. 1st, R. D. Glaser ; 2nd, J. Becker. Time $251 / 10$ secs.
4. 0 Yds. Veterans' Walkin! Handicap: 1st, Mr. Hauschmid; 2nd, F. v. Bergen; 3rd, E. v. Bergen ; 4th, E. Weber; 5th, L. Jobin; 6th, Mr . Bloch.
75 Yds. Hurdle Race (Boys): 1st Heat. 1st, Wernli ; Ond, Kummer; 3rd, L. Jaeggi. Heat 2. B. Jaeggi ; 2nd, K. S. Sterchi ; 3rd, A. Finger.
220 Yds. Flat Handicap: 1st, Maurice Weber; 2nd, Robert D. Glaser; 3rd, J. Becker.
Tuy $O^{\circ}$ War: Winners, Cercle Valaisan; Rumners up, Union Helvetia.
100 Yds. Handicap (Ladies): Heat 1. 1st, Miss Lilywhite: 2nd, Miss Archer; Brd, Miss Charmanx. Heat 2. 1st, Miss Bowes; 2nd, Miss Wells : 3rd, Mrs Mickmann.
60 Yds. Handicap (Girls): Heat 1. 1st, Betty Hanswirth; 2nd, Helena Jaeggi ; 3rd, Rosemary Müller; 4th, Mary v. Bregen. Heat 2. 1st, Mary Mayes; 2nd, Joyce Burckhard; Brd, Mary Piccamiglio; 4th, A. Jacquery Heat 3. 1st, Ruby Burckhard: 2nd, Mary Ward; 3rd, Nancy Mackenzie: 4th, Lina Hauswirth. Heat 4. 1st, Pauline Jaeggi ; 2nd, Yolande de Cintra ; 3rd, Alma Flückiger ; 4th, Mary Hoch.
Pillow Fight (Men): 1st, Baehler; 2nd, Glaser ; 3rd, Gerig ; 4th, Kuenzli.
80 Yos. Handicap (Boys): Heat 1. 1st, P. Ruf 2nd, P. Ammann; 3rd, J. Morris; 4th, J. Gardelli. Heat 2. 1st, J. Notari : 2nd, D. Mayes; 3rd, I. Bangarter; 4th, J. Bangarter.
Heat 3. 1st, R. F. Sterchi ; 2nd, T. v. Bergen ; Heat 3. 1st, R. F. Sterchi ; 2nd, T. v. Bergen;
3rd, M. Bloom ; 4th, A. Finger. Heat 4. 1st, J. Müller; 2nd, B. Jaeggi ; 3rd, Ch. Strübin; 4th, Th. Kummer.
Cigarette Race (Mixerl): Heat 1. 1st, Doris Hausschmied and A. Norris; 2nd, P. Dupraz and E. Zürcher. Heat 2. Mr. and Mrs. Hickmann ; 2nd, Vera Wells and Jack Scott.
Egg-and-spoon Race (Ladies): Heat 1. 1st, 2. 1st, Pamela Bushford ; 2nd, Marjori Bushford. Heat 3. 1st, Daphne Areher; 2nd, Anita Day.
Boys' Obstacle Race: Heat 1. 1st, B. Jaeggi ${ }_{2}^{2}$ nd, L. Jaeggi. Heat 2. 1st, D. C. R. Smith 2nd. A. Wernli. Heat 3. 1st, T. v. Bergen 2nd, R. F. Sterchi.
Blindfold Rase: 1st pair, J. Hanswirth and Gladys Hanswirth; 2nd pair, Doris Hans wirth and A. Norris; 3rd pair, Lydia and Léon Jaeggi.
Three-Legged Race: Heat 1. 1st Lady, Marjorie Bushford; 1st Gentleman, L. F. Jobin ; 2nd Lady, Yvonne Huybrecht; 2nd Gentleman, André Huybrecht. Heat 2. 1st Lady, Lydia Jaeggi ; 1st Gentleman, L. Jaeggi ; 2nd Lady, Doris Hanswirth; 2nd Gentleman, A. Norris
Relay Race: Winners, Swiss Mercantile Society
"A"" Runners up, Union Helvetia; 3rd, "A"; Runners up, Union Helvetia; 3rd,
Swiss Mercantile Society "B". Swiss Mercantile Society "B"
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## PERSONAL.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. M. Grether, of 3, Fieldsway House, Fieldsway Crescent, N.s, Mr. (Arether's sister having died in Basel ; and to Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Ober hänsli, of 8 , Gordon Street, W.C.1, Mr. Ober hänsli's mother having died in Zurich at the age of 72 .

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[^0]:    FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
    Tuesday, June 2nd - City Swiss Club - No Meeting.

    Wednesday, June 3rd, at $7.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. - Société de Secours Mutuels - Monthly Meeting, at 74. Charlotte Street, W.1.

    Tuesday, June 16th, at 7.30 p.m. - City Swiss Club - Réunion d'été - at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See Advert.)

    Thursday, June 18th - 67th "Fête Suisse" at Central Hall, Westminster.

