

Swiss sports & garden party

Autor(en): [s.n]

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - (1938)

Heft 870

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693062>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern. Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

SWISS SPORTS & GARDEN PARTY

at

DUKE OF YORK'S HEADQUARTERS, CHELSEA,

on

SATURDAY, JULY 9th 1938.

With not a little anxiety the Swiss Sports Committee had looked forward to this year's Sports festival; this annual event which had formerly taken place at the Herne Hill track, had in recent years, lost much of its glamour and pull, and last year, owing to the coronation celebrations, it was decided to dispense with it.

Learning from previous experiences, the authorities in charge arranged the Sports meeting to be run on different lines; first of all a change of the ground was made, which was all to the good, secondly in connection with the Sports a kind of a Garden Party was introduced which, on the whole, proved successful.

If this year's Sports Meeting was not a 100 per cent. success, it was certainly not the fault of the Sports Committee; unfortunately the weather again spoilt at least a part of the afternoon; a steady rain which set in shortly before 5 o'clock made it necessary to cancel some of the events, much to the regret of the children. I was told that one of the little one's, on going to bed on Friday night, said the following little prayer:

"Lieber Petrus! Hab' Erbarmen,
Schick' uns wieder Sonnenschein,
Denn die Kinderlein, die armen,
Möchten gern am Feste sein."

It was not to be, and I am afraid dear Petrus is in the bad books of at least one little girl.

In spite, however, of the inclement weather, I have no hesitation in saying that this year's Swiss Sports Meeting has been a great success; whilst the attendance two years ago dwindled down to about 300, we saw again a much larger gathering, and it is estimated that between 500-600 people were present which is a good augury, and which has given the Committee a tremendous impetus.

The side shows, which I am told proved with one or two exceptions, a financial success, could perhaps be made a little more attractive, and if a more favourable position could be found it might be still better.

A positive improvement was the Musical arrangements, a military band, by the kind permission of Lieut-Colonel J. Mc. Ewan Martin, commanding the London Divisional Royal Engineers, played a selection of popular music, some of the pieces being heartily applauded.

Punctuality has always been a virtue at the Swiss Sports and at 2.45 p.m. sharp the 1st event was run. As the results of the various events will be given at the end of this report, I will, with a few exceptions, desist from commenting on the achievements of each individual performer.

The 100 yds. Flat Handicap (Men) and the 120 yds. Veterans' Flat Handicap proved to be very attractive, in both these races Mr. H. H. Baumann came in first, and he is to be heartily congratulated on these feats; to keep on winning year after year (Mr. Baumann has won the Challenge Cup of the 120 yds. Veterans' Flat Handicap outright for the second time) at an age when most of us begin to take things easy, and when the waist line becomes a thing of the past, is an achievement to be proud of. What has often puzzled me is, where does he "store" all these lovely cups which he keeps on winning?, and oh my!, the cleaning of them.

During the afternoon, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by his daughter, Mademoiselle Jacqueline Paravicini, made their appearance. The arrival of the head of our Colony was made known to the gathering through the Band playing the Swiss National Anthem.

There were also present from the Legation, M. Ch. de Jenner, accompanied by Mme. de Jenner and children, and M. de Rham.

Whilst the band played a selection from Carmen, there lined up a number of "Swiss Torreadors," and I was waiting for the bull to be let loose; looking at the programme, however, I noticed that the 440 yds. Veterans' Walking Handicap for men over 40 years was ready to be "walked-off."

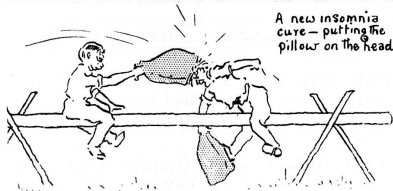
As most of these stalwart veterans are personal friends of mine, I feel rather reluctant to criticise their performance, lest they retaliate in some way or another. What impressed me most were their grim faces, though some looked rather solemn, reminding me of that honourable profession of undertakers, but all were eager to run (I beg your pardon, I should say "walk") for their lives. I am sure they will not take it amiss if I say that some indulged in little spurts of "running," but then one cannot be too harsh on veterans. The race was won by Mr. Pont and it was a well-deserved victory, Mr. von Bergen, a former winner, came in second. All in all our veterans' have come well out of this "test of endurance."

An announcement over the microphone was then made that the Tug-O-War, was to take place, an event which always creates much interest. In former years the teams used to come on the track in single file amidst the cheering of the crowd, whilst the band played some martial tune, which used to be most impressive; this year this harmless bit of showmanship was omitted, it is a pity, it always somehow reminded me of the entry of the gladiators into the circus in Rome, they need, of course, not have shouted, "Ave, Caesar, morituri te salutant."

The entry for this event was larger than for some time, four teams competing, namely: Cercle Valaisan (holder of the cup), Swiss Mercantile Society, Union Helvetia and Swiss Federal Railways. The "Cercle Valaisan" put up a splendid performance, especially when one considers that most members of the team are not exactly youngsters any more. The Swiss Federal Railways team was perhaps a little unfortunate to lose the second pull. The event was won in fine style by the sturdy youngsters of the Swiss Mercantile Society, youth no doubt conquers age. The runners-up were the Cercle Valaisan, and I repeat, they put up a splendid fight.

Amongst the classical races the Relay Race, which was won by the Swiss Mercantile Society "A" team, was followed with the greatest interest, the fine sprinting was a delight to watch.

Another attraction proved to be again the Pillow Fight, which was judged as for many years past, by Mr. P. F. Boelbringer. This is the only event, I used to "indulge in" in former years, because I thought it would be only right that members of the Colony should have an opportunity to inflict some punishment on the Editor of our official Swiss paper. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately for me, a young lady standing next to me, just when I was getting ready to mount the pole, said, if that "fat chap" gets knocked off, he will make a hole in the ground, after this I simply did not have the heart to face an audience of several hundreds. Like a burglar in the night I sneaked away, "fishing for wine" at one of the side shows.



Many a reputation was lost on the "pole" and many a grudge was settled with a pillow. After a great deal of punishment had been inflicted and endured, Mr. L. Jeaggi was declared the winner, second was Mr. Toni Gerig, who stuck to his guns with grim determination. Mr. Strubin, who by now had recovered from the strain of the veterans' race, was declared third. I am glad I did not have to face him, as he was far too boisterous for me.

Fine results were scored at the High Jump, by members of the Swiss Mercantile Society (Col-

lege) although the previous records were not beaten.

The 100 yds. Handicap races for Ladies and Girls, and the Boys 80 yds. Handicap were also very interesting to watch.

There were, of course, various races for little girls and boys, and such fancy events as the Cigarette, Egg-and-Spoon Race caused great hilarity.

A new addition amongst the events, was the Beauty Parade for Ladies.

Nearly a dozen sweet and charming Ladies braved the critical eyes of the judges, I am glad I did not have to give a verdict, because I should have been in a quandry and then one young Lady whom I would have declared the "Beauty Queen" was unfortunately not amongst the competitors. May it be a consolation to all those Ladies who did not win one of the four prizes, if I say that they looked sweet and charming all the same, and that even such important personalities as Judges are, don't always know when they see a "good thing." Let us hope that all the four prize-winners will be successful in finding a partner for life with the same ease as they have won this competition, and let us hope also that the "bachelor judge" will be one of their "victims."

The "Georges Dimier Challenge Cup" for scoring the highest aggregate number of points was awarded to the Swiss Mercantile Society, scoring 11 points, runners-up were the Union Helvetia with 8 points.

Amongst the side shows, I have no hesitation in saying that the "Fishing for Bottles" (Delicious Pendant supplied by a prominent member of the Colony) took first honour. As I have already mentioned, I tried to drown my sorrow in this excellent vintage, but, although I spent a few shillings I could not manage to get my ring round the bottle neck, and so "the poor boy had none."

There was also the guessing of the weight of a beautiful cake, and the guessing of a number of beans in a Jar. Whoever was in charge of these two items showed some "business instinct," for he stuck a £5 treasury note in front of these articles, making all and sundry believe that this would be the reward. Needless to say you cannot distribute £5 notes when the price of a ticket is only 1d., but I am sure it did the trick and nobody will feel sore about it, but I just wonder, what would have happened to my young friend, if one of the competitors would have walked away with his treasury note, and would have left him "without a bean."

Long before the "Sports" came to an end, some of the side shows had to put up notices "Sold out," a proof that this new venture has been successful.

Owing to a break in the programme, caused through weather conditions, the distribution of the prizes was much delayed and took place only about 8 o'clock. Unfortunately the Swiss Minister and his daughter were not able to wait for the final act, and Mme. G. Dimier, the charming wife of the late Founder of the Swiss Sports, took the place of Mademoiselle Paravicini. Previous to the distribution, M. R. de Cintra, President of the Swiss Sports, gave a short and much appreciated address, thanking all and sundry for their collaboration.

Mme. Dimier, who was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, fulfilled her task in a charming manner, it was most delightful to watch the happy faces of some of the little ones who carried off their prizes with great pride and happiness.—

In summing up I must heartily congratulate the members of the Sports Committee for their unselfish efforts in trying to make this annual Sports rally and Garden Party again the success it used to be.

If not everything went according to plan, one must realise that it was for the first time that the Swiss Sports were held at new quarters and that



