

Schweizerbund (Swiss Club)

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SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB).

On the 29th of November the Schweizerbund held its General Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. This meeting should have taken place in July, but the landlords having applied for an eviction order to quit the premises, it was felt that no useful purpose would be served to hold the General Meeting until the verdict of the Court had been given.

Unfortunately the verdict was given against the Club and consequently an Extraordinary Meeting was called for the 15th of November in which, with a majority of votes, it was decided to ask for a stay of execution pending an appeal.

In view of the fact that the lease was due to expire in February, 1947, as little money as possible was spent on temporary repairs which were badly needed owing to enemy action during the war, with the result that to-day, the club rooms are in a delapidated condition.

It is at this stage, of course, impossible to forecast the verdict of the appeal court but the matter was left in the hands of the committee to deal with the situation to the best advantage of the club and to report any progress on a meeting to be called for January 10th, 1948.

The Balance Sheet was presented and discussed at length, and the President, M. P. Stoeri, acquainted the Meeting that under the item "Cash in hand" there was a discrepancy for which he was unable to account owing to the books not having been kept in a very efficient manner.

In view of this disclosure and the bad management of the club affairs, the President and Committee in general had to face some severe reproaches and after a lengthy and embarrassing discussion, it was decided to approve the balance sheet as presented with a rider attached to it that the executives of the Club have neglected their duties to the members. As a result of these discussions it became apparent that, several members had lost all confidence in the Committee and felt that, in view of the circumstances, they could not agree to leave the Committee in charge, even for a limited period.

The Trustee, Mr. Delaloye, was then duly nominated President *pro tem.* during the elections.

It was not surprising that, a proposal to re-elect for the time being the Committee *en bloc*, was rejected. It was thought that it would be extremely difficult to find a new Committee who would have the courage to take charge of the management of the club on the face of the unsatisfactory conditions which had been disclosed. Fortunately, however, this was not so and a number of members offered themselves for election and were duly approved. The new President Mr. Emil Siegrist was assured of the ready support by all the elected members who now form the Committee as follows:—

President: Mr. Emil Siegrist; *Vice-President:* Mr. Harry Caluori; *Secretary:* Mr. Marcel Bachofer, *Assist.-Secretary:* Mr. Emil Honegger; *Joint Treasurers:* Mr. Gusti Wyss, Mr. H. Trepp; *Members:* J. Horowitz, J. Schrier, A. Greder, Charles Bayliss, P. Mario.
Trustees: F. Delaloye, E. A. Nussle and F. Studer.

The new leaders of the Club are well aware of the difficult task which awaits them, the chances of finding new and suitable club premises are not bright, and the internal organisation of the Club requires a lot of

work, having been neglected for a number of years. Nevertheless, the new Committee which consists of willing men, anxious to do their share, is confident that with their joint efforts, they will overcome the present crisis.

The financial position of the Club at the moment is still sound, although a great future charge will arise through the liabilities of rent and legal fees. The choice of the two treasurers Mr. Gusti Wyss, for 43 years known in the Swiss Colony, and Mr. H. Trepp of the Swiss Bank Corporation, was well placed and their names and integrity should guarantee a sound conduct of the financial affairs.

The Committee is of the opinion that, with efficient management, and the good support of members, affiliated members and friends, there are good chances to save for the future this popular Club which has played such a prominent part in the social life of the Swiss Colony in London for the last 68 years.

It is expected that, in the near future, more and more young Swiss will be coming to this country and shall be anxious to join the Schweizerbund, not only to be able to have a home from home, but also to meet their friends on a social basis. The Committee will welcome young blood in the Club, help them in their difficulties being a strange person in a strange country and to see that, in the meantime, they do not forget their Home country. All this cannot be done by the Committee alone, it requires the co-operation of all. It would be foolish to apply to members for financial assistance at this stage to acquire new premises having seen that the executives have neglected the financial resources but several members have already expressed their willingness to come forward in due course. The Committee, however, appeals at the moment to every member to send their full names, addresses and nationality to enable the Secretary to compile an up-to-date record of membership, the existing record appears to be out of date in many cases. The Treasurers would also be obliged if the members who are in arrears with their subscription would facilitate their work by paying up promptly.

Any suggestion or proposal relating to new Club premises or for the good of the Club in general would also be very much appreciated.

For and on behalf of the Schweizerbund:

E. SIEGRIST,

President.

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