

Swiss Rifle Association

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1952)**

Heft 1195

PDF erstellt am: **10.07.2024**

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

"Grümpelschiesset" Dinner.

"Xmas comes but once a year", we say, and so does the "Grümpelschiesset" dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association; to both of which one looks forward with pleasant anticipation. Whilst the former is principally a family affair, the latter can be termed a festival of friendship and good sportsmanship.

Nearly fifty members and guests assembled at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7., on Friday, December 5th, to celebrate the close of the rifle shooting season with an informal dinner.

After the company had been duly fortified with a variety of cocktails, the members and guests adjourned to the dining room, where a sumptuous dinner was served; so as not to make the mouths of my readers water too much, I will only mention one special dish, called "Boudin à la choucroute", which always seems to be the "pièce de résistance", but, of course, there were other good things to be had, such as "Schwynigs" etc. etc.

Shortly before the last dish appeared, the President of the Swiss Rifle Association, Mr. Alfred Schmid, who also acted as "Mine Host" proposed the customary toasts, and afterwards extended a cordial welcome to the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, and the following guests: Lt.-Colonel P. Gygli, Military and Air Attaché, Swiss Legation, Major Stokoe, Member of the Council Surrey Rifle Association, Mr. G. W. Goodridge, Secretary of the Surrey Rifle Association, M. F. Ansermoz, of the Swiss Legation, Mr. J. Huber, Swiss Consul, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

The President in his address voiced his satisfaction with the results obtained during the last shooting period, but said, that there would be still plenty of room left for improvement. The Swiss Minister, in a very humorous vein recalled some of his experiences and terminated his *causerie* by extending thanks, both to the Association and its President, for the hospitality extended to him. Mr. J. C. Wetter, Vice-President, expressed on behalf of the members heartiest thanks to the President for his work, saying that the latter "likes to be nursed", (and I would add, *should* be nursed); he also voiced his pleasure at seeing the representatives of the Surrey Rifle Association, to which the S.R.A. is affiliated, present, and thanked them for their always appreciated hospitality at Bisley. Major Stokoe, of the Surrey Rifle Association referred to the cordial relationship which exists between the two Associations, and said "thank you!" for the "overwhelming" hospitality. The Chief Range officer, Mr. Willy Fischer, said that he was not too happy about the attendance at the Rifle Range, but nevertheless he considered the various results as satisfactory.

On the conclusion of the speechmaking, Mr. Magnin, the untiring Hon. Secretary of the S.R.A., announced that the Society, as is customary, would like to present the official and other guests with a little gift, and amongst great acclamation he handed over to the Swiss Minister a substantial hamper, whilst other guests received bottles of wine and cigarettes.

I think this is an excellent idea, and I would heartily recommend other Swiss Societies to follow suit; in my own case, I carried away a bottle of Sherry

and a bottle of Clos du Mont, which were most acceptable. Should my recommendation bear fruit I would certainly do not too badly, as I attend on the average about 60 dinners alone per year as a guest; I would, therefore, collect at that rate, 120 bottles per annum, and had this custom been followed right from the beginning of my editorship of the "Swiss Observer" some odd twenty-three years, I would have had by now in my cellar no less than 2,560 bottles, providing I had not touched any during that period, which is not very likely.

Mr. Magnin then proceeded with the prize distribution to the members, announcing the following results:

Grümpelschiessen Open competition: Willy Fischer: 53 points; J. C. Wetter: 51 points; Oscar Grob: 51 points, Peter Fischer: 50 points.

Handicap competition: O. C. Brullhard: 64 points; Gaston Bartholdi: 64 points, Francis Magnin: 60 points; Ernest Brullhard: 59 points.

The highest yearly average had been reached by Mr. W. Fischer with 50 points, and the best score of the year was obtained by Mr. Hermann Schmid with 58 points.

When everyone had chosen his prize, Mr. F. Magnin received in his turn a hamper, presented by the Vice-President, on behalf of the members of the Swiss Rifle Association, for the good services which he had rendered during the past year.

This really enjoyable evening, where good comradeship reigned supreme, closed with a film show given by Mr. L. Krucker, picturing the last meeting at Bisley, which was much appreciated.

May I, to conclude, once again say thank you to the Colony's "Scharfschützen" for this fine and unforgettable evening.

ST.

