

Annual Swiss sports and garden party

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ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY.

Saturday, May 22nd, 1954.

As will be seen from the enclosed circular the above Sports Meeting and Garden Party will take place again at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick.

For many years this annual Sports Festival has been one of the most popular events in the London Swiss Colony, not only was it looked upon as an event dedicated to sport, but it also became a sort of a "Landsgemeinde" where young and old gave themselves *rendez-vous* to spend a few hours in social intercourse.

It is true that in later years it lost a little of its former glory, owing principally to the fact that many members of the Colony who took at one time an active part in the various sports events, through advancing age became spectators instead of performers, and alas, the influx of a younger generation has become a problem which must be viewed with some concern.

Nevertheless the committee has decided to carry on because it was found that there is still a respectable number of sports enthusiasts who will guarantee an interesting performance. In fact the entries for the various events in post war years have been satisfactory, but the attendance has unfortunately been on the downward grade, which is greatly to be regretted.

Various reasons have accounted for this, first of all the Swiss Sports have, on most occasions, been unlucky with the weather, secondly the choosing of a

new meeting place (Chiswick instead of Herne Hill) met with some opposition, as it was considered that the latter place was more convenient, and within easier reach. This question was studied very carefully, and it was found — and rightly so — that there is very little difference as to distance, and furthermore the Stadium at Chiswick is much more up-to-date than Herne Hill. There is a much larger accommodation available in the covered stand, which is an important factor, should the weather be unfavourable, and the catering is infinitely better.

I make therefore an earnest Appeal to the Swiss community to support the efforts of the committee, whose members have worked very hard so as to make this event as attractive as possible. Very fine prizes will be presented for those who take part in the various competitions, and the events for children of all ages promise to be very amusing. For those who come along to watch, music is provided.

The Swiss Minister and Madame de Torrenté will honour the Meeting with their presence.

The admission to these attractive grounds is free, and all Swiss and their families, as well as their English friends will be heartily welcomed. It is a splendid opportunity for all those who are unable, for some reason or another, to attend the indoor functions of the Colony to meet their friends and acquaintances, and I am sure they will not be disappointed.

I heartily support the Appeal of the Committee for a large attendance so that it will become, as in former year, a really social event of the Colony.

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