

Roundabout Switzerland

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1955)**

Heft 1249

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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ROUNDAABOUT SWITZERLAND

by Derek Meakin

APRIL is the month when a host of outdoor events begin to come into their own again. Horse-racing starts at Fehralt Dorf and Amriswil and the Swiss road cycle racing season has opened.

The approach of better weather has even persuaded the Valaisans to enjoy the luxury of an open-air theatre performance at Sierre, where the talk has been of the cowfights and *râclette* and all the other attractions that will be tempting visitors Valais-wards this summer.



Râclette — a Valais speciality and a top draw with visitors.

Over in Zurich Old Man Winter has been done away with in time-honoured manner, and the "Böögg" has been burnt as tradition dictates, helped along by a liberal supply of squibs and fireworks strategically set in the cotton wool. These days there is nothing political about this unique ceremony, yet it has its origin way back in

medieval times when Zurich was ruled by its all-powerful guilds.

Politics, however, have a great part to play in some other open-air events being held in Appenzell, Hundwil, Stans and Sarnen this month — the *Lands-gemeinden*. These outdoor assemblies at which citizens decide, by a show of hands, how their affairs are to be conducted during the coming year, are typically Swiss. The speeches, full of good sense and often laced with a fair measure of good humour, may be lost on visitors, but few can fail to be impressed by these age-old examples of direct democracy in such grandiose surroundings.

SWISS ENTERS FOR OPEN POLICE BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

For the first time since the Championships were started in 1927, a member of the Swiss Police Force has notified his intention to enter this international tournament. Sepp Suter of Berne Police will take part in the Heavyweight class, the Semi-Finals and Finals of which will be held at The Royal Albert Hall, London, on Monday, 2nd May next. The present holder of the title is W. Engel, Berlin Police. A unique feature of this tournament is that The Crookes Laboratories Ltd., each year provide a highly trained and fully qualified team of physiotherapists and its equipment to treat all competitors. This treatment can take the form of massage and loosening up, or be fully comprehensive in the repair of boxing injuries sustained during a bout. The expert skill of this team has, in past years, enabled a man who received injury in a semi-final to so recover that he has been able to take part in the final and win, as in the cases of J. Trevillion (Metropolitan, 1951), A. Hoyle (Monmouth, 1953) and J. F. Champ (Birmingham, 1951) and others. In no other Amateur Boxing Tournament in this country are such facilities provided, and not only does it ensure that each competitor enters the ring in excellent physical condition, but also that competitors from overseas police forces can enter the Championships confident in the knowledge that their physical well-being is in the hands of competent and skilled men who have studied the treatment of sports injuries. We hope that Herr Suter will enjoy his visit to this country, and wish him luck in his endeavour to be the first Swiss to win an Open Police Championship.

J. C. G.

NEWS FROM THE LEGATION

The Swiss Minister, and Madame Armin Daeniker gave a cocktail party at the Legation on Thursday, April 21st, 1955, to meet the members of the "Röse-ligartechor" from Berne.

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