

# Swiss Rifle Association

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## SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

The round of Annual General Meetings still goes on, and on Friday, March 23rd, it was the turn of the Swiss Rifle Association. They met at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7, their headquarters.

In latter years it has become the custom to combine a dinner with these meetings, which I consider quite a good idea; by doing so, it considerably shortens the business part as everyone seems to be anxious to get away from the conference — to a more satisfactory table.

Mr. Alfred Schmid was in the Chair, and there were about 30 members present, amongst them as guests, Lt. Colonel W. Koch, Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation, Monsieur M. Luy, Ist Secretary of Legation, and Mr. A. Stauffer, Editor of the "Swiss Observer".

In welcoming them, the President extended heartiest congratulations to Lt. Colonel Koch, on his recent promotion, he also mentioned the appointment of Mr. H. Knoll, a member of the Association, as Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, London.

After the reading of the minutes by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. Magnin, the accounts were presented and explained by Mr. O. Grob. This is to me always a rather complicated procedure, as I can never quite grasp how they are made up. Some of our Swiss Societies produce a more or less complicated number of accounts finishing up with a "Profit and Loss Account".

The Balance Sheet of the Swiss Rifle Association, however, seems to me quite a simple affair, and it is called merely "Receipts and Payments Account", from its particulars I gathered that they owe the Bank about £80, not being an expert on book-keeping I take this to be equivalent to a deficit, but somehow Mr. Grob managed to turn this into a small credit balance of about £7, explaining that the stock of ammunition, taken at cost price, comes under the rubric of "assets". With much painstaking he hurled various figures at our heads, and knowing him to be an experienced banker, used to juggling figures, I must congratulate him on coming to such a satisfactory result. Every body seemed to be happy, and the accounts presented were accepted with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. Magnin.

The President then gave a short *résumé* of the year's activities, saying that six meetings (1954: 10) were held at the shooting range in Bisley, during which 3,520 (1954: 5,350) rounds were fired. We learned that the Swiss Rifle Association numbers 61 members (1954: 59). Mr. Schmid mentioned that the past season could be termed as satisfactory, and as he was satisfied everybody else was so too, which is a very happy state of affairs.

Then followed the elections for the new committee under the chairmanship of Mr. O. Grob, who explained that the outgoing members were prepared to carry on for another year, and as no other proposals were made they were re-elected with acclamation. Before inviting the President to assume again the "fauteuil présidentiel", the temporary chairman, thanked him and his colleagues on the committee for the services they had rendered the Association.

In taking the Chair again, Mr. Schmid thanked the assembly for the confidence expressed to him and his committee, paying a special compliment to Mr. F. Magnin, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, for his untiring efforts to keep "things going".

After a short "meeting" at the cocktail bar, the company adjourned to the dining room, where an excellent dinner was served, which was greatly enjoyed. There were no speeches made, but Mr. Willy Fischer, in a short address thanked the President, who was also the host, for looking so well and generously after the more material needs of the members.

On my invitation was mentioned that after dinner the company would indulge in another "national sport", the one of playing "Jass", but I am afraid this did not come off. As the revellers having rather freely helped themselves to some of the famous vintages — grown on the sunny slopes of our country — suddenly and without warning burst into song which they kept up with astounding determination, so that in the end I did not know whether I was attending a gathering of the Swiss Male Choir, or the Swiss Rifle Association.

Whilst, in a way, I would have liked to play a game of cards, I quite enjoyed the musical interlude, especially as the Swiss Rifle Association seems to have many noted singers, and perhaps in the end this entertainment was the "cheaper" of the two.

So, once again, this evening amongst the "Scharfschützen" of the Colony was a most enjoyable affair, which I am sure, nobody present would have liked to miss.

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