

"Stadtturnverein" Berne v. Shaftesbury Harries

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THE CITY SWISS CLUB IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

At one of the recent meetings of the City Swiss Club the wish was expressed that the ladies should be given an opportunity of taking part in the social life of the Club to a greater extent than hitherto.

The committee promptly acted upon this suggestion and arranged a "Thé Dansant", which took place on Saturday, 5th July, at "The Compleat Angler" in Marlow (Berks).

When two years ago the Club organised a family river trip — in a specially hired steamer — from Windsor to Marlow, the latter place was the terminus. This charming little village on the Thames so pleased everyone that it was decided that a future outing should take place there.

Although the weather conditions were not altogether pleasing — the sun stubbornly refusing to make an appearance — the attendance reached nearly a hundred, which can be considered satisfactory. If the weather was dull, the same could hardly be said about this "Thé Dansant". The gay colours of the ladies' summer frocks made up for the missing sun.

The pleasant dining room at "The Compleat Angler" was on this occasion transformed into a ball-room, a large Swiss flag which was exhibited adding colour to the lavish flower decorations.

When the dance band started with a Viennese waltz there was almost a rush to "take the floor". Apart from the younger generation, many of the older couples gave proof that their "dancing years" were by no means over. Waltzes were followed in quick succession by one-steps and two-steps, and even by a rather exhausting Swiss "Laendler".

To allow the revellers to recover from their exertion an interval was introduced during which, instead of tea, a full-course cold dinner was served, and it would perhaps have been more appropriate to call it a "Dinner Dance". As the Club most generously contributed to the expenses it would be ungrateful to grumble. Special arrangements had been made with the licensing authorities for supplying alcoholic beverages. This, no doubt, added to the "Stimmung", and dancing was resumed with new vigour until 6.30 p.m.

This very successful outing, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, brought back many pleasant memories of pre-war dinners and dances held at Nuthall's, Kingston-on-Thames, and at the Brent Bridge Hotel events, which in those days were a popular feature in the social life of the City Swiss Club.

In concluding this report I wish, on behalf of all those who took part, to congratulate the committee for having organised this "Thé Dansant", especially the energetic Hon. Secretary, Mr. Th. von Speyr, for having seen that everything went without a hitch; it was a most successful and pleasant afternoon.

ST.

47th FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION AT BIENNE. 2nd to 21st July 1958.

A few days ago the 47th Federal Shooting Competition (Tir Fédéral) came to its close. 2,850 rifle clubs with 67,000 marksmen took part. 400 targets were at the disposal of the competitors.

On the "Official Day" (8th July), Dr. Th. Hohenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, welcomed the shooting fraternity in a patriotic address. A special train from Berne conveyed all the members of the Federal Council, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Federal Chambers and of the Army to Bienne.

We are delighted to report that the London Swiss Rifle Association, who competed with an *équipe* of twelve men in the "Concours d'honneur" for the Swiss from abroad, were placed second with an average of 49,666 points, receiving a laurel wreath with golden acorns. Fourteen Societies with 133 marksmen took part in this competition. Five members of the S.R.A. won a distinction in the team competition, namely Messrs. W. Rüeger, Willy Fischer, Peter Odermatt, J. C. Wetter, and Joseph Hess. Mr. Hess also obtained a distinction in an individual competition.

Three members of the Swiss Rifle Association won the St. Martin's Challenge Cup offered by the "Schweizerischen Kurzwellendienst" Berne, the organisers of a "Radio Weltschützenfest" for Swiss nationals all over the world. They are: Marcel Bucherer, Peter Fischer, and Robert Strebler. 40 Swiss Colonies with 700 marksmen competed.

On Monday, 7th July, a trip on the Lake of Bienne was arranged for the Swiss competitors from abroad, and a banquet was given in their honour at the "Bären" in Twann-Douanne.

We extend heartiest congratulations to the Swiss Rifle Association on their remarkable success.

"STADTTURNVEREIN" BERNE v. SHAFTESBURY HARRIERS.

The Athletic Meeting between the "Stadtturnverein" Berne and the Shaftesbury Harriers took place on Monday, 14th July, at the Paddington Recreation Ground, Randolph Avenue, W.9.

Amongst a considerable number of spectators who attended the sports meeting were the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker, His Worship the Mayor of Paddington, and Consul E. Ribi and Madame Ribi.

Shortly before the start of the programme, Mr. A. Bosshard, President of the "Stadtturnverein", Mr. H. J. Aston, President of the Shaftesbury Harriers, and the respective team managers, Messrs. R. Bosshard and P. Woodsmith, with other officials, were introduced to the Ambassador and the Mayor of Paddington. Madame Daeniker was presented with a bouquet.

After the presentation the two teams lined up in front of the principal guests whilst the two national anthems were played.

The Bernese *équipe* consisted of thirty-five men, and they were accompanied by twenty-five ladies and supporters — altogether sixty persons. The visit of the Berne gymnasts was in return for the one paid last year by the Shaftesbury Harriers to Berne when the latter won with 78 to 75 points.

On Monday, 14th July, the Swiss athletes took their revenge by beating the Shaftesbury Harriers by 79 to 75 points. The small difference as to points scored in the two encounters in Berne and London denotes that there is little to choose between the teams, both having a considerable number of fine and keen sportsmen. The results achieved, especially in the classic races, pole vault, high jump and long jump, were remarkable.

The varied and interesting programme, which included discus-throwing, pole vault, weight-lifting, high jump, long jump, hurdle races, 100, 220, 440, 800 yards and 2 miles races, claimed the attention of the spectators from beginning to end. All events were run under I.A.A.F. rules.

The "Stadttturnverein" gave an excellent performance in some of the races, and thus proved that the saying that the Bernese are "slow" is nothing but a myth.

Throughout the Meeting a happy and sportsman-like atmosphere prevailed; there was no loss of temper, and each individual effort was applauded whether it concerned "friend or foe".

The Meeting came to a close soon after 8 p.m., after which the teams and officials adjourned to the pavilion for refreshments, and then followed a "Gemütliche Vereinigung" at a local public house, during which English and Swiss songs were rendered and quantities of beer drunk.

This Sports Meeting brought back many happy memories to the writer, who from 1905 to 1909 was a member of the "Stadttturnverein". On enquiring after some of the members of former years, I was grieved to hear that — alas! — quite a few have left us never to return. This is the way of the world, the older generation is slowly disappearing; but I was both proud and pleased that the present generation of this old and distinguished Society is keeping the flag proudly flying.

The next day (Tuesday), during lunch hours, the members of the "Stadttturnverein" with their ladies, officials of the Shaftesbury Harriers, and the Mayor of Paddington, were offered a champagne apéritif by the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker at the Embassy.

It was a very pleasant surprise to see Madame Daeniker receiving the guests in the becoming Bernese costume, which she wore in honour of her fellow countrymen from the "Mutzenstadt". This "beau geste" was greatly appreciated, and I cannot help but relate an amusing conversation which I overheard. One of the Berne visitors, on enquiring who the "girl" in "Bärnertracht" was, was told, by a colleague of his, that she was "the Ambassador's daughter"; when he was informed that she was in fact "the Ambassador's wife" he simply said "Fancy that!". My advice to the ladies, therefore, is *iswear national costume as often as possible*.

Although it is not the custom to make speeches at cocktail parties, the occasion warranted it. The

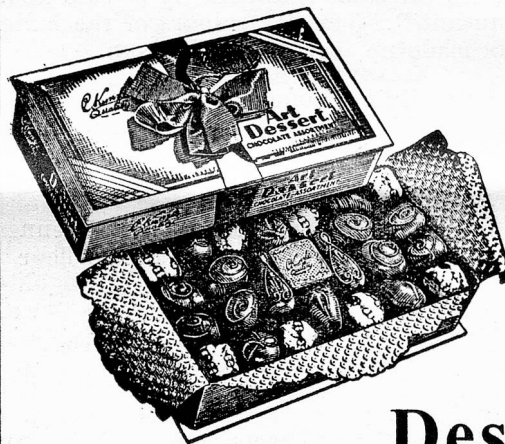
Ambassador briefly welcomed the guests. The Presidents of the two Societies, and His Worship the Mayor, thanked Monsieur and Madame Daeniker for their hospitality, stressing the friendly relations which exist between the sportsmen of the two countries.

I am sure that our Bernese compatriots will take back home happy memories of their journey to England; this friendly competition has, without doubt, further cemented the close relations which have always existed between Switzerland and this country.

ST.

At a second sports meeting — between the "Stadttturnverein" and the Walton Athletic Club — which took place on Thursday, 17th July, at Walton-on-Thames, the "Stadttturnverein" won with 78 against 64 points.

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