

# Celebration at cercle de Londres Diner d'Escalade

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*As I shall probably leave England next spring, I shall not have the pleasure to continue my beloved hobby of rifle shooting in your midst. However, I shall always remember the wonderful times I spent at Bisley and, with my best wishes to the Association and my heartfelt thanks to you all for your true comradeship, I should like to lift my glass and toast the well-being of the Swiss Rifle Association.*

Colonel Koch was then asked to present the following SILVER CUPS: The Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup to Mr. Marcel Bucherer; The Ambassador Armin Daeniker's Senior Cup to Mr. Francis Magnin (runner-up was Col. Koch himself); The Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup to Mr. Marcel Bucherer.

As it is customary, the distribution of the prizes followed under the able direction of Mr. F. Magnin, Hon. Secretary, amidst friendly boos and cheers, for the top prizes went — as they have in the past with almost monotonous regularity — to Messrs. Peter Fischer and Marcel Bucherer.

And so concluded an evening in company with friends of the shooting fraternity; an evening of many happy memories and of good cheer with no evidence of class distinction. Therefore . . . "if stranger, such no longer be, for our comradeship will conquer thee!"

H. SCHMID,  
Press Reporter, S.R.A.

#### RESULTS 1965

**Highest Scores attained during 1965 season:** 1st Bucherer, Marcel (59 points); 2nd Fischer, Peter (57). **Minister C. R. Paravicini's Challenge Cup:** 1st Bucherer, Marcel (310); Fischer, Peter (307). **Ambassador A. Daeniker's Senior Cup:** 1st Magnin, Francis (149); 2nd Col. Koch, Werner (143). **Monsieur J. L. Revilliod, Presentation Silver, Cigarette case:** 1st Fischer, Peter (53); 2nd Jobin, Lucien (52). **Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Cup:** 1st Bucherer, Marcel (54); 2nd Fischer, Peter (50); 3rd Burgunder, Fritz (50). **Einzel-Wettschiessen Schweiz. Schützenverein:** 1st Fischer, Peter (85); 2nd Bucherer, Marcel (85). **St. Gallen:** 1st Bucherer, Marcel (92); 2nd Fischer, Peter (90). **Zürich:** 1st Fischer, Peter (56); 2nd Christener, Peter (56). **Feldschiessen:** 1st Fischer, Peter (84); 2nd Bucherer, Marcel (81). **Obligatorisches Schiessen:** 1st Fischer, Peter (106); 2nd Magnin, Francis (105). **Grümpelschiessen:** 1st Leuzinger, Hans (53); 2nd Christener, Peter (52). **Handicap Competition:** 1st Fischer, Peter (score 53 — Result 53); 2nd Jobin, Lucien (score 52 — Result 53).

#### CELEBRATIONS AT THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION

It was virtually "open-house" at the City offices of the Swiss Bank Corporation on the 1st and 2nd of December when cocktail parties were held in the Bank itself to celebrate the completion of work on the reconstruction of the 99 Gresham Street office. Work on the latter really originated as far back as 1959 when exhumation began of remains from the churchyard of St. Stephens, Coleman Street (the church was destroyed during the Blitz) and piles driven for the foundation of the new section of the building. (The bank has had an office in the City since 1898).

Present at these celebrations were the Chairman, Dr. Samuel Schweizer, Dr. R. Pfenninger and Dr. E. F. Paltzer, General Managers, together with other personalities from Switzerland. The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Lionel Denny, M.C., in the company of his Sheriffs, also honoured the gathering with his presence.

The celebrations were concluded on Friday the 3rd of December with a cocktail party for the Staff.

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#### CERCLE GENEVOIS DE LONDRES DINER D'ESCALADE

On the invitation to the Escalade Dinner 1965, the organising committee announced that this annual event would take a different form from previous years. For one thing, the venue was changed. The function on 10th December took place at the Dorchester Hotel. For another, a "Soirée Dansante Discothèque" was added, and members and friends were promised dancing "de la valse au sirtaki". The invitation was obviously well received, for over sixty Genevèse and others gathered at the Orchid Room. Geneva colours were in evidence everywhere. Red gladioli and carnations mingled with the yellow chrysanthemums and *gerbera*. The blue and white of the Orchid room reminded one of the Lac Léman and the snow-topped Mont Blanc. A magnificent *marmite* in chocolate rested on a stand in front of the presidential seat at the centre of the horseshoe-shaped table. The yellow and red ribbons accentuated the colour scheme. To make quite sure, even the wines were golden and red, the right colours to drink to the heroes of 1602.

The new committee is chaired by Mr. E. Ribordy, and he is assisted by Messrs. Roesch and Mange. That other stalwart Genevèse, Mr. A. Bleiker, who looked after his fellow countrymen for many years, was present, too, with Mrs. Bleiker. Mr. Ribordy, accompanied by his wife, welcomed the Genevois, the confederates and their English friends. He was particularly pleased to extend greetings to the Ambassador's representative, Monsieur Heimo, and Madame Heimo. He also welcomed the Editor of the "Swiss Observer". Members and friends had travelled quite a way; there was even a contingent from Bedford.

Once again, as is customary, the President explained the meaning of the Escalade ceremony. In descriptive language and not without a good bit of wit and humour, he recounted the historic event, the "grande victoire" of 363 years ago. Mr. Bleiker then read the list of names of the seventeen Genevèse who lost their lives on 11th December 1602. This solemn act of remembrance was followed by the merry destruction of the *marmite* — "*qu'ainsi périssent les ennemis de la République*"! And the chocolate work of art lay well and truly smashed. A *marmite* had been sent from Geneva, twice, and both times had arrived in pieces. It was due to the prompt skill of the *Chef Pâtissier* of the Dorchester Hotel that, finally, another *marmite* was ready on time. Three attractive young ladies — all dressed in black, by accident, I presume — distributed pieces of chocolate and the traditional vegetables made of marzipan. How anybody was able to eat any of them after the excellent dinner with its items called by historic names appropriate to the Escalade, was a puzzle to me. Crackers were pulled and glasses raised. The "carnet noir" of the late Mr. C. Campart made the round, and £28.8.0 was collected in aid of the Swiss Children's Annual Christmas Party. There was some singing of the Escalade songs, and then the record player was put to good use. Dancing went on for some time, before the enjoyable evening came to a close. As one not of Geneva origin or association, I may be permitted to pass unbiased judgment. To my mind, whatever the form of the Escalade, as long as all the old traditional customs and ceremonies belonging to it are observed, it cannot fail to be a success.

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