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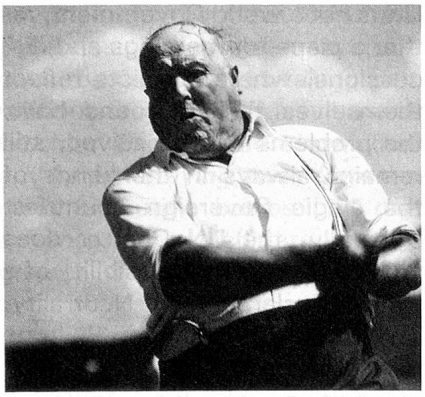
«Hornussen» – a national sport in Switzerland



There are two teams of 16 or 18 men each, one the batsmen equipped with rods, the other the catchers with their shingles. The batsmen place themselves behind the double stand block («Bock») – one side for right-handed and one for left-handed players. The stand acts as a catapult so to speak. The fielders place themselves in their positions in the «Ries» (field). One after another, the batsmen place the «Hornuss» on the front of the stand, having fixed the large walnut-sized kind of puck with a bit of mud. He swings the rod with force and hits the «Hornuss» with the small piece of wood («Träf»). The art is to get the «Hornuss» as far as possible into the field. The actual strike of the batsman is called «Streich». The job of the fielders is to catch the «Hornuss» with the shingle before it drops on the ground. In the opposite case, the team in the field gets a «Nummero», a nought. The number of these failures decides place and success of the team.

Six umpires decide with each strike at which distance the hornet descends in the field. The respective number in the field gives the batsmen his score. The total distance of the strikes is credited to the batsmen. The team which has fewer «nougths» at the end of the game, is the winner. If there is a tie, the team with the longer strike distance total is the winner. ●