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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

"ENDSCHIESSEN" (FINAL SHOOT) AT HENDON

Sunday, November 8th, 1931.

The general notion of a man with a gun as a plaything denotes that the owner of same is imbued with a martial spirit, and in consequence devoid of any generosity one might expect in any other specie of the human race. It was not so with the Swiss Rifle Association, they were generosity personified, they carried me, or better said, drove me to their Shooting ground at Hendon last Sunday morning, to witness one of their principal events of the year, namely, the Final Shoot or "Endschiesßen."

It so happened, that I, only the day before had, in a fit of depression, picked up Dicken's immortal "Pickwick Papers" in order to get solace from its priceless humour, and quite by accident, or was it a presentiment, struck the page where Pickwick's companions, Winkle and Tupman, together with the illustrious President of the Club, accompanied Mr. Wardle on a shooting expedition. Those of my readers who are well versed in the escapade of the members of this famous club will no doubt remember with what great concern Mr. Pickwick watched the careless way in which these Gentlemen carried their guns.

The awakening process on last Sunday morning came as a great relief to me, as during that night's rest (!) I was in my dreams, at least shot three times, and my body seemed to be riddled with bullets; this relief was alas only of short duration, as my wife at once reminded me, that I was to pay a visit to the Shooting ground of the S.R.A. that day, and the simple mentioning of that word "rifle" cast again a heavy gloom over my countenance, was it to be the last stage on my earthly pilgrimage? Back to me came the prophetic words of a lady fortune teller on the Southend Pier, some years ago, that I would die a sudden but painless death, (thank God for that) in the prime of my life. Is it to be wondered that I took a more than usual tender farewell that morning before leaving home. However, to put my readers at ease, I can assure them that this report is not meant as my swan song, and that I am happily still alive, and as well as can be expected in these sad times of world turmoil, and the space which was marked out by a thoughtful collaborator for my obituary notice has been used for an advertisement, which is much more profitable to the Publisher.—

But what a day it was, incessant rain poured down, and before I walked 30 yards I was almost drenched to the skin, and this soaking process was by no means only an external matter, as before I could say "Boo" I was lured into the Refreshment Pavilion where I succumbed to the entreatments of my generous hosts. Having gathered enough information, courage and strength in that environment, I wended my way to the shooting theatre commonly called the stand. Here a good many of the members of the Association were already hard at work and shot after shot rang out, making me jump each time like a tennis ball.

Memories of long ago came back to my mind, when I myself carried a rifle, and from a most imposing position riddled the target with deadly shots, and a longing to try my luck once again made me nearly forget that my task was only to observe and not to interfere, and it was perhaps better so. I never told a soul in the stand that I am the proud possessor of a distinction, which in Switzerland is known as the "Schützen Abzeichen," as I do not like to blow my own trumpet, (You are blowing it now, Ed.) although my neighbour, one of the crack shots of my platoon was positive, that he was using my target at the time, but still that was his funeral.

What impressed me most was the efficient way in which the Range officers carried on their responsible duty, they wore some kind of Russian boots no doubt in order to single them out from other mortals, and their instructions were carried out to the letter, and when I realised that in their hands laid the destiny of about three score of valiant young lives, I began to understand that the job of Range officer is not all honey. The visibility was very bad indeed, and the target which was 300 m. ahead could hardly be seen, owing to the heavy rain and a slight mist, and yet shot after shot rang out in quick succession. The first and most important item on the programme was the quick firing competition, (Distance 300m., 20 shots to be fired in 3 minutes) and considering the unfavourable conditions, the results obtained were most creditable ones; it was a pleasure to watch with what calmness each competitor got rid of his shots.

But oh what a row, my poor ears, which are only tuned in to chamber and other soft music, or an occasional row, started to oscillate in a most unpleasant manner and it got so bad that I even missed a most cordial invitation of the President of the Association to accompany him to the Refreshment Pavillion. (A sure sign of acute

deafness). I do not think I would fulfill my task as a reporter conscientiously, were I to omit to mention that one of the many competitors, (the active members were nearly all in attendance, a most creditable performance) impressed me most forcibly. This highly respected and popular member started his shots in widening what I call the peep holes. (This is, of course, not the technical name for it, and shows how little I know about it, we used to call it "Schiesscharte,") some malicious person would have it, that he was preparing fire wood for the luncheon to be cooked, it is an established axiom that "every bullet has its billet," but I am afraid some of his bullets billeted in rather strange quarters; but if ever a man made good this one did, he supplied afterwards a different but no less agreeable target.

After the Quick Fire Competition had been completed, the valiant competitors adjourned to the Refreshment Hut, where Mr. and Mrs. Wullschlegler officiated in the usual efficient manner, Patzenhofers, Johnnies, G's and "It" went like hot cakes, and it was altogether a most jolly "Festwirtschaft," but the culminating point was reached, when the most delicious Choucroute garnie, so generously supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Bartholdi (free of charge to competitors and also to some "strays" like your reporter) was dished out. It was an excellent feast and no doubt our friend is more at home in the cooking, than in the shooting line, (this is not a sarcastic remark) and his fare was so good that I had to wrench myself away to go back to the stand to witness the beginning of the 100 yard, quick firing competition (Distance 100 yard, 10 shots to be fired in 90 seconds), there again most creditable results were obtained in spite of the weather conditions which went from bad to worse.

I was unfortunately not able to see this competition through, but I have since been told that it was just as successful as the first item on the programme.

From the results of last Sunday's shooting I would like to single out the 300m. competition. Mr. Fischer, who reached 144 points, which is a highly creditable performance when one considers under which unfavourable conditions the competitors had to accomplish their task, was declared "Schützen König," and I only regret that no pretty young maidens, all dressed in white, were present to adorn his headgear with a laurel wreath, and put the loving cup to his lips trembling with emotion. The "lifting" he had to do himself, and he did it fairly well, here at least the weather did not interfere. To win such high honours, however, seems to me rather a costly affair, (I hope his good lady does not read this report) as everyone was most anxious to "have one with him," at his expense.

But then one does not always achieve such a splendid result, and generosity on such an occasion is perhaps not misplaced.

I was glad an opportunity was afforded me, to visit the Hendon Shooting ground, and see the members of the Swiss Rifle Association at work, they are not only good shots, but also a jolly and companionable lot, and this day spent in their midst will leave behind nothing but pleasant memories.

ST.

RESULTS.

QUICK FIRING COMPETITION.

(Distance 300 meters, 20 shots to be fired in three minutes).

1st W. Fischer	144 Points. Max. 200
2nd Ad. Schmid	135 " " "
3rd R. Rhyn	130 " " "

(Distance 100 yards, 10 shots to be fired in 90 seconds).

1st Alfred Schmid	84 Points. Max 100
2nd J. C. Wetter	81 " " "
3rd A. Dübelsbeiss	81 " " "

(We hope to publish in a subsequent number further results.)

CITY SWISS CLUB

BRIDGE COMPETITION.

The following are the comparative scores, the figure in brackets indicating the number of rubbers played so far: Kaiser (8) 7.6, Chapuis (4) 7, Jobin (11) 4.7, Boehringer (11) 5.8, Schorno (9) 6.8, Frei (10) 4.5, Senn (6) 3.2, Billetter (8) 0.6, Meili (9) 7, Weil (9) 5.3, Bernheim (5) 2, Maeder (10) 2.6.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

The Council of the London Group extends this particular invitation to their next monthly meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 18th, 1931, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

At 8 o'clock Mr. Louis H. Micheli, Counsellor of Legation, will speak to the meeting on "Switzerland and the World Crisis" and, this being the last occasion on which Mr. Micheli will speak in the Colony prior to his departure for Washington, the Council hopes that a large gathering of members and friends will honour the Speaker and bid him a hearty farewell.

FOOTBALL.

The draw for the "Swiss Cup," Third Round resulted in the following fixtures:—

EASTERN ZONE.

Kickers Luzern L.II v. Blue Stars N.L.
Young Fellows Zurich N.L. v. Bellinzona L.II.
Grasshoppers Zurich N.L. v. Old Boys N.L.
Brühl St. Gallen L.I v. Lugano or Basel N.L.

WESTERN ZONE.

Servette Genève N.L. v. Lausanne-Sports L.I.
Chaux-de-Fonds N.L. v. Cantonal L.I.
Urania Genève N.L. v. Biel N.L.

Fribourg or Monthey L.I v. Young Boys N.L.

The remaining three great Zürich Clubs have steered clear of each other and should reach the next stage. Brühl have an opportunity to show their mettle against National League opponents; this match should provide indication whether Brühl may reasonably be expected to gain and merit promotion.

In the Western Zone Home Clubs may be expected to gain the points, except in the match against Young Boys Bern, who should find no difficulty in defeating either of the First League teams in question. The match Servette v. Lausanne revived memories of stern battles of old. Lausanne heads the table in League I and may already be hailed favourite for promotion; their forwards appear to be in strong penetrative form, scoring 19 goals in their last two matches. As Servette have also found their best form, this match should prove the tit-bit of the third round.

MITROPACUP FINAL.

This first match was played in Zürich on Grasshoppers' ground before 20,000 spectators, on the 8th inst., between the two famous Vienna Clubs, Wiener Athletik Club 2 goals, v. First Vienna Wien 3 goals. The class of Vienna Football is indisputably streets ahead of any other Continental Football. In fact, many good judges place their craft on an equal pedestal with English or Scottish Soccer. The more the pity that all endeavours to get a representative Austrian team to tour England and Scotland this season have so far proved abortive. Zürich's match was a wonderful propaganda game. Grasshoppers are to be congratulated in having succeeded to give Swiss Soccer enthusiasts (in embryo or in more advanced stages) such a treat and that in face of severe competition from many other, perhaps even more important, towns in Europe.

LEAGUE MATCHES.

Seven games in the National League brought few surprises. Unlucky Basel at last won a game in St. Gall 4 : 2. As anticipated last week, their reinforcements appear to have done the trick. Bern continue on the slippery slope, allowing Young Fellows to beat them 8 : 0 and that on their own ground! Other results:—

Chaux-de-Fonds 3 Nordstern 1

Lugano 0 Zürich 1

Carouge 2 Aarau 0

Old Boys 1 Blue Stars 2

Grasshoppers 4 Biel 1

In the First League, Lausanne Sports beat Stade Lausanne 13 : 3 and so strengthened their position at the head of Groupe II. The Leaders in Groupe I, Brühl, were narrowly defeated by 1 : 2 in Locarno. Concordia v. Chiasso 4 : 2. Concordia are now seriously challenging Brühl. Fribourg v. Olten and Cantonal v. Monthey drew 2 : 2, Luzern v. Wohlen 0 : 1. Oerlikon v. Black Stars 2 : 4.

M.G.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.

(Schweiz. Christlicher Verein junger Männer).

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