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SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

AT THE POLYTECHNIC STADIUM, CHISWICK

ON SATURDAY, 30th MAY, 1953

Three Cheers! No, it did not rain at this year's Sports Festival, at least not in the afternoon, but the uncertain weather in the morning, no doubt, kept a good many away, and although the attendance was better than last year, it was again disappointing, and compares very unfavourably with the attendance of well over a thousand in pre-war days.

It is a great pity that the Colony does not show more interest in an event which is not purely a sporting one, but also affords everyone an opportunity to meet, once a year, socially at an out of doors function without any paraphernalia and "dressing up".

The time will come when the question will arise and have to be seriously considered whether it is worth while to continue this annual gathering, which entails not only a lot of work but also heavy expenses. Whilst each year, since the Swiss Sports have started again in post war times, the number of competitors in the various events increases, the attendance shows little or no improvement. Is it the change of place or what is the reason for this lack of interest? It would be useful, and helpful if through the columns of this paper reasons could be stated. We all know, that the number of Swiss residents in this country is on the downward path, but there are still enough of our compatriots here, who could fill the place three or four times over, and thus make the Swiss Sports, as it was in olden times a really happy and congenial function, a real "Volksfest".

There have been of late a good many functions of one sort or another in the Colony, perhaps far too many, at least as far as I am concerned, and that might be another reason for the small attendance, as one can get too much of a good thing.

* * *

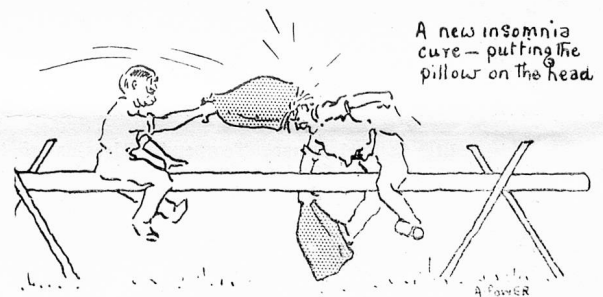
The first events consisting of the 100 yards, Men, Heats and 880 yards Men final were run soon after 2 p.m. As the results of the various events will be given at the end of this report, I will, with a few exceptions, desist from commenting on the performance of individuals or teams, but the performance in the 100 yards preliminary heats and the 880 yards Men Final were a pleasure to watch, and a fine feat, especially as our Ticinesi compatriots so admirably distinguished themselves. Very remarkable results were also registered in the High jump.

Shortly after the start of the programme, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame de Torrenté arrived with a number of his collaborators at the Legation, and were received by Mr. & Mrs. R. de

Cintra, President of the Swiss Sports Committee. The attendance of the Minister, in spite of his heavy engagements during Coronation time, was especially appreciated.

Glancing at the final results achieved with regard to the classical races, high and long jumps etc. again no pre-war records were beaten, and I repeat what I said in my last year's report "The times of juicy steaks and good old roastbeef of England" have long since passed away, and one can hardly expect sportsmen to run and jump on the meagre rations allowed to them. However, on the whole, results obtained can be considered satisfactory.

The "Tug-o-War", which last year lacked training and management was a great improvement, and was watched by a large crowd. The Swiss National Tourist Office team deserved to win, but the runners up, the Cercle Valaisien team, put up a good fight.



Surprisingly the Pillow fight, which always is a source of great amusement to the onlookers tempted few on the pole. It is to be regretted, that few of the older members of the Colony took part in this event, personally I always found it a splendid opportunity to satisfy a grievance without making it look too obvious.

One of the star turns of the meeting has always been the Veteran's 440 yards Walking handicap for men over 40. Whilst in former years this race attracted a good number of competitors, this year the entry can be termed as modest.

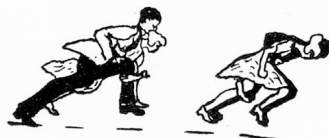
These valiant and gallant Veterans lined up at the start, and when a pistol shot rang out they ran, I beg your pardon "walked" for dear life, cheered by their respective wives, and supported by the lusty voices of their off-spring. With grim determination, and strangely set faces they started on their "test of endurance." The race was won by Mr. W. A. Stettbacher, who evidently knows the way to walk,



and did not break out into a canter as some of his colleagues did, and thus well deserved to win.

The 4×110 yds. Relay Race (final) was watched with great interest, and was a very satisfactory performance, it was deservedly won by the Swiss Mercantile Society team. Although not amongst the three winners, some of our Swiss diplomatists put up a good fight, and with a little training should become competitors to be reckoned with.

There were, of course, innumerable races for little girls and boys, and "bigger" girls and boys, and fancy events such as Three-legged races, Cigarette race, Rolling-out-the bottle, Wheelbarrow race and thread-the-needle race which were amusing to watch.



On interviewing one tiny tot who looked obviously upset and distressed he mournfully acquainted me with the fact that he was disqualified by the referee for some technical offence; with a knowing look he whispered in my ear, "that there was some twisting going on."

Another little girl in the three legged race was so disgusted with the performance of her partner, that she tried to pull a few curls from his head, no doubt,

to be kept as a souvenir. When I told her that this was not very sportswoman like behaviour, she returned — with sobs — the fragments of hair, which she had kept in her tiny fist.

Shortly after 6 o'clock, the distribution of prizes was announced, unfortunately Madame de Torrénté was prevented from presenting the prizes, and her place was taken by Madame Bernath, the charming wife of our 1st Counsellor of Legation, who bestowed on each one of the winners a smile and handshake, it was most delightful to watch the happy faces of some of the little ones who carried off their reward with great pride and happiness.

The Swiss Rifle Association prize was won by Mr. Fred Suter with 53 points, runner up Mr. Jack Muller, 51 points. The Athlete scoring highest number of points was Mr. W. Schwyn (Swiss Mercantile Society) who scored 11 points, and the "George Dimier Challenge Cup" was won by the Swiss Mercantile Society.

Coming to the summing up, I most heartily congratulate the members of the Swiss Sports Committee for their untiring efforts in making this sports rally a success, and I can only express the fervent wish, that their endeavours will be rewarded in future by an attendance which is in accordance with the hard work they render year by year to provide the Colony with a first class entertainment.

Thanks should also go to Mr. Gandon and his colleague, who untiringly, high up in the stand, played a number of well-known Swiss melodies on their accordions.

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The President, Mr. R. de Cintra, and his colleagues, Messrs. C. Krebs, W. Meier, V. Berti, R. Chappuis, who fulfilled their duties in such an exemplary manner deserve very special mention.

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Results.

Swiss Rifle Association:

1st: Mr. Fred Suter, 53 points;
2nd: Mr. Jack Muller, 51 points.

880 Yard Men Final:

1st: P. Jacomelli; 2nd: R. Len; 3rd: J. B. A. De Maria.

High Jump:

1st: F. Walliser; 2nd: J. Stierli; 3rd: M. Goutte.

80 Yards Boys and Girls:

Boys 13, 14, 15 years: 1st: Rene Bonetti.

Girls 13, 14, 15 years: 1st: Victoria Slade.

Boys 11, 12 years: 1st: Robert Bonetti.

Girls 11, 12 years: 1st: V. Fischer; 2nd: M. Berti; 3rd: H. Mock.

Boys 9, 10 years: 1st: Toni Fischer; 2nd: F. Bonetti; 3rd: Toni Curtis.

Girls 9, 10 years: 1st: K. Bonetti; 2nd: S. Krugel.

Pillow Fight:

1st: Mr. Dubelbeiss; 2nd: Mr. Burgazzi; 3rd: Mr. Oggier.

Long Jump:

1st: F. Walliser; 2nd: W. Schwyn; 3rd: P. Thevenaz.

50 Yards Boys and Girls:

Boys 6, 7, 8 years: 1st: Martin Fischer.

Girls 6, 7, 8 years: 1st: Erika Meier; 2nd: Monika Fischer; 3rd: Marguerit Bonnet.

Boys under 6 years: 1st: Robert McMillan; 2nd: Ian Berti.

Girls under 6 years: 1st: Gabriel Slade; 2nd: Pauline Meier; 3rd: Anni Baumann.

100 Yards Men Final:

1st: W. Schwyn; 2nd: H. Senti; 3rd: L. Jacomelli.

100 Yards Ladies Final:

1st: Miss G. Brunner; 2nd: Miss Y. Holzherr.

Mixed Races:

Three-Legged-Race:

Children 12, 13, 14 years: 1st pair: R. Bonetti, G. De Maria. 2nd pair: Victoria Slade, Nicholas Slade. 3rd pair: Ann Mock, Reynolds.

Children 10, 11 years: 1st pair: Peter Meier, Erika Meier; 2nd pair: K. Bonetti, F. Bonetti.

Children 8, 9 years: 1st pair: S. Herbert, Tony Fischer; 2nd pair: S. Croucher, David Delaloye.

Children under 8 years: 1st pair: Victoria Reynolds, Dubelbeiss. 2nd pair: Pauline Meier, Rutishauser.

Adults: 1st pair: Victoria Slade, C. Slade. 2nd pair: Mrs. Dubelbeiss, Mr. Dubelbeiss. 3rd pair: Mary Streit, Michel Coburn.

4 x 110 Yards Relay Race (Final):

1st: Swiss Mercantile Society; 2nd: Unione Ticinese; 3rd: M.A.T. Transport.

Mixed Races:

Wheelbarrow Race:

Children: 1st Race: 1st pair: R. Bonetti and G. DeMaria; 2nd pair: R. and P. Bonetti; 3rd pair: V. and N. Slade.

2nd Race: 1st pair: Rudolf and Kenneth Sige; 2nd pair: R. Mock and Peter Meier; 3rd pair: M. Berti and Linda Alan.

3rd Race: 1st pair: Till Reynolds and H. Dubelbeiss; 2nd pair: S. Croucher and R. McMillan.

Adults: 1st pair: M. Hirschi and J. Duccommun; 2nd pair: Blante and I. Rutishauser; 3rd pair: M. Berti and Jean Callcut.

Thread-and-Needle Race:

Children: 1st Race 1st pair: R. and K. Bonnetti; 2nd pair: Ann Mock and A. Reynolds; 3rd pair: G. Arnaud and I. Rutishauser.

2nd Race: 1st pair: Peter and F. Bonetti; 2nd pair: Reynolds and J. Herbert; 3rd pair: Tony Fischer and S. Croucher.

Adults: 1st pair: Mr. and Mrs. Dubelbeiss; 2nd pair: Angeleri and Blante; 3rd pair: Siegrist and Duccommun.

Cigarette Race: for Adults.

1st pair: Mr. and Mrs. Baumann; 2nd pair: Miss Ernst and Mr. Muller; 3rd pair: Mrs. Delaloye and partner.

440 Yards Veterans' Walking Handicap:

1st: W. A. Stettbacher won the Challenge Cup; 2nd: W. Fischer; 3rd: D. Bonnet; 4th: W. Meier.

220 Yards Men Final:

1st: P. Thevanaz; 2nd: W. Schwyn; 3rd: P. Jacomelli.

Rolling-Out-The-Bottle:

1st: W. Fischer; 2nd: R. Chappuis; 3rd: J. Huber.

Tug-o'-War Final:

"Cercle Valaisan Challenge Cup".

Winners: Swiss National Tourist Office;

Runners up: Cercle Valaisan.

Relay Race (One Mile):

1st: Unione Ticinese (Won the "Pagani Challenge Cup"); 2nd: Swiss Mercantile Society; 3rd: Swiss Mercantile Society.

The Athlete scoring highest number of points is

Mr. W. Schwyn, Swiss Mercantile who scored 11pts.

"GEORGES DIMIER CHALLENGE CUP" won by the Swiss Mercantile Society.

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