

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1967)

Heft: 1515

Artikel: "Gruempelschiessen" Dinner 1966

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686520>

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“GRUEMPELSCHIESSEN” DINNER 1966

Once again, the Annual Dinner of the Swiss Rifle Association took place on Friday, 25th November, at the Glendower Hotel, London S.W.7, the headquarters of the Association.

This happy event is — and has always been — a most memorable occasion where Swiss, young and old and of all walks of life, foregather to celebrate the closing of the shooting season, to wine and dine and to “reap the harvest”, or better said to collect the prizes and trophies won in many hard-fought competitions on the battle ground of Bisley. How many of us remember the tension, the immense concentration coupled with that deep breath of air one endeavours to retain before gently pulling the trigger . . . hoping to score a bull’s eye. (I, for one will never forget the moment of scoring my first 56 points out of a possible maximum of 60, alas, many summers ago!)

As always, after cocktails had “kindled” the happy mood of members and their friends and guests, an excellent dinner was served. The customary Toasts to the Queen and to Switzerland were proposed by the President, Mr. John C. Wetter and duly honoured. He then extended a hearty welcome to the company and especially to our Guest of Honour, Colonel Willy Frei, Defence Attaché at the Embassy, also to the two representatives of the Surrey Rifle Association, Brigadier G. Laing and Mr. A. H. G. Garratt. The President also conveyed greetings from our Hon. President, H.E. the Swiss Ambassador Monsieur Béat de Fischer, who had sent us his regrets at not being able to join us for dinner because of a prior engagement. Moreover, Mr. Wetter warmly welcomed our Hon. Past President, Mr. Alfred Schmid, Dr. H. Rast, and other officials from the Embassy.

During his brief review of our activities at Bisley, the President thanked the “co-operative and likeable” fellows of the committee, particularly the chief range officers, Messrs. Marcel Bucherer and Peter Fischer. A special vote of thanks was expressed to our Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. Magnin, for the fine work carried out so conscientiously during many years and, although Mr. Magnin had now officially retired as Secretary, he had willingly given his consent to remain on the Committee in order to give, if necessary, a helping hand to the new Secretary, Mr. Abegglen.

The President also paid warm tributes to our Hon. Past President, Mr. Alfred Schmid, now in his 81st year, and to another popular member, Mr. Adolf Schmid, who would soon attain his 80th birthday, yet still a regular visitor to Bisley where he can be seen scoring bull’s eyes quite frequently.

The next speaker was our guest of honour, Colonel Willy Frei, who received a great ovation. He thanked the members for the cordial welcome and expressed his delight at being among so many excellent sharpshooters of the Swiss Colony in London. Of course, Colonel Frei has already taken part in our activities at Bisley, where he was happy to introduce to us the automatic rifle or *Sturmgewehr* now used by the Swiss Army. During his friendly address, partly in “Schwyzerduesch” and partly in English, he expressed his concern at the *small* number of *young* compatriots in our Society. He went on to say . . . “considering that there are about 1,800 young Swiss in and around London, I feel it is the duty of every member of this Society to make a special effort in encouraging many more young Swiss to participate in our activities.

No doubt, the problem of transport to the shooting range at Bisley may well be the stumbling block in many instances, but this is a problem which can surely be overcome; it can and must be solved! May all those members who can offer transport facilities from a given point of rendez-vous in London, please make it widely known. It is my sincere wish that definite arrangements of some kind can be established and brought to the notice of all young Swiss in and around London . . .”

He wished the Association every success for the future and his address was loudly cheered by the entire company.

The representatives of the Surrey Rifle Association also expressed their warm thanks to the company, reiterating how delighted they always were to see us at Bisley.

Colonel Frei was then asked to present the challenge trophies to the winners:

The Minister C. R. Paravicini’s Challenge Cup to Mr. Peter Fischer;

The Major Talbot-Smith Presentation Pewter to Dr. Paul Grob;

The M. J. L. Revilliod’s Silver Cigarette Case to Mr. Peter Fischer.

The distribution of the other prizes followed under the able direction of Mr. F. Magnin, amidst great excitement. Various members received medals and gifts, and presentations were made to non-shooting members.

And so concluded a most enjoyable evening in the pleasant company of our friends of the shooting fraternity, an evening of good comradeship and good cheer, and everybody left the hospitable Glendower Hotel loaded with cups, bottles and prizes and happy memories.

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

RESULTS 1966

HIGHEST SCORES attained during 1966: Mr. Peter Fischer (58 points), Mr. Marcel Bucherer (56 points).
 MINISTER PARAVICINI’S CHALLENGE CUP: Mr. Peter Fischer (320 points), Mr. Marcel Bucherer (307 points).
 MR. REVILLIOD SILVER CIGARETTE CASE: Mr. Peter Fischer (51 points), Mr. Marcel Bucherer (51 points), Mr. Werner Trauffer (51 points).
 MAJOR TALBOT-SMITH PRESENTATION PEWTER: Dr. Paul Grob (54 points), Mr. Bernhard Jaeggi (54 points).
 ST. GALLEN STICH: Mr. Marcel Bucherer (92 points), Mr. Peter Fischer (84 points).
 FELDSCHIESSEN: 6 members made a “Kranz”: Messrs. Peter Fischer, Marcel Bucherer, Bernhard Jaeggi, Werner Trauffer, Jack Wetter, Francis Magnin.
 OBLIG. MILITARSCHIESSEN: Mr. Marcel Bucherer (94 points), Mr. Peter Fischer (90 points).
 GRUEMPELSCHIESSEN: Mr. Marcel Bucherer (53 points), Mr. Peter Fischer (53 points), Mr. Jean Mario Fischlin (52 points).
 HANDICAP COMPETITION: Mr. Peter Fischer (51 points), Mr. Marcel Bucherer (51 points), Mr. Werner Trauffer (51 points).

“SWISS OBSERVER” PUBLICATION DATES

The “Swiss Observer” is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 27th January. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 17th January. Short news items only can be accepted later.

The next issue but one will be published on Friday, 10th February. For that number, we shall require articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 31st January.