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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER

It was in our old headquarters at the Midland Hotel in Manchester that we met on Saturday, 2nd March for the Annual General Meeting of our Club, followed by that of the Swiss Relief Society. As in previous years, the meeting of eminently business character was preceded by an excellent *Choucroute* lunch. Members and their friends gradually assembled in the foyer of the Hotel and after partaking of appetizers and drinks moved to the grill-room where tastefully decorated and well-laid tables awaited us. The high-class *cuisine* of this Hotel did full justice to its name and the wines served were of the highest standard. We were all pleased to see at the top table our President Dr. Kurt Jaggi with his committee and to be honoured by the presence of our Consul and Madame Brunner. The time passed at the tables helped considerably to create a happy and congenial atmosphere, inviting some useful and friendly exchanges of opinions and experiences, thus preparing everybody for what was to follow.

Eventually we moved to a special suite put at our disposal, and at 3 p.m. prompt our President opened our General Meeting, fairly attended by members and well-wishers. After a special welcome extended to our Consul and Madame Brunner and to all present, the minutes of the last meeting were read, followed by the presentation of the annual report, the annual financial report and inventory. During the past year our Committee decided to change slightly the traditional pattern of the club's activities, mainly in an endeavour to keep abreast of time and changing conditions. Looking back, it can be said that the results so far achieved have justified the new policy and everybody will certainly feel that we can look with every confidence into a further happy and fruitful future of our club. In line with the success of the various activities and functions, also financially we fared quite well, and we emerge into this new year slightly richer, consolidating further the material situation of an already prosperous club.

A past president of our club was asked to take over the chair for the election of the new committee. He took advantage of the occasion to thank the committee for the work so ably carried out during the past year. With the exception of Mr. Mettler, former Swissair Manager in Manchester who left us during the year for his new appointment in Frankfurt and now replaced by Mr. Willy Berner, all were re-elected in one capacity or another and we can therefore count on a further period of happy and active life for us of Manchester and District. The new committee elected by acclamation presented the budget for the new year, well thought over and balanced, providing a good programme within the financial possibilities of the Club.

Monsieur Brunner, the Consul of Switzerland in Manchester, informed the Club of the imminent formation of the Swiss Club in Liverpool, and he asked whether the Swiss Club in Manchester would be prepared to act as Patron for this new Club. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Manchester Swiss Club, and particularly its committee would help the new Club in Liverpool to the best of their abilities.

It was also resolved to keep our contacts with the Yorkshire Swiss Club alive, by proper circulation of the

Manchester Swiss Club invitations and other means, and encourage more people in Yorkshire to strengthen their ties with us in all possible ways.

One member then raised the question of the election procedure of the Delegates to the A.S.K. (Commission of the Swiss Abroad), wishing that such procedure would be carried out in a more democratic way, giving possibly everybody, private and corporate a say in these matters, so important not only to Clubs, Societies and Organisations in this country but also to every individual person. Our Vice-President Dr. Bolliger who is our Delegate elect, with Mr. Hartman of Edinburgh his deputy, will certainly study the whole problem in the light presented and perhaps at some future date inform us on any further development.

Thus came to an end a most friendly and interesting meeting, our President closing it at 4.30 p.m. to be followed after a short interval by the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Relief Society of Manchester, so closely related to the Club.

E. B.

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From the annual report for 1967, we learn that the Club had 58 men and 57 women members, and 18 Honorary and Veteran members (14 and 4), on 31st December last, the total having increased slightly over the year.

The Club displayed considerable activity in connection with the problems arising from the new Constitutional Article for the Swiss Abroad, and the survey made among Club members regarding views on the various matters arising from the adoption of the new article, proved highly useful and enlightening. Great care, too, was taken over the election of the delegates to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, the Midlands and the North having one delegate and one deputy. A special meeting was called to receive the report by Dr. H. R. Bolliger on the Assembly in Lugano.

Social activities included talks, a *Jass* evening and a film show, a trip to Windermere for the young, a *Raclette* Party. Outstanding were once again, the *Landsgemeinde* in June, the First of August Celebration, the Annual Banquet and Ball in November and the Christmas Party. Attendance at several of these events was well over 100, in fact, twice reaching 175 and 200. This is remarkable, considering the relatively small number of members. It shows excellent spirit and a sense of responsibility amongst the members.

Incidentally, the Club still has an active Rifle Section.

The Committee for the new year is as follows: Dr. K. P. Jaggi (President), Dr. H. R. Bolliger (Vice-President), Mrs. M. Themans (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. B. F. Simon (Hon. Secretary), and Messrs. W. Berner, J. G. Duerig, T. Lauber, J. Scheiwiller.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLICATION DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 10th May. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 30th April. Short news items only can be accepted later.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 24th May. All contributions to that number should be to hand not later than 14th May.