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SCHWEIZERBUND AGM AND DINNER

The Schweizerbund held its Annual General Meeting and dinner at the Prescala Club in London's Fleet Street on 11th February.

The Hon. Secretary read the Minutes of A.G.M. of 4th March, 1976. The President commented on the fact that the rules of the Society, which were out of date, could not be revised in the last year and that this should now be undertaken as soon as possible. Further comment on the Minutes was aroused by the fact that a picnic was not held in the past year.

The President explained that the proposed Sunday outing to the Duke of Wellington's Estate had not materialised because the house and grounds were not completely ready to accommodate a group visit and picnic. Instead a social evening was arranged at Sopwell House, beautifully situated at the outskirts of St. Albans in Hertfordshire. This venue proved to be an outstanding success. The Minutes were then approved unanimously.

The accounts were unanimously approved, proposed by Mr. Weibel and seconded by Mrs. Wiffen. The Auditor's report was also approved, proposed by Mrs. Weibel and seconded by Mr. Wiffen. The Hon. Secretary then presented his report.

The Committee was unanimously re-elected en bloc. Mr. John Weibel, who acted as chairman *pro tem* expressed, on behalf of all members, his gratitude to the Secretary, Mr. J. Schmid, for having so successfully organised the various functions, to the President, Mr. V. Berti, for running the Club so smoothly, and to the Treasurer for his devoted work. The President informed the meeting of our Auditor's agreement to serve for a further year. The President's nomination was seconded by Mrs. Crack.

Next on the Agenda were the social functions for 1977-78. The President invited the meeting to put forward any suggestions. He said, with regret, that Mr. W. Reutlinger, one of our Consuls who takes such an active part in our functions, was to retire in the summer.

For the summer outing, a suitable date would be Saturday, 9th July. The venue is to be Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, near Haywards Heath in Sussex. Following a visit to the gardens, a dinner would be held in a local pub or country hotel. The Secretary would make all necessary arrangements in good time. A pre-Christmas dinner should again be held in November. Finally the President asked the meeting to stand in remembrance of our member Mrs. Asbersold who passed away last year.

The dinner which followed was so delightfully informal that a detailed report would be superfluous. Guests of honour were our Ambassador Dr. Thalmann and Mme. Thalmann who were attending their first official Schweizerbund function. I cannot report on the

speeches because there were none.

Dr. Thalmann expressed his pleasure at being present and did not attempt to hide the fact that he was pleased that he did not have to speak formally. During his short tenure in office in London he has attended an unbelievably large number of official engagements and it was a pleasure for those present to see that he and his gracious (and witty) wife were allowed to be "off duty" for a few hours to enjoy an informal dinner — a good one — amongst friends. Somebody who must be nameless commented that the event was untypically Swiss because of its delicious informality.

There was little Mr. V. Berthi could add as he obviously knows when it is better to say little.

Naturally, he thanked M. and Mme. Thalmann for gracing the Society's tables by their presence and paid tribute to the other guests and friends. But that was that.

Membership fees of the Schweizerbund are modest to say the least.

Meetings are invariably pleasant. If you live within hailing distance and can afford the time why not come along to one? Jurg Schmid will always be happy to provide details — telephone 01 734 1921.

W.G.S.



Mme. E. Thalmann, our Ambassador's wife, shares a joke with someone while President Vergil Berthi takes his dinner more seriously.

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