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NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

FOOTBALL.

CORINTHIANS 3 GRASSHOPPERS 1

On Saturday, 27th February, at the Crystal Palace, England's famous Amateurs with one fell swoop laid low the absurd pretensions of some people in our dear homeland, who so fondly imagined that either the old pastmaster of the Soccer game, England, had reached the state of senile decay, or Continental Football had grown up to and over the heads of the erstwhile teacher. Sad to relate, but only too true! Consider the facts. Grasshoppers, indisputably the leading Swiss team of the moment, take the field at full strength except in goal; their two backs, Minelli and Weiler M. as well as Trello Aebegglen, inside right, already chosen for the Swiss International team against Germany, in Leipzig on 6th March. Opposed to them are the Corinthians with rather an experimental side, due to five of their crack players, (Capt. K. E. Hegan and F. N. S. Creek, forwards, C. T. Ashton and W. T. Whewell half-backs and G. B. Partridge, back) being engaged at Swansea where England beat Wales 3 : 1. Had Grasshoppers won handsomely, obviously it would have proved nothing; but to lose 3 : 1 under these circumstances proves everything and for which fact I am truly sad and sorry. Yes, I must confess that I fully expected our Blue-Whites to do what Switzerland expected them to do. And that was — doing something more than their duty — viz., to win! Alas, es wär' zu schön gewesen, es hat nicht sollen sein!

And now, the game. C. Pasche, our international goalkeeper, due to injury had to be content with acting as linesman and the following teams lined up before Mr. G. B. Rudd, Referee, and a cosmopolitan crowd of rather disappointing dimensions. (6,000).

Grasshoppers: Blaser; Minelli, Weiler M; Neuenchwander, Schneider, Weiler W; Adam, Aebegglen A. (Trello) Hitrec, Aebegglen M. and Zivkovic.

Corinthians: Grant; Rumsey, Stevenson; Lister, Chadder, Barber; Robins, Ansell, Cornelius, Cooper and Benest.

Corinthians having won the toss took advantage of a stiff breeze blowing from goal to goal and it was soon evident that direct go-ahead methods in the old Corinthian style were their orders of the day. In the first seven minutes two golden chances fell to Robins, faulty shooting alone preventing a score. In spite of being troubled by the strong wind, Grasshoppers had a fair share of the game and it became apparent that their strength lay particularly in the forward line, (right side) and at Centhalf. The ball control of Adam, Trello, Hitrec and Schneider in particular was a real pleasure to watch. The short and snappy passing all along the ground was bewildering in its speed and accuracy. Have you ever seen Chelsea at their worst? Neat passes from man to man, backwards and forwards up to the penalty area and no one having shooting boots with them. That was Grasshoppers all over. Their rule (no exceptions were permitted) was to concentrate on the middle and to tap and retap the ball until crowded out. The two wings, Adam on the right, the fastest box of tricks on the field, when these attacks reached the 18 yards line were usually all alone and unmarked, if not both so, at least one of them. But never a pass for a shot from the wing. Oh no, everything had to be "barged" through the middle. That may be good enough against the other Swiss teams, but it won't do over here! Hitrec once hit the bar with a glorious shot, but Grant played a fine game in Corinth's goal. The honours in the first half were pretty even, except that Corinth's attacks always looked more dangerous. Shortly before half time Robins centred into the goalmouth, two heads went up, Minelli cleared, penalty for pushing. Chadder easily converted. Half time 1 : 0.

On resuming play Grasshoppers pressed strongly, their left wing coming more into the picture, and Hitrec had the satisfaction to equalise. It was still anybody's game if Grasshoppers mended their ways and became more aggressive. But no, dilly-dally methods continued and a rapid advance by Corinth, and Ansell had restored the lead. This seemed to take the life out of the Swiss. No wonder that a humorist shouted: "Give them a pint of Nestle's." Towards the end Ansell went right through the defence, Blaser rushed out, only to miss the ball and see it enter the net behind him. Switzerland had one more chance to score, but Grant was not to be beaten again.

The game was probably the fairest I have ever witnessed. It looked as if there had been a tacit agreement to omit all heavy charging. Not once was there one of the traditional and healthy Corinthian shoulder-charges in evidence. The goalkeeper was undisturbed in that characteristic silly continental way of taking a goal kick. The more the pity, because Soccer should be played in England as England does, and I am sorry to see any pampering to such continental fads.

To save any of my readers asking me "what about beating the Casuals 4 : 0," I give you the following extracts from the comments of eminent sports-journalists on that game:—
Eric Martin in the Daily Herald:

"The Grasshoppers, Switzerland's leading amateur team, certainly hopped to some purpose at the Den in playing Casuals to a standstill, but the weakness of the opposition made them appear a better side than they are."

"Good though the visitors were, they revealed undoubted weaknesses which would be fatal against a team such as Dulwich Hamlet."
Charles Buchan in the News-Chronicle:

"Had the shooting of the visitors been of the same standard as their general play they would have had a huge total of goals."

And the moral? Do not judge the standard of English Football by the show put up at the end of the season by English Clubs touring the Continent. Tackle the British Lion in its den and you will feel its claws and teeth. Perhaps the mere swishing of the tail will be enough!

Grasshoppers are to be congratulated on their enterprising visit to England and on the really good play produced against the Casuals and the Corinthians. Such matches are all for the good of the game. Let us hope we will not have to wait another twenty years before we see a Swiss team once more in England.

M.G.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LIMITED.

Annual General Meeting. The Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. held its first Annual General Meeting at Swiss House, the registered offices of the Company, on Wednesday, February 24th. Mr. M. Paschoud, Chairman of the Council, presided.

There were present 41 Members, and the Chairman started the proceedings soon after 8 p.m. The Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting and the minutes of the second Extraordinary General Meeting of June 10th, 1931. The latter were duly confirmed.

Accounts. The Chairman thereupon called on Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., the Company's auditor, to give his report. Mr. Green gave a very accurate account of the Company's working since its formation in April 1931. The year 1931 as a whole showed a considerable adverse working balance, due to a decrease of one third of the number of students, as compared with the preceding year. This was partly counterbalanced by a longer stay of the students of an average of 4 months (3½ months in 1930). Thanks to the subsidy granted by the Home Government, through the intermediary of the Central Secretariat, of which the final instalment was received on the day of the Meeting, the Company was able to balance the accounts. Mr. Green agreeably surprised the Members when he reported that the negotiations with H. M. Inspector of Taxes in respect of assessment of the Swiss Mercantile Society for the years 1922-1931 had come to a satisfactory issue. A previous application for exemption as a charity had been refused on grounds mentioned at the time. This question has now once and for all been settled to the fullest satisfaction of the Members.

The Balance Sheets as circularised among the Members were adopted without dissension.

Reports. The Chairman then read the report of the Council, summarising the working of the various departments during the past year. He referred to the question of premises which became an urgent question for the Council in view of the short tenure of the present lease of Swiss House, which expires in 1934. Negotiations for new premises were advancing very slowly but would receive earnest consideration by the Council. The Chairman expressed hearty thanks to the Home Government, who, for the first time granted a substantial subsidy for the Day Classes. He also extended thanks to the numerous contributing firms and donors for their continued patronage and interest evinced in the activities of the Society. Mr. A. C. Stahelin, Chairman of the Education Committee, reported on the activities of his Department. A steady progress in the scholastic programme could be noticed and the results achieved speak for themselves. The Chairman's report gave the members an excellent insight into the manifold activities of the Education Department. The Diploma Examination, for which over 300 students presented themselves, has reached a very high standard and the Diploma is a valuable document to those students who pass the Examination with credit. From the report of the external examiner it could be gathered that the introduction of an Intermediate Examination and promotion in the classes on basis of monthly tests are an excellent incentive to students for hard work and zeal. The Students' Magazine, a new venture introduced by the Secretary, enjoys the patronage of most students past and present.

The Report of the Evening Classes was read by Mr. E. Hardmeier, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee. Despite unfavourable circumstances due to the rigorous restrictions on immigration, the Evening Classes showed a marked

increase. This was partly due to the introduction of Coaching Classes for the Examinations in Commerce held by the Royal Society of Arts. This innovation has proved a great success. The Report of the House Committee was read by the Chairman, Mr. W. Krucker. The work of the House Committee was reduced to a minimum as apart from some minor repairs and decorations no structural alterations were necessary. The accommodation in the class rooms was adequate in every respect.

The adoption of the reports was moved, seconded and carried with acclamation.

Election. The Chairman reluctantly announced that Mr. A. C. Stahelin, Chairman of the Education Committee, could not see his way to carry on in that office. Mr. G. Haberstick, Hon. Secretary, who has left London, could not stand for re-election. In their stead were proposed Mr. Ch. Chapuis, as Chairman of the Education Committee and Mr. A. Steinmann as Hon. Secretary. Whilst deeply regretting the loss of the resigning officers, the members were pleased with the nomination of worthy substitutes. As new Members of the General Purposes Committee were proposed Messrs. J. H. Attinger, P. Mathys and M. Schneider. The election of the Committees was taken by poll and the scrutineers announced the following results:

Committees for 1932:

General Purposes Committee:

President: Mr. M. Paschoud; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Ch. Chapuis and W. L. Krucker; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. O. Grob; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Steinmann; 5 Members: Messrs. J. H. Attinger, R. Chappuis, W. Lehmann, P. Mathys and M. Schneider.

Education Committee:

Chairman: Mr. Ch. Chapuis; Vice-Chairman: Mr. E. Hardmeier; 4 Members: Messrs. H. H. Baumann, W. Meier, F. Streit and R. Weist.

House Committee:

Chairman: Mr. W. L. Krucker; Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. J. Boos; 2 Members: Mrs. T. Lunghi-Rezzonico and Mr. J. Trachsel.

Press Reporter: Mr. W. Burren;

Delegate on the Advisory Board of the Employment Department: Mr. Ch. Chapuis.

Delegates on the Swiss Sports Committee:

Messrs. H. H. Baumann, W. Burren and W. L. Krucker.

Delegate to the N.S.H.: Mr. F. Streit.

Council. The fact that two Trustees and five Members of the General Purposes Committee are ex officio Members of the Council and all other Members stood for re-election, an election by poll was not necessary. Mr. A. C. Stahelin consenting to continue in the office of Vice-Chairman of the Council, which was greatly appreciated, raised the number of Council Members from eleven to twelve. The Council was duly elected by show of hands and is constituted as follows:

Chairman: Mr. M. Paschoud; Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. C. Stahelin; 10 Members: Messrs. J. J. Boos, Ch. Chapuis, G. E. De Brunner (Trustee), W. Deutsch, O. Grob, G. Jenne, L. W. Krucker, J. J. Pfaendler, A. Schupbach (Trustee), and A. Steinmann.

Auditor. It was duly proposed and seconded that Mr. Percy H. Green, F.C.A., be re-elected Auditor of the Company. The proposal was carried with acclamation.

Old Age and Invalidity Insurance. On the proposition of the General Purposes Committee to reconsider the question of the contribution to the Old Age and Invalidity Insurance it was resolved that the decision of the last Monthly Meeting to raise the rate of subscription from 2/6 p.a. to 3/- be upheld. This increase was required by the depreciation of the Pound Sterling.

Annual Report. It was decided that the Annual Report be printed and a credit of £30 was granted. An estimate for the printing of the report by the Frederick Printing Co. Ltd. was accepted.

Entertainment. It was decided to hold a Fancy Dress Ball on January 7th, 1933 and the Annual Banquet in February 1933. It was deemed advisable to re-introduce the latter function, especially as the socials had been reduced to a minimum.

The proceedings then terminated.

W.B.

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