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SWISS SPORTS at HERNE HILL

SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1934.

Three cheers! This year's Sports were actually held with the kind collaboration of the sun; what a difference it made from previous occasions, when a steady down-pour used to interfere most unpleasantly with the various items.

Taking the weather conditions into consideration, one might have reasonably expected a record attendance, but somehow or other the numbers present did not greatly exceed those recorded on former occasions, when the weather was less favourable.

Has this Annual Meeting lost its pull?, or have many of our compatriots been so disheartened by the bad weather under which the Sports during the last few years were held, that the mere name of Herne Hill makes them think of an Umbrella Parade?

There might be another reason, and I am sure the Committee will not take it amiss, when I offer some slight criticism; it is after all the privilege of the Press to make fair comments. I find that these meetings have become rather dragging, there is not enough *entrain*; and I might perhaps be allowed to make one or two suggestions.

The announcing of the various items on the programme was done with the aid of a microphone, and let me tell you that the operator handled this instrument in a very efficient manner, it was done exactly the same way, as at any of the large sporting events which take place in and around London, and here, is where I consider lays the snag. The Swiss Sports, besides being, as the name indicates, a sports event, is also to a certain extent a social meeting, and the announcer would have a great opportunity, in making various other comments, apart from the purely sporting ones, to liven things up considerably. Take f.i. an announcement with reference to the pillow fight: On the pole are now the Editor of the Swiss Observer, and the Hon. Vice-President of the Sports Committee; they shake hands,—they smile,—the Vice-President disappears,—they are on the pole again,—the Editor gets a tremendous smack in the eye, and falls off like a log! What a tremendous cheer would greet such an announcement; or: the Secretary of the S.M.S. has just been heavily defeated, it looks as if a certain ornament of his face has been knocked off, no; it is still there; great applause from the entire field, and the swooning wife recovers. Then he could have mentioned that a young couple on the border of the track have taken it into their heads to make violent love to each other, with the result that all the young ladies and young men would get a bit closer to each other, and would squeeze their hands, what an inspiring view that would be, and how it would demonstrate to our English friends what a united and loving family the Swiss are.

Apart from such announcements, I would suggest, that the operator should make a few explanatory remarks about events like f.i. "Throwing the Javelin" and "Throwing the Discus," as a good many of the spectators have but a hazy idea what is really to be done with these "gadgets." I am convinced that if the announcer takes a more active and more intimate part in the happenings, things could be considerably livened up.—

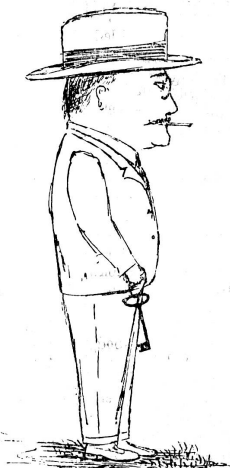
The start was made punctually at 2.45 and in rapid succession the various Flat Handicap races for men, boys and ladies followed each other. As the results of the various events will be given at the end of this narrative, I will, with a few exceptions' desist from commenting on the achievements of each individual performer. As usual these races and competitions were followed with great interest by the onlooker, and each winner received a great and well merited ovation.

The Swiss being a musical nation, a musical programme was provided by an Ampligram, which was fed from Mr. Newman's inexhaustible stock of Swiss gramophone records, and some of the popular tunes must have inspired both competitors and spectators alike. When the stately "Bärner" March was played, I nearly joined the Veterans who were lined up to *run* (I beg your pardon) to *walk* for their lives, but reason prevailed, and I went instead to the Bar to drink to the health of my native town, a performance which was less strenuous.

Soon after 3 o'clock, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame Paravicini arrived, and received a spontaneous ovation.

The musical honours were rendered, by playing "Trittst im Morgenrot daher" which somehow disturbed me, considering that it was then already early afternoon. When the popu-

lar President of the Sports Committee M. Barbezat appeared, a record was played entitled "Ich geh jetzt fort, auf ewig fort," which was rather unkind. Here is his portrait:



but this time I could not detect the famous key, which in former years was such a welcome attraction, and faithful companion.

Suddenly I perceived a certain commotion amongst the spectators, all eyes were focussed on a certain spot, and there they were, over a dozen valiant veterans lined up for the 440yds. Walking Handicap (Méh over 40), all smiling, all happy, all looking in the pink. I thought it was quite unfair to brand them with the stigma of being "Veterans", as they did not look a bit like old men. A shot rang out, and off they went, gone were the smiles, to make way for looks of grim determination, the expression on some of the faces quite frightened me, their features became distorted almost too painful to behold, and yet I always thought that sports were a pleasurable occupation, some people do take their pleasures sadly!!! The race was won by Mr. von Bergen, for the third time in succession and the cup will become his own property.

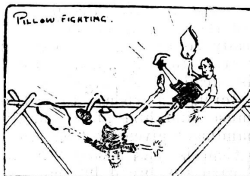
A no less interesting event proved to be the Tug-o'-War which was won by the Cercle Valaisan by two pulls to nil, the captain of the Cercle Valaisan team played a great part in leading his men to victory. The Union Helvetia team fought gallantly, but the better team no doubt won.

Amongst the classical races, the Relay Race was followed with the greatest interest, and the Swiss Mercantile Society only just missed keeping for good the Challenge Cup, which they won for the last two years in succession. The Unione Ticinese won this race in grand style, and are to be congratulated on their fine performance.

An equally fine performance was the win of Mr. H. H. Baumann, in the 120yds. Veterans Handicap, he is indeed a remarkable sportsman, and as he has now won this race for the third time in succession, the cup will no doubt find a treasured spot in his abode.

There were innumerable races for little boys and girls, and also for grown ups which were full of amusing incidents.

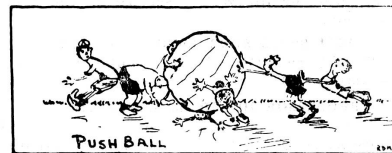
Such fancy events as the Cigarette, Egg and Spoon Race, and the Three-legged Race found many entrants and caused great hilarity amongst the onlookers.



The chief attraction proved to be again the Pillow Fight, and many a well-known personality in the Colony made a rather undignified

disappearance, but what a splendid opportunity to satisfy a grievance without making it look too obvious.

One of the last events to take place was the Pushball for which two teams had entered, namely the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Swiss Rifle Team. The latter were my favourites, firstly because their team contained many personal friends of mine, secondly they looked very substantial, and I am sure if sheer force would have decided the issue, they would have easily won; the first contact with the opposing team was tremendous, as a matter of fact I quite expected that the huge ball would explode. Some sarcastic gentleman nearby suggested that the teams should have been announced as follows: S.M.S. versus Brewers. This was rather unkind, because if they would have had any connection with that particular trade, they would have won, because remember the slogan: "Beer is Best." as they had not, they lost, but they went gallantly to their doom. They fought grimly and with determination, amongst them was the President of one of our biggest Societies in the Colony, who celebrated his birthday by charging the ball, as if he did not care whether this was his last anniversary, a noble fighter and a good loser.—



The "Georges Dimier Challenge Cup" for scoring the highest aggregate number of points, which was won outright by the S.M.S. two years ago, and replaced last year by Mme. Georges Dimier was awarded to the S.M.S. who thus won it two years in succession.

Previous to the distribution of prizes, M. A. Barbezat said a few words, thanking both organisers and competitors for their collaboration in making this year's Sports Meeting a success. Madame Paravicini, who kindly consented to distribute the prizes, was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, she rewarded each prize winner with a charming smile and a handshake.

Coming to the summing up, I must congratulate the members of the Committee for their untiring efforts to make this Meeting a success, which it no doubt was, in spite of a few items which might perhaps be remedied in the future. I wish to single out M. H. H. Baumann, the Hon. Secretary of the Sports Committee who worked very hard indeed, he was ably assisted by M. Levy, Headmaster of the S.M.S. College.

Judging from the happy faces of those who left Herne Hill, the 1934 Swiss Sports Meeting undoubtedly left to many happy memories, and not least to those little ones who, on departing, were offered a lift in Madame Paravicini's limousine.

The Official Press Reporter.

RESULTS.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Men) Heat 1. 1st. E. W. Casada, 2nd, A. Schmid, Time 10 3/5sec.
Heat 2. 1st, W. Meier, 2nd D. Baumann, Time 10 2/5 sec. Heat 3. 1st, M. de Maria, 2nd, C. Combe, Time 10 3/5 sec.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Boys): Heat 1. 1st, H. Ehrsam, (walk-over), Heat 2. 1st, R. Verschuur, 2nd, C. Rossier, 3rd E. Volken. Time 12 4/5.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap (Ladies): Heat 1. 1st, K. M. Tiffen, Time 11 1/5 sec. Heat 2. 1st, K. S. Tulley Time 11 2/5 sec. Heat 3. 1st, M. H. Greenfield, Time 11 sec. Heat 4. 1st E. J. Green, Time 11 2/5 sec. Heat 5. 1st, M. Ashenbrenner, Time 13 sec.

440 Yds Flat Handicap: 1st F. V. Pritchett, 2nd, E. Sampietro, Time 54 2/5. sec.

100 Yds. Flat Handicap: 1st, W. Meier, 2nd E. W. Casada, 3rd, A. Schmid, Time 10 4/5 sec.



