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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CITY SWISS CLUB Annual General Meeting at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1

A meeting on the day after a bank holiday, and after the members have been informed about two months in advance that the meeting will take place on Tuesday, 24th April, is not conducive to a large attendance. In spite of these unfavourable arrangements, just over fifty members, or one-fifth of the Club's membership(!), found time, or showed enough interest, to attend the Annual General Meeting, which is the principal meeting of the year.

In opening the meeting, the president, Mr. Th. von Speyr, welcomed Monsieur W. Roche, of the Swiss Embassy. He also referred to the recent passing away in London — when on a visit — of Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, formerly Swiss Minister in London and Ambassador in Washington, and invited the members to pay a silent tribute to his memory. (The deceased was, when *en poste* in London, Honorary President of the Club.)

Three new members were elected. Mr. Louis Jobin, Assistant Secretary, in the absence of the Hon. Secretary, read out the Minutes, which were accepted.

Mr. von Speyr, in his presidential report, gave a résumé of the activities of the Club during the past financial year. He mentioned that the Club has lost through death the following members: G. Berenger, O. Frey, A. Haugartner, W. Meier, A. Robert-Tissoz, and R. de Cintra (Hon. Vice-President). Seven members had resigned, primarily due to departure from this country, and 16 new members were enrolled.

The president, in his report, recalled some of the social meetings, such as the *dîner dansant* at the Great Fosters Hotel, Egham, the annual banquet and ball at the Dorchester Hotel, presided over by the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur A. Daeniker, the Christmas dinner (with an attendance of over 120 members), and the *soirée familiale*, on which occasion our charming compatriote Mlle. Annette Weisbrod gave a much appreciated piano recital.

Two special meetings were held to discuss matters concerning the Club House Fund, which led to some alterations in the rules of the Club. Also a few card meetings were held.

Concluding his report, Mr. von Speyr thanked his colleagues on the committee for their collaboration, voicing his appreciation to H.E. the Swiss Ambassador for the continued interest he is taking in the doings of the Club, and to Mr. G. A. Ronus, Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, for his always generous hospitality extended to the members of the Club.

The president's report was accepted with acclamation.

Mr. H. Schmid, Hon. Treasurer, then presented the accounts. He regretted to announce a deficit for the year 1961/62 of £151 8s. 4d. (It is a pity that more time could not have been devoted to discussing the various items in the balance sheet in order to make some recommendations for future improvements. It must be pointed out that the Club has made various donations during the year amounting to £131 10s.).

Unfortunately the annual banquet showed a loss of £196 9s. 3d., principally due to the unsatisfactory attendance. The president threatened that unless an improvement in the attendance can be registered the annual banquet will have to be abandoned.

In the past 106 years of the existence of the C.S.C., only ten banquets were called off, due to the years of the two World Wars, and it would be nothing short of a disaster if these banquets, which have always been the highlights of the social events in the Swiss Colony, should be dispensed with. This can, and must, be averted, by making more intensive propaganda, especially by each individual member of the club and the committee.

The accounts of the Club House Fund, showing a credit balance of £5,781 13s., were explained by Mr. B. O. Cogliatti, and were passed.

The elections for the new committee for 1962/63 followed, under the presidency of Mr. X. Speckert, a former president of the Club, who thanked the president and the outgoing members for the services they had rendered. He informed the meeting that, with the exception of the Hon. Treasurer (H. Schmid), all former members of the committee were prepared to carry on for a further term.

The following were elected for the committee 1961-1962: — *President*, Th. von Speyr; *Vice-President*, M. A. Keller; *Hon. Secretary*, A. Kunz; *Assist. Secretary*, Louis Jobin; *Hon. Treasurer*, A. J. Mattlé (new); *Assist. Treasurer*, G. A. Ronus; *Librarian*, J. P. Christen. Also elected were: B. O. Cogliatti and H. Keller as *Auditors*, and A. Stauffer as *Press Reporter*.

Messrs. E. Luterbacher and C. Mayr, having resigned office as Trustees of the Club House Fund, and the vacancy caused through the death of Mr. R. de Cintra, the vacancies were filled by Messrs. Robert J. Keller, E. H. Burnier, and A. Stauffer.

Mr. Th. von Speyr then re-occupied the presidential chair amidst acclamation, thanking the president *pro tem* for having conducted the meeting, and the members for having again entrusted him with the leadership of the Club for the next twelve months.

Close of the meeting, 10 p.m.

*Press Reporter,
City Swiss Club.*

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