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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February, March and April are the months when most of the Swiss societies and institutions render the accounts of their doings during the past twelve months.

There is very little change to report about the meetings which take place; they follow almost a stereotyped pattern. The respective presidents give a survey of the activities of their societies or institutions, the treasurers announce either a surplus or a deficit (mostly a deficit, which nobody seems to take very seriously), the members confirm or elect a committee, and finally thanks for services rendered are generously handed out to the officers in charge.

These annual meetings are in most cases preceded or followed by cocktails and dinner, the idea being to create a genial atmosphere thus lessening the shock should a deficit be announced.

The Swiss Rifle Association held its Annual General Meeting on 3rd April, at the Glendower Hotel, Glendower Place, S.W.7.

Mr. Alfred Schmid was in the Chair, and there were about thirty members present. Mr. F. Magnin, Hon. Secretary, read the minutes of the last General Meeting, and Mr. H. Straub presented and explained the accounts, which close with a small credit balance. The president gave a survey of the activities of the Association during the year 1962. He stated that in the course of the financial year, seventeen new members were elected, whilst six members resigned owing to their departure from this country. The membership by the end of 1962 numbered two hon. members and eighty-three active members, the highest number attained since 1950.

Seven shooting practices were held at Bisley in 1962, and 4,710 rounds of ammunition were used (1961: 4,570). Altogether twelve competitions were shot.

There will be eight meetings in Bisley during the present year, namely 28th April, 12th and 26th May, 9th, 16th and 30th June, 22nd September, and 6th October.

The president informed the Meeting that the old committee were prepared to carry on, and they were re-elected. Mr. Alfred Schmid warmly thanked his colleagues on the committee for the support they had so spontaneously given him during his year of office. Mr. Adolf Schmid proposed a vote of thanks to the president and the committee, which was seconded by Mr. O. Grob, and duly accepted.

The president then referred to the Federal Shooting Competition which will be held between 24th July and 12th August in Zurich. 29th, 30th and 31st July will be reserved for the Swiss Rifle Clubs from abroad. He expressed the hope that many of the members will make it convenient to attend. The Association, the president said, is offering a prize which will consist of a canteen of cutlery numbering eighty-three pieces. Mr. J. C. Wetter, vice-president of the Association, associated himself with the president's appeal. Mr. M. Bucherer, chief range officer, made several suggestions as to arrangements during shooting practices at Bisley.

Messrs. M. Bucherer, P. Fischer and F. Ansermoz were then presented with medals, which they had won in the Lausanne Shield 1962 competition.

Close of the Meeting, 7.35 p.m.

* * *

The members then adjourned to the dining room for an excellent dinner, and were joined by H.E. the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Armin Daeniker, and Monsieur J. de Stoutz, 1st Counsellor of Embassy, to whom the president extended a cordial welcome.

A. STAUFFER.
Press Reporter, S.R.A.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Benevolent Society was held on Monday, 25th March, at Swiss House, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. G. Sommer, president.

The Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, who is Honorary President of the society, was unavoidably prevented from being present and was represented by Monsieur J. de Stoutz, Counsellor of the Embassy.

There was a large attendance of General Committee members, including Monsieur E. Tosio, the Swiss Consul, and several representatives of Swiss societies and institutions in London, besides a few friends. All were very cordially welcomed by the president, who had a special word of greeting for Monsieur de Stoutz and of thanks for the Embassy's unfailing interest and co-operation in the society's work.

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Rothlisberger, it fell to Mr. Bonnet, Hon. Assistant Treasurer, to present the accounts for 1962. These will be published, as usual, in the Annual Report to be issued in June, but it may be said here that the overall picture remains unfortunately in the red, as it has been for a number of years. Total relief paid amounted to £6,305, which is £348 more than in the previous year. It is significant of the advance made during the last ten years in the society's rates of allowances to compatriots in need, *pari passu* with the increase in public assistance grants, that, whereas total relief passed the £5,000 mark for the first time in 1952, it has exceeded £6,000 already five times since.

On the other hand, annual subscriptions have not kept pace with this development; they have tended to remain static although personal incomes and cost of living have gone on rising through the years. Hence an adverse effect on the finances of the society, which has been a matter of serious concern to the committee. However, it is encouraging to note a move in the right direction in response to the society's earnest appeal last year for more realistic support. The committee hopes that the practical sympathy and understanding thus shown by many subscribers will be emulated by many more, so as to ensure the fullest support to this good work of relief to fellow-citizens in need.

There are at present on the society's books 68 pensioners receiving regular weekly allowances from the fund against 63 twelve months ago.

The members of the Executive, Finance and Home for Aged Swiss committees, as well as the Hon. Auditors, were all re-elected for another year. Two new members, Mr. H. Gruninger and Mr. M. Schneebeli, were elected on the General Committee

J.Z.