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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

AUTUMN IN MANCHESTER

On the 22nd October 1970 members and friends of the Swiss Club Manchester met at the Grand Hotel to enjoy a few hours of happy and care-free fellowship, an evening which must have appealed to everybody with its varied and interesting programme, catering for everyone's taste.

Our President, Monsieur Bernhard Simon, opened the proceedings by welcoming us and we very much missed the presence of our Consul's wife, Mrs. Born, who was suffering from a slight accident, and everybody wished her a speedy recovery. A particularly happy surprise was the unexpected attendance of Mrs. Trudi Lichtensteiger who was here for a short visit and who sacrificed a few of her hours to be amongst us after so many years of absence. She holds a great place in our hearts and we remember so well her husband Max who died a few years ago and was for a very long time a loyal and devoted supporter of the Swiss Club, well liked and respected by his friends and business acquaintances. We hope that Mrs. Lichtensteiger, who now lives in a lovely chalet overlooking the lake of Thun, will visit us again when she returns to England.

After his short, warm and very appropriate words, Mr. Simon invited Dr. Hans Rudi Bolliger, our Vice-President and Delegate for the North at the Auslandschweizer-Tagung, to address us. We then had the pleasure of listening, as in the past, to his clear, concise and well understandable exposé of the days he passed in Zofingen. He touched on such questions as the "Militaer-Pflicht-Ersatz", the "Alters und Hinterlassenen-Versicherung", the problem appertaining to the "Rekruten-Schule", telling us that for many young Swiss abroad it is their first opportunity to know their homeland. He spoke to us of the "Revision of the Federal Constitution", the "Fremden-Initiative" and many other aspects of national interest and how all this could affect the Swiss abroad. I do not need to go into more detail because all these points have been amply publicised in the "Echo" and our own "Swiss Observer".

He voiced, however, his disappointment of seeing year after year so few Swiss from these Islands at those eminently Swiss Reunions and we all felt that something should be done about it. One solution could be that we arrange our holidays or business-trips in such a way to coincide with the Auslandschweizer-Tagung. The writer has made a provisional note in his agenda for the last week-end in August 1971 at Brunnen!

Dr. Bolliger was most warmly and enthusiastically applauded by the audience consisting of a wide selection of people from various activities and

occupations, of young people and students some of whom were staying only for short periods in England. Our President added his personal thanks.

In the meantime and very much in the quiet the second part of our evening entertainment had been prepared for us. Some had the feeling that our committee member Mr. Senn had had a hard and worrying time to overcome some of the technical difficulties, but sure enough everything was in working order for the time of start. I refer to all the intricacies of the projector which had to show us two films, kindly supplied by the Swiss-Air through the good offices of its new manager Mr. Weber who was accompanied by his wife. To both of them we wish a pleasant and long stay amongst us.

Mr. Senn, during the whole show, acquitted himself most superbly, a real professional, and we were able to admire the many beautiful and breathtaking sceneries of Switzerland in winter. Folklore, mountains, wildlife at its best, hotels, sports and the numerous other aspects of the manifold activities which never stop, even under the most severe and forbidding aspects of the cold season. Sun and deep-blue skies are never far away and young and old alike find within the fine Swiss hospitality, pleasure and rest. To all this the following motto could be applied: "Switzerland all year round, for old and young, for poor and rich".

For many of us this show of films could have gone on and on, but as time never stands still and to allow our worthy projectionist a well earned rest, we had to call it a day, but not without having first thanked him and Mr. Weber, in the usual way, for this most interesting and lovely show.

The evening then continued in happy and animated conversation and discussion, the private hotel bar providing us well with drinks and refreshments. We were eventually able to take leave, some "a l'anglaise", without upsetting the cordiality and congeniality of the evening and we do all hope that we may soon be able to meet again under similar circumstances.

E. Berner

SING-SONG WITH THE SCHWEIZERBUND

The Schweizerbund held its bi-annual family evening at the Gledower on November 6th. And a very enjoyable evening too, despite the sore throats which the more persevering singers must have suffered after so many songs.

Mr. Virgil Berti, the President, invited us all to a happy evening and welcomed the Schweizerbund's guests for the evening, in particular, Mr. and Mrs. Fernand Delaloye. He also re-

minded us of Mr. Franz Bischof's imminent departure and, speaking on behalf of us all, said how he regretted seeing him and his family go.

Mr. Delaloye then chose to say a few words. He evoked Schweizerbund's past, and spoke of the former "Swiss Club" in Charlotte Street which used to house the Swiss Gymnastic Society, the Swiss Choral Society, the Unione Ticinese and the Society des Secours Mutuels. What a pity that the "Swiss Club" building had to be abandoned! But Mr. Delaloye was pleased to see the Schweizerbund continuing as lively as before and wished it a successful continuation.

We then opened the Swissair sing-song booklets which had been supplied to us by Jürg Schmid, the Schweizerbund's Secretary, and away we sang . . .

The booklet's songs were soon exhausted but with the help of other song books brought along by members the singing was kept going cheerfully and sometimes thunderously until a final

The Institute for Swiss Trade Promotion

Swiss Centre
10 Wardour Street
London, W1V 3HG
Tel: 01-734 5889

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