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difficulties might be avoided if the Swiss Social Services notified the Welfare Office of such cases, in advance.

The Welfare Office would like to thank the following organisations for their continuing help, assistance and understanding. The Swiss Embassy, particularly Consul-General Adams, Consul Roberts, Miss Scherer and Miss Lustenberger, the Ministers and helpers of the Swiss Church, the Warden of the Swiss Hostel, the Swiss Benevolent Society, especially Mrs Sharp whose day-to-day help and co-operation are of invaluable benefit.

Our special thanks go to the British police who are always willing to help and advise; "Lifeline"; and in particular Crusade of Rescue for their special help during the past few months. British Airways for their co-operation with quick repatriation of patients and handicapped people, the British Red Cross, Aliens Registration Department of the Home Office and the many Citizens' Advice Bureaux, agencies, clubs, schools, hospitals and social services who have assisted us in our work during the year.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 17 April 1975, at 6.30 pm at the John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA. After opening prayers the Chairman, Oscar Grob, KSG, extended a warm welcome to all present.

#### Resignations

Mrs F. Birrer, having left for Cologne, where her husband, Dr Franz Birrer has taken up a new assignment; Mrs I. R. Daetwiler, as her husband had been transferred to Geneva. The resignation of I. R. Daetwiler, Hon. Treasurer was dealt with under "Election of Committee of Management".

#### Finance

The Chairman, in the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, in his Finance Report said: "With the contributions from 57 donors and 22 generous donations received from Swiss Firms and Friends, the Sunday church collections, income tax recovered from covenants, the accrued bank interest, the two most generous donations received, ie £140 from the City Swiss Club and £8 from the NSH re Christmas Concert Eglise Suisse and a Grant for assistant youth worker from the Inner London Education Authority, we had a total income of £940.96 against our expenditure of

£1,353.76 leaving us with a deficit of £412.80. The share of the bazaar amounting to £695, as mentioned in the Chairman's Report, has been credited direct to the capital account.

The accounts were duly passed by the meeting with thanks to the Chairman and Hon. Auditor.

#### Chairman's Report

The Chairman said in his Report the following:

"The year 1974 can be recorded again as one of steady progress in the activity of the Swiss Catholic Community, in which both permanent and temporary Swiss residents in the Colony took an active part.

"On 29 May 1974 we sent the Report of our last Annual General Meeting, held on 9 May 1974 at 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA to our friends, giving a record of the developments and our activities which took place in 1973.

"On 8 March 1974 we were invited by the Consistoire Eglise Suisse de Londres to participate with them in their next bi-annual Swiss Church Bazaar, to be held at Central Hall, Westminster SW1, on Saturday 2 November 1974.

"This invitation was gladly accepted, as we felt certain that the excellent relationship which exists between our two churches would only be further strengthened by this joint effort.

"The proof of our successful co-operation has been shown by the excellent financial result of this first combined bazaar, which permitted the Consistoire to allocate to us 25 per cent of the proceeds of the sale amounting to £695.

"We wish to express to the Consistoire our sincere thanks for this very generous allocation to our funds. The publicity given in the Special Issue of the *Swiss Observer* and the announcement by the BBC over the radio had probably not been without effect on the greatly increased attendance at the bazaar, which was officially opened by our Ambassador, Dr Albert Weitnauer.

#### Chaplain's Report

Our Chaplain, the Rev. Father Paul Bossard, reported as follows:

"With some sort of anxiety and strain on the part of the Chaplain the residence of the Swiss Catholic Mission and the Youth Club at the John Southworth Centre in 48 Great Peter Street was consolidated by a lease of 26 years and the decision to begin the most urgent renovations.

"They included part of the roof, strengthening of the first floor, new

toilets and store rooms on the ground floor. A grant from the Government and a very generous donation from the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund promised for 1975 together with a firm financial involvement of the "Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches" and funds from other sources made it possible to meet the cost of this most urgent building programme.

"It was felt by the Bishops in Switzerland that the Swiss Youth Club and the pastoral care of the young Swiss in England was a real ecumenical work and that both the Catholics and the Protestants should be financially involved in the upkeep of this important youth and community centre which is primarily a responsibility of Westminster Cathedral but provides ample facilities for the Swiss and gives them a chance of meeting the neighbouring community.

"The pastoral work of the Chaplain was carried on as in previous years only that he was also appointed as chaplain and spiritual director of the John Southworth Centre and assistant youth leader. This means that the Swiss Catholic Mission is working in much closer co-operation with Westminster Cathedral in order to offer the young Swiss more possibilities to meet English friends in a Christian spirit.

"As before the Sunday afternoons and evenings with divine service, discussion groups, dance, table tennis and excursions are primarily reserved for the Swiss and are always well attended (average 180-230 people). During the week the office is open for consultations and advice and also for providing young people with some work around the house, be it cleaning or general repair work, for which a well-equipped workshop is available. To keep the house in a condition to welcome the young Swiss every Sunday is often a very tiresome job and takes a lot of time and manual work for which the chaplain was not exactly ordained but all the same, well trained and is grateful to all who have helped him during the year.

Without the ecumenical co-operation it would simply be impossible to do everything and this is the most important and also rewarding aspect, especially in regard to the young people and the effect it has on the life of the Swiss colony. One example was the great success of the bazaar, and there are positive signs everywhere that the tragic misunderstanding of 400 years' separation is slowly overcome by the churches.

"The Mothers' Group meets regularly on the third Wednesday of the month at the Eglise Suisse, another ecumenical activity which provides an



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excellent means of contact and mutual help especially for families of racially mixed marriages.

Together with his colleagues, the Chaplain has attended a study course in Birmingham for three weeks on the theme "Health, Community and Wholeness", regular sessions with a trained psychotherapist every two weeks to study group training and activities. Regular pastoral meetings co-ordinated the religious and social activities, the edition of *Die Stimme*, the work in the newly-opened photo laboratory and the preparation for the holiday camp in Ireland which has always been a highlight for the youth club.

"The sincere thanks have been expressed to the Committee of Swiss Catholics, especially to the Chairman, Oscar Grob, KSG, for all their help and assistance; to Mr Bruno Frei for his unflinching and conscientious work in the organisation of the youth club; to the Consistoire and the Ministers of the Protestant Churches for the excellent co-operation and help; to the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund and the Federation of the Swiss Protestant Churches, the "VEGSIL" (Verein ehemaliger Mitglieder der Schweizer Kirchen in London) and many others for the financial and moral support promised and already giving during the year.

"We are also grateful to His Eminence Cardinal Heenan, his staff at the Cathedral, the Finance Office of the Diocese of Westminster and to the Management Committee of the John Southworth Centre for their hospitality and assistance always received and for their spirit of co-operation; to the Swiss Ambassador, Mr A. Weitnauer and the staff of the Embassy for their interest and help especially in the youth work and the publicity given to the newcomers, and to all those who have helped to build up the work done for the young Swiss at the John Southworth Centre so that it continues to be a blessing to all involved, the Swiss in England and at home.

Paul Bossard, Chaplain

#### *Election of the Committee of Management*

The Chairman thanked the Chaplain, the officers, the Hon. Auditor and the members for their loyal support given to him during the past year.

Father Paul Bossard was elected to act as temporary Chairman.

The following were unanimously elected:

Chairman, Oscar Grob, KSG; Vice-Chairman, Mr M. Schaeбели; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs K. A. Grob, in replacement of Mr I. R. Daetwiler, who had been assigned to the Office of his bank in Geneva.

The Trustees Mr G. Bartholdi and Mr E. Käufeler and the Hon. Secretary Mr E. P. Siegfried shall hold office during the pleasure of the Society. The Chairman expressed his best thanks and appreciation for the services rendered by Mr I. R. Daetwiler as our Hon. Treasurer over the last two-and-a-half years.

#### *Hon. Auditor*

Mr S. B. Stray, ACIS, was unanimously re-appointed as our Hon. Auditor for the ensuing year.

On resuming the Chair, Mr O. Grob thanked the Meeting for the confidence shown in re-electing him as Chairman.

#### *Bazaar*

The Chairman referred to his Report dealing with the Bazaar. He thanked all the members of the Committee for their help in making the Bazaar a great financial and social success singling out for their splendid work Mrs K. A. Grob, Mrs E. Käufeler, and Mr and Mrs W. Reutlinger.

#### *Other Business*

The Chairman mentioned, amongst other correspondence received and sent, the letter received from the Auslandschweizersekretariat in Berne regarding the 53rd Congress of the Swiss Abroad, which will be held in Basle from 29 to 31 August, 1975.

Finally, the Chaplain thanked Mr O. Grob for conducting the Meeting, which closed at 7.35 pm.

E. P. Siegfried  
(Hon. Secretary)

#### **A MERRY SUMMER DANCE PARTY OF THE CITY SWISS CLUB**

For its Summer Dance – by now a well-established tradition regarded by many as the most enjoyable annual event in our colony – the City Swiss Club returned this year, after a break of two or three years, to its old love, Great Fosters. It had to wait a few weeks beyond its usual June date until 18 July for a convenient vacancy at this popular place of merry-making. And it turned out to be well worth it, not only because of the ideal weather conditions of this glorious summer but also because Great Fosters' unique old-world ambience seemed to have greatly benefited from its new management.

Judging by the unusually large attendance of 150 members and guests the choice of venue was obviously much approved of. And no one seemed to be disappointed as everything turned out just right to make this special social occasion, the first under Mr Süess's presidency, a resounding success. Those attending for the first time at Great Fosters were of course particularly delighted discovering this genuine 16th century country mansion, late Tudor style in wonderfully mellow red brick, set in the lovely landscape of trees and meadows near Egham and surrounded by a sea of roses in its own park-like grounds.

It was there, in the rose garden, that the informal reception took place with drinks being served, as promised in the invitation, by what the President affectionately called "wenches" in high-bosomed medieval costume, supported by the antics of acrobats and singing minstrels – all in Tudor costume. It was a delight to see so many old friends and youngsters arrive with their ladies gracefully drifting in and adding their charm to the occasion. Among those present we noted particularly from the Embassy, Consul J. Keller, several former club presidents, Tangemann, Bion and Kuhn, presidents and ex-presidents of other Swiss societies, the indefatigable representative of our Colony in the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, Mrs Mariann Meier, and the Rev. Paul Bossard.

Amongst the numerous English friends invited by members we were delighted to meet an RAF officer, Wing Commander Bill Newby, quietly celebrating in our midst the 31st anniversary of his lucky survival when he was shot down over Germany. He likes to remember another occasion when, taking a short cut across Swiss airspace on a war mission, being gently, though firmly, accompanied by two Swiss defence planes, one on each side, to make sure the British intruder would not stray from his real aim beyond the border.

For dinner the well-primed party

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