

New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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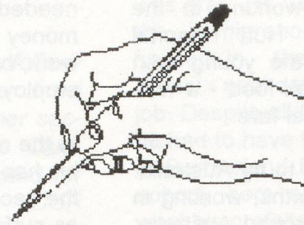
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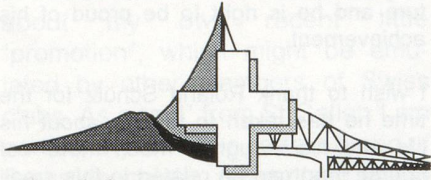
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New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings



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Hamilton
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Auckland Swiss Club

<http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/Spa/4241/swissclub@hotmail.com>

Forthcoming Events

Card evenings : Don't forget our Jass-abig at Oski's, 224 Hobson St., every Friday of the month, 7.30 start,
19.June, 17.July, 21.August,
18.September and 16. October.

AGM - Report

An eventful club year has ended. After serving three years as president of our club, Peter Schüpbach called it quits. During his term our humble châlet on the Swiss farm has been transformed into something that we can be proud of. It should serve the club well for years to come. Also a small calibre shooting range has been built. We look forward to see more activities planned here, now that far more people can be catered for.

The committee is as follows:

President : - Ernst Gfeller (new)
Vice Pres. - Henry Werffeli (new)
Treasurer - Vreni Pfenniger
Secretary - Albert Ryter

Committee:

Sandra Hess, Hans Jten, Heinz Matysik, Toni Manser, Werner Willi, Rita Brändli (new), Trudi Fill (new).

Rifle master:

Henry Werffeli

Farm committee:

Heinz Matysik (Chairman), Markus Bühler, Ulrich Hess, Willi Pfenniger, Harry Moors and Henry Werffeli.

Hon. Auditor:

Syd Melville

Shooting on Farm at Kaukapakapa

Hamilton Day -300m shoot on the 14th June starting at 9.00 am sharp

UIT, 300m, 60 shots prone:

1 & 2 July 98, 1st Auckl. Challenge
19&20 Sept 98, 2nd Auckl. Challenge
14&15 Nov 98, 3rd Auckl. Challenge

If you wish to participate in any of these shoots, please contact Henry Werffeli, Auckland Riflemaster, as there are rules regarding equipment and supply of ammunition. However, everyone is welcome to come. For information, please contact me on ph. 09 410 3476 (home, a/h)
Important note: Please do not use the Auckland Swiss Shooting Range without prior notification.

The Riflemaster, Henry Werffeli

To the Auckland and
Hamilton Swiss Clubs

We are sorry for the omission
of the Auckland Swiss Club's
Logo, as well as omitting
parts of the Hamilton Logo
in the May Issue of
Helvetia !

Editor and Printer.

Hamilton

Swiss Club

Forthcoming Events

CARD EVENINGS

6 June 7.30pm - Tirau
20 June 7.30pm - Eureka
4 July 7.30pm - Tirau
18 July 7.30pm - Eureka

1ST AUGUST

Saturday 1 August 8pm at the Eureka Hall.

SHOOTING DAY IN AUCKLAND

Hamilton members are invited to travel to the Auckland Club's shooting range on 14 June for a morning of shooting, beginning at 9am. Other years this has been an enjoyable day, and it would be great to see more people participating. Those interested, contact Walter Zuber ph. (07) 856-7481 (day) or (07) 856-2414 (home).

HAMILTON CLUB'S AGM

Twenty six club members attended the AGM on Saturday 25 April at the Swiss Craft premises. Many interesting points were raised during the course of the evening. One member asked for ideas or thoughts on how to get younger people from Swiss decent interested in the club. Over the coming year, the committee will endeavour to think about this point and will perhaps try different ways of encouraging younger people to become club members. If anyone reading this Helvetia has any inspirations, please contact Heidi Fransen ph (07) 847-1353.

There were an overwhelming number of people who wished to come into the committee this year, and the existing committee members welcome them with open arms! It is with

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regret, however, that we farewell Doris Rust from the committee. Doris served as a committee member for 13 years, 8 of which she held the position of vice president. Doris did a lot of work behind the scenes, and we all thank her for her hard work and commitment.

The following is the committee for the coming year:

PRESIDENT:

Herbert Staheli

VICE PRESIDENT:

Hans Peter Burch

TREASURER:

Beatrice Leuenberger

SECRETARY:

Heidi Fransen

RIFLE MASTER:

Bill Miles

REMAINDER OF COMMITTEE:

Peter Rust, Erika Elmiger, Heidi Leuenberger, Walter Zuber, Anita Zuber, Heidi Wehrle, Vreni Vetsch, Vitus Achermann.

The meeting lasted around two hours, and was followed by supper. Once again there was a large variety of tasty food. The Aufschnitt on the open sandwiches was donated by Paul Betschart from Auckland, and was very much appreciated. Paul also donated two prizes for our first card evening in May. The club extends our thanks to Paul for his generosity.



Forthcoming Events..

May 30/June 1:

AGM and final of the Cowbell competition.

June 7:

Cards at 1.15 pm. Come along and enjoy a few hours of entertainment and pot-luck tea.

June 21:

Championship shoot at 1.00 pm, with shooting committee meeting to follow.

June 28:

Cards at 1.15 pm.

July 5:

Anniversary shoot, commencing at 11.00 am, followed by a Sauerkraut meal starting at 6.30 pm.

July 12:

Cards at 1.15 pm.

July 26:

Cards at 1.15 pm.

Trachtentanz:

We're practicing regularly now... having a ball...and sweating a lot !!! Our dances are coming together nicely and we're all hoping for a

faultless performance at the AGM (we'll be holding our breath !!) Should anyone be interested, we will be continuing our practices, so that we can give an item on 1st August. We would enjoy your company!

Cards:

We're holding regular card afternoons at the Swiss Club... but for some of our dedicated participants we're obviously not holding enough..., the Sidlers and John Hermann duly arrived on the wrong Sunday... fortunately for them Walter was there for shooting and they were at least able to get in the gate !!!

Better luck next time !!!

MB.

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Sunday closed

Report on Interclub Sports Competition

On Sunday 26 April we once again competed in the annual Interclub Sports Competition against Auckland Swiss Club, this year being Auckland's turn to host the event. As Auckland had already won the shooting event, Hamilton found they had quite a hard task in front of them. Things improved, however, when we won the shotput comfortably. Shortlived, though, as the next event we lost was cards. Luckily we managed to scrape through with the bowling, which made it a tie. Everyone was kept in suspense until the card play-off was completed and Hamilton was pronounced the winner. Hamilton's thanks go to the Auckland Swiss Club for providing delicious sausages for lunch and for the cakes, coffee and drinks. Thanks to Edith Hess for allowing us to use her facilities. Now lies ahead of us the challenge to round up a team to take on Taranaki Swiss Club on their home ground on the Queen's Birthday Weekend in June! The big cowbell seems to prefer the warmer climat of the Waikato!

Peter Rust.

THANK YOU

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Forthcoming Events

The best Fondue in town will be served at the Wellington Swiss Club,

13th June, from 7 pm....onwards.

Please ring Ruth Messmer on 388 62 49, or Monika Sörensen on 478 56 49 before 9th June for your booking and let them know whether you can bring your own caquelon, rechaud and forks.

Members \$ 13.- per person, non-members \$ 15.- per person; children pay \$ 1.- per year. BYO drinks !

AGM - Report

The Annual General Meeting was well attended, and all went well.

The outgoing committee has done a great job over the past year and years - thank you Maya Beddie Geiser for a creative presidency, Michelle Köppel Schneider for an efficient, business-like approach to the running of the Swiss Club, Denise Nassenstein, Elisabeth Hynes, Christine Hughes, Peter Fischer for their great support - and for the delicious meals all year round ! We hope the Swiss Club can count on your great expertise also in the future.

A new committee was speedily elected. Well, it sounds newer than it actually is; you'll probably know most of the new committee members:

President; Roland Schütz

Vice President; Monika Sörensen

Treasurer; Ruth Messmer

Secretary; Trudi Brühlmann

Committee Members; Christine Alderdice, Edith Burla, Marianne Walti,

The AGM closed at 9 pm - which left plenty of time for a rich supper (or was it a late dinner?) and a game of Jassen. If some came home only in the early hours of the morning, it wasn't the AGM's fault !

By the way: In its first meeting the committee elected Monika Sörensen as Vice-President. And soon there will be news about this year's program; watch out !

TB.

Ups and downs on the Swiss Ice Hockey Scene

Over the past 50 odd years, Swiss Ice Hockey has had a veritable rollercoaster ride. From a Bronze Medal at the 1948 Winter Olympics at St.Moritz and a European Champion Title the following year, the standard attained deteriorated rapidly to a point where the national team was getting hammered by Cricket scores. The once famous Cattinis, Torianis and Polteras were long past their use by date. With the introduction of A - B and C Divisions on the world scene, the Swiss team soon found itself right down on the bottom rung, and for a number of years hovered between B and C.

Too good for C but not good enough for B. Part of the problem was a distinct lack of application by members of the national team and a lack of stable training facilities, namely, artificial ice rinks. In order to strengthen the Clubs, foreign players, particularly Canadians were imported, which gradually led to the professional game. In time these led to a reasonably colourful Club competition, but left the national side very short of the stamina required at the top. Since the collapse of Communism the situation has leveled out very markedly. Just like in Soccer, top players are offered lucrative contracts all over the world. Russians play in Switzerland and Swiss play in the NHL (national Hockey league). This year's world championship is played in Switzerland. At the time of writing, the Swiss team has enjoyed a rather mixed but at the same time successful start, having won two and lost two, beating notables like the Russians, by 4 : 2. Their demise finally came in two game semi-finals against Sweden, losing 7 : 2 !!!!

At club level, the national A + B leagues format has taken on an almost frantic character. For some years now the competition begins in late September and continues after a Xmas and New Year break until late February - early March. During that time two home and away rounds are played, giving a 44 match qualifying competition. This requires two games per week being played, with a third one thrown in every so often for good measure. Tuesday - and Saturday evenings are the regular playing days. That odd extra one is slotted in on Sunday afternoon. The top eight teams then get into the business end of the championship by way of a best of three, quarter- and semi final, culminating in a best of five final. The higher placed team in the qualifying round getting first home advantage. The bottom 4 teams play a home and away round to find which two play in the promotion/relegation stakes. This year, with the A-league being reduced by one, the fight was between those last two, and the B-league champion, which happened to be the Langnau's "Tiger" team. A team from a Club,

the Media very much looks upon as a "tradition team", while the two A-league contenders came from La Chaux de Fonds and Herisau. With just a home and away round being played, the winning formula was to win at least one away Game plus of course both home encounters. The outcome went right down to the wire. Langnau's Ilfis Stadion (capacity 6,500, where I've seen many a tight royal battle), was not only filled to the gunwales, the nearby Markthalle, with hastily installed T.Vs, was crammed full as well. At the end of regular time (3 periods of 20 minutes effective playing time) the score stood at 2:2. - Langnau only needed a tie, but the rules in Ice Hockey are such that in the case of a draw after regular time, overtime of five minutes each way is played or until such time as the first goal is scored. Well, Langnau was lucky !!!

At the top end, the S.C. Zug is the new and very proud, Swiss Champion, having beaten Davos by 3 games to two. In other words, this outcome too, went right down to the wire. Last year's champion, the S.C. Bern, was eliminated in the Quarter finals. Without a doubt, the standard of play as well as players stamina and professionalism have improved quite markedly. Needless to say that this high profile game is only possible by attracting the right exponent as well as the best coaches, which in turn means big transfers and even bigger salaries, putting many Clubs under enormous financial pressures. This has prompted the National Administration Committee to demand Budget prove, that Clubs are financially viable before issuing a competition license. A few years ago, the once famous Arosa Club decided that the struggle was too great and voluntarily demoted itself down into the 2nd Amateur League.

At the end of the last season, the S.C.



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