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SOCIETY AND SOCIAL SCENE

A first for N.I. president

THE Swiss Club Northern Ireland is a relatively young club, just entering its fourth year with a membership of approximately 25. The committee meets three or four times a year to arrange events.

This year, the club's president, Mr Hans Egli, notched up a "first" when he attended the annual general meeting of the FSS at the Swiss Embassy in London.

The club does have occasional meetings with the Swiss Club Dublin but, as Mr Egli remarked to *Swiss Observer*, it was very pleasant to be able to attend the London event and meet new friends.

August 1 on the beach

THIS year, the Swiss Club Edinburgh decided to follow last year's popular format and hold their August 1 picnic on the beach.

But plans are also made for activities which will carry the club through to the winter months.

A coffee evening in September will be followed by a game of skittles at the Sheep's Head Inn on October 24. The club face a challenge on this occasion, as they must try to regain the trophy which their opponents from Dunfermline carried off after the last game.

In November, all members are invited to the Waehenabig at Claire McKay's home, and a

dinner is planned for December, though the venue has not yet been fixed.

Celebration programme

AS the *Swiss Observer* goes to press, Swiss Club Manchester anticipate a great success for their

National Day Celebrations, planned for July 29.

The programme includes fireworks, a lampion procession, a bonfire – and schübli flowen in by courtesy of Swissair.

Across the Pennines, the plans include a car treasure hunt.

Looking forward to September, Yorkshire Swiss Club will set sail on a three-hour pleasure cruise on

September 10, and president J Long advises early booking.

The luxury passenger vessel "Water Prince" will carry the party along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and we are reliably informed that the bar will be open.

Do remember, Yorkshire matelots, that *Swiss Observer* welcomes photographs of outings and events!

A reader writes . . .

I HAVE been extremely busy completing my Bar finals in London after nine years of hard studying here in England.

I started off with five O levels then went on to take four A levels. I then did a law degree at Southampton University which I completed in 1980.

It was not always easy as I was trying to run the family house with our two children as well.

But it has been a fascinating experience and I must say I feel very proud as a Swiss "girl" to sit among the very distinguished English lawyers at our dinners at the Inner Temple.

After all, I left secondary school in Switzerland at the age of 14 and later trained as a nurse at the Lindenhofspital in Berne.

I wonder if I could have achieved the same goal back home in Switzerland?

All my fees were paid by the education authorities and my husband was an incredible help taking over the household duties when exam times approached.

Full marks to the English husband!

I look forward to receiving the Swiss Observer again and I hope to have more time to take an interest in the events organised by various groups.

I am still hoping that it will be possible for a Swiss mother to pass on her nationality to her children in the very near future.

Unfortunately it may be too late

for my son who is a 20-year-old medical student.

However, my daughter is 18 and I sincerely hope that Switzerland will pass legislation within the next three years to make my dream come true.

I am very grateful to all the Swiss women who have put so much effort into achieving this goal. – Margot Sowter-Steffen, Winchester, Hants.

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