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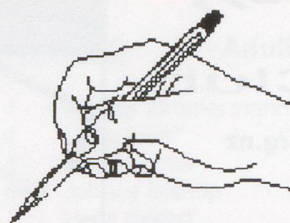
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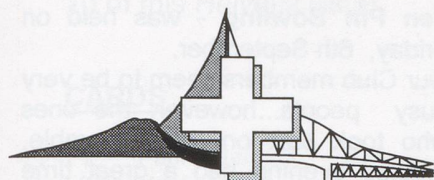
News & Happenings

Web-page - <http://www.swiss.org.nz>

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Auckland Swiss Club

auckland@swiss.org.nz

Past Events...

Jassen, 18th August Meeting:

Many thanks for the generous donation of prizes.

And to the people who provided supper - Thank you.

The results were as follows:

1 Hansruedi Wolf	4114 pts
2 Molli Gianotti	3906
3 Hans Fitzi	3818
4 Othmar Wyss	3762
5 Andre Iten	3753
6 Dominic Hess	3751
7 Annagret Wolf	3750
8= Nelly Steinemann	3737
8= Louis Wallimann	3737
10 Lynne Danphy	3649
11 Hans Iten	3646
12 Hilda Iten	3513

The next Card Evening is on Friday, 20 October, 7.30pm at Oski's. (224 Hobson St, City)

Forthcoming Events...

Explore the Outbacks of Auckland - Mystery Tour Sunday 15 October 2000.

Meeting 10am at Westgate Shopping Centre. (That's at the end of the North-Western Motorway) the first entrance coming from the motorway, in the carpark, behind ASB Bank.

- Return to there will be around 5 pm

In the face of the increased petrol prices we will carpool from there, so that cars going on the tour are full, with every passenger to contribute \$5 to the driver for petrol expenses.

Cost per person: Adults \$15.00

Children 5-13 years, \$7.50.

Includes lunch and morning tea.

Bookings are essential, so please call our organisers now:

Edith Hess, ph. 444 6972, or

Albert Ryter, ph. 478 8547

We hope to see lots of you there!

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Lost/Found

From the Fondue Evening: A cream coloured Anorak was found at the farm. If you are missing such a piece of clothing, please contact Albert Ryter, ph 478 8547.

Welcome to the Auckland Swiss Club

To all our new members who joined us in the past few months:

- Agnes Pflüger
- Remy und Rita Zibung and family (welcome back!)
- Thomas and Celine Schmutz-Westerlund and family
- Leonie Widmer
- Pia and E.J. Van Weelie-Zimmermann and family
- Andres and Cheryl Katz and family
- Martin and Nanise Brugger
- Ursula Nixon and family
- Pia & Stuart
- Knarston-Wallimann

The committee welcomes you in our midst and hopes you take the opportunity to participate in many of our events organised during the year.

TF

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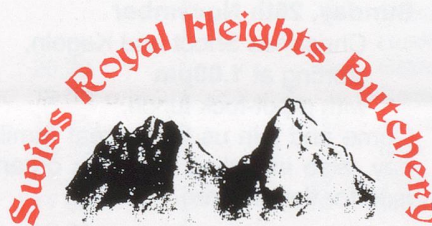
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Past Events...

A very enjoyable Fondue Evening, together with presentation of medals and annual trophies, was just held on 23rd September. A full report will be included in next month's *Helvetia*.

Forthcoming Events...

A Bowling and Card Evening is being planned for **Saturday, 28th October**, commencing at **7.00pm**, at Swisscraft, Colombo Street, Hamilton.

Come along and join us for a relaxing and enjoyable evening at the bowling alley; an informal game of cards, or even just to have a drink and catch up with some friends.

There will be no entry charge for this evening, but for supper, a plate would be appreciated.

To give us an idea of numbers, please contact either:

Heidi Fransen, ph (07) 847 1353, or Beatrice Leuenberger, ph (07) 8437971, fax (07) 843 7941. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Function

Once again, we will be holding our very popular Christmas function at Livestock Improvement, Hamilton, on **Sunday, 10th December**.

Lunch will be provided, and there will be plenty of activities for both children and adults.

The swimming pool will also be available.

More details will follow in the next issue, but for now, please mark this date on your calendars.

Another date not to be missed is our first event for next year - the annual **Picnic, on 25th February 2001**, so note it on your calendars now.

More details will be available in future issues. BL

Subs for 2000

The majority of members have now paid their subs for this year, and only a few still outstanding. Reminder notices to unpaid members were included in last month's *Helvetia*. Prompt payment would be appreciated - send your cheque in the post, or bring it with you to the Fondue Evening. Many thanks to everyone.



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taranaki@swiss.org.nz

Forthcoming Events...

Sunday, 19th November

-Ted Nöpflin Memorial Shield and Championship Shoot, commencing at **1.00pm**

More members are required for this event, so please come along and give Mark your support.

Sunday, 26th November

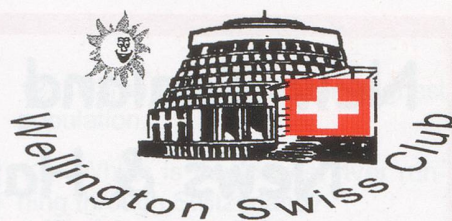
- Christmas Shoot and Kegeln, starting at **1.00pm** with a pot-luck lunch.

Come and join us for a great family day, also including activities organised for the children.

2nd and 16th November, Keglen...

once again, we would love to see some new faces... come along and give it a go!

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Past Events...

Ten Pin Bowling - was held on Friday, 6th September.

Our Club members seem to be very busy people...however, the ones who took part on this enjoyable, relaxed evening had a great time and were able to considerably improve their bowling skills.

Forthcoming Events...

Fondue Evening

Saturday, 7th October, from 7pm onwards, with medal presentation.

We'll continue our tradition of serving the best fondue in town - so don't miss out!

Please ring Heinz Jäggi (569 7516 or mobile 025 430759) or Trudi Brühlmann (562 8019) with your booking before 3rd October. Please let them know whether you are able to bring your own fondue sets - caquelon, rechaud and forks.

Costs per person: members \$15.00, non-members \$17.00. BYO drinks!!

Society Jassen Competition

Saturday, 14th October

Apart from the opportunity to win a medal, it is a pleasant evening in good company - and with a delicious supper.

Members will have received a personal invitation for the above functions on 7th and 14th October.

Preview:

Garage Sale, 11th November

Spring is the time for cleaning out and tidying up!

All your discarded treasures might find proud new owners at our Garage Sale. More details will follow in the next *Helvetia*.

and don't forget: Our Clubhouse is there to be used! It will be open every Friday afternoon, 1 - 5 pm, until further notice.

Come for a cup of coffee, a chat, or perhaps a Jass? Or drop in after a walk in the Rimutaka Forest Park, a drive to the coast, even a trip to the tip! Come on your own, with the family, or bring a friend. tb

**TARANAKI SWISS CLUB
YEAR 2000
SOCIETY SPORTS RESULTS**

The following is the full list of participants and placings in the four Society sports for the Taranaki Club.

A list of all medal winners appears on page 10 of this *Helvetia* issue.

CARDS

1	Paul Suter	2889
2	Heidi Seifert	2823
3	Mathias Seifert	2822
4	Bruno Stutz	2656
5	Frieda Meier	2653
6	Markus Rufer	2635
7	Josie Gillbanks	2414
8	Margrit Dudli	2610
9	Edi Füglistaller	2550
10	Anni Riebli	2547
11	Walter Seifert	2535
12	Myrtha Seifert	2533
13	Mavis Schuler	2508
14	Peter Gillbanks	2498
15	Bertha Sidler	2494
16	Maya Stutz	2488
17	Fred Neuburger	2487
18	Joe Sidler	2461
19	Ruedi Dudli	2457
20	Marianne Benkert	2454
21	Margrit Suter	2416
22	Regi Mathys	2415
23	Bert Maechler	2377
24	Holdi Mathys	2306
25	Rös Monti	2303
26	Sepp Kiser	2302
27	Margrit Maechler	2298
28	Felix Suter	2169

SHOT PUT - Men

		m.
1	Othmar Hebler	20.30
2	Markus Rufer	19.55
3	Nick Werder	19.35
4	Mathias Seifert	18.30
5	Remigi Zimmermann	17.35
6	Walter Seifert	17.00
7	Mark Kiser	16.60
8	Fred Neuburger	13.80
9	Lou Butler	12.65
10	Sepp Kiser	12.50

- Ladies

1	Heidi Werder	23.40
2	Marianne Benkert	19.80
3	Helen Freimann	19.35
4	Erna Zimmermann	14.80

- Juniors

1	Sami Werder	18.05
2	Marianne Werder	17.85
3	Peter Zimmermann	17.10
4	Erwin Hebler	12.35
5	Thomas Werder	11.05
6	Martin Hebler	8.10

BOWLING - Adults

1	Remigi Zimmermann	58
2	Sepp Kiser	50
3	Nick Werder	49
4=	Johnny Bishop	48
	Heidi Seifert	48
6	Heidi Werder	47
7	Lou Butler	46
8=	Othmar Hebler	45
	Mark Kiser	45
9	Bertha Sidler	43
10	Joe Sidler	42
11=	Marianne Benkert	41
	Markus Rufer	41
	Paul Suter	41
14=	Edwin Füglistaller	40
	Mathias Seifert	40
	Myrtha Seifert	40
17	Fred Neuburger	35
18	Bert Maechler	33
19	Frieda Meier	32
20	Helen Freiman	30
21	Erna Zimmermann	28
22	Walter Seifert	27
23	Bruno Stutz	25
24	Noeleen Neuburger	22
25	Maya Stutz	13

- Juniors

1	Peter Zimmermann	38
2=	Marianne Werder	28
	Erwin Hebler	28
4	Sami Werder	27
5	Thomas Werder	18
6	Martin Hebler	14

SHOOTING - Men

1	Mark Kiser	80
2	Lou Nolly	78
3	Edi Füglistaller	77
4	Erwin Kiser	75
5	Joe Kiser	74
6	Lou Butler	71
7=	Ruedi Dudli	70
	Holdi Mathys	70
9=	Othmar Hebler	65
	Remigi Zimmermann	65
11=	Johnny Bishop	63
	Nick Werder	63
13	Markus Rufer	56
14	Walter Seifert	55

- Ladies

1	Helen Freimann	78
2	Erna Zimmermann	69
3	Regina Mathys	61
4	Marianne Benkert	57

- Juniors

1	Nicklaus Kiser	77
2	Michael Kiser	75
3	Michael Zimmermann	73
4	Craig Dettling	72
5	Louisa Mills	68
6	Sami Werder	62
7	Erwin Hebler	61
8=	Marianne Werder	58
	Peter Zimmermann	58
	Thomas Werder	58

Results of Taranaki Swiss Club Anniversary Shoot 2000, held on 2nd July

In all, 74 competitors took part on this day, with 38 shooters and 36 skittlers.

Shooting Report:

Top Scores for the Day:

1st	Walter Seifert	50 pts
2nd =	Josie Gillbanks	49
	Jean Fuglistaller	49
	Edi Fuglistaller	49
	Craig Dettling	49
	Mark Kiser	49
3rd =	Tilly Schuler	48
	Erwin Kiser	48

Skittles:

1st	Kathleen Zehnder	41 pts
2nd	Silvia Schuler	40
3rd	Frieda Meier	37

Results of 2000 Shooting Season:

Championship Shoot (men)

President's Challenge Cup (A Grade)

1st (cup)	Edi Fuglistaller	149pts
2nd (medal)	Mark Kiser	146
3rd	Joe Kiser	144

Self-Handicap Challenge Cup (A Grade)

1st = (cup)	Othmar Hebler	149 pts
	Edi Fuglistaller	149
2nd = (medals)	Holdi Mathys	148
	Remigi Zimmermann	148
3rd	Mark Kiser	145

Kiser Cup (B Grade)

1st (cup)	Remigi Zimmermann	148 + 138 = 286 pts
	(no runner-up)	

Fuglistaller Trophy (C Grade) most improved shooter

1st (trophy)	Louisa Mills	146 + 135 = 281 pts
	(no runner-up)	

Nolly Cup (D Grade)

- Junior cup, boys 50m

1st (cup)	Erwin Hebler	137 + 103 = 240 pts
	(no runner-up)	

Championship Shoot (ladies)

Ashleigh Lodge Cup (A Grade)

Ladies President's Shoot

1st (cup)	Helen Freimann	150 pts
2nd (medal)	Regina Mathys	131

Engelberger Memorial Cup (B Grade)

Ladies Self Handicap Shoot

1st (cup)	Helen Freimann	150 pts
	(top score, no handicap)	
2nd (medal)	Regina Mathys	145

Seifert Trophy (D Grade)

Junior girls, 50m

1st (trophy)	Louisa Mills	146 + 135 = 281 pts
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Other Winners of the Day:

Mystery Prize	Adrian Drummond
2nd	Paul Hardegger
3rd	Mark Kiser
4th	Bertha Sidler
Booby Prize	Mark Kiser

Name Draw

1	Marianne Benkert
2	Matt Seifert
3	Annelee Muggeridge
4	Joe Kaiser
5	Joe Kiser
6	Alan Nolly
7	Margaret Dudli
8	Mellissa Muggeridge
9	Daniel Fitzgerald
10	Erna Zimmermann
11	Lou Butler
12	Paul Hardegger

Many thanks to all the supporters, sponsors and helpers who made these events possible. The shooting committee hopes that everyone had an enjoyable weekend, and also hope to see a good number of people again at next year's Anniversary Shoot.

The next shoot will be on **15th October, 2000** (Ted Napflin and Championship Shoot)

Regards

Mark Kiser
Riflemaster, Smallbore
Ph 06 764 8993

Venturer Scouts experienced Treasure Hunt at the Auckland Swiss Club Farm

Eleven keen Venturer Scouts from the Mahurangi Area (North Shore to Wellsford) and six leaders went out for a treasure hunt camp on the weekend of the 9 - 10 September at the Farm of the Auckland Swiss Club in Kaukapakapa.

The main treasure of the weekend was the experience of sharing quality time outdoors while being trained at different levels. The Venturer Scouts gained the Venturer Workshop Certificate, which is part of the Queen's Scout Award. For three of the leaders the camp was the highlight of their stage three and four Woodbadge training.

Everyone arrived at the site on Saturday morning and camp was set up. Then there were sessions on how a Venturer unit is run and about the Venturer Award scheme.

Lunch was very popular - American hotdogs!

In the afternoon, the Venturers received their first lot of clues to find a part of the treasure map. In one session, the 15-16 year old participants had to think about Self Awareness. It was amazing to see how youths at this age were able to see themselves. Given the next clue, part two of the map was soon found. The Venturers then had the task of organising activities for the evening program. But first, for dinner, the chefs produced delicious spaghetti with two different sauces.

After dinner came the Venturer's first organised activity - an exhausting game called "flag down in the dark". One of the highlights was the campfire, although unfortunately it was very windy. With some difficulties the fire was lit and wow - it was big! With very strong winds coming up the valley, the scouts had to rescue some of the tents and move them in a hurry, before the next groups presentation, and then dessert.

Everyone was quite tired after the busy day and bed seemed a good option for all of the treasure hunters. Following a night of really heavy rain, the next day began with a big, 5-star breakfast, before the next activity organised by the Venturers took place. In the mud, they went off to find another piece of the map.

Taking down tents came next, and then some more sessions for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Following this, the focus was on Risk Management. Firstly, the Venturers analysed what went wrong with the fire the night before. Later came the task of building a rope bridge across a swamp.

Lunch was a special experience - in three groups they were given a box with food, along with different handicaps such as earmuffs, blindfolds and hands tied behind their backs. The task was to prepare and eat lunch together. Some comments afterwards: "I never thought it could be that hard.....!" and "I'm glad everything works on me.....!"

With lunch over, the Venturers were given the last clue needed to find the treasure, which contained their Certificates and, of course, some 'gold'. The camp came to a close with a final clean up, and then an evaluation of the course. With a song we said good bye.

It was a great weekend - and a great experience!!

On behalf of the team leader I would like to thank the Auckland Swiss Club for letting us use their farm - a superb venue for this kind of camp.

For any inquiries regarding Venturer Scouts please contact Barbara Ashton-Egli, Venturer leader for Mahurangi Scout Area, 025-752-979

English Language Debate

Canton Zurich has announced that from 2003, English would be taught in the third year of primary school, two years before French, one of Switzerland's national languages.

As a result, the House of Representatives has called on the government to co-ordinate the reform of elementary schooling. Many politicians want to ensure the country's national languages receive priority over English when children begin learning their first foreign language. But the Federal Government has no constitutional means to take the matter out of the hands of the cantonal authorities.

French language Film Festival

Switzerland was guest of honour at the international festival of French-language films in Belgium, along with competitors from France, Belgium, Quebec, Morocco, Mali and Vietnam. Over 20 classic and more recently-made Swiss films were screened at the festival, two being entered for the official competition for full-length features.

New Coffee House Deal

American coffee company, Starbucks, is entering continental Europe by teaming up with Passaggio Holdings Limited, one of Switzerland's leading catering companies, in a joint venture agreement to develop retail stores in Switzerland. The new joint company, Swiss-Star Limited, plans to open Starbucks outlets in Zurich by early next year. Switzerland will be Starbucks 20th international market. There are also plans to open further Starbucks' stores in at least six more European countries in the next two years.

Abortion Debate

Abortion, which is still illegal in Switzerland, is once again to be debated by Parliament. The government is seeking to legalise the practice, and set a 14-week time limit.

The proposal has already been ratified, although only by a narrow majority, by a Senate Commission.

The issue is expected to provoke fierce debate as one of the four government parties - the centre-right, mainly Catholic, Christian Democrats - is proposing that abortion should only be legal until the 12th week, and only after a woman has consulted two doctors.



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Report on the 2000 "Eidgenössische Schützenfest"

The 2000 "Federal Shooting Festival" was held at Biere (VD), approx. 25 km west of Lausanne, at the end of June - this extremely well organised event taking place at their very attractive local shooting venue.

The actual Swiss-Abroad events commenced with the team competitions in the morning, completed by 301 shooters, all trying their very best to succeed.

But as such things often go in shooting, one sometimes has to be happy with less points than hoped for. The important thing though, was that we were actually there and taking part!

In the afternoon, the individual competitions began, with 40 fully electronic targets to cater for the many marksmen (and women!) from around the world. Each competitor tried once again to gain one, or another one, of the cherished medals.

The official evening function consisted of a dinner, entertainment, speeches, and of course the announcement of results and placings.

In the teams event, The Auckland Swiss Shooting Section finished 21st out of 22 teams, ahead of Luxemburg (however, it must also be said that we had the smallest team!).



After the Parade, our shooting group poses in the park on the shores of Lake Geneva. (from left) Orlando and Isabelle Werffeli, Terry & Valerie Mason, Michael Bünter, Henry Werffeli, and Hanspeter Enzler

Individual results were as follows:

- 37th Henry Werffeli 47 points
- 96th Terry Mason 44 points

Henry was awarded with a Prize Goblet, and both received a "Kranz" (Garland).

- 189th Michael Bünter 40 points
- 257th Valerie Mason 33 points

The overall winner achieved 50 points (equal placings are ranked by date of birth) and there were 298 shooters, so we can be very pleased with our achievements.

Saturday was Parade Day! 3000 participants and spectators were expected, but eventually 5500 took part, resulting in an enjoyable and exciting day.

But all things must come to an inevitable end, so tired and happy we all travelled (with the wrong train!!) back to Zurich.

I'd like to thank my fellow shooters - Terry and Valerie Mason and Michael Bünter; and also my children, Orlando and Isabelle, for taking part, and hope that we will all remember this event for a long time to come. Special thanks also to Hanspeter Enzler for ensuring the smooth running of events for us during both of our shooting sessions, as well as for the parade.

*Henry Werffeli
Auckland Club Riflemaster*

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Swiss Talk Trade with Chinese

Switzerland and China began further talks recently, aimed at finally securing Swiss agreement for China to join the World Trade Organisation.

Switzerland is one of the last countries to approve Chinese accession to this Geneva-based body.

The two countries have been at odds over Swiss access to Chinese markets.

Switzerland has been seeking four licences for local companies to sell insurance in China, and also wants to see a lowering of import duties for Swiss watches and other popular Swiss export goods.

Last year, Swiss trade with China reached SFr2.8 billion. About one third was accounted for by Swiss exports to China, with imports amounting to SFr1.8 billion.

Bilateral trade continued to grow in the first six months of 2000, with exports to China up by 43 per cent compared to the same period last year, and imports up 33 per cent.

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Hundreds of Jobs Saved!

Months of protest finally yielded results for hundreds of workers at the Swiss company, Adtranz.

About 700 jobs threatened by the planned closure of two Adtranz plants in Switzerland have been saved. The rail technology group said it has reached an agreement with Dutch investors to keep the factories open and productive.

Adtranz announced that it had signed an accord with Dutch investment and redevelopment group, Business Creation, to keep the plants open and to try and save all jobs at the sites.

It said the actual number of jobs would eventually depend on the size of contracts obtained from the Swiss Federal Railways (SBB).

Under the deal, Business Creation will take over the factories at Zurich and Pratteln, near Basel, which will start operations under the new name, Railtech.

Since 1992, Business Creation has rescued or created 38,000 jobs worldwide.

Adtranz sparked protests and widespread outrage in Switzerland when it announced its decision to shut down its plants last November.

The accord comes as a result of intensive efforts over the past year by both the workers at the plants, as well as the authorities in Zurich and Basel, to save the plants from inevitable closure.

Control of Dangerous Dogs

A group of experts has met to draft legislation on dangerous dogs.

Proposals put forward were aimed at counteracting the dangers, but stopped short of recommending a ban on certain breeds.

The group of veterinary scientists, animal rights experts and politicians said in their report that such a ban would not yield any results.

The experts have called on the government to set up a central register as a first step in dealing with dangerous dogs, and to establish an advisory body to handle such cases.

Among their other proposals to parliament were measures to ensure that laws are enforced; greater training for both dogs and their owners; and an information campaign.

There has been increasing public concern at the growing numbers of aggressive dogs on the streets, following recent vicious attacks in France and Germany.

One member of parliament from Zurich, who is seeking harsher measures, has initiated a parliamentary motion calling for a complete ban in Switzerland of all fighting breeds such as pit bulls, bull terriers and rottweilers.

The Swiss Society for the Protection of Animals has been pressing for laws to prevent trained fighting dogs, and those with a history of aggression, from entering the country.

More Job Losses at Sulzer

The Swiss industrial group, Sulzer, recently announced a major company reorganisation that will see 300 jobs go - 150 of them in Switzerland. The company is selling off five divisions, mainly technological, to concentrate on medical devices, and surface and materials technology. These fields offer more potential for higher growth and profitability.

The restructuring, due to be completed by the end of the year, will see the Winterthur-based company merge with the medical group, Sulzer Medica, already 74 per cent owned by Sulzer.

Sulzer will sell its infra, pumps, textile, turbo and Burckhardt divisions. In addition, there will be more than SFr2 billion (NZ\$2.7 billion) worth of acquisitions, spread over the next two years.

Expansion is to concentrate on Sulzer Medica, Sulzer Metco, Sulzer Chemtech and Sulzer Turbo machinery services.

The company aims to double their joint turnover of SFr2.2 billion in the next two years.

One trade union, representing engineering workers, described Sulzer's move as a declaration of bankruptcy as far as the industrial sector in Switzerland was concerned.

Sulzer had sales of SFr5.5 billion in 1999, while annual turnover for Sulzer Medica was SFr1.2 billion.



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Society Sport's Competitions, 2000 - Medal Winners

HAMILTON CLUB

Colin Dow	2nd shotput, men 7th= bowling
Heinz Leuenberger	2nd shooting, men 5th cards
Peter Rust	1st shotput, men 9th cards
Adrian Stevanon	3rd= shotput, men 5th= bowling
Joseph Arnold (sen)	2nd cards
Joe Arnold (jun)	4th bowling
Silas Dow	1st bowling, jun
Beat Fehlmann	3rd bowling
Tiffany Fehlmann	2nd bowling, jun
Hans Fitz	1st shotput, jun
Michael Fitz	2nd bowling
Andrea Flühler	9th= bowling
Bert Flühler	5th= bowling
Peter Flühler	9th= bowling
Paul Fransen	7th= bowling
Corine Frischknecht	2nd shotput, jun
Hanna Frischknecht	1st shotput, lady
Susanne Frischknecht	1st shooting, jun
Patricia Gillon	3rd cards
Fritz Häsli	9th= bowling
Margaret Hayward	1st cards
Kurt Hess	10th cards
Christine Hewson	9th= bowling
Katrina Hodel	1st shooting, lady
Wayne Hodel	2nd shooting, men
Joe Kennel	9th= bowling
Theres Kennel	7th= cards
Marco Knaus	1st bowling
Bill Miles	1st shooting, men
Bruno Rufer	9th= bowling
Lina Rufer	9th= bowling
Ernst Rust	7th= cards
Margrit Rust	6th cards
Max Schwitzer	4th cards
Peter Staheli	9th= bowling
Hans Vetsch	9th= bowling
Karl Waldvogel	9th= bowling

TARANAKI CLUB

Marianne Werder	2nd bowling, junior 2nd shot put, junior
Markus Rufer	2nd shot put, men 6th cards
Heidi Seifert	2nd cards 4th= bowling
Heidi Werder	1st shot put, lady 6th bowling
Johnny Bishop	4th= bowling
Helen Freimann	1st shooting, lady
Edi Füglistaler	3rd shooting, men
Erwin Hebler	2nd=bowling, junior
Othmar Hebler	1st shot put, men
Mark Kiser	1st shooting, men
Michael Kiser	2nd shooting, junior
Niklaus Kiser	1st shooting, junior
Sepp Kiser	2nd bowling
Frieda Meier	5th cards
Lou Nolly	2nd shooting, men
Mathias Seifert	3rd cards
Bruno Stutz	4th cards
Paul Suter	1st cards
Nick Werder	3rd bowling
Sami Werder	1st shot put, junior
Peter Zimmermann	1st bowling, jun
Remigi Zimmermann	1st cards

WELLINGTON CLUB

Hans Scherrer	1st shooting, men 3rd bowling
Christing Alderdice	1st shotput, lady
Hans Buess	3rd cards
Peter Fischer	2nd bowling
Hans Glauser	2nd cards
Christine Hughes	1st shooting, lady
Murray Hughes	1st shotput, men
Roland Schütz	1st cards
George Westermayer	1st bowling

AUCKLAND CLUB

Andrea Matysik	1st bowling, junior 1st shooting, jun
Toni Manser	1st cards 2nd=bowling
Marie-T M-Schöpfer	1st shooting, lady 2nd cards
Trudi Fill	1st shot put, lady
Dominic Hess	2nd shot put, men
Ueli Hess	1st shot put, men
Ueli Kipfer	1st bowling
Heinz Matysik	2nd shooting, men
Robyn Meisel	2nd shot put, lady
Vreni Pfenniger	2nd= bowling
Henry Werffeli	1st shooting, men

Many thanks to everyone who took part in this year's Society Sport competitions, and congratulations to all successful medal winners.

We had a total of 316 participants in the four events, a little lower than last year's total of 382.

But once again it was encouraging to see the number of junior members competing - winning two of the twelve double medals. So well done to Marianne Werder, Taranaki, and Andrea Matysik, Auckland.

This year, to save space in the magazine, Club members will find a sheet inside this *Helvetia* with their Club's complete list of placings for all the competitions.

Once again, thank you to all participants for supporting the sports' competitions, and good luck to everyone when taking part next year. PR/BL



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High Opposition to Privatisation

Half of Swiss voters oppose further privatisation of Swisscom.

A poll has shown that 49 per cent of Swiss people are against the sale of further shares in the state-owned telecom giant, Swisscom.

The opinion polls reveals that only 35 per cent of the people surveyed are in favour of the government losing its majority stake in Swisscom. But the company's director, Jens Adler, said he remained convinced privatisation was necessary if Swisscom was to make the kind of international alliances that are driving the industry nowadays. Currently, 65% of Swisscom is state-owned.

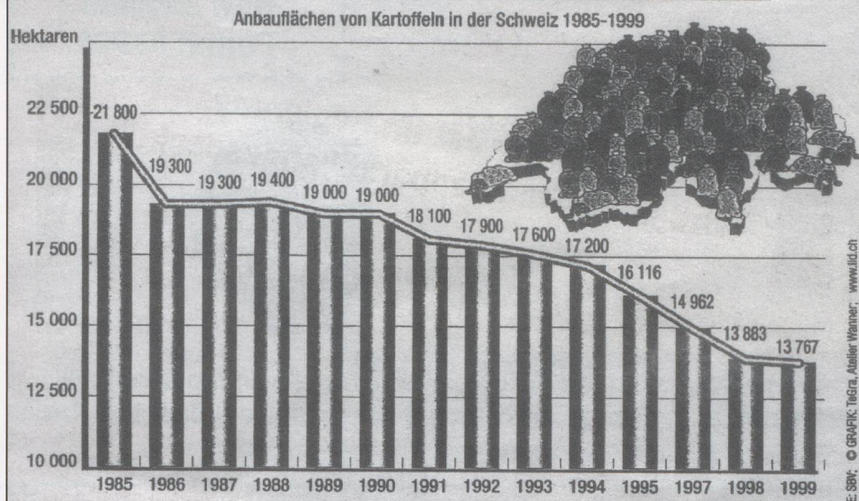
In early September, the government adopted plans to use revenue from stock sales to create a postal bank, even though these plans do not meet with high public approval - nearly two-thirds of those polled did not think it was a good idea.

Surveys carried out by Swiss television and the Sunday newspaper, Sonntags Zeitung, show that Swiss citizens are also not very enthusiastic about the creation of a postal bank.

The head of the Post Office was disappointed with the findings, but said an information campaign was yet to be implemented. The Post Office maintains the plan is the only way for it to provide a non-subsidised public service.

Voting on the project will be in two year's time.

Rückgang beim Kartoffelanbau wird gebremst



Decline in Swiss Potato Cultivation Stabilising

Overproduction, falling prices, and highly labour intensive - Swiss potato production has declined steadily over the past few decades. But stable prices in 1998 and 1999 have resulted in corresponding stable levels of production.

Early Olympic Success

Swiss triathlete, Brigitte McMahon won the opening event of the Sydney Olympic Games, with Magali Messmer close behind her taking the bronze medal. After winning on the world's biggest stage in triathlon's first Olympic showing, McMahon was almost speechless. "It's unbelievable," she said, "I just can't express it... just fantastic! When I reached the last turn and saw just Michellie (Australian triathlete, winning silver) and me - I just thought 'first or second, I can't lose!', but then tried to push myself as hard as I could." With Messmer coming in at third, it was a great start to the Games for Switzerland. Winning gold and bronze in the opening event, the Swiss found themselves right at the top of the international medal table.... for a few hours at least!!

And Silver made Three... Switzerland won a third medal thanks to the fencing skills of Gianna Hablützel-Bürki. The 30-year-old épéist ('fencer') from Basel exceeded all expectations to win silver after finally losing 15-11 in the final. This individual medal was Switzerland's first in fencing since Oswald Zappelli's bronze medal win in 1952. Previously, Switzerland's fencing success has been an all-male affair. - The Swiss delegation wanted to prove that the seven medals won in Atlanta weren't just coincidence. After three days, that burden became just a little lighter for them! (By the time this issue is printed, we'll know if they succeeded! - Ed.)

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Dimitri's Tiny Big Top Museum

As renowned Swiss clown, Dimitri, celebrates his 65th birthday, his museum is attracting crowds of visitors. The museum, with only a few tiny rooms, is very much in character with the country's best loved clown. It was a long-held dream of Dimitri to have a museum, situated in Verscio, a small village in the hills above the northern shore of Lago Maggiore, where the great Swiss clown also set up his own tiny theatre, school and actors' company in the 1970s. One room is filled with elephants figures of all shapes, sizes and countries of origin, which Dimitri collected during 30 years of travelling. Another room is home to Dimitri's 'clown collection' including a cabinet displaying the bald wig which once belonged to Grock, Switzerland's other great 'comical son'. Dimitri's daughter also honours her father with her display of a clown puppet whose features have been made to resemble her father. In a third room there are clips from old black and white comic films, starring the likes of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin, are shown. Nearly 700 items are on show, amongst them a large range of Venetian and Swiss carnival masks, which were all collected by Dimitri.

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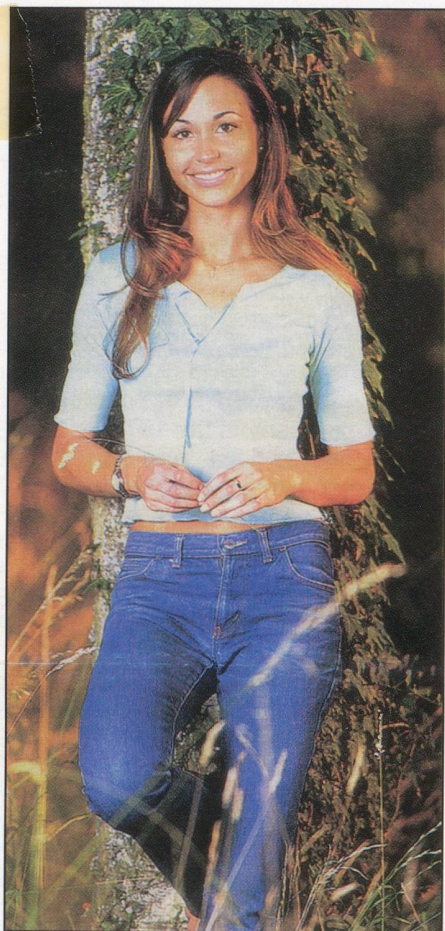
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*Miss Switzerland 2000,
Mahara McKay*

Miss Switzerland 2000

19-year old Mahara McKay recently won this year's Miss Switzerland contest.

Mahara's father comes from New Zealand, and is part Maori.

With "dark hair, dark eyes, and as beautiful as a Pacific Island dream",



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she was chosen from a field of 16 finalists. One judge described her as having a "lovely, exotic glow".

Mahara is a decorator by profession, and lives in Untersiggenthal, Canton Aargau, but grew up in Auckland until the age of 10.

She enjoys reading books "which take her around the world"; music and dancing; as well as sport, in particular gymnastics and athletics, which help to keep her fit.

Over 120,000 people also called the "Miss Switzerland hotline" to give their vote.

Runner-up in the competition was Berne's 19-year old Masha Santschi, whilst Alexandra Coulet from Geneva, was placed third.

Mahara will represent Switzerland at the next Miss World and Miss Universe contests in Britain and Puerto Rico, respectively.

than in 1999, according to the Federal Statistics Office.

But not all regions of Switzerland were equally fortunate. The Bernese Oberland's tourist office reported that in some parts of the country, the number of tourists coming for excursions dropped considerably, probably due to the rain in July.

Generally, though, the tourism industry in Switzerland was able to benefit from the high rate of the US dollar against the Swiss franc.

Visitors from Asia, in which tour operators have boosted their marketing of Swiss destinations, and the United States, were said to be among the highest spenders.

However, local holidaymakers still remain the industry's main source of revenue. "The Swiss themselves continue to be the pillar of Swiss tourism by holidaying at home," said a representative of canton Graubünden's tourist office.

Summer Tourism Higher

Swiss tourism is doing well despite the high rainfall. July had cold, rainy weather normally reserved for the Swiss winter, not the height of summer. Nevertheless, the summer months seemed to be the best for the tourism industry in five years.

The number of nights spent in hotels was the highest since 1995. Pleasant weather in the months of June and August, coupled with a strong dollar, were the likely reasons for these positive results.

June saw an increase of one fifth, and even the dismal month of July, though not ideal for holidaymakers, was still a good month for hoteliers. Six per cent more beds were booked

Feldschlösschen For Sale

A Dutch brewery, Heineken, which is the largest brewery in Europe, is looking at a possible takeover of the beverage division of Switzerland's popular Feldschlösschen.

It is thought that Switzerland's Eichhof Holding, as well as Denmark's Carlsberg, are also interested in a possible purchase.

Hurlimann-Feldschlösschen says there is great interest from both at home and abroad, and a sale is expected to take place by the end of the year.

Hurlimann-Feldschlösschen is selling its beverages division because it wants to concentrate more on its real estate business.