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Swiss Abroad for the national football team

NEVER BEFORE HAVE YOUNG UP-AND-COMING SWISS FOOTBALL TALENTS BEEN AS GOOD AS NOW. Foreign football clubs realised this long ago, and employ talent spotters or "scouts" to check out gifted young footballers and persuade them to sign a contract before they are worth millions. In the current season no less than thirty Swiss professionals are playing abroad: a record number. So for little outlay, foreign clubs are reaping the benefits of the splendid job that the Swiss Football Association and Swiss clubs have done over the years to systematically encourage and professionally promote young talents.

Neither the Football Association nor Swiss clubs can do anything to prevent young Swiss football professionals leaving to join big foreign clubs. But the Football Association suspects that there are a few stars of tomorrow among our large Swiss Abroad community, who can be coached and developed in Switzerland and perhaps even play in national selections. The SFA has therefore asked Swiss Review for support, and we're only too glad to help.

We talked to national coach Köbi Kuhn, who is not only one of the best Swiss footballers of all time, but has also spent years successfully coaching young footballing talents in Switzerland. Talented young male and female Swiss Abroad (yes, the SFA also runs a training centre for young female footballers) who think they have what it takes to play for a junior national team, should contact the SFA in Berne as soon as possible to find out about the terms and conditions. Who will be the first Swiss Abroad to play in the Swiss national football team in a few years' time?

Did Switzerland adhere to its neutral stance during the Second World War? And if so, could or should the nation have remained neutral towards Hitler? Neutrality has always been an important topic in Switzerland. Even after the war, young people asked the same question in relation to the war in Vietnam. Even now, as Europe grows closer together, the subject of neutrality has lost none of its relevance. Neutrality will therefore be a recurring theme in the

Swiss Review. The Federal Council is once more discussing the matter, and there, too, opinions are divided. Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey is pushing for an active policy on neutrality that is simultaneously committed to peace. But what exactly does that mean? In his article "Neutrality – myth or opportunity", Rolf Ribi attempts to answer this question.

The new-look Swiss Review has made a major, overwhelmingly positive impact. We are delighted at the feedback and thank our readers for their great interest in the Swiss Review. We received a great deal of praise for the larger front-page photograph and the elegant graphic layout inside. Some readers criticised the typeface for being less legible than before. We'll take these comments on board and examine the problem.

Due to the large number of letters received about the new design, this issue contains an additional page of readers' comments.



Heinz Eckert

HEINZ ECKERT



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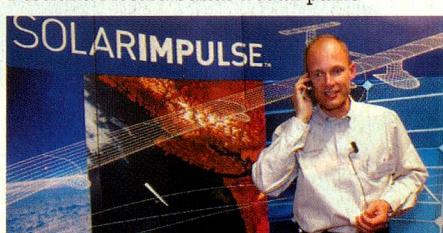
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Cover photo:
Jakob Kuhn, Swiss National Football
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IMPRESSUM: "Swiss Review", the magazine for the Swiss Abroad, is in its 32nd year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 20 regional editions. It has a total circulation of over 380 000. Regional news appears four times a year.

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