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World Cup fever hits Swiss Embassy

In preparation for next year's World Cup, the host country has just organised the Confederations Cup. FIFA president Sepp Blatter surprised the Swiss Embassy in Pretoria with an unexpected visit.

The Confederations Cup brought, besides very famous teams and individual players, FIFA's top echelon to South Africa. Joseph Blatter visited the Swiss Embassy and met the entire staff. In a short address he made very positive remarks about the readiness of South Africa and how well the local organising committee was coping with the challenges of the Confederations Cup. Mr Blatter confidently voiced his satisfaction on how the preparations for next year's football festival are progressing.

Trust in South Africa

Every continent has staged the FIFA Football World Championship at least once in the past, with the exception of Africa. Sepp Blatter championed Africa to FIFA members for years as a suitable venue for the honour of hosting the World Cup. His efforts finally paid off and South Africa will hold the world's biggest sporting event in 2010. For Mr Blatter this was an obvious and long overdue move. Contrary to the expectations of the sceptics, especially apparent in Europe, FIFA-President Blatter has absolute trust in the South African Local

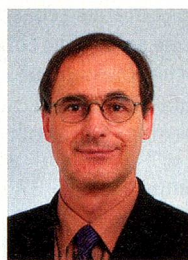


Celebrating soccer: Rudolf Bärffuss (left) and Sepp Blatter.

Organizing Committee and the people of South Africa to welcome and accommodate all the visiting football fans from home and abroad. Visitors will experience the hospitality of the people of South Africa and will remember the tournament favourably for a long time.

The unexpected visit of the delegation was highly appreciated and Mr Blatter presented Ambassador Bärffuss with a pennant to commemorate the occasion. South Africa and FIFA are not the only ones preparing for next year. Switzerland currently occupy 2nd place to Greece only on goal difference in their qualification group. Whether the Swiss national team will again participate in the coming World Cup will be decided later in the year. The team still needs to play and win some matches.

News from the Embassy



Eric Amhof

The Embassy of Switzerland Pretoria would like to remind all registered Swiss citizens of the necessity of informing the Embassy of any change of address, including those of e-mail and telephone numbers. An accurate list ensures that we are able to keep you informed of important matters, especially in times of emergency. Any changes can be e-mailed to us in Pretoria at pre.vertretung@eda.admin.ch or phoned to 0124520660 and cap.vertretung@eda.admin.ch and 0214183665 for Cape Town.

Additionally the Embassy would like to inform you about the latest changes in personnel: After three years in the country, Markus Dutly, Deputy Head of Mission, will be returning to Berne together with his wife Marylin and his two sons. His position will be taken over by Eric Amhof who will be arriving in Pretoria on 16.8.09. Mr Amhof studied Political Science and Chinese in Lausanne, Geneva, Shanghai and Taipei. He entered the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1990 and was

posted to Mexico (Attaché), Beijing (Economy and Trade), Bern (Bilateral relations with Asia), Washington (Culture) and Bern (International Organisations). He is married to Ms Hui Wang. Furthermore, Chantal Delli will be joining the team as a Diplomatic trainee for 9 months by the middle of July.

Ambassador in Namibia

H.E. Rudolf Bärffuss presented his credentials as Ambassador of Switzerland on 4 June to the President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. P. Pohamba, together with 6 new non-resident Ambassadors at the new State house in Auas Blick.

Ambassador Bärffuss was accompanied by Consul Jost Schmid from the Consulate General in Cape Town and the Honorary Consul General in Namibia Kurt Neuenschwander. It so happened that the smallest country attended with the biggest delegation. Mr. and Mrs R. Bärffuss later hosted a reception for the Swiss compatriots in Namibia at the "Gathemann Restaurant". At short notice, with the aid of e-mail, mobile and SMS, over 50 compatriots attended a lovely evening. Consul Schmid bid his farewell before departing for the Arabian shores. Until now they still talk about "Swiss" wines from the Cape and "Engadiner Nusstorte". Famous last words: We will be back!

Kurt Neuenschwander, Honorary Consul General of Switzerland, Windhoek



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South Africa will be ready

SwissCham President Jürg A Schalch welcomed the more than 160 guests. A special welcome was extended to the Queen Mother of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, Dr. Semane Bonolo Molotlegi and Princess Tirolo Molotlegi Madiba as well as the Swiss Ambassador to South Africa, HE Rudolf Baerfuss. Among the many distinguished guests were prominent faces from business and sports.

Sepp Blatter was very complimentary about South Africa. He pointed out that this was the "dress rehearsal" for 2010 and assured the audience that he had no doubt South Africa would be ready in time to host the 2010 World Cup. Blatter's biggest worry was the shortage of accommodation for the 450 000 foreign visitors expected, particularly in some of the smaller host cities. "But together with our partners we

will solve those problems even if it means bringing ships into Cape Town and Port Elizabeth harbours to deal with shortages in those coastal cities", he said. "Our concern is that the tournament is too popular", Blatter said, noting that over two-thirds of the



Limpopo craft presented to Sepp Blatter (r.) by Jürg A. Schalch

760 000 tickets that had been released during the first round of bidding had been snapped up "outside of South Africa".

IFA's initial analysis of the Confed Cup also highlighted public transport to-and-from

the games as an area of concern, with a number of problems having been reported about the functioning of the "park-and-ride" system. But, Blatter is of the opinion that these could be managed.

Vuvuzelas: yes

Blatter came vigorously to the defence of the vuvuzela. He said it would be presumptuous for FIFA to intervene against the indigenous instrument. "In Africa, you expect music, dancing and noise and that's great", he said. "In fact, I will blow one of the vuvuzelas at my press conference in Johannesburg on Friday".

Asked what disadvantaged South Africans could expect from the World Cup, Blatter said FIFA was currently holding a three-day seminar on Football for Hope. He was shocked to hear that 60% of the African players in the under-17 World Cup competition had never seen a doctor in their lives. FIFA

intends to come up with a programme addressing education, health and football in schools and communities across the country.

The events of SwissCham in the past months included a presentation by COPE president Mosiuoa Lekota, a Corporate Social Responsibility Seminar and a luncheon with Econometrix director Tony Twine.

New Consul in Cape Town

After a stint as Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Manila, I arrived in Cape Town in May and feel very honoured and privileged to serve here as Consul General for the next few years.

I take this opportunity to inform you about another change of staff, Jost Schmid, Consul and head of administration, left for Dubai. *Irene Flückiger*



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ASR report on spring session

President Jacques-Simon Eggly opened the session with the President's Report which highlighted the progress that had taken place since the last session. Highlights were the progress made regarding electronic voting and the motion by the two chambers of parliament for a legal framework for the financial support of the Swiss Abroad.

Disappointments included the defeat in the Senate of the Sommaruga Initiative, which had been approved by the Congress, and which had sought to entrench Auslandschweizer Delegates in the Swiss Parliament, as well as the ratification of the EDA cut of CHF 500,000 in the 2009 budget for the publication of the 6 annual issues of the Swiss Review. You will now only receive your Swiss Review 4 times this year (no change made for the regional issue Southern Africa).

Small deficit

Peter Wütrich who has been the Treasurer for the past 22 years, lead the meeting through the financial accounts for the last time. The ASO continues to get an annual subsidy from the Confederation of CHF 939,000 which represented 31.5% of the income of CHF 2,973,351 in 2008. 2008 ended with a small "deficit" of expenditure over income of CHF 8,357. The budget 2009, despite the recession, is similar to the actual figures for 2008, and was tabled by the new Treasurer Daniel Jaccard, who was elected unanimously at the meeting.

As Swiss citizens were voting on the Introduction of the Biometric Passport in the referendum on 17th May, the session debated at length the merits or otherwise thereof. At present only countries such as USA and Schengen Europe

require such passports if one is to avoid the trouble of getting a visa. Your delegates voted against its mandatory introduction, as in most cases it would just involve South African Swiss in much greater expense with very little if any benefit. Nevertheless, we were in the minority, and the session decided to recommend a "YES" vote.

Partnership with Swiss Tourism

The ASO and Swiss Tourism have engaged in a partnership between Switzerland and the Swiss Abroad. The CEO of Swiss Tourism, Jürg Schmid, motivates Swiss Abroad to register for free participation in this exciting venture under www.MySwitzerland.com.

Peter Müller, Rolf Schudel

Re-election of the CSA delegates



Peter Müller Rolf Schudel

The election of the delegates has taken place in all the 9 South African Swiss Clubs who are members of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). Out of 4 candidates, Peter Müller, Cape Town and Rolf Schudel, Johannesburg have obtained the most votes and are elected as delegates. The outgoing deputy delegates, Toni Kolb and Gabor von Moricz deserve a great vote of thanks for their work done during the last 4 years. The Council is the representative body for the Swiss people living abroad. It represents the interests of all Swiss expatriates in Switzerland. The CSA meets twice a year in Switzerland and plays a key role in protecting the interests of the 700'000 Swiss citizens abroad and is known as the „Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland“.

François Jeannerat, Electoral Officer

Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events

JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia,
31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley,
Midrand, office: Debora Lanz,
T/F 011 805 3039, C 082 651 6152,
swissclubjhb@whoswho.co.za, Swiss
Country Club Restaurant
«The Courier», Wolfgang Wallauz,
T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063,
Tue-Sat - 11-21h30 Restaurant,
11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h

At our AGM we welcomed Ambassador Rudolf Baerfuss, his wife and Pia Gallegos-Müller. The new committee: Chairman: Mario Valli, Vice-Chairman: Max Waspe; Assessors: Walter Oechslin, Pia Gallegos-Müller. Our next big event will be the Christmas Lunch (over 55) on 6.12. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, SkittlingClub. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch; Evi Frei 011 673 4640.

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www.swissclub.co.za

SWISS CLUB NATAL

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13.9. 9h INCHANGA CHO CHO OUTING (Valley of Thousand Hills) starting at Kloof; 18.10.9h GREEN BOWLING, Hollander Crescent Hall, Morningside Sports Club/Durban; 14.11. 19h SWISS CULTUR FILMABEND, Westville; 11.12. 19h PREIS JASS EVENING, Westville; 16.12. from 11h END OF YEAR SOCIAL GATHERING + BRAAI, Chruetli Buur Farm/ Cato Ridge; 17.1.10 10h TEN PIN BOWLING, Pavillion Ctr Westville; 21.2.10 9h OUTING TO NATURE RESERVE IN DURBAN ENVIRONMENT+SOCIAL BRAAI; 14.3.10 11h ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING+LUNCH, venue TBA. JASS EVENINGS SCN: We meet every second Friday of the month at 18h in the Westville Bowling Club House near the old Westville Civic Centre, William Lester Rd off Buckingham Terrace Rd.

TARGET SHOOTING PRACTICE SCN: We practice at the Dave Nicol shooting range, Nottingham Rd/KZN Midrand; 22.8. from 9h, Final chance Obligatorisch+ Feldschieszen and St Galler- Auslandschweizer Fernschieszen Program; 26.9.+24.10. from 9h, Intertown program+ individual practice; 30./31.10. 60th CTN Jubiläumsschiessstreffen Kapstadt; 28.11. from 9h, Emmenthaler Rapid Shooting Competition; 4./5.12. Nottingham Rifle Club-Christmas Shoot.

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29.8. ab 17h Käsefondue; 13.9. Sonntagstreff; 26.9. Frühlingstreff: Bring&Braai; 24./25.10. Farmweekend Teufelsbach; 21.11. Jahresabschluss „Aloe Rest.“, Polytechnic; 5.12. ab 17h Chlauskegeln/Grittibänze, SKW.

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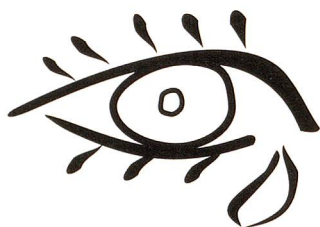
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