

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 27 (1964)
Heft: [2]

Rubrik: News of the colony

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NEWS OF THE COLONY ★ ★ ★ ★

Auckland Swiss Club

BASLER SOCCER TEAM VISITS AUCKLAND

One of the first international matches of the New Zealand Soccer Club with an overseas team was held on Monday, January 27, 1964, with the Basler Soccer Club FCB at Blandford Park and won by the guests with a score of 4 - 1.

The match was attended by a large crowd of about 5000 and although the number of Swiss was of course far below that of Kiwis, their cheers, "Hopp Schweiz, Hopp Schweiz," accentuated by several cowbells, could be heard all over the ground. It was a fine game with spontaneous cheers from the crowd. Their teamwork, apparent ease and speed of interchanging positions, delighted the crowd, proving that the art of soccer is possession, position and precision.

After the match the guests were met by members of the Auckland Swiss Club and other friends at their hotel and whisked off to a reception held at Mr and Mrs Henry Sigrist's residence, arranged by the Club. A late supper was served and with plenty of beer available, a happy celebration with the victorious team was well on the way. A surprise for the guests was still to come — a floor-show with Tahitian girls, followed by their own invitation to a dance with the guests. What seemed so easy to them, was so entirely different "fuer eusi Basler-Beppis," — arms flinging, hips jerking, the legs just wouldn't follow anymore; but, temperatures were rising, splashes could be heard and looking around you could see some of the younger set of the team taking a dive into the swimming pool, surrounded by a beautiful setting — full moon and a lovely garden with banana trees and tropical flowers.

Happy but tired the party left early in the morning to have a little rest and gather strength for the sightseeing tour arranged for later in the day.

Our sincere thanks to our hosts, Mr and Mrs H. Sigrist, for their hospitality and also to all our local Swiss friends for their remarkable teamwork, arriving in scores with their cars to offer transportation from the Airport and also to the party. —H.B.M.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

The Swiss liner Allobrogia, after nine years, has paid us another visit on its last voyage to Auckland. Owned first by the Suisse Outremer S.A., it has changed hands since and is now the property of Suisse Atlantique S.A., who owns a fleet of at least 13 ships and is building another of more than 33,000 tons.

The Allobrogia is approximately 10,000 tons and has a speed of 13.25 knots. The captain of the liner, Mr Heini, is German, and the first and second officers, Mr Harb and Mr Beck, holding also the captain's ticket, are Swiss.

With considerable pride and a somewhat exalted feeling, we went on board the ship when a party was given by the officers and crew. It is not an every-day sight to see the Swiss flag in the Port of Auckland, so to say "Hallo, Gruenzi mitenand" was quite a thrill on both sides and a warm welcome was given to all of us by the captain, officers and crew. Among the guests were Mr H. Schaerer, from Wellington, and Mr and Mrs Cottini, from Christchurch.

A Maori concert arranged by Louis Mueller was a big success with the guests from Switzerland—particularly the haka and poi dances. Rarely has there been such a happy gathering singing Swiss and Maori songs in perfect harmony.

While in port the visitors were invited to private homes and on sightseeing tours; also, a football match was arranged by Arthur Mueller with the Hillsborough football team. It appeared that the "sailors' gait" did not quite agree with the hard ground ashore! They lost 7-2 to Hillsborough, but it was lots of fun anyhow.

After the hectic two weeks in port, which none are likely to forget for a long time, Allobrogia sailed on February 14th. A big crowd turned up to give a cheering "farewell" and wished them a good journey home. —H.B.M.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

The Taranaki Swiss Social Club annual picnic was held Sunday, February 9, at the Te-Ngutu Domain. With a warm, fine day a large crowd attended and an enjoyable day was held. We were honoured by a visit from the Swiss Embassy, Dr and Mrs Weber and Mr and Mrs Schaerer.

Winners of competitions were.—

Kegeln: Men, J. Wuthrich 1; Alf Kalin 2. Ladies, Mrs A. Schicker 1; Mrs Schmidt 2.

Nail Driving, A. Hermann 1; men, J. Kuriger 2. Ladies, Mrs F. Gwerder 1; Miss M. Hermann 2.

Steinstosson, men, Brian Muller, 1; A. Schicker 2.

Juniors, under 18yrs, J. Werder 1; L. Ehrler 2.

Raffle, F. X. Nolly 1; Pauline Dettling 2.

Music was played by A. Engelberger, F. Imhoff, P. Amstalden, J. Fohn. Alex Kuriger provided good service with his loudspeaker and tape music.