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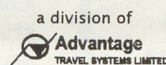
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Wellington-Anniversary-Tombola prize Mystery trip with Ansett NZ Report

After some discussion with the travel agent we decided to drive ourselves to Wellington. We left on 22. January and stayed the night at Manor Inn, Newlands.

By taxi we arrived at the airport by 7.30 am. As soon as we were handed the tickets we knew that we were heading for Christchurch and indeed we arrived there at 9 am.

A shuttle bus took us to the Hotel Chateau on the Park. We were 5 couples in all to enjoy this misery weekend at this Hotel. We spent most of the day in "Hagley Park", and the Botanic Garden captured our interest. In the evening we had a most enjoyable dinner at the Hotel. Late next morning we checked out of our Hotel rooms, left the bags in the Hotel and headed for the new shopping Complex in Riccarton. But oh, so many people there on a Saturday! We walked back to the Hotel and headed for the airport. Soon we found ourselves back in Wellington.

We both thank the sponsors and the Wellington Swiss Club for a most enjoyable weekend.

Holdy and Regi Mathys, Taranaki.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Susanne Rufer and Grant Power



The happy couple after their recent wedding in Wellington

FAST



First America's cup Swiss Team

First America's cup Swiss Team
(this article published on request from Swiss
Embassy, Wellington)

Swiss Challenge with "European flavour" for the America's Cup in the year 2000.

In the February issue of Helvetia (page 11), we have informed you of the intended challenge to the America's cup by the **First America's cup Swiss Team (FAST) 2000**.

Here now is a description of the "European flavour", or "The men behind the project".

THE COMMODORE

The function of Commodore has been designed for **Pierre Fehlmann** from Switzerland, because of his vast experience in both yacht racing and finance. He will have a double role:

- to be the ambassador of the Swiss Challenge to the National and International Sporting Authorities
- to ensure the smooth liaison between the internal and external areas of the Challenge organisation.

Trained as an engineer, a former IBM employee and Board Member of a bank, he has many yachting distinctions: Swiss and European

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from page 11)

champion, and World Championship
silver medallist, in various dinghies
classes, and winner of the Whit-
bread in real time in 1986.

Very active in the administration of
the sport, he is a past Vice-
President of the Swiss Yachting
Federation. He heads the OMYA
(Offshore Maxi Yacht Association)
and for more than 12 years has been
a member of the ISAF (International
Sailing Federation).

The rear group

This group, the "brain" of the yacht is
composed of the skipper, helmsman
and tactician. Those selected for the
Swiss Challenge jointly present one
of the most impressive records in
yachting: four Olympic medals, 10
World titles and eight European ti-
tles.

TACTICIAN: Enrico Chieffi, Italy

Four World Championships
With his broad experience he knows
every aspect of racing, and be-
cause of his skills he was tactician
aboard Italy's "Il Moro di Venezia"
during the final of the 1992 Amer-
ica's Cup. His unfailing enthusiasm
and good humour are his fundamen-
tal qualities in a team. At equal
speeds, the choice of the course is
the major factor, with the tactician
having the final say in tactical op-
tions, and his rapport with the
helmsman must be perfect.

SKIPPER: Marc Pajot, France

Olympic medallist, 5 World Champi-
onships
Resolute and rigorous, his uninter-

rupted experience of international
competition since the age of 14 has
made him a racer immune to stress
and pressure. His responsibility as
skipper gives him a unifying role in
which his charisma and broad vision
of the project will be driving forces.
He will also define the training
timetable and will be the final arbiter
in selection of the crew of 16.

HELMSMAN: Jochen Schumann, Germany

3 Olympic Gold Medals, 1 World
title.

Maturity, discipline, a fine sense for
trim and a critical appreciation of the
cut of sails make this extraordinary
racer one of the world's best helms-
men. His mission is to ensure that
whatever the situation, the yacht
achieves its best speed relative to
the trim and sails. He must be com-
pletely free to sail at the highest
level in training and competition,
with no external constraints. He
must be completely integrated with
the technical staff. The skipper
shields him from a great deal of the
pressure of the crew, the outside
environment and the media.

THE CREW:

The lead yacht: 16 crew members
The crew will be composed of a
majority of Swiss, recruited after se-
lection trials. Trials will begin early
in 1998 based on the existing reser-
voir of talents.

Many of its top sailors enjoy top
experience and results at all level of
international competition, including
the America's Cup and its various
technical aspects (sails, rig, com-
posite materials, etc.)