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Autor: [s.n.]
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12 February: Shooting Practice and Medal Shooting

On the 12th of February we held our annual Society medal shooting competition. The weather was good but the wind was a little strong, which added to the challenge. Again, as in recent years, it was largely a family affair apart from Heinz Jaggi who actually gave us some good competition, coming second for the men on the day! A big thanks to Paul Scherrer for the use of his farm and hosting the event. JJ

Future Events:

17/18 March Cowbell Semifinal against Taranaki in Wellington

Our Taranaki friends will arrive on Saturday lunch time, and after a sausage from the BBQ the fierce and friendly competition in bowling, shooting, shotput and Jassen will start. There will be coffee and cakes all afternoon to keep us going. There is always time to catch up with old friends.

From 6.30 onwards we'll enjoy a meal with our friends from Taranaki. After the Znacht we'll compete again, this time in a friendly Quiz prepared by Odile. There isn't a cowbell at stake, but you can win prizes, too!

Please call Odile at 586 3095, or Sandie at 528 6960 if you'd like to join us for dinner and for the quiz.

25 March 1 pm: Medal Competition in Jassen at the Clubhouse

Come and enjoy a friendly game of Jassen. To compete for a medal you have to pay \$5. If we all agree, we could play for the medals according to the new rules, as proposed in the February Helvetia.

If you like to come for a Soup Lunch, please ring Trudi (56 28 019) so she knows how much soup she has to prepare.

7 April: Traditional Easter Eggs Dyeing

Details in the next Helvetia.

21 April: AGM of the Wellington Swiss Club

Don't miss it! Details in the next Helvetia.

Hamilton

We haven't had any functions at our Club since the last issue but all members should have received a newsletter. There is just one change to the dates on the newsletter:

Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Auckland vs Hamilton will now be on Sunday 22nd April - see below for more information.

Future Events:

Ruapehu Weekend - Friday to Sunday, 30th March to 1st April staying in bunk-style accommodation at the "Tokoroa Hut", with various walks to accommodate all levels of fitness. For further details please ring Vitus, ph 07 855 2841.

Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Auckland vs Hamilton will now be on Sunday 22nd April. Club members wishing to represent the Club and travel to Auckland please contact Herbert Staheli 07 847 7220 (daytime, work) or mobile 021 962 708.

Annual General Meeting - Friday 4th May 8pm at Swisscraft premises. The committee would really appreciate your feedback on both past and future events, as well as any other thoughts or comments, so please come along. Please bring a plate for supper, to be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Card Evenings - the first card evening will be on Friday 11th May at the Union Parish Church Hall, Queen Street, Cambridge, commencing 7.30pm and then fortnightly thereafter. AZ

Swiss live long, work hard and help others

At 82.2 years, the Swiss have the second highest life expectancy in OECD countries, while health spending is third highest, at 10.7 per cent of GDP. These are among the results of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Society at a Glance survey which gives an overview of social trends and policy developments.

Switzerland has the highest proportion of working age people in the workforce, at 79.2 per cent, and Swiss workers retire later than the OECD average. With an average of 55 per cent of people volunteering time, giving money or helping a stranger in the previous month, the Swiss ranked sixth for engagement in social issues in the OECD.

One in four Swiss are foreign-born, the highest in the OECD after Luxembourg and Israel and more than double the OECD average of 11.7 per cent.

Despite its much lauded democratic tradition, Switzerland is one of only three countries in the 39 country survey, along with the United States and South Korea, with voter participation below 50 per cent.

World bullish on Swiss semen

Swiss bull sperm is in demand around the world: Swissgenetics surpassed last year for the first time the half million mark in sales abroad of bull semen packets. Swissgenetics said the amount of semen it exports has quintupled over the past ten years. Most in demand is semen from the breeds Simmental, Red Holstein and Brown Swiss. The company said the export market has taken on great importance since the domestic market fell into decline.

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