



## SWISS CLUB JHB NEWS LETTER

Dear Members and Friends

As another year comes to an end and with the festive season upon us, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support and as always reflect on our goals and efforts this year.

Our AGM was held on the 20th April and we achieved an impressive attendance of 31 voting members under the new ruling of Family Members automatically qualifying for 2 votes. What was particularly encouraging is the tremendous support we received from various Members, Companies as well as and particularly the Embassy with incredible sponsorship offers for the Swiss National Day Celebration, which resulted in the desired effect in contributing to a better net income.

The Swiss Embassy in collaboration with ASO (Ausland Schweizer Organisation) and Levantine Financial Services held another workshop at the Club on the 14<sup>th</sup> June with legal and financial advise for those who are fortunate enough to have assets overseas which, under new SARS tax legislation need to be declared under the Automatic Information Exchange Act.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July we were also treated to some unbelievable renditions of a “musical reception” from the Swiss Consonus Choir, who’s members come from the regions of Graubünden / North-Eastern Switzerland, Zurich and Lucerne and they represented Switzerland at the first World Olympic Choir Games in Pretoria, where they deservedly secured 2 Gold Medals! This again was made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of François Duvanel from the Embassy – thank you François – and for those who couldn’t make it, just to rub it in, you’ve really missed some incredible singing!

At the end of June we enjoyed our traditional and as always fantastic Metzgete. This was followed by our annual main event, the 727th Swiss National Day celebration. Our plea for sponsorship yielded an almost 3-fold net profit compared to last year – thanks again to all the generous sponsors (Swiss Embassy for a Dinner for 12 people, Albert Epprecht of Alba Hydraulics for R 10’000 towards a flight to Europe, Nestle SA for the Coffee Machines with all the trimmings and Staff, Midrent for the Tent, Carina Vissian for R 2000 Cash, Ursula & Vaughn Baard for 6 bottles of Wine, The Ladies Club and the Skittling Club for the fantastic Cakes), and thank you again to all the volunteers who made the success possible!

As always on the first Sunday of December, we end the year with our Christmas and Year End Lunch and without any doubt, this appears to have been the most appealing yet, as we were already fully booked some 10 days before the event. The sad part of these bookings is that we had to turn some people away that left bookings to the last minute. Then unfortunately when people book tables of 8 and more, but just don’t turn up without the courtesy of an explanation before or after the event, it not only leaves rather bad feelings, but it also creates unrecoverable costs for the Caterer and consequential changes to the way we will have to consider bookings in the future. However, we still enjoyed yet another incredible feast for fantastic value and our “House Choir” filled the gaps between the meals with some Swiss and Christmas songs.

To end the meal, guests were spoilt with a fantastic and very generous selection of imported cheeses which were sponsored by Charley Dufey from B & S Agencies. The afternoon was then concluded by a Raffle, which can only be made possible with Sponsors who provided the great prizes such as a Christmas Hamper worth R 1000 sponsored by Bettina O'Grady from Bettina's Café at the Bryanston Organic Market, a Ginger Bread House worth R 800 sponsored by our member and Skittling Club Chairman Gary Stephenson, Christmas Cake worth R 450 sponsored by Peter Leonard, a Gammon worth R 450 sponsored by the Swiss Club, a Voucher worth R 400 sponsored by the Bryanston Organic Market, 2 x Meal Vouchers worth R 250 each sponsored by our own Restaurant Proprietor Wolfgang, 4 x Vouchers worth R 200 each again sponsored by Bettina's Café and a bottle of Wine and Sparkling Wine again sponsored by Gary Stephenson – thank you so much to all of you for your generosity. Again we need to also thank our Embassy and particularly François Duvanel for assisting with the distribution of the invitation to our fellow compatriots, which makes a big difference in the number of people we can reach for this event.

It is really a sad reality that we as a Club need to accept that the average ages of our membership is unfortunately testimony of the fact that we just don't seem to be able to have a single year go by any longer without any of our loved ones having passed on. May they all rest in peace.

In closing the Committee, the Rütli Council as well as the Courier Restaurant and Staff thank all of you for your continued support and we wish you and your loved ones a very merry festive Season, an guetä Rutsch is neuü Jahr and a very healthy and prosperous 2019.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- **The Restaurant and Club will be officially closed from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 until Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**
- **Mark MARCH in your new Diary when the 3<sup>rd</sup> “TRY-NATIONS” Games will be held at our Club and we need participants for this fun event! More info to follow!**



YOUR COMMITTEE

