



SWISS CLUB JHB NEWS LETTER

Dear Members and Friends

With only a few days left before Christmas and another new Year and indeed Decade, we would like to thank all of you again for your continued support and commitment to the Swiss Country Club.

Our first event this year was the biennial Tri-Nations Games, which this year were held at our Club. Unfortunately this time the County's representations of teams was somewhat unevenly spread with the German team having only managed to get 5 representatives and this resulted in the Swiss team having to "help out". Ironically the German team ended up winning as the Swiss' home advantage was now "diluted" and our team only managed 3rd place, but never mind that, in the end it is all about having a great fun day anyway. The AGM followed on the 15th May when we also bid farewell to our Ambassador Helene Budliger-Artieda and her Husband who were assigned to Thailand and François Duvanel who moved to Brasilia. They were a really dedicated team and supported the Club tremendously during their 4 year tenure. We also saw a couple of changes in the Committee with a new Vice Chairman Heiner Spahr and Gary Stephenson who replaced Heiner's position as Assessor. Thanks to the efforts and perseverance of our Patron for the Member's Council, Rütli has officially been de-registered and the Club is now registered as a NPC since the end of May.

The 28th of June was "Metzgete Day" at the Club with a packed Restaurant this year it was great to see that 21 Members really took advantage of their Member's subsidy and enjoyed this traditional and fantastic meal.

Prior to the Swiss National Day celebration, it became necessary to assess our Security situation at the Club following a few unfortunate incidences and in July we upgraded the entrance by automating the gate and adding camera surveillance throughout the parking area. This has of course set us back a pretty penny but was most definitely a necessary expense. We certainly hope that this upgrade will yield the desired results!

Just 5 weeks after the Metzgete it was already time for the 728th Swiss National Day celebration. Again we were privileged to have some very generous people who provided the much needed sponsorships and thus contributed to another good day at the Club. Thank you very much to NESTLÉ SA for once more providing all the coffee essentials for the Coffee Stube, the Swiss Embassy for their incredible dinner for 12 people at the Ambassador's residence, Mr. Rolf Schlub for his R 3000 cash contribution, Mr. Albert Epprecht for another R 1000 cash contribution, Mr. Gary Stephenson for a wireless portable speaker and wireless headphones worth R 3000, the Skittling Club for their R 1000 donation for the Cakes as well as MIDRENT who again kindly sponsored the so essential Beer Tent. The Club provided the R 12k towards a return flight ticket to a European destination. Thank you also to all the volunteers and everybody who took the time to assist during this busy day. Attendance was perhaps a little disappointing for whatever reason, but certainly the weather could not be blamed for that.

Unfortunately this year one of our visitors was the victim of an all too common crime in SA as their car was stolen from outside the Club despite the roaming guards we always provide, but luckily and thanks to a tracking device, shortly afterwards the vehicle together with the thief was recovered, although sadly, but almost inevitably in a condition which needed some serious repairs. We are just very very grateful that no one was hurt.

Our annual Year End and Christmas Lunch is always a really nice culmination to end the year and this year it was held on Sunday the 8th December, closer to the traditional Swiss Chlaus Tag, which is on the 6th December. Thanks to the involvement and assistance in the distribution of the invitations by the Swiss Embassy, we could again reach a large number of people and bookings already started a day after the invitations were sent out!

The full house, the food, the ambience as well as the Swiss Choir's entertainment were just fantastic, and all the compliments received were testimony of another really great event.

We would like to thank all our generous sponsors for this event, Charley Dufey who provided the fantastic Cheese that accompanied the Dessert, Gary Stephenson for the huge Ginger Bread House worth R 850, Bettina O'Grady for 3 x R 200 meal vouchers, Hans-Jürg Burkhardt for the nice Carafe with 5 sandblasted glasses and some other prizes to the value of R 600 provided by the Club. The Raffle took place whilst the Dessert table was being prepared and no less than 13 prizes could be given away. The dessert then concluded the afternoon and everybody left with a positive smile and no doubt a pretty full tummy!

As is unfortunately a really unavoidable situation every year, again we lost a number of friends and loved ones this year and may they all rest in peace.

In closing the Committee, the Member's 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 neuu Jahr and a very healthy and prosperous 2020.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **THE RESTAURANT AND CLUB WILL BE OFFICIALLY CLOSED FROM SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2019 UNTIL TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2020**

