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Zwei Schweizer Rennfahrer starten durch

Am A1 GP-Rennen Ende Februar in Durban standen gleich zwei Schweizer Rennfahrer im Rampenlicht: Neel Jani, der den südafrikanischen GP mit dem Schweizer Team gewann, sowie Adrian Zaugg, der schweizerische-südafrikanische Doppelbürger, der für das Team Südafrika fährt. *Gisela Piercey*

Viel besser hätte die Ausbeute des Schweizer Teams aus den beiden A1GP-Rennen in Südafrika nicht sein können. Neel Jani gewann in Durban das Feature Race, nachdem er im Sprint Dritter geworden war und das trotz eines heftigen Virus, der ihn vor und zwischen den Rennen fast lahmlegte. Im spektakulären Hauptrennen lag der aus der Pole-Position gestartete Jani während der gesamten 41 Runden mit Ausnahme der beiden Boxenstopps an der Spitze. Dieser Erfolg brachte dem Schweizer Team die Leaderposition in der A1GP-Serie.

Wurzeln in der Schweiz und in Südafrika

Beim Rennen davor im australischen Sydney standen gleich zwei Schweizer auf dem Podest: Adrian Zaugg, dessen Vater Schweizer und die Mutter Südafrikanerin ist, gewann das Rennen vor Neel Jani. Ebenso multikulturell war auch sein bisheriges Leben: Er wurde in Singapur geboren, lebte danach eine Weile in Kapstadt und verbrachte seine Schule und Ausbildung in Bern, wo seine Familie bis heute lebt. Trotzdem zieht es ihn immer wieder nach Kapstadt, wo

ebenfalls ein grosser Teil der Familie lebt. Wenn Zaugg Englisch spricht, dringt sein starker Schweizer Akzent durch.

Der junge Adrian Zaugg blickt auf eine bisher erfolgreiche Rennkarriere zurück. Im aktuellen A1GP besetzt er momentan die vierte Position und hat von 14 Rennen zwei gewonnen, drei Pole Positions erreicht und vier Plätze auf dem Podium gewonnen. Im letzten Jahr fuhr er die GP2 Series mit dem Team Arden und beendete ihn auf dem 18. Platz. Die Saison 2006/07 fuhr er erstmals für das südafrikanische A1GP Team und schaffte es auf den 14. Rang. Seine Motivation ist gross und er hat ein klares Ziel vor Augen: die Formel 1!

Der nächste Formel-1-Fahrer?

Das gleiche Ziel strebt auch Neel Jani an, wobei der 22-Jährige bereits einiges näher an der Verwirklichung seines Traums ist. Seit Anfang Saison schnuppert er regelmässig Formel-1-Luft: als Testfahrer für das Team Toro Rosso. Als erster Schweizer seit über zehn Jahren möchte Jani jedoch das Stammcockpit in der höchsten Motorsportklasse erobern.

Der Doppelbürger Adrian Zaugg gewinnt den australischen A1GP.

Jubel in Durban: der Schweizer Sieger Neel Jani.



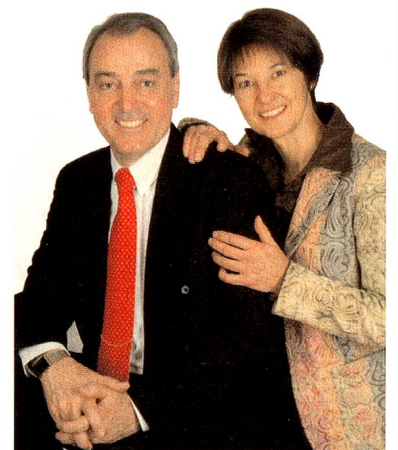
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Auslandschweizer Voting: Quo Vadis?

Swiss Abroad have had the privilege of Voting Rights in Swiss Federal Elections since 1992. While initially, it was suspected that there would not be that much demand from Swiss in foreign countries to apply for and exercise this privilege, all such forecasts have been proved wrong during the past 16 years.

There are presently well in excess of 600,000 Swiss registered abroad, and of these some 120,000 (ie. 20%) have voluntarily registered themselves to exercise their democratic privilege. This is equivalent to the voting strength of a major industrial town such as Winterthur.

During the past 3 elections Swiss abroad have also offered themselves for election. Starting with one candidate in 1999, we were privileged to field 46 candidates in the October 2007 Elections. As indicated in the last Swiss Review one of them had a chance of really being elected. It is quite plainly, virtually impossible for an Auslandschweizer candidate to succeed in such an election. This is because Auslandschweizer votes are channelled through the Gemeinde and Canton of his "Heimatort", or his last place of residence when still in Switzerland.

E-Voting not ready?

The next election is in just three-and-a-half years time in approximately October 2011. Despite the tremendous surge in effecting matters by email, and the promise by the Swiss Government to progress towards E-Consular Services and E-Voting, it

would appear from recent reports given to the Auslandschweizerrat, that the latter (E-Voting) will not be sufficiently tested to enable it to be used in the 2011 election. This is regrettable from a number of viewpoints, but in particular because numerous Auslandschweizer simply cannot vote timeously, because their voting papers only reach them after the election date, or if before, then with too small a margin to allow for reading thereof, voting, and returning thereof by post before the election date.

Motion for a Working group

As the Auslandschweizerrat will be meeting in Bern on 12 April, and will be discussing these matters, your Southern African Delegation has tabled a motion asking for the Council to initiate a Round-Table Working group to examine various options together with the main political parties, and report back within 18 months with hopefully an agreed plan of action, which can then be submitted to Parliament in the Winter Session 2009, and subsequently to the Bundesrat (Federal Council) for implementation.

ASR Delegate Peter Müller

Swiss Centre at the DSJ almost completed

The Swiss Centre at the German International School Johannesburg is nearing its completion. The project was initiated by the Swiss Parents Association Johannesburg.

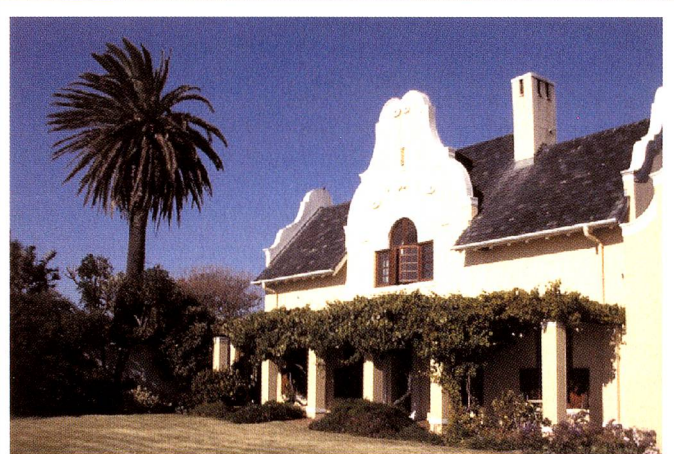
Following extensive - and still ongoing - fund-raising efforts, work started mid last year and is now in the phase of completing the interior. The official opening will take place in April or May latest. The exact date will be communicated in due time.

This very modern multi-functional facility features a stage, Swiss library, multi-media

equipment and highly versatile custom-made furniture that allow the use from Kindergarten to Abitur classes, serves as auditorium and facilitates cultural events as well.

The Swiss Centre comes at a cost in excess of R1.0m. It would not have been possible without generous institutional and personal contributions. The SPA extends its heartfelt thank you and at the same time appeals for continued support to finalize the project.

*Richard Meichtry,
Chairman Swiss Parents
Association*



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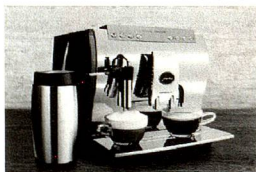


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Please attend a very important **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** being held on the **9th May 2008** at the newly renovated Swiss Country Club

For more information please contact

MARIO VALLI
Vice Chairman SSH
082 451 8040

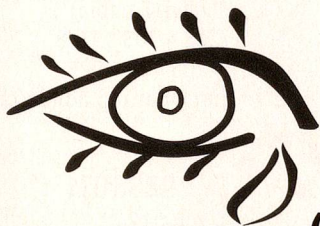
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Swiss Society Helvetia,
31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley,
Midrand, T/F 011 805 3039
Restaurant T 011 805 3040
swissclubjhb@whoswho.co.za

Senior Swiss Circle meets every second Saturday of the month for lunch; Andy Tischhauser 011 672 1753/ 082 719 3389. All members and potential members are invited to attend the very important Annual General Meeting on 9 May at the newly renovated Swiss Country Club. Contact us for more information.

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Until further notice, we will still be operating from our Green Point premises. The City Council of Cape Town was invited to the AGM on March 18 to present an update regarding the club's future relating to the available options for new premises. Not even the rain could deter the faithful members from the Waldfest held in Jonkershoek it was an occasion filled with lots of fun and games for both young and old(er). For further details on forthcoming events and past events with impressions please visit our website www.swissclub.co.za.

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Hanspeter Graber,
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C 083 262 6107,
hansg@saol.com

Jass Meetings: every second Friday of the month at 18h00 in Westville Bowling Club House near the Westville Civic Centre. Everybody is welcome to join! Target Shooting Practice: We have secured access to a shooting range through the Nottingham Road Rifle Club and commenced our formal practice shooting. We will practice regularly every 4th saturday of every month at the "Dave Nicol Shooting Range" in Nottingham road. The range and a homely club house with overnight accommodation is located in beautiful KZN Midland scenery, and is absolutely stunning! We will form lift clubs and share the longer driving journey from Durban and Pietermaritzburg, so please contact us for co-ordination purposes.

Next dates:

Saturday 26.4., full Day starting at 09h00, Feldschiessen, Obligatorisch, Einzelwettschiessen;
Saturday 24.3., full Day starting at 09h00, Sektionschiessen and Nachschiessen fuer F, O & E;
Saturday 28.6., full Day starting at 09h00, Auslandschweizerschiessen und Sektionschiessen.

Please contact us for more information on 031 568 2457 or 083 262 6107.

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Events are published on the SC-EL-Website & all members are notified directly.

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