

Mboweni at SwissCham function

SwissCham Southern Africa – South Africa Chapter held its first membership function of the year on the 19th February at the Grayston Sun Conference Centre, Sandton, at a joint cocktail function with the Nordic South African Business Association. Star guest was Tito Mboweni.

Tito Mboweni, Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, gave the keynote address to an audience of 120 people. He commented that the South African economy would still notch up some growth this year despite the global downturn but would not commit himself on the timing of another interest rate cut. Local money markets have priced in a full percentage point cut in the Bank's repo rate ahead of the Reserve Bank's monetary policy committee meeting scheduled for April 15-16., but Mboweni would not commit himself to an earlier date. He expects inflation to come down significantly this year due to falling commodity prices and

the gap of South Africa's potential growth rate of 4.5%. He said that there was a possibility of a "slight improvement" or "slight contraction" in the 1.2% rate of growth the Treasury expected SA to clock up this year, in the face of global recession.

The function was attended by the Swiss, South African and Nordic business community, the Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa HE Rudolf Bärffuss as well as the new South African Ambassador designate to Switzerland HE George Johannes. The function was also attended by the the Swedish and Finnish Ambassadors.



From left: Dr. Jürg A. Schalch, President of SwissCham Southern Africa – South Africa Chapter, South African Ambassador designate to Switzerland, HE George Johannes, and Ambassador of Switzerland to South Africa, HE Rudolf Bärffuss.

Global Financial Crisis: Motor Sport's Doom?

More than 60 Swiss and South African business people attended an evening event to honour the Swiss A1GP team as they came to compete in the Grand Prix at Kyalami near Johannesburg.

from. Max Welti explained that finance is provided by sponsors, and added that in fact the entire A1GP series only costs a fraction of what only one Formula 1 Grand Prix team pays out in one season.



From left: Benedict Maaga, Max Welti, Rudolf Baerfuss, Keith Anderson and Chris Watts.

The evening, organised by the Swiss Business Hub South Africa, kicked off with a panel discussion entitled "Global Financial Crisis – Motor Sport's Doom?" On the panel were Rudolf Baerfuss, Ambassador of Switzerland; Max Welti, Principal of A1GP team Switzerland; Chris Watts, Regional Director IMEA / Swiss Business Hub Dubai; and Keith Anderson, Chairman of the e-waste Association of South Africa (EWASA). The discussion was moderated by Benedict Maaga who is the Group Automotive Communications Manager for BMW South Africa.

An interesting, entertaining and very wide ranging discussion ensued covering concerns on marketing, the environment, the Ferrari 'brand' and, of course, where the money for A1 teams comes

Environmental issues were also raised and it was made clear that all motor sport is working towards developing "green" racing cars, a joint venture between manufacturers and the teams involved.

After a lively question and answer session the audience responded warmly to the congratulations from one questioner on the Swiss team's performance and the fact that it gave him much pride to see that such a small nation as Switzerland could produce a World Champion. Ambassador Baerfuss seconded this high lightning the public relations value of outstanding performances by individual athletes or sport teams. He added that feats such as achieved by Roger Federer and "Alinghi" reflect positively on

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Global Financial Crisis:
Motor Sport's Doom?

Switzerland and contribute considerably towards a positive country branding. Benedict Maaga rounded up the discussion by saying that the fascination and passion for motor sports is still alive. The sport faces many challenges that need to be addressed. The Swiss A1 team and Panellists mingled with the audience after the talk over food and drinks. Participants commented overwhelmingly positively on the Swiss Business Hub South Africa's initiative to organise the event, and encouraged the organisers to continue the effort for future A1GP races in Kyalami.

A1 GP Gauteng: Results

Switzerland achieved third place in the sprint event and Neel Jani took first in the feature race, lifting Team Switzerland to the top position in the rankings with 73 points over Ireland's 70.

Neue Lichtenanlage

Die Deutsche Schule Pretoria verfügt über eine neue Lichtenanlage des Musikzentrums, die für Bildungs- und kulturelle Zwecke verwendet wird.

Am 22. Mai 2008 wurde die neue Anlage an der Deutschen Schule Pretoria, in Anwesenheit von Erwin Lüthi, Leiter Swiss Business Hub, Helmut Kühnle, Schulleiter der DSP und Andreas Rüschi, Vorsitzender des Vorstandes der DSP eingeweiht. Sie ist so

beschaffen, dass auch Open Air Konzerte auf dem Backsteinhof von dieser Anlage profitieren können. Es war ein grosses Unterfangen, mit weniger als 20 Schweizer Kindern an der Schule ein Projekt dieser Grössenordnung (R340'000) zustande zu bringen. Zum Gelingen haben beigetragen: Die Elternschaft der Schweizerkinder und das Team „Swiss Tent“ der Oktoberfeste 2005/6/7, die Ernst Göhner Stiftung und das BAK in Bern.

*HG Bosch,
Präsident der SPA der DSP*



Die neue Lichtenanlage

Edith Salamanca says goodbye

The Consul and Head of Chancellery of the Swiss Embassy in Pretoria, Edith Salamanca, bids farewell after almost six years in South Africa.



Together with my husband and our two daughters, I arrived in South Africa in July 2003 to take over as Head of Chancellery in the Consulate General of Johannesburg. I thus witnessed the last months of the Consulate General which was closed at the end of November 2003, and am today the last "transferable survivor" of the Johannesburg team. For the last 5 years, I was heading the chancellery of the Swiss Embassy in Pretoria and had close relations with the Swiss Societies in Johannesburg and Pretoria to whom I wish all the

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Edith Salamanca says goodbye

best and lots of new members to carry on the traditional celebrations and friendly get-togethers. Unfortunately, there is no escaping the transfer routine of the Department of Foreign Affairs and therefore in April 2009, my husband Miguel and myself will move to Düsseldorf, Germany.

Our time in South Africa has been a wonderful experience which I will fondly remember.

Edith Salamanca

Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events

JOHANNESBURG

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«The Courier», your host
Wolfgang Wallauz,
T/F 011 805 3040,
C 082 561 0063, open Tue-Sat
11-21h30 Restaurant,
11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h

Our restaurant is operating again since 1st March. Our new Chef Wolfgang Wallauz would like to tease your taste buds with gastronomic delights from around the world and of course from Switzerland, Austria and Germany. Enjoy a meal in a relaxed atmosphere with a beautiful view perfectly suited to business lunches, after work drinks, dinner parties, functions and events.

Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling.

Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for Lunch; Evi Frei 011 673 4640

PRETORIA

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Am 20. Februar fand die ordentliche GV des Schweizer Vereins Alpina in Pretoria statt. Wir durften Botschafter Rudolf Bärfuss und seine Gattin zum ersten Mal an einem Clubanlass begrüßen und auch Pia Gallegos-Müller, die Edith Salamanca ersetzt.

Im Jahr 2008 fanden 3 Vereinsnähe statt, der Fondueabend bei Lisa und Gabor von Moricz, die 1. Augustfeier bei Fountains und die Year End Function, die beim Sports Pavillion der Girls High School abgehalten wurde.

Der Vorstand des Klubs setzt sich neu wie folgt zusammen:

Präsident: Hans-Georg Bosch (swissclub.pta@hbosch.com);
Vize Präsident: Gabor von Moricz;
Sekretärin: Biffy van Rooyen (swissclub.pta@hbosch.com);
Kassierin: Liesl van Rooyen;
Beisitzer: Marianne Scholtz; Lisa von Moricz, Samantha Kappeler;
Revisoren: Pia Gallegos-Müller, Sonja Bosch.

Der Klub würdigte die wegen Versetzung in neue Länder ausgeschiedenen Vorstandsmitglieder Miguel Salamanca (Beisitzer) und Erwin Lüthi (Revisor). Nach Schluss der GV genossen die 33 Anwesenden einen lustigen Abend bei guter Verpflegung. Für 2009 werden die folgenden Anlässe stattfinden: 3. April Kegelnabend beim Schweizerklub Johannesburg; Juni: Fondueabend (Ort und Datum wird später festgelegt); 1. August 1. Augustfeier; November: Year End Function. Interessierte melden sich bitte beim Präsidenten oder bei der Sekretärin via E-Mail.

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Our old club building has been partially demolished and the contents are currently being stored in a container. In the meantime, we now meet on a Wednesday evening with the Austrians at our temporary home, the Metropolitan Golf Club, where Huusmusic will be in attendance. For bookings please contact Shamiela on 083 298 0995. The Waldfest was once

again a great fun-filled day! We look forward to the Easter bunny's visit to Jonkershoek on 12 April. For further updates and forthcoming events, please visit www.swissclub.co.za.

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Hanspeter Graber,
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On 6 August 2008 Jean Droz who resides in Windermere/Durban celebrated her 100th Birthday. Jean Droz and her late husband George Droz were well known members of the Swiss Club Natal, because her husband George was a founding member of the Club. On 23 December 2008 Felix Moser who resides in La Lucia/Durban celebrated his 85th Birthday. Felix Moser and his wife Win Moser are active members of the Swiss Club Natal, and Felix served for a number of years in the club's committee as chairman.

On 30 December 2008 Michael Schmid, the son of Johannes Schmid and Lois Schmid, who reside in Westville/Durban; was awarded by the provincial Department of Education in Kwazulu-Natal the KwaZulu-Natal's top matric student achiever award. The family Schmid is a club member. We wish him much success for his mechanical engineering study at the University in Cape Town. JASS EVENINGS SCN: Jass remains a very popular activity in our club and the members meeting regularly every second Friday of each month at 18h00 in the Westville Bowling Club House near the old Westville Civic Centre, William Lester Rd off Buckingham Terrace Rd. This is a social affair and everybody also beginners are most welcome to join!

TARGET SHOOTING PRACTICE SCN: We are practicing at the Dave Nicol shooting range in Nottinham Road. We have a lift club and should anybody need a lift please phone 031 568 2457 or 083 262 6107; Saturday 25 April, Full Day starting 09h00, Obligatorisch and Feldschiessen and Obwaldner Sektions Stich (Subj. to Conf.) Program; Saturday 23 May, Full Day starting 09h00, Einzelwettschiessen and St Galler - Auslandschweizer Fernschiessen Program Saturday 27 Juni, Full Day starting 09h00, Intertown und Nachschiessen Obligatorisch and

Feldschiessen; Saturday 25 July, Full Day starting 09h00, Last Chance for Einzelwettschiessen and Wurst Stich; Saturday 22 August 2009, Full Day starting 09h00, Last Chance Obligatorisch and Feldschiessen and St Galler- Auslandschweizer Fernschiessen Program.

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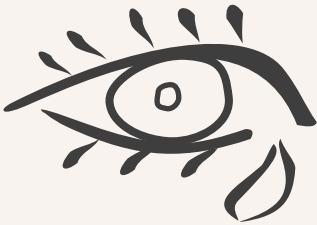
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