

SWISS CLUB NATAL

SOUTH AFRICA



SWISS CLUB NATAL
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JULY 1995

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PLEASE CONTACT MR. H.P. GRABER OR MR. A. HORISBERGER

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members,
Great fun was had by the members which participated at this years car rally. Many thanks to Reto and Haydon which organised this superday and which managed to confuse some of the participants with their tricky questions, subsequently causing some fair amount of two way traffic.

We have received from Mrs. Dawn Harris confirmation that SWISSAIR will issue a barter credit to our club for the equivalent amount of ZAR 2500.00 .

Herewith our sincere thanks to SWISSAIR for this generous sponsorship.

All club members are requested to please support SWISSAIR on their next holiday or business trip to Europe.

Our Durban Jass section is eagerly preparing for the forthcoming Price Jass Evening on the 23 Sept. For once I have attended the Jass evening on the 7 July 1995 and what a lovely evening it was for some 18 Card players.

It was especially nice to see and welcome our dear friend Lydia Selvin from Stellenbosch for a short visit in Durban.

Our Honory Member Rex Guggisberg was not well now for some time, and he was home bound on instruction by his Doctor, therefore could not attend some of our recent functions.

We wish you speedy recovery and shall be pleased to see you soon back at our social gatherings.

A kind welcome to the following new club members and I should be pleased to introduce you more formally at our next Swiss Club Natal Main Functions.

Mr. and Mrs. O.S. Fiechter
Mrs. M.P. Hochreutener
Mr. G. Foulon
Mr. M.N. Lind

Reto Frei our Secretary has left South Africa at mid July 1995 for an one year stay over in Europe. We wish you much fun and all the best for your working or vacation adventure.

Ruth Klein has accepted to step in and serve on the committee as secretary on Reto's behalf. Many thanks Ruth for your support and to render some of your valuable time to our Club.

I am pleased to announce that our Consul General **Mr. Leo Renggli** will be with us during our Swiss National Day Celebration in Hammarsdale on Sunday the 6 August 1995.

A REMINDER OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

National Day Celebration at Hammarsdale	⁰⁶ 01.AUG.
Mountain Weekend (Cathedral Peak)	16./17.SEPT.
Price Jass Evening	23.SEPT.
Bowling Competit./ Family outing OAKS	18./19. SEPT. ^{Nov} Oct
Christmas Family Day Hammarsdale	03.DEC.

Note that the Jass Section in Durban meets every second Friday of each month at 19h30 at the German Club Durban-Westville. Every Member is welcome!

SHOOTING PROGRAMME

Nachschiessen & Club Shoot	05.AUG.
Interclub (Natal Carb. & C-Company)	02.SEPT.
Fun Shoot	03. SEPT. ^{Oct}
Johannesburg Shoot	28./29.OCT.
Handicap Shoot	04.NOV.

For more details on forthcoming events, please refer to next page.

Kindest Regards



SWISS CLUB NATAL

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6/7/95

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SWISS NATIONAL DAY

Dear Members,

1 August is approaching rapidly. Once again, your Committee has arranged suitable celebrations to mark the event.

Our OFFICIAL CELEBRATION will take place at:

HAMMARSDALE SHOOTING RANGE **SUNDAY 6 AUGUST (From 11:00)**

Once again we have organised plenty of entertainment for all, young, old and inbetween.

- Rütli shoot and Open shoot (air guns)
- Bottle fishing
- Tug-o-war

ALSO: Braaivleis and Music

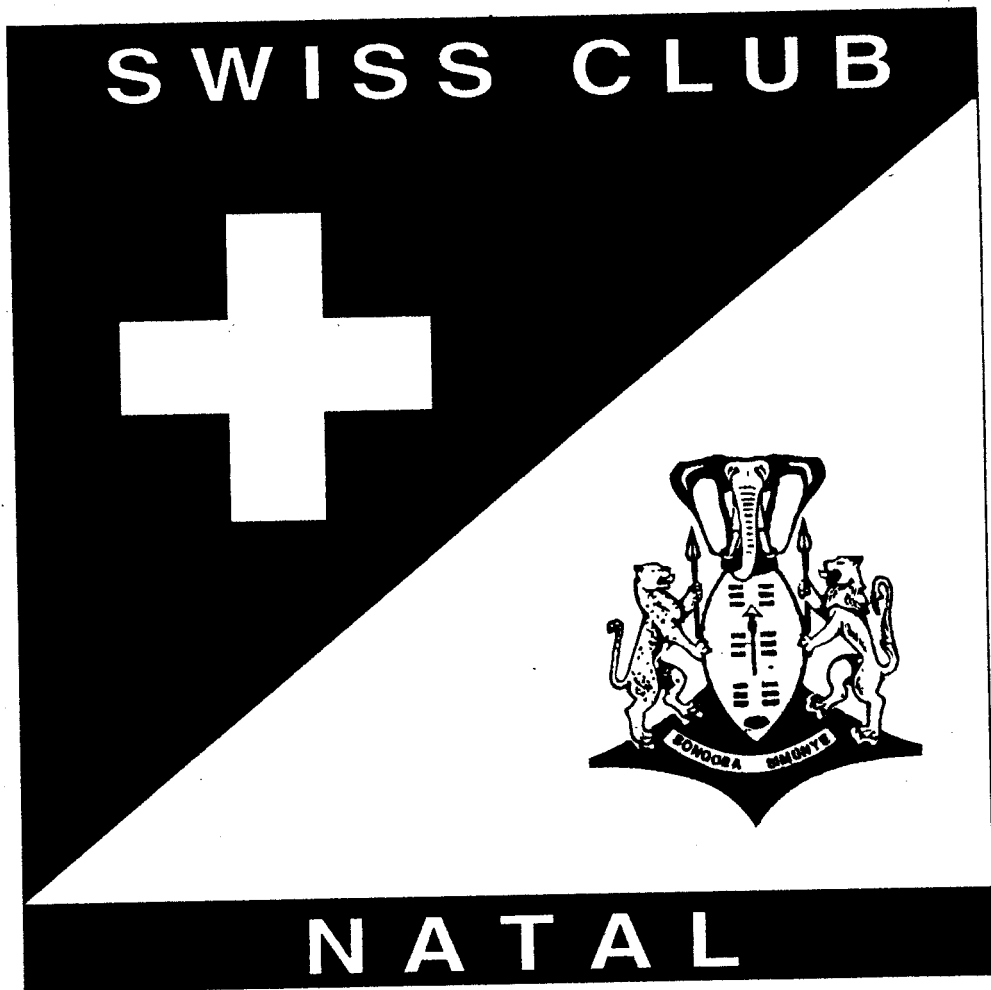
As usual, sausages (Cervelats, Bratwürste and Landjäger) will be on sale at lunch time, and again later in the afternoon.

**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS, GLASSES,
TABLES AND CHAIRS!**

Prize-giving is once again going to be held at 3:30 pm. For those wishing to participate in the events this means: please don't come too late.

NEW SWISS CLUB NATAL FLAG

Your committee has eventually ratified the 1st priced choice taken by the AGM and here is how the flag looks.



Some interesting chronicle and heraldic evolvement details as contained in the design of the flag are being given on the next two pages.

ORIGIN OF SWISS NATIONAL FLAG

Many of the national flags seen around the world today have evolved over a long period of time. The flags of countries such as Austria, Denmark or Turkey emerged from the mists of legend while many others, including those of Poland and Switzerland, grew out of the heraldic emblems of the Middle Ages.

During the Middle Ages, when the boundaries of European countries were vastly different from those of today, national flags as we know them did not exist. Armies fought under the personal banners of their king, the individual nobles who paid for their services, or the patron saint who would guarantee them victory. Nevertheless, it was at this time that places with a sense of regional identity, including some cities and ports, adopted emblems of their own. Among these were the cantons, or provinces, of Switzerland and the great trading ports of the Baltic and Mediterranean.

The emblems used by the provincial authorities took the form of heraldic coats-of-arms and the banners derived from them either at the time or later. Apart from the very varied Swiss cantonal flags, which date from as early as the 13th century, regional flags with heraldic designs have been adopted by provinces of such countries as Belgium, Holland, Norway and Canada.

A square flag bearing a white Greek cross on a red field has been known as the official national flag of the Swiss confederation since 1848. But the use of this emblem by the Swiss goes back many centuries. A medieval chronicle describes Swiss soldiers marching out to fight oppressive rulers in 1339 wearing a distinguishing emblem, the sign of the Holy Cross, a white cross on a red shield.

Switzerland was for long without a National Flag common to all the cantons of the Confederation, and a joint emblem was not chosen until the time of the Battle of Laupen in 1339, when the white cross on red of the Crusaders was adopted. The chronicle of Bernois records that: All were distinguished by the sign of the Holy Cross, a white cross on a red shield, for the reason that the freeing of the nation was for them a cause as sacred as the deliverance of the Holy Places.

As a flag the coupéd white cross on red was not officially adopted until 1848, although it featured in many historical flags. The National Flag is square, and the Merchant Flag, used on lakes and rivers, is 2:3. The latter was adopted in 1941.

MEANINGS OF COLOURS:

Although the bright colours used in flags have great decorative appeal, they have rarely been chosen simply because they are beautiful. Particular colours are selected for various reasons - historical, political or symbolical - and each nation has arrived at its choice through its own special circumstances. Some countries, such as Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, have simply derived the colours in their flags from their heraldic past, without any conscious attempt to select particular colours for their symbolical associations.

ORIGIN OF NATAL FLAG PORTION

The Coat-of-Arms is reflecting traditional Symbols, typically African and which are under high esteem by the native people of Natal.

Explanation of Heraldic Evolvment



INDLOVU:

The elephant has been selected as the centre figure of the crest and represents STRENGTH and INTELLIGENCE.

isiCOCO:

The Lion has been placed on the right hand side supporting the shield and represents BRAVERY and DIGNITY.

INGONYAMA:

The Leopard has been placed on the left hand side of this shield and represents BEAUTY and GRACE.

IKLWA

The traditional short Zulu stabbing Spear held in the paws of the two animals, the Lion and the Leopard, represents the Will to DEFEND the NATION.

INYONIKAYIPHUMULI:

The traditional White Zulu Royal Shield with the single black spot made from the Skin of the Royal Cattle, represents the Shield which PROTECTS the ZULU PEOPLE.

SONGOBA SIMUNYE:

This motto means "United we Conquer".

INHLENDLA:

This is the barked assegai which was held by the Zulu Kings. This symbolises the Authority of the Zulu king.

EDITORS CORNER.

I missed Einzelwettschiesen on 1st April Hans-Peter told me about 14 shooting & just about all finding it difficult without the use of the rest which is part of the programme for this shoot.

Sunday 9th April to our 10th Annual Beach Breakfast with the Georges, once again under the trees at Winklespruit . Overcast, mild, & threatening rain, not as bad as last year when we were the only car in the pouring rain at the picnic spot.

I reckon we had about 40 -50 adults plus children to enjoy this function always so well organised by the Gerhards with help from Haidi. The Röstli was super & Elizabeth's bread out of this world. Good to see stalwarts from P.M.B. Hans-Rüti & Emmie & Phil & Lyn. We had the Sifrigs, Libby but no Cherry I was surprised to see Karl Ernst seems ages since I last saw him & of course most of the regulars. Everyone having a really happy & enjoyable time together, 4 playing Jass & 8 playing Botcha on the best patch of grass they could find. Derek & Marlies were away & George Krook was not too well. Our new President Hans-Peter Graber arrived in time for lunch but only just because at 1p.m. we had a real set in rain which stopped play. Everyone disappeared in quick time, so I never had a chance to say cheerio to so many. Once again THANKS to the Gerhards for all their hard work.

I also missed the St.Galler Shoot 6th May. Hans-Peter told me about 10 in the morning to work on the target & about 16 p.m. for the shoot, it seems they had a good day, I really must attend the next shoot which I always enjoy. Our President Hans-Peter, Ex-President Wälti Grab, Albert Schmid, & young Thomas Ammann spent a week-end climbing high in the Drakensberg, sleeping in tents, they had a wonderful time but bitterly cold. This was good training for Thomas who in July is going to have a go at Kilimanjaro, Thomas from us all good climbing.

It must be a matter of years since I last saw Farmer Locher & Ena, hope he will come in from the cold again. I imagine his only interest at the moment is World Cup Rugby.

June 3rd with Hans-Peter to INTER TOWN SHOOT on a perfect day, we had 16 present, big surprise Felix Thoma brought his son young Felix out here on holiday, I remember him as a little chap who is now taller than his dad. Good to have Reto Marcel & Sharon & the regulars but we missed Hans, Bob, Nic,

& Mike (down with) Bronchitis). I spent most of the afternoon sitting & chatting with Fritz Kaufmann. Top scorers Phil 71, Hans-Peter 68, Albert 66, Rene 65, out of a possible 80. Full house for harmony at Colorado, a super day as usual.

Aggie & I were bitterly disappointed to have to miss the car rally, we were going with our good friends the Georges, Norma phoned early evening to tell us what a wonderful day it had been, a super Rally, lovely lunch in a beautiful setting. Our little Club is so lucky to have two such fine young men as Reto & Haydon who do so much for the Club. Watching the Rugby Quarter Finals was poor consolation for not being at the Rally. The Doctor tells me having one lung doing the work of two for over 50 years has put a strain on my heart which is not pumping hard enough for proper circulation so my knees & ankles were swollen & I was confined to the flat for a week. Hope I will be O.K. for 1st August. Thanks to all who phoned or visited me, Members have always been so kind & considerate to us both. I hope some one will give us a write up on the Rally for the Bulletin. It seems a long time since I thanked my little wife for doing the typing, Thanks Aggie.

Due to present state of health I was sorry not only to miss the shoot 1st July, but also my good Hammarsdale friends & the very enjoyable harmony together at Colorado.

GUGGY.

ANNUAL CAR RALLY

The popular annual car rally took place on Sunday 11th June, which proved to be a lovely sunny day. The turnout, which has been increasing each year, was almost 50 people in 16 cars. All the participants gathered eagerly at the Howick Falls starting point, ready to search for the secret destination.

Haydon, the starter, noted that there was an extra attraction at the start because the Howick mini market was set up that day. This gave many of the participants a chance to walk around the village green whilst they waited for their starting times. (It is rumoured that Rene Frei is still burning after buying some super-hot chilli sauce at the market.)

The action on the road was also super-hot as the cars wriggled their way towards Karkloof, some taking turn offs they shouldn't have and others missing the ones they should have taken. The rally then headed on a dirt road cutting back through the beautiful clan forests towards Albert Falls. It is here that the forest gnomes struck.

Reto Frei and Fritz Kuhn, waiting in the forest had some nasty chores for the unsuspecting entrants. They had an obstacle course with speed drinking, forest darts and putting a golf ball over a rather rough road. The gnomes did an excellent job and all entrants seemed to enjoy their forest stop, although there was a slight bottleneck at times.

The rally then edged closer and closer to the final destination - Game Valley Lodge, which thankfully all found. Here everyone seemed to have a lovely time, with a very special lunch in the sun, followed by prize-giving.

The race for first place was very close this year and the top five or six positions were all within 1 or 2 points of each other. Eventual winners was the Waldburger family from Durban, congratulations to you all and please give the trophy a good clean! The wooden spoon was a 1 horse race. New member Mike Lind and close companion "Tuck Box" Lascelles broke all records in hitting an all time low of 10% success rate. Hard luck guys but better luck next time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our editor, Rex Guggisberg, the usual writer of this article, is not feeling that well at the moment. Guggi, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Finally, many thanks to all the participants, particularly those that travelled some distance like Kathy Busby from Empangeni, a rally is only as good as its entrants!

All of the best

Reto and Haydon

THE 2ND DESERT CAMPAIGN.
THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK. 1941. PART 11.

To me somehow Tobruk was just not the same without the Aussies, I had always got on well with them, I missed their Twang in speech, the odd humour, & I must confess after 10 years on strict British Army Discipline I had to smile at their almost complete lack of it & how they addressed their officers by christian names, just about punishable by firing squad in our army !!!

From our intelligence we knew that Rommel was angry at the Aussies moving out of Tobruk from under his nose. But Rommel thought that the besieged garrison would now be at its weakest with half its strength (15,000) new troops strange to the odd life of a siege, so he decided on yet another mass assault on our perimeter & started gathering his panzers from all over Libya. In Egypt there had been for some time a new Desert Army forming with new & better tanks including American which was superior to ours (there were of course no American Troops.) The new army was to be commanded by General Auchinleck a very good General & named The 8TH Army, later in October 1942 to be famous under General Montgomery at El Alamein & after to chase the Germans out of Africa for ever. This new 8TH Army was to attack Rommel & Afrika Korps in what was to known as "Operation Crusader", for the first time we would meet the enemy on more equal terms. But as every tank etc., was needed for "Crusader" we in Tobruk had no chance of getting any replacements for tanks knocked out on our perimeter. The tank crews asked our Colonel if we could make an effort to get every tank in our workshop repaired & back on the perimeter in record time ready for Rommel's coming offensive

The Colonel called a meeting of his few officers, all us N.C. O'S., & the men who would work on the tanks etc., He said the only way we could speed up the repairs would be to work 24 hours a day this was impossible as we had no means of making a total black out of our workshops as most of the corrugated iron sheets of our walla were even blown away or twisted by bomb blast & full of shrapnel & bullet holes anyway so we had no chance of using lights at night, & could only work at first light say by 6.30 A.M. to dusk. There were no materials in Tobruk we could use to black out, no bricks, no cement, & I had pinched all the timber in this bomb happy town. The Colonel suggested we get our heads together & think, any ideas

to be taken to him at once, he also said if we could just black out part of the battered building it would help even big enough to take 2 or even 3 heavy tanks. In the bomb happy room in which we lived the wall which looked out into what must have once been a nice avenue had a huge hole where the window had been. Every night we blacked out our room covering the hole with thick Italian army blankets so we light our hurribane lamps have some Stuka Juice or chat, read a battered paper back to early bed time as we were always so tired. I slept against the wall opposite the hole, it must have been the night after the meeting about 2.A.M. when a cool breeze came in from the desert & I pulled my blanket up over my bare shoulder. Topper & Lofty told me I sat up & was shouting blankets, blankets,. I told them to cover the hole in the wall with our black out blankets & light the hurricane lamp as bright as possible which they did. I then said what you have just done is to completely black out this room, then why can't we do the same with part of the workshop. The Italians left us three things in Tobruk, a mountain of chicory which we were still using, a mountain of weavil infested flour still baked every day to enable each man one slice of bread daily at first we dug out the weavils which did not leave much bread but after a few days we ate the weavils in the bread & considered them a daily meat ration. The Italians also left bales & bales of third rate but thick Italian army blankets, we had enough in Tobruk for the British, German & Italian armies, we used these bales instead of sand bags as protection against shrapnel & the Power House & H.Q., were almost buried under them. Next morning picking up the Sadler Sergeant on the way I was off to tell the Colonel my ideas. Part of his office roof was missing but it did not worry him as it never seemed to rain in Tobruk, I told him my plan was to black out part of the workshop (he knew about the mass of blankets). First the saddlers would stitch six blankets together to make one huge blanket, a series of these would make the walls, the tops would have brass eyelets at intervals through which rope would be threaded & secured to the metal framework of the building & what was left of it.) the bottoms would be turned up & filled with sand & stitched to close, this weight would ensure the blankets remained taut & would not blow about in the wind or bomb blast. The problem was rope but Lofty

got all the super thin, white strong halyard rope from his friends in the Royal Navy they never forgot the number of spare parts Lofty had made for them with his magic touch on his lathe, once even getting a small ship back to sea. Now the roof, rope across at half metre intervals blankets on top & held down with more rope as necessary. I was damn sure it was all going to work. Now all we needed was a double black out door, this was made of course by the sadlers with blankets. So my idea was finished & now had to be tested, thinking back over 50 years I reckon it was dark between 6.30 & 7p.m. also I remember it was a moonless night, not a bombers choice but dead right for our test. We gave the Colonel the honour of switching on the lights at 7.p.m. our entire unit was there to see if it would be a success. It was pitch black when the Colonel entered the blackout area, at 7.p.m we shouted "Sir, you can switch on now" he replied "I did so 5 minutes ago". Well it was perfect, not a glimmer of light, I must admit the lights could be used by the night repairs crews were not at all bright only 40 or 60 watt globes in a metal cage for protection on the end of a long lead so they could carry their lights into any part of the tank where they were working, under the tank, in the engine, the main body or the turret, The Colonel decided the 24 hour shift would start right away, he made the shifts 6p-m to 2a-m, 2a.m. to 10a-m, & 10a-m - 6p-m, this would continue until every armoured vehicle was out of the workshop & back on the perimeter, the rest of us would work the normal 7.am to dark, so the shift workers had the lesser but awkward hours, in eight days the workshop was empty apart from a couple of battered 3 ton lorries. The timing was just right as Rommel started his mass attack on the 9th day, it lasted 4 days & on several occasions his tanks broke through the perimeter but were all knocked out & the crews killed or captured. We had no means of knowing of course that the Siege was in its last two months & this was Rommel's last big offensive. Our gallant opponent for so long was now a sick man & would soon return to Germany & hospital never to set foot in Africa again.. On recovery he was to command the Coastal Defenses on the English Channel in preparation for the anticipated Normandy Invasion. The Colonel awarded me a Field Promotion for my black-out idea from Lance Sgt. to Full Sgt. this was 18 months ahead of normal also a nice increase in pay which if we ever got back to civilization would mean more beer money .

GUGGY

