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 Bärffus 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.

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.

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 IME / 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 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.

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 lightening the public relations value of outstanding performances by individual athletes or sport teams. He added that feats such as achieved by Roger Federer and “Azinghi” reflect positively on...
Neue Lichtanlage


HG Bosch
Präsident der SPA der DSP

Editb 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

Edith Salamanca

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.

Die neue Lichtanlage

Continued overleaf...

Swiss Chamber of Commerce

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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 Fortcoming Events**

**JOHANNESBURG**

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, office: Debra Lanz, T/F 011 805 3039, C 082 651 6152, swissclubjh@whoswho.co.za, Swiss Country Club Restaurant «The Couriers», your host: Wolfgang Wallauz, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063, open Tue-Sat 11:21-23 Restaurant, 11-24 Bar, Sun 10-17. Our restaurant is operating again since 1st March. Our new Chef Wolfgang Wallauz would like to taste 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, Bocca, 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 6460

**PRETORIA**

Swiss Embassy 012 452 0660

Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch; President, T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Bifvy van Rooyen, Secretary, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com


Der Vorstand des Clubs setzt sich neu wie folgt zusammen: Präsident: Hans-Georg Bosch (swissclub.pta@hbosch.com); Vize Präsident: Gabor von Morics; Sekretärin: Bifvy van Rooyen (swissclub.pta@hbosch.com); Kassiererin: Lisa von Morics; Beisitzer: Marianne Scholtz; Lisa von Morics, Samantha Kappeler; Revisor: Pia Gallegos-Müller, Sonja Bosch.

Der Club würdigte die gewoge Versetzung in neue Länder ausgeschiedenen Vorstandsmitglied 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 Kegelabend beim Schweizerclub Johannesburg; Juni: Fondueabend (Ort und Datum wird später festgelegt); 1. August 1. Augustfeier; November: Year 2nd Function. Interessierte melden sich bitte beim Präsidenten oder bei der Sekretarin via E-Mail.

**CAPE TOWN**

Swiss Consulate General T 021 418 3665

Swiss Social and Sports Club, Nick Epenberger, Nicky Rodrigues T 072 218 5759, membership secretary email: epenberger@etkomma.net, www.swissclub.co.za

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 the members will be in attendance. For bookings please contact Shamila 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 NATAAL**

Hanspetter Graber, T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107, hansgu@saol.com

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 his 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 SCR: Jass remains a very popular activity in our club and the members meeting regularly every second Friday of each month at 1800 in the Westville Bowling Club Court near the 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: 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 0900, Obligatorisch und Feldschiessen and Obwaldner Sektions Stich (Subj, to Conf.) Program; Saturday 25 May, Full Day starting 0900, Einzelwettbewerb und St Galler - Auslandschweizer Fernschiessen Program; Saturday 27 Juni, Full Day starting 0900, Intertown und Nachschiessen Obligatorisch and Feldschiessen; Saturday 25 July, Full Day starting 0900, Last Chance for Einzelwettbewerben and Wurst Stich; Saturday 22 August 2009, Full Day starting 0900, Last Chance Obligatorisch and Feldschiessen and St Galler - Auslandschweizer Fernschiessen Program.

**SWISS CLUBS EASTERN CAPE**

Media: Helmut, Charles, 041 964 1008, Comm. member

Mark Krebsen C 082 328 1098, T 041 367 1422

**SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH**

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**IMPRESSUM**

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