

Federer's match for Africa

Tennis fans are in for a special treat when Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal hit the court for an exhibition showdown.

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The two archrivals will play the "Match for Africa" on December 21 at the Hallenstadion in Zurich. All proceeds will go towards the Roger Federer Foundation (RFF). The Roger Federer Foundation is a charitable grant-making foundation that supports projects in Africa – in particular those that benefit children. It is currently active in Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

IMBEWU in Port Elizabeth (meaning a "seed" in Xhosa language) is a non-profit, non-political and non-denominational NGO founded in 2001 through the encounter of people from South Africa and Switzerland. Its aim is to initiate and coordinate sustainable participative projects, working with local communities of the Eastern Cape Province to create conditions, which will enable children and youth from disadvantaged communities to envisage a future of equal opportunities and success.

The activities of IMBEWU-Suisse are currently benefiting more than 1'000 young South Africans, encouraging social empowerment and responsible citizenship through Educational, Health, Sports / Culture and Volunteerism Programmes.

Teachers for Zimbabwe

The project in Zimbabwe is called The English Teachers Association of Switzerland (ETAS) and has been running the Teacher-to-Teacher project since 2007. The project began with one primary school, Matopo Primary, and it is planned to expand it to five more primary schools and two secondary schools in the Matopo region within a time frame of five years, starting in 2010.

While Zimbabwe once boasted one of the best education systems in Africa, the current economic collapse and political unrest has driven many teachers away, leaving many schools closed or simply gathering places for unwillingly idle children. Thanks to ETAS, this has not been the case at Matopo Primary School. The Teacher-to-Teacher project at Matopo Primary began with the basics: uniforms for the neediest pupils, text books, materials and teacher training. The other schools in the region are also in desperate need of this kind of help.



Above: Federer supports projects in four African countries RFF

Below: Roger Federer visiting his African projects RFF



South African-Swiss Biotechnology Research and Venture Workshop

The Swiss Embassy in Pretoria, in partnership with the South African Department of Science and Technology's (DST) Technology and Innovation Agency (TIA), organized the South African-Swiss Biotechnology Research and Venture Workshop at DST's Innovation Hub from 1 to 3 September 2010.

The participatory hands-on event had following objectives: to identify the best biotechnology business plans to be presented to Swiss companies and institutions for uptake; to improve South African scientists' entrepreneurial skills; to strengthen the links and the co-operations between the Swiss and South African biotech institutions.

During the event the scientists (PhD's, Post-Docs and Key Opinion Leaders) were introduced to the key requirements that are needed to launch successful biotech start-up companies (strategy, business models, financing, IP, business plan, business pitch and fact sheet, etc.). The scientists also presented their business plans to the Swiss trainers/coordinators for review. In a second phase,

the best business plans will be selected and submitted for review to Swiss companies and institutions during a 5 day training and business development program in Switzerland (in Spring 2011) in order to establish a venture for potential biotech start-ups.

The workshop, which was sponsored by Pharmaco and Novartis South Africa and facilitated by the Institut für Jungunternehmen (a Swiss institute that supports young start up companies), was moderated by Mr. Daniel Leutenegger (CEO, Stemergie) and by Ms. Camille Therre. It should be seen as the first step towards a concrete and project-driven collaboration between South Africa and Switzerland in the area of Science and Technology. The event was a success as the number of participants exceeded expectations and the feed-back from all the parties involved were very positive.

New diplomatic trainee at the Swiss Embassy in Pretoria: Rubik Sommerhalder

Born in Carona (TI) and the son of an American mother and a Swiss father, Mr. Sommerhalder concluded all mandatory education and

continued overleaf/...

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New diplomatic trainee (cont'd)

high school in Ticino (Swiss Italian-speaking Region). From 1997 to 2003 he attended the ETH-Zurich to study agronomy. During his studies at the ETH he spent a semester in Valencia (Spain) and did his internship at the CIP (Centro Internacional de la Papa) in Lima (Perù). In 2004 he started his PhD at the Institute for Integrative Biology (IBZ) at the ETH-Zurich, studying the evolutionary potential of *S. nodoum*, a fungal plant pathogen that affects wheat, and conducting several workshops in Azerbaijan, Iran and Morocco. During this period, he also attended law school for two years at the University of Zurich. After obtaining his PhD in 2008, he joined the industry, first as a recruitment consultant in the field of healthcare and life sciences, and as product manager for a global player thereafter. In November 2009, Mr. Sommerhalder successfully passed the Swiss diplomatic career exam and, in July 2010, he started his 9-months training period at the Swiss Embassy in Pretoria. From 1998 to 2010, he was a member of his hometown's legislative.

The personal interests and hobbies of Mr. Sommerhalder include travelling, politics, sports (triathlons), bird watching and spending time with friends.

ASO: New voting system on the table

Report from the 88th Auslandschweizerrat, held in St. Gallen from 20-22 August 2010.

The President Jacques-Simon Eggly opened the congress and informed that two topics will be discussed. First, the creation of a new law in the constitution regarding the Swiss abroad. Second, the direct voting of your representative to the ASO Rat.

For the first item a committee has been formed to evaluate the way and means to improve the Swiss abroad concerns in our parliament.

I will inform you when more details are available.

For the second item, what is planned? The central committee would like to change the existing voting via the Swiss clubs to a voting where only Swiss citizens registered at the consulate for voting purpose, can participate. In other words, you will not anymore go to your local Swiss Club. Instead you nominate a candidate of your choice, if he gets a certain percentage, his/her vote can get forwarded to the final pot. Then only the registered can vote for his/her candidate.

Also this new voting model is investigated and it would be of interest what YOU think about it. You can reach me on my email address. I'm also happy to discuss this matter with you at your local Swiss Club.

Thank you all, your Delegates Rolf B. Schudel rolfbschudel@rolfbschudel.ch and Peter Müller sargo@bluewin.ch

Swiss backing of SA energy efficiency

South Africa and Switzerland have signed an agreement that will see the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation funding a R120-million energy efficiency programme in the country.

The programme will contribute towards the government's Energy Efficiency Monitoring and Implementation project, which will run from 2010 to 2014 and involve collaboration between national and local government, research institutions and the private sector.

Energy Minister Dipuo Peters said the governments of South Africa and Switzerland recognised climate change as a serious threat to development.

Peters said that various climate change reduction options had been assessed, and that energy efficiency had been found to be one of

the most cost-effective mitigation options for South Africa.

New buildings have to be energy efficient

The agreement, she said, would help the government achieve energy efficiency in South Africa's buildings.

"As a department we are of the view that, improving energy efficiency in the building sector requires an expanded capacity at many levels.

"Of equal importance to us is the need to ensure that new constructions and retrofitting of existing houses and buildings comply with building codes and standards that incorporate best practice for energy efficiency and green design."

The municipalities of Sol Plaatje, Rustenburg, Polokwane, Mbombela and King Sabata Dalindyebo have been earmarked for capacity building and implementation of the first phase of this project at local government level.

This will be done under the auspices of South African Local Government Association at a cost of R13-million.

The project also aims to improve the way in which the municipalities collect and compile their electricity sales data and monitor electricity consumption.



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SWISS CLUB INFO AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest.,
11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h
Website: Dining out
"The Courier", conference
facilities.

Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge,
Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia,
Skittling Club. 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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The Weihnachtsfeier will be held
at the Church hall of the
Johannesgemeinde on 27th
November.

CAPE TOWN

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& Sports Club, Nick Eppenberger,
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www.swissclub.co.za

Sepp Wolf comes to South Africa
every few Years with a Swiss
Folklore Group
and the Swiss Choir organizes a
Concert together with them in
Cape Town.
At the same Venue we also
entertain all the over 70's for an
afternoon Tea.

Saturday 20th November Swiss
Choir - Over 70's Tea Party for all
Swiss,
13.30 to 16.30 at Rondebosch
Sports Club (formerly Rygersdal)
19.00 CONCERT & Braai with Sepp
Wolf and his Swiss Folklore
Group.
- Booking essential before 15th
November ! alinder@iburst.co.za
or Peter & Alfred Hostettler - 021
558 8025. For further details
visit our website
www.swissclub.co.za

SWISS CLUB NATAL

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JASS EVENINGS: Westville
Bowling Club House near the old
Westville Civic Centre, William
Lester Rd off Buckingham
Terrace 8/10, 12/11,
10/12/2010 (Price Jassen).
TARGET SHOOTING PRACTICE:
Dave Nicol Shooting Range,
Nottingham Rd/KZN Midrand:
23/10, 27/11. Green Bowling:
17/10/2010. Weekend at
Coleford near Underberg in the
Drakensberg: 5/11 - 7/11/2010.
Years end Braai: 5/12/2010

SWISS CLUBS EASTERN CAPE

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Our National Day celebration was
a truly helvetic event, even so,

some of the 24 participants have
never been in Switzerland.
The scenery on the Thompson's
African organic farm was the
closest one can get to the
atmosphere of an authentic
Schweizer Bauernhof and
Kaeserei. Nipper Thompson took
us on a tour through the cheese
factory. Later we walked on the
farm past the Saanen goat sheds,
the stables and to the free
roaming pig pens.
It was a first for many, to feel hot
water from a compost heap, one
old but modern invention of
making use of the heat
generated from the production of
good organic compost.

After a glass of wine at the
homestead we listened to the
most informative and interesting
talk by Prof. Louis Changuion, an
historian and resident of
Haenertsburg.

He spoke about the history of
the region, the first settlers, gold
diggers and boerwar soldiers and
about the influence and
hardship of the Swiss missionaries
of the lowveld.

It was soon time for sundowners
and the preparation of the
fondues. The surprise and shock
for most men was that they had
to prepare the fondues. Armed
with a printed recipe of a
Neuenburger Fondue they all left
for the farm kitchen and all the
men got into action. There were a
few critical moments when some
of the fondues looked like cheese
soup. But eventually all fondues
tasted fabulous.

We listened to our President's
message followed by jodel music
and more Kirschwasser. The
mood was great. Now was the
best time to go around with the
badges. All Swiss and nearly all
Friends of Switzerland purchased
a badge or two and we collected
R500 for the restoration of the
Panorama of Murten.
We closed the unforgettable day
with a bonfire under a starry but
freezing sky.

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Provisorisches Jahresprogramm:
Oktober: Farmausflug: 20.
November: Jahresabschluss;
Dezember: Sonntagstreff mit
Grüttibaenze

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PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL

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2011 ISSUES:

- 1/2011: deadline 22 Nov 2010,
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- 2/2011: deadline 14 Feb 2011,
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- 3/2011: deadline 2 May 2011,
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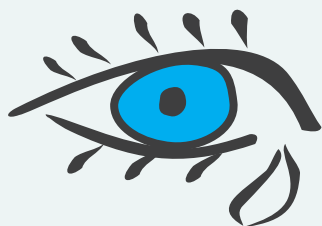
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