

History of the Swiss Club, Cape Town

The club was founded 30 May 1923 with about 33 members. It was purely a social club which met at restaurants or hotels managed by Swiss, or for Sunday picnics. After the arrival of a large number of young Swiss in 1932, choir, football and tennis sections, followed 1949 by the Swiss Rifle Club, were formed.

During the South African boom years after World War II, membership soared. An application was submitted to the City Council in 1963 for a piece of land on which a clubhouse might be erected. This was granted in principle, provided the Swiss Club transformed itself to meet the description as a sports club. This was achieved in 1971 when the Swiss Social and Sports Club was formed, incorporating the Swiss Tennis Club and the Swiss Football Club, whose members henceforth also had to become paid-up members of the mother club. The Swiss Rifle Club remained independent, because it is subsidised by the Swiss Federal Government and for this reason had to remain accessible to those Swiss who did not wish to become members of the mother club. On 4 October 1975 the clubhouse, football field and tennis courts were officially opened. In 1977 the bar was added to the Clubhouse. At this time Club membership was over 600.

Today the Club has just over 300 members, and accommodates a male choir, bicycle club and tennis club. Activities include Jassen, Frauentreffen, Golf, and social evenings. The Swiss Rifle Club remains an associated club. For the FIFA WC 2010 a major football stadium was built on the Green Point Common. As a result of these circumstances the Swiss Club house was demolished and received a new building nearby which was handed over just before the Fifa World Cup 2010.

The Swiss Social and Sports Club owns 4,4 hectares of idyllic woodlands on the banks of the Jonkershoek River near Stellenbosch. It was donated to the Swiss Club for use as a camping and picnic site by Brigadier G.C.G. Werdmuller, a fifth generation descendant of a Swiss immigrant. The facilities include two chalets, an ablution block and a roofed braai area.

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