



ANGLO-SWISS NEWS

www.angloswissclubs.ch

MAY 2005

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF ANGLO-SWISS CLUBS – FASC

FASC Council meeting in Berne

What does your club president actually get up to when she or he disappears off to a FASC meeting in Berne or some other city twice a year? It's not just for fun (though it is usually an enjoyable occasion too), but provides a forum for club leaders to discuss future events, swap ideas and generally help each other to achieve FASC's aims of getting people together.

The traditional spring council meeting was held as usual in Berne with clubs converging from all over Switzerland. Unfortunately Laurent Belet, FASC president, and his wife Nathalie couldn't make it as they'd been delayed in New York and missed



After the business meeting, FASC presidents enjoyed a guided tour round Berne with Jenny Haller (second from the right), who is a professional guide.



The Maisie Bienz Cup for the club that has done most to further the aims of FASC was awarded this year to ASC of Geneva. The cup was presented to its president, Peter Slessor, by VP Fiona Hadfield-Hart.

their flight home. This meant Fiona Hadfield-Hart as vice president had to stand in for him at the last moment.

Fiona said we had more FASC meetings than ever last year, with the ski weekend at Leysin in January, the summer weekend at Leukerbad in June, and the golf tournament at Solothurn and the Piedmont weekend. This year's summer weekend will be in Locarno on June 10-12.

There was a lively discussion on the Anglo-Swiss News, which needs more advertisers to cover costs. Members will continue to receive it twice a year, but from now on it will be published in March and September instead of May and November. It will also be available as a pdf file on the FASC website.

CONTENTS

FASC Council meeting Berne	1
Editorial	2
A long memory: Norma Stephenson	2
Switzerland in Sound	3
A Romantic Thriller set in Lucerne	3
News from the British Embassy	4
Motor Show in Geneva	4
Whistle stop tour to Scotland	5
News from the Clubs	6/7
Forthcoming events	8
Letter to the Editor	8
Who's who, Obituary	8
Lectures, Recipe corner	9
Book reviews	10
Useful addresses	10/11
Prize cryptic crossword	11
List of Clubs	12

Editorial

"Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is." This ungrammatical little verse certainly doesn't convey what's been happening in our garden during the last few months. We've had hundreds of birds feeding gratefully at our bird table when it was so cold and snowy, and now that spring has at last come, there's another lot busy building nests and doing whatever else is necessary to produce the next generation (despite the local cats).

Following the general trend of growth and renewal, we at FASC are also busily preparing for a new season. The summer weekend at Locarno promises to be a real hit – I don't know how many people have said to me, "Oh good, I love Ticino – I'll come this time." And the other FASC events are better spaced out with the golf tournament in August and the Piedmont weekend in October (so you get a chance to recover from the one before enjoying the next...). Incidentally, an event worth noting is a performance of "King Lear" by TNT Theatre at Lenzburg Castle, on June 13/14. I saw this group perform "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller in Basel earlier this year with the minimum of scenery, and they were brilliant.

But to get back to the theme of renewal. Every so often over the last 30 years, someone has brought up the idea of updating our logo so that it gives a more accurate reflection of what FASC stands for. In the old days, before globalisation, the Anglo-Swiss name and logo described exactly what we were. Now, with more and more English-speaking peoples of other nationalities coming in, the suggestion has been put forward once again. You will find the first Letter to the Editor on this subject on page 8. Is the time right for a change – or not? I can foresee a lively discussion!

A long memory: Norma Stephenson

People who think they've been in Switzerland a long time should talk to Norma Stephenson – she arrived here in August 1949 and is still enjoying life in Basel. Older FASC members will remember her husband Dennis Stephenson, FASC president for 15 years in the 1970/80s, who died twelve years ago. Their first introduction to FASC was three months after Norma arrived, at a council meeting in Zürich, when Dennis became editor of the Anglo-Swiss Times, as it was in those days. "One of his jobs was to review books supplied by the British Council, who were very important in those days," Norma remembers. "The publisher of the magazine was Oscar Leu, a very tubby man, very jolly, and the most beautiful dancer you could possibly imagine."

Everyone was on formal terms: "The whole federation was very formal. When we had lunch at the Bellevue in Berne at FASC council meetings, the Ambassador always attended. I remember when Dennis became FASC president and hosted his first lunch, I was very nervous. Then the Ambassador's wife came in trying to manage a fur stole, a glass and a cigarette, and said, Mrs Stephenson, this is my first party as the Ambassador's wife, and I'm so nervous. We became good friends after that!"

Norma also enjoyed the annual FASC weekend, known as Congress, and the beautiful hotels they stayed in – the Park Hotel at Vitznau, the Palace at Gstaad. She also remembers a football tournament in Biel, when Dennis and their two sons played; "The boys were



having kittens, because Dennis, as a rugger man, kept tackling the man instead of the ball!"

Dennis, a gifted translator and speaker, came to Basel to help set up the English Institute, which he eventually took over. As it grew, Norma helped him with proof-reading, and also did English film commentaries at studios in Zürich and Basel. She taught English conversation for 19 years at the MNG, Basel's maths gymnasium, and still has contact with former pupils. She has two sons, Jeremy, Basel's chief criminal court judge, and Nigel, an ethnologist turned translator, and a grand-daughter who works in an architect's office.

Norma is very active: apart from being addicted to reading, she goes to gym and folk dancing classes and likes to go walking. She's a friend of the Kleine Klingenthal Museum and helps at the monthly senior citizens' afternoon. She still attends the art class she joined many years ago, and keeps up with a host of friends all over Switzerland. And she's a keen supporter of the FCB, Basel's successful football club, and Davos ice-hockey club.



Only a company with offices worldwide can make a transition easier by offering staff to help at both ends of a move.

- preview and orientation tours
- home and school search
- immigration assistance
- ongoing expatriate support
- household shipment, storage and transit protection

Contact at Crown Relocations at
tel: +41.21.621.7000 fax: +41.21.621.7011
email: lausanne@crowrelo.com
www.crowrelo.com

Helping you begin life's next chapter.

Switzerland in Sound

When Switzerland Radio International (SRI) went off the air, Bob Zanotti rapidly decided he'd set up something to replace it: Switzerland in Sound (SIS), "the only source of English-language reporting about Switzerland in Switzerland", as he puts it – except instead of on being short-wave radio, it's on the internet – effectively, radio on demand.

"It took six months and was a monumental job," say Bob, who comes from New Jersey and came here 34 years ago to marry a girl from Berne. He took his first trip to this country in 1964 and fell in love with it. He feels very much at home in the whole area of Switzerland, Tirol and north Italy, possibly because his grandfather came from Tirol.

Bob has been a radio man all his life and has always been fascinated with international broadcasting. In his early days at SRI, where he worked for 32 years, he had a wonderful time. "It was a small group of six or seven people," he recalls, "and I was the only American. We saw everything, knew everybody, and got quite a reputation. We repeatedly came out among the world's top five with the BBC World Service. Then three years ago everything went on to text-based internet, and the short-wave service closed down." He took early re-



irement, but then started his own project. He launched Switzerland in Sound on August 1, 2004, and runs it entirely by himself, basically doing exactly what he was doing before but as his own boss.

The service offered a wide range of features, the most popular of which are destinations in Switzerland, but also politics and personalities. Bob is a professional through and through and wants to keep the standard at a very high level. The accent is on radio reporting. And the SIS carries his personal style. Bob early gained a name for his enthusiastic manner when doing interviews: "I get totally involved and the enthusiasm comes through."

Bob has done a great many interviews with eminent people in his professional life, including the Dalai Lama,

Yehudi Menuhin, Peter Ustinov and so on. The one he's most proud of in the recent past is Erich van Däniken. "He's very hard to get, as he doesn't do interviews with anyone he doesn't respect – he doesn't give many interviews at all. But he was very cordial and we had a lot of fun. When we switched the mike off, he turned to me and said, you're a real pro. That was a big compliment!"

Bob has four daughters and a five-year old grand-son – "the son I never had" – who's crazy about trains. Besides the SIS as his professional activity, he enjoys amateur radio, being with his family and hiking.

www.switzerlandinsound.com



A stream ripples down the valley near Leukerbad.

On the Verge

Paul DaSilva's romantic thriller set in Lucerne, "Love on the Verge", is the first in a trilogy set in various Swiss cities. "Love on the Verge 2", featuring Interlaken, is being published this month (April 2005), and Paul is already doing research for the third book during a series of promotion tours he's making in Switzerland, sponsored by Swiss Tourism.

Why Switzerland? Well, he fell in love with Switzerland in 1968 on a back-packing trip – though possibly the fact that his paternal grandmother was Swiss might have helped. As a drummer and percussionist in a rockband, he even joined a band in Zürich for a short time. "Lucerne is one of my favourite cities," he said.

His writing career started with writing songs for various bands. So far he



has had three books published in paperback and two e-books. Paul has lots of stories. He's done a lot of travelling and has had quite a chequered career from the sound of it. He's worked as an English teacher in China, travelled on the Trans-Siberian Railway and crossed the

Gobi desert four times. He's travelled the Middle East, India, China, and Nepal, where he visited tea plantations and went mountaineering.

He met the Dalai Lama on the road and listened to one of his speeches, and joined a folk festival in his honour afterwards: "It was very satisfying to meet him, and so memorable – but a bit frightening as well." If he possibly can, Paul prefers to travel any time by train, or ship if necessary; he'll only fly if he has to.

Paul is obviously over the moon that his Swiss trilogy has been taken up by Swiss Tourism, who appreciate his careful attention to detail in describing Swiss locations. He is planning another tour in September or October this year, hopefully also visiting FASC clubs, so watch this space.

"Love on the Verge"

Paul DaSilva

ISBN 1-84199-083-3

Muck and money

Roy Osborne took over from David Roberts at the beginning of February as director of Trade and Investment at the British Embassy in Berne. Roy explained that the UK Trade and Investment team in Switzerland has two main objectives: to promote British exports to Switzerland, especially by small and medium companies which are new to the Swiss market, and to encourage further investment by Swiss companies in the UK. He pointed out that Switzerland is already an important market for British firms, with trade in goods and services running to several billions of pounds annually. Switzerland is also among the top investors in the UK, mainly thanks to companies which are household names in Switzerland such as Nestle, Swiss Re, Zürich Life and Novartis. Together, Swiss firms employ around 100,000 staff in UK.

Roy has spent his career in the Diplomatic Service, so his new responsi-



The photonics workshop, with HM Ambassador Simon Featherstone in front (with red tie) and Roy Osborne (with grey hair) behind him to the right.

bility for trade and investment has meant embarking on a steep learning curve. In his first week he gave a short speech in German to inaugurate a British week at a garden centre outside Berne. Then he attended a two-day workshop, organised by the Embassy, to bring together British and Swiss experts in photonics (luckily no-one asked him to explain what photonics is all about).

Only 24 hours later he was at another Embassy-organised event; a two-day waste management and re-cycling seminar in Zürich. Here he was at least on familiar ground, joking that his wife has always accused him of talking a load of rubbish. But there is a serious side to this, as Swiss expertise and technology is badly needed to help address the UK's growing problem of waste disposal. And, as the saying goes, where there's muck there's brass. Shortly after the seminar on waste the Embassy organised a visit to Cambridge and Manchester by Swiss cancer experts, as well as a visit to Basel by member companies of Farnborough Aerospace Consortium for presentations to Jet Aviation and Swiss International Air Lines.

Roy supervises ten staff at the Embassy. His first weeks in Berne have been spent familiarising himself with his surroundings (very different from his last overseas posting in Managua, Nicaragua, working against a background of tropical forests, volcanoes and earth tremors), getting to know colleagues and making contact with as wide a range of people as possible.

Motor Show Geneva

Your President braved the freezing cold of Geneva to bring you this report on the Motor Show. What I do for you clubs knows no bounds!

Monday was the launch of the new Aston Martin V8 Vantage. A two-seater aimed firmly at the Porsche market. Forget family car, economy or family holiday, think only of packing in golf clubs and a weekend bag and roaring off to the South of France with the missis (or mistress?) for a whale of a time.

Tuesday morning was first press day and the press were there in full force. Model after model was adorned with er, model after model. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Each model was more beautiful than the previous one (and I'm not talking cars here) which resulted in my being assaulted by my dear wife for ogling.

Now I could bore you all with the specs of the new Renaults, Toyotas and Fords and say what wonderful cars they are – but I won't. Because you will know I'm lying, and anyway I'm sure like me you want to be excited by the unobtainable, you want to know what we dream about owning, so here goes.

Bentley showed their new Arnage Drophead Coupe. Nathalie quickly renamed that Drop Dead Gorgeous. The style, elegance and the way they have blended designs of the past into such a powerful beast is truly magnificent. If you get the chance have a look at it, you will be amazed.

Rolls Royce was impressive with its new 2005 Phantom, 6.08m long, just right for a shopping trip with the kids to the supermarket – but reserve three parking places! Lamborghini was pure Lamborghini. Aggressive, angry, seductive, wow, but a little too flash for me. And talking of flash, how about the new

Spyker C8 Double 12S? This car must be seen to be believed, fiery passion with mind-blowing acceleration and luxury wrapped in an art deco package.

Finally the Aston Martin stand. Ohhhhhhh. The DB9 Volante. I fell in love again. The engine, styling and craftsmanship. Those butterflies in the stomach when you meet someone for the first time – and the first thoughts of infidelity enter the mind. Shall I, shan't I, is there a hint of betrayal in the air??? What should I do? Well, members, you will have to wait to see if I succumbed to temptation!

Best wishes to all, Laurent Belet



The Aston Martin DB9 Volante.

Whistle stop tour to Scotland



Eilean Donan Castle, near Kyle of Lochalsh.

Most people start looking at the low-cost airlines if they're planning a wee trip to Scotland. But there is another way: high-speed train. You can take the Lyria to Paris from Zürich, Bern and Neuchâtel, or the Méditerranée from Geneva. From 2007, you'll be able to get from Basel to London in as little as six hours, once the new TGV to Paris is running and the famous Eurostar can run into St Pancras on the new high-speed track.

Eurostar is an experience in itself. It travels at impressive speed, up to 320 kph. You leave from Paris Gare du Nord where you have to check in half an hour before departure. The first-class lounge is superb, offering a full range of snacks and drinks, plugs for recharging phones, comfy wing armchairs and so on.

In London, you can visit the Transport Museum at Covent Garden. This is a wonderful place, full of ancient omnibuses and horse-drawn trams, some equipped with "granny-catchers" to stop people from getting run over. But if you don't go before August you'll have to wait another couple of years as it's closing for expansion and renovation.

Then get the fast train to York to visit the National Railway Museum. It's absolutely huge. If you're lucky you might get a ride on a replica of Stephenson's Rocket as well. And it's free of charge. If you've time, visit the restaurant at St William's College, opposite York Minster, which is housed in a beautiful old half-timbered building

round a courtyard. For a guided tour round York with a difference, you could book the Ghost Detective – guaranteed to frighten you into fits with gruesome tales from the past.

On to Scotland, by fast train to Aberdeen. The scenery on this route, over the Firth of Forth and round the bay, is really lovely. Aberdeen is called the Granite City, and only really sparkles when the sun's shining. Simpson's Hotel is a superb place to stay, decorated in shades of terra cotta and aquamarine, giving a very warm feeling. You can feel the oil money in the air – it's obviously a prosperous place from being a supply base for North Sea oil.

Over the sea to Skye

From here we made a detour to Keith (place of the wind) to travel on a small private railway, the Keith & Dufftown Railway, and visit the Strathisla distillery, owned by Chivas Regal and said to be the prettiest in the country. The train to Kyle of Lochalsh wends its way through beautiful highland scenery, with moors and glens and lochs and heather and gorse. Then over the road bridge to Skye, always lovely even in wet weather. You can take afternoon tea – and perhaps a wee dram of Talisker, the Skye whisky – at Sligachan, a country hotel just below the Cuillins, which has been a favourite place for walkers and climbers for many years.

There are lots of places to stay on Skye, but a new one well worth trying

promises something really special at affordable prices – Toravaig House Hotel near Armadale. It has a fireplace, a top-class cook and a tiny bar with a full range of famous single malt whiskies.

After that you can take the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry to Mallaig, then the train to Fort William and Glasgow. The single-track line was built in 1901 and gives lovely views over white coastal sands and picturesque bays. A steam train runs on Saturdays between May and September. Just before Fort William it crosses the Caledonian Canal which has a cascade of locks at that point, and if you're lucky there's a wonderful view of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Scotland. The line continues across the highlands stopping at stations which are apparently right in the middle of nowhere. The journey takes just over five hours through some of Scotland's most beautiful scenery, and there's a mini-bar on most of the route.

Glasgow was named the UK city of Architecture not so long ago, and it's true, the architecture is quite something, with art deco cheek by jowl with modern blocks that give the entire city a very lively air. You can quench your thirst in one of the many pubs, e.g. the Horseshoe which has a very long bar in that shape. A convenient way of getting back to London is to take the sleeper to Euston, which I found surprisingly smooth and quiet, and which also has a comfortable restaurant car.

And if you think that's rather a lot of train travel, well, you can always pick out the bits you find most interesting... the choice is yours!



The replica Rocket

News from the clubs

ASCOG: a dining club?

The Anglo-Swiss Club of Geneva is changing its identity from being a forum pro-

moting friendly, cultural and social relations between the Commonwealth and the Swiss into something that is largely a dining club. Well, this is just as good a milieu for promoting the ideals and



Lunch party in the French Jura above Divonne last summer.

objectives of FASC as visits to museums or listening to speakers, and if that is what members want, then that's the way ASCOG will go. These words by president Peter Slessor at the AGM in February 2005 were borne out by the figures, with social events like the summer lunch party in the French Jura above Divonne last summer proving very popular indeed. There was also the traditional Christmas dinner with turkey stuffed by the president himself and cooked by Manuel at the "Ariana", with all the trimmings, a fantastic new year cocktail party chez Andrea Smith, and a fondue fun cruise on the lake in February. The club membership remains healthy at about 100, mainly because of internet contacts but also by word of mouth.

PS

Calendar Girls in Fribourg

Just recently we tried something new: a film evening. We borrowed a beamer and some loudspeakers and watched the DVD of "Calendar Girls". We thought this was an ideal start as it gives an insight into that great British institution, the Women's Institute. The (largely northern) accents were amusing and pleasant for the true Brits, though some of the non-English members has some problems, not just with the accents but also all the witticisms (e.g. "Who's for fish and chips"). There were even choc-ices in the interval distributed by the president (not wearing a mini-skirt, however!).

RMC

IWC Lugano and Mah-Jong

A new lady joined the International Women's Club Lugano some months ago and she immediately proposed a new activity, Mah-Jong. The modern game of Mah-Jong evolved from the Chinese form and has been adapted to various cultures.

There are 144 tiles, divided into 3 suits: bamboo, circles and characters, 4 winds, red, green and white dragons, 4 seasons and 4 flowers.

A square wall is built and then opened according to traditional rules. The 4 players get 13 tiles each and in the course of the game will acquire more tiles against discarding an identical number. The aim is to compose a certain combination of tiles that allows you to go Mah-Jong. You must memorize the discards made by the players and estimate the probability of successful-

ly composing "special" hands. Players approaching a Mah-Jong hand must announce this and from that moment on, the others must focus on defence. In Lugano we are fortunate to have an enthusiastic Mah-Jong player for a teacher. A small group of our women have become

fascinated by the game. And on our picture you see all our happy ladies at a Mah-Jong session. The only one who looks very solemn, and she may well be, has just won by putting together an Imperial jade hand, an event as rare as winning a multi-million dollar jackpot.



Petronella has been editor of the IWCL Newsletter for over ten years and to pay her a tribute at our meeting in April some 80 ladies gathered for coffee and tea.

ODE TO PETRONELLA

By Phyllis Serrianni

*Hear ye hear everyone
This April meeting shall be fun
We gather to honour a special dame
Petronella of Newsletter fame
For ten years she wrote our news
Always up..... never blues
However she did remind us to remember
Our P's and Q's
She was born in Holland
But did not stay
To travel and learn
Languages was her forte
Her English is fit for a Queen
She uses words seldom seen
From Oxymoron to Serendipity
See what I mean?
When she finished her career
We are so lucky she settled here
In Montagnola with her pets
She says it's as good as it gets
As our leader she did shine
With monthly meetings
And outings fine
And she was always on time
We'll miss your humour and advice
Always correct always nice
We hope that you will continue to be
An important part of the IWC.*



ASC Basle goes Swiss

The Anglo-Swiss Club Basle decided to pay tribute to the Swiss part of its character in March with a genuine Swiss party at the Fürstenhof in Ettingen. Masterminded by Army and Flicky, it was a tremendous success, with almost everyone turning up in some sort of Swiss dress or "Tracht". Claude and friends were in charge of the raclettes, and live music and entertainment was supplied by Heinz, who played excellent music and had us all in stitches with his imitations of farm animals. After a super meal everybody joined in singing traditional Swiss songs, with yodelling by Sylvia and friends. Then there was dancing – and every single person joined

the conga line through the kitchen!

A few weeks later Army and Flicky organised another very interesting evening with an illustrated talk on the Baltics, where they went on holiday last year. This was held in the bookshop of Bider & Tanner, our sponsors, who generously offered an aperitif afterwards.

ASC Basle has a president again, Claude Böhler. He has been running the club for the last couple of years with the able help of secretary Marc Leuenberger and membership secretary Regi Jost, now vice-president. Howard Green, president for 30 years and committee member ad interim, has now gratefully retired. AG

ASC St. Gallen

We began our year when a group of us braved the cold and snow to walk up to Waldegg. It was well worth the effort as the restaurant welcomed us with open arms and we could soon warm up with hot chocolate and a good chat.

In February it was time for our general meeting, with a good turnout. The business part was soon dealt with and it was interesting to hear about last year's events and look at the many photos John so kindly beamed for us. The rest of the evening was spent, as it should be, eating, drinking and chatting.

Anton Marti, accompanied by his charming wife,

visited us in March. Once again we had a very good turn out with 36 people, all eager to listen to the lecture. Anton's talk on the International Red Cross and his experiences as a delegate was extremely informative and he was very patient with answering the many questions.

In the next few months we are offering a something-for-everyone programme with lots of different events. In April we will once again have a fun evening playing bingo in the Restaurant Du-four. May begins with a visit to Tele Ostschweiz and ends with a horse and wagon excursion through the spring meadows of Thurgau. In June we are holding a fun quiz evening, where members may also bring along

Robbie Burns in Baden-Brugg

Following a tradition of more than 25 years, the ESC Baden/Brugg held its annual Scottish Evening on Saturday January 29, in Gebensdorf. As usual, the evening consisted mainly of Scottish dancing, with the emphasis on enabling everyone to take an active part, experienced or not. Dancing was led by Chris Harris, a qualified instructor with a honed ability to patiently guide first-timers (or those with either two left feet or short memories from previous years) to rapid success!

The other part of the evening was devoted to the famous Scots poet Robert (Robbie) Burns, in the form of a talk showing strong links between Burns' homeland and Switzerland, given by Dr Charles MacCombie, a native of Aderdeen and a Swiss resident for over 30 years. He is well qualified to draw this comparison aptly and with a humour that Burns himself would have greatly appreciated. As is al-

so traditional, there was a meal of haggis, tatties and neeps (i.e. an old Scottish lamb dish, potatoes, and turnips), with the haggis brought in to the accompaniment of the Bagpipes, played by a (Swiss) piper from Chur. The haggis was then warmly toasted with a "wee dram" of whisky by the 70 enthusiasts present!



Piping the haggis in.

their books to exchange with other members.

June will also see us at the Federation weekend in Locarno, followed at the end of June with a walk along the Barfussweg in Gonton, Appenzellerland.

We now hold a regular informal meeting on the last

Wednesday of the month from 7.30 pm, in the Pickwick Pub St. Gallen. Though the pub will soon change its name, we have been assured that the ambience will stay the same.

Contact Eileen on
071 311 27 82 or
eileen-robert@bluewin.ch



Walk in the snow to Waldegg.

Forthcoming events



The vineyards of Piedmont beckon.

Preparations are in full swing for our forthcoming **Summer Weekend** in Locarno. It will be held on June 10–12 (Friday to Sunday), but as there is a public holiday in Ticino on the Thursday some people may want to go earlier. All are invited to join in for the fun. On offer will be a wine tasting by the famous Guido Brivio, a boat trip, a cocktail and gala dinner and all the usual sports. On Sunday a Full English Breakfast will be served, during which the sports trophies will be presented. For reservations contact your club president as soon as possible.

The third FASC **Golf Tournament** is being organised again by Rinaldo Wolf of ASC Solothurn at the same golf course as before, the Limpachtal. The date will be Saturday, August 13. The

course has now been expanded to 18 holes, and has the only par 6 in Switzerland. The green and tournament fee for golfers is Sfr. 110, and the meal afterwards Sfr. 20. Rinaldo hopes golfers and non-golfers alike will turn up to make a weekend of it in Solothurn – which, as he points out, is a very attractive town and well worth visiting. Please register with Rinaldo by July 29, 032/622 20 71 or wolfies@bluewin.ch. There is no limit on numbers, either for the party or the tournament.

Also in the pipeline is the **Piedmont weekend**, be held in Alba on October 21–23. This proved so popular and so enjoyable last year that we're doing it again, again hiring a coach but this time visiting different vineyards and different areas. We're promised that there

won't be so many gargantuan meals, and the hotel has already been reserved. Your club presidents will soon receive the first draft of the programme with the details of the deadlines

Lecture tours

Hampy U. Halter from EC Toggenburg is still prepared to offer his lecture on the history of transport in Switzerland and the UK. So far only a few clubs have taken advantage of his generous offer, but you can read all about it on the page opposite.

Our next tour is being given by **Don Walsh**, a well-known oceanographer who has spent the last ten years working as a naturalist, lecturer and staff member on special expedition ships. He is a retired US Navy captain and former submarine commander, and travels frequently to Antarctica. He also has connections with Switzerland, with the Piccard family, Rolex and Sulser. He'll be offering two titles: "To the Far Depths: A Personal Odyssey", and "The Antarctic: Exploring the Last Known Continent". Dates: 23 May to 4 June 2005.

In autumn, on November 1–11, we hope to be able to welcome the cartoonist **Loon** from Scotland. He is famous for his hunting caricatures (I've seen them, they're hilarious), and he also does caricatures of Royal family.

Letter to the Editor

It appears from the latest FASC Executive Council meeting that there may be a suggestion to change the FASC logo in order to accommodate certain club members who do not fit the categories Swiss, British or Commonwealth. If this is so, it would be necessary to change the title of FASC as well. I should like to state that I personally am opposed to either move. People who join a FASC club do so because that is what they elect to join. They cannot subsequently try to change the title, and no doubt the stated aims and objectives (which are its *raison d'être*) of the club, simply to suit themselves, and presumably because they cannot vote at various club and FASC assemblies. Apart from anything else, the patron of FASC is H.M. Ambassador to Switzerland, which embraces most of the non-Swiss membership anyway.

I remain etc.

Peter J.H. Slessor
President ASCOG

Who's who

Claude Böhler was elected as president of the Anglo-Swiss Club Basle at its most recent AGM, having served as treasurer for several years. An enthusiastic member of the club for many years,

he was first introduced to it at the age of 20 by his mother. He works in Syngenta Crop Protection as payroll manager, and is an ardent fan of Basel's football club, as well as taking an active interest in Fasnacht. He is also very keen on travelling.



Obituary

Pat Foster

Pat, who died in February 2005, was a faithful member of the Big Ben Club in Lugano, where she served as secretary for many years. She became vice-president of the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs in 1992, taking over from Lynette Meschini, when she served faithfully until she retired to Turkey in mid-1995. She returned to Lugano last year. Pat was a very ardent supporter of the Federation, and I and the rest of the committee will always be very grateful to her for all the work and support she gave us. She had many friends and she will be sorely missed.

Laurent Belet, FASC President

Lecture tours

Public Transport in Switzerland and the UK

Hampy Halter from EC Toggenburg-Wil has been visiting various clubs in Switzerland since autumn with his illustrated talk on public transport in Switzerland and the UK. As the managing director of a bus company originally founded by his father in east Switzerland, he knows what he's talking about. He came armed with an incredible array of facts and figures, and we all learned a great deal about public transport in both countries.

It has been shown that using public transport is 20 times safer than traveling by car and takes up one hundredth of the space. However, use of public transport has declined in both countries as society becomes more affluent. But use of public transport in London has

leapt as a result of the congestion surcharge – but so many people have opted to do that rather than pay the charge that there's not enough money being generated to buy enough new buses to carry them! As well as giving an excellent insight into public transport in both countries, Hampy also brought a boxful of handouts from each club's local transport office.

The Red Cross

What does the International Committee of the Red Cross actually do? Everyone's heard of it, and everybody knows what it does, but how it does it is another matter entirely. Briefly, it was born in Switzerland and it is no accident that its flag is the reverse of the Swiss one. The organisation was explained to us in March this year by Anton Marti, who used to work for the ICRC and had a large fund of stories to tell us about the valuable work that this organisation



Anton Marti

does. Its activities are to provide protection, assistance and preventive action on behalf of civilian and military victims of armed conflict, impartially, and also victims of natural disasters. Anton served on eleven missions, mostly in Asia, and described some of the rewards and extreme difficulties of his job in graphic detail. It was an education and a pleasure to listen to him.

Recipe corner

Wild Garlic Risotto with Prawns

Wild garlic is traditional in springtime dishes in Alsace, Switzerland and the Black Forest. If you can't find it (or don't like it) substitute spinach. This is the method for risotto used in restaurants – you stop the cooking halfway through and finish it off at your convenience. (If you have a few green asparagus spears, they make a nice addition.)

Serves 6-8

1 shallot, finely chopped
2 tbsp olive oil
300g round-grain (risotto) rice
200ml dry white wine
1 litre [about 4 cups] vegetable stock

or stock cubes + water
a handful of wild garlic leaves (40), trimmed and chopped
18-20 cooked prawns

Heat the oil in a heavy pan or small casserole and soften the shallot gently in it without allowing it to brown. Stir in the rice and fry it gently for 5-6 minutes or until thoroughly glistening in the oil. It should not brown. Add the wine and cook, stirring, until it is completely absorbed. Add a cup of hot stock, and



cook, stirring until absorbed once more. Add two more cups of stock, repeating the procedure each time. (You should have a cup of stock left). If you don't want to complete the cooking yet, pull the pan off the heat and tip the rice into a shallow dish or plate. Allow it to cool thoroughly. The risotto can then be refrigerated and finished later.

To finish the risotto, reheat the remaining stock. Put it in the blender with the wild garlic and blend till smooth. Melt a little butter in the pan, add the rice again and the hot, garlic-infused stock. Cook, stirring, until the stock is almost absorbed. The risotto should be quite soupy, and the grains just cooked (al dente). Stir in the prawns at the end and allow them to heat through (or heat briefly in the microwave).

For more delicious recipes by Sue Style, who is a well-known food, wine and travel writer, see her website at: www.suestyle.com

For your printing needs!

Grether MacGeorge GmbH

Independent Financial, Legal and Tax Advisers
Austrasse 95, 4051 Basel
Phone +41 61 206 88 00, Fax +41 61 206 88 05
www.grether-macgeorge.ch

Book reviews

So Many Books

By Gabriel Zaid

(Translation from Spanish)

ISBN 0-9542217-8-8, CHF 25.50



Are you one of those passionate readers who fight ever more desperately against an increasing surplus of titles? Then this small book will comfort and help you. Books are published so fast that they make us

more ignorant exponentially, also when we've read thousands of them. Wouldn't it be better to accept this ignorance, so that we can become consciously ignorant, and armed with this awareness we can enjoy reading again? Should the measure of our reading not be the state which the books leave us in, rather than the number we've read? Reading should make us more alive – that's what is really important.

Today it is easier to acquire book treasures than it is to give them the time they deserve. Moreover, to avoid the situation of books remaining lonely monologues, we should discuss them, and bring them into conversation. Here again, we'll probably start complaining about lack of time. But you had better read this book, which offers you a delightful conversation about books and reading, full of proposals and arguments and debate about books, from the age of Socrates to our own!

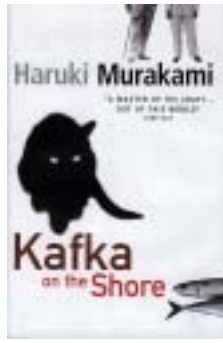
Sabine Scherrer

Kafka on the Shore

By Haruki Murakami

Harvill Press

ISBN 1-8434-3110-6, CHF 34.40



Haruki Murakami is a world-class entertainer with a mysterious metaphysical touch. His latest novel focuses on two characters whose lives are linked – a 15-year-old runaway who calls himself Kafka and an el-

derly WWII veteran, Nakata, who can speak with cats. Kafka escapes from his father who kills cats to make flutes from their souls. He winds up on the smallest of Japan's main islands, Shikoku. Woven into this story is a second strand which begins as an X-File recorded by American Occupation forces. A group of wartime evacuees in the Shikoku mountains glimpses a possible UFO before losing consciousness. All recover, except for one boy, Nakata, who remains in a coma for some weeks before waking up with the ability to talk to cats. Five decades later, while working as a finder of strayed household felines, Nakata is coerced by Kafka's father into stabbing him. Nakata's attempt to turn himself in for murder is dismissed as simple dementia. To evade the investigation into his father's death, Kafka goes to earth in Oshima's mountain hut. In the surrounding forests he finds the entrance to a semi-real world. Marzella Burri

Useful addresses

British Embassy

Thunstrasse 50, 3005 Bern

Tel: 031 359 77 00, Fax: 031 359 77 01

www.britain-in-switzerland.ch

British Consulate-General

Passport enquiries (14:00–17:00, M–F)

Tel: 022 918 24 18

rue de Vermont, 1202 Geneva

Tel: 022 918 24 00, Fax: 022 918 23 22

www.britain-in-switzerland.ch

British Consulate Zürich

Consular services 9–12

Hegibachstr. 47, 8032 Zürich

Tel: 01 383 65 60, Fax: 01 383 65 61

www.britain-in-switzerland.ch

British Vice-Consulate Basle

Gewerbstrasse 14, 4123 Allschwil

Tel: 061 483 09 77, Fax: 061 483 09 77

E-mail: achalmers@british-vice-consulate.ch

Solution to the cryptic crossword in the November 2004 issue of the Anglo-Swiss News:

FASHION SCENE

Congratulations to the winner, David Maden, ESC Baden-Brugg.

Across:

1 static, 5 pen-nib, 8 oats, 9 hobble, 11 surprise, 12 eye, 13 semi-permanent, 17 arrival, 18 opinion, 20 imperial crown, 23 ore, 24 next door, 25 inners, 27 knot, 28 offend, 29 emblem.

Down:

1 states, 2 amuses, 3 complications, 4 striker, 6 ego, 7 breast, 9 hermaphrodite, 10 brand-new, 14 eminence, 15 neon, 16 drum, 19 flexing, 20 indigo, 21 normal, 22 bedlam, 26 run.

Explore literary horizons.

Books as far as one's eye can see at North-Western Switzerland's largest English bookshop. At Bankenplatz, Aeschenvorstadt 2, CH-4010 Basel, T (+41) 061 206 99 99, F (+41) 061 206 99 90, www.biderundtanner.ch

Bider&Tanner
Your English Bookshop in Basel

in Switzerland

British Vice-Consulate Lugano

Via Sorengo 22, 6900 Lugano
Tel: 091 950 06 06
www.britain-in-switzerland.ch

Australian Consulate-General

Chemin des Fins 2, Case Postale 172
1211 Genève 19
Tel: 022 799 91 00, Fax: 022 799 91 78
www.australia.ch

Irish Embassy

Kirchenfeldstrasse 68
3005 Bern
Tel: 031 352 14 42, Fax: 031 352 14 55
E-mail: irlomb@bluewin.ch

New Zealand Consulate-General

Chemin des Fins 2, Case Postale 334
1211 Genève 19
Tel: 022 929 03 50, Fax: 022 929 03 74
E-mail: mission.nz@itu.ch

US Embassy

Jubiläumsstr. 93
Postfach 3001 Bern, 3005 Bern
Tel: 031 357 70 11

British Council in Switzerland

Enquiries: 9-12 (Mon-Thu)
Sennweg 2, Postfach 532, 3000 Bern
Tel: 031 301 14 26, Fax: 031 301 14 59
E-mail: barbara.mosca@britishcouncil.ch

British Swiss Chamber of Commerce

Bellerivestr. 29, 8008 Zürich
Tel: 01 422 31 31, Fax: 01 422 32 44
E-mail: info@bscc.co.uk

VisitBritain

Badenerstr. 21, 8004 Zürich
Tel: 043 322 20 00, Fax: 043 322 20 01
www.visitbritain.com

British Airways

Reservations
Flughafen Basel, 4056 Basel
Tel: 0848 84 58 45, Fax: 0848 84 58 49
www.british-airways.com/switzerland

FASC Committee Members

President: Laurent Belet

Tel: 091 921 44 31, Fax: 091 921 44 37
E-mail: clbelet@yahoo.com

Vice-president: Fiona Hadfield-Hart

Tel: 056 282 08 14
E-mail: fhadfield_hart@yahoo.com

Secretary: Heather Waygood

Tel: 071 288 31 81
E-mail: heather_waygood@hotmail.com

Treasurer: John Waygood

Tel: 071 288 31 81
E-mail: john_waygood@hotmail.com

Editor ASN: Anitra Green

Tel: 061 461 45 36, Fax: 061 463 85 33
E-mail: anitra.green@datacomm.ch

Lectures: Doris Züger

Tel: 071 911 97 86

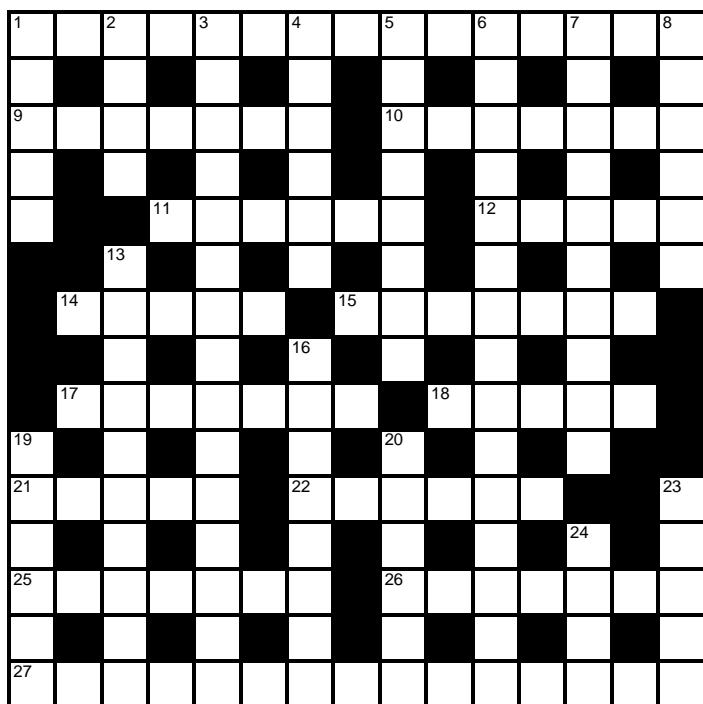
E-mail: d.zueger@tbwil.ch

Webmaster: John Pearson

Tel: 061 811 75 31, Fax: 061 811 75 31
E-mail: john.pearson@datacomm.ch

Prize cryptic crossword

by Hogarth



Take the initial letters of the words given by clues 3, 6, 8, 9, 13, 16, 18, 21 and 25, and rearrange them to form a nine-letter word.

Send the solution to anitra.green@datacomm.ch or Anitra Green, Kornackerweg 16, 4132 Muttens, by July 1, 2005, with your name and address. The winner will be drawn from a hat containing all the correct answers and will be awarded one of the books reviewed by Bider & Tanner in this issue. The solution will be published on the FASC website in July 2005 and in the next ASN. Good luck!

Across:

- The epitome of something you can't get (5,4,1,5)
- Put in a higher class, a prude from Aargau (7)
- He will make a decision on the dispute (7)
- Be present or listen carefully (6)
- Raises, or mechanical contrivances for raising (5)
- Of salt, it does for most things; much done to girl's bottoms in Rome (5)
- Reporters mounted, hurry up (5,2)
- Burn him by reconstituting the rice (7)
- Used for building or heaving through windows (5)
- A very small amount to draw over on transparent paper (5)
- Pat too likes this common vegetable (6)
- Small aperture or nozzle (7)
- No curves in this figure, made of straight lines meeting from various directions (7)
- Call in his favour the tennis player longs to hear (4,3,3,5)

Down:

- Bristly article for cleaning up (5)
- Party to excess (4)
- Solutions which may be nearly as bad as the problems – our small secretary Ted is married (7,8)
- Wear it to keep warm at sea, or smoke it to get high (6)
- Bends on a slow-flowing river (8)
- Very cunning plan – get us a smart belt (6,9)
- A football brought back into play? He's lost the knack, and we haven't heard of him in ages! (3,2,5)
- A going out, or a female for example? (6)
- Political philosophy steering a centre course between Labour and Tory (10)
- Easiest; a rather stupid short saint? (8)
- Samson was (6)
- To arrive somewhere or get something, usually with difficulty (6)
- Value (5)
- A piece of land planning something in secret (4)

Aarau

English-Speaking Club
www.escaarau.ch
 Meets on Wednesday 8 pm
 (weekly) & Friday (monthly)
 Contact: Pierre Schibli-Lodge
 Stapferstrasse 14
 5000 Aarau
 Tel 062 822 06 11
 or 079 340 16 52
petschibli@bluewin.ch

Baden/Brugg

English-Speaking Club
fhadfield_hart@yahoo.com
 Meets mainly on Friday,
 occasionally weekends
 President:
 Fiona Hadfield-Hart
 Boldistrasse 19, 5415 Rieden
 Tel 056 282 08 14

Basle

Anglo-Swiss Club
claud_boehler@hotmail.com
 Meets on Thursday 8 pm
 (weekly), usually at the
 Rest. Löwenzorn
 President: Claude Böhler
 Hollenweg 6, 4107 Ettingen
 Tel 076 420 03 56

Basle

British Circle
martin.rudolf@universal-consulting.ch
 Chairman: Martin Rudolf
 Erlensträsschen 62
 4125 Riehen
 Tel 061 645 95 55

Berne

Swiss-British Society
jenny.derek@freesurf.ch
 Meets approx. monthly
 President: Jenny Haller Pratt
 Balmweid 51, 4525 Balm
 Tel 032 637 34 84

Biel/Bienne

English Club
r&sjakob@freesurf.ch
 Meets on Wednesday 8 pm
 (weekly) at the club room,

Nidaugasse 43, Biel
 Contact: Sylvia Jakob
 Elfenaustrasse 12, 2502 Biel
 Tel 032 323 47 05

La Chaux-de-Fonds

International
 English-Speaking Club
sannemarie@hynatec.com
 Usually meets weekly
 Contact:
 Sannemarie Oldenziel
 Les Allées 19
 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds
 Tel 032 913 38 61

Fribourg

Anglo-Swiss Club
coombs@netplus.ch
 Meets on Thursday/Friday
 (monthly)
 President:
 Rose-Marie Coombs
 La Bataille, 1566 St. Aubin
 Tel 026 677 25 67

Geneva

Anglo-Swiss Club
peterslessor@hotmail.com
 Meets mainly on Tuesday
 (monthly), Warwick Hotel
 President: Peter Slessor
 CP 2018, 1211 Geneva 2
 Tel 022 788 09 96

Lausanne

Anglo-Swiss Club
 Contact: Rebecca Djanoly
 Avenue de Rumine 70
 1005 Lausanne

Lausanne

English-Speaking Club
info@esc-lausanne.ch
 Executive coordinator:
 Isobel Munro
 Casa Postale 541
 1001 Lausanne
 Tel 021 802 28 58

Lausanne

International Club
icl@urbanet.ch
 Contact: Gabi Cruise

Promenade de l'Europe
 1203 Geneva 5
 Tel 022 345 67 16

Locarno

Anglo-Swiss Club
wnsnyder@ticino.com
 No fixed day, Hotel Zurigo
 President:
 Walter W. Snyder
 CP 453, 6601 Locarno 1
 Tel 091 751 44 39

Lucerne

Anglo-Swiss Club
ask.john@bluewin.ch
 Meets mainly on Wednesday
 8 pm (fortnightly),
 mostly at the NH Hotel
 Contact: Inge Askins
 Alteggthalde 1
 6045 Meggen
 Tel 041 377 34 12

Lugano

Big Ben Club
juliusz.komarnicki@freesurf.ch
 President:
 Juliusz Komarnicki
 CP 196, 6908 Massagno
 Tel 091 967 15 39

Lugano

International Women's Club
nibelet@yahoo.com
 Contact:
 Nathalie Belet-Torriani
 Via Massagno 24
 6900 Lugano
 Tel 091 923 21 10

Solothurn

Anglo-Swiss Club
wolfies@bluewin.ch
 President:
 Rinaldo Wolf
 PO Box 120, 4501 Solothurn
 Tel 032 622 20 71

St. Gallen

Anglo-Swiss Circle
eileen-robert@bluewin.ch
 Contact:
 Eileen Ochsner

Spiserwiesstr. 6
 9030 Abtwil
 Tel 071 311 27 82

Toggenburg-Wil

English Club
mail@ectw.org
 Meets at 8 pm on first & third
 Friday of each month
 Drei Eidgenossen
 9631 Ulisbach
 Contact: Doris Züger
 Haldenstrasse 5
 9552 Bronschhofen
 Tel 071 911 97 86

Winterthur

English-Speaking Club
 President: Horst Schiel
 Meilistr. 18
 8400 Winterthur
 Tel 052 212 06 07

Zofingen-Langenthal

English Club
mike.pavel@bluewin.ch
 Meets on Friday (monthly)
 President: Doris Pavel
 Hausmattweg 25
 4802 Strengelbach
 Tel 062 751 94 67

Published twice a year (May and November) by the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs and distributed to all members free of charge.

Editor:
 Anitra Green
 Kornackerweg 16
 4132 Muttenz
 Tel. 061 461 45 36
anitra.green@datacomm.ch

Data-base:
 Ted Lier

Layout/technical consultant:
 Armin Saner

Printers:
 PROCOM SA, 6934 Bioggio.
 No part of the Anglo-Swiss News may be reproduced without permission from the publishers.