

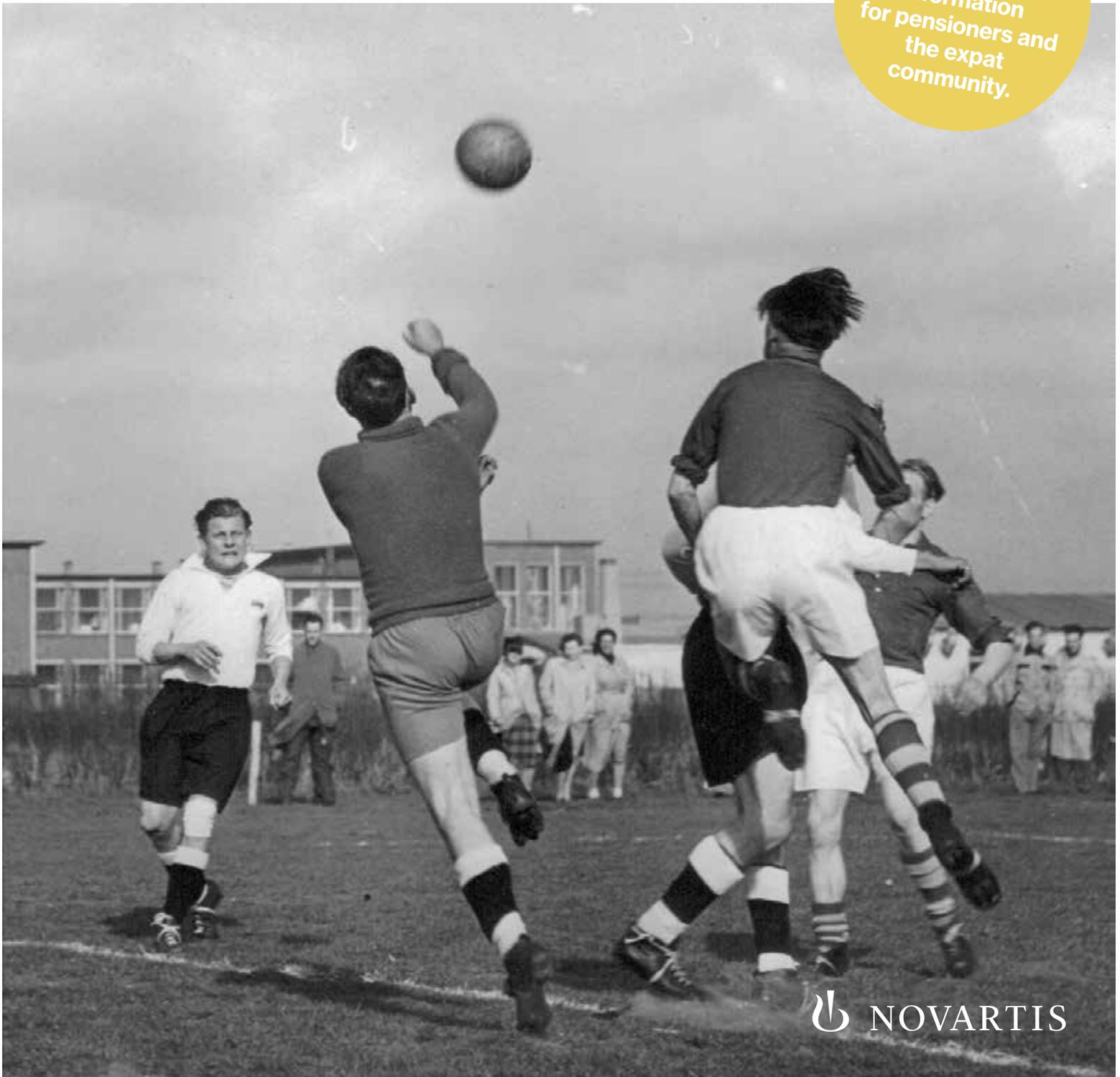
JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2018

*live* magazine supplement

for associates and pensioners in Switzerland

# Forum

The supplement also includes useful information for pensioners and the expat community.



 NOVARTIS

# “We’re still on the ball”

Membership of the Novartis Sports Club offers many benefits for little money. However, a broad range of offers and low membership fees alone no longer suffice to guarantee the continued existence of company sports. The competition for the associates’ scant leisure time is fierce, and the management team with its new president Beat Schybli works hard to continuously enhance the attractiveness of the sports club.

by Michael Mildner



From the Geigy archives, 1920: The first players of the Geigy soccer club are ready for their game against Sandoz.

**Today’s leisure opportunities are practically unlimited.** While it can be tempting after a hard day’s work to put your feet up, reach for the remote control and watch the latest Netflix series, you may instead prefer to keep in shape and work on your biceps at a trendy fitness club.

Some opt for what seems an old-fashioned alternative – packing their training bags, driving to the sports facilities of the

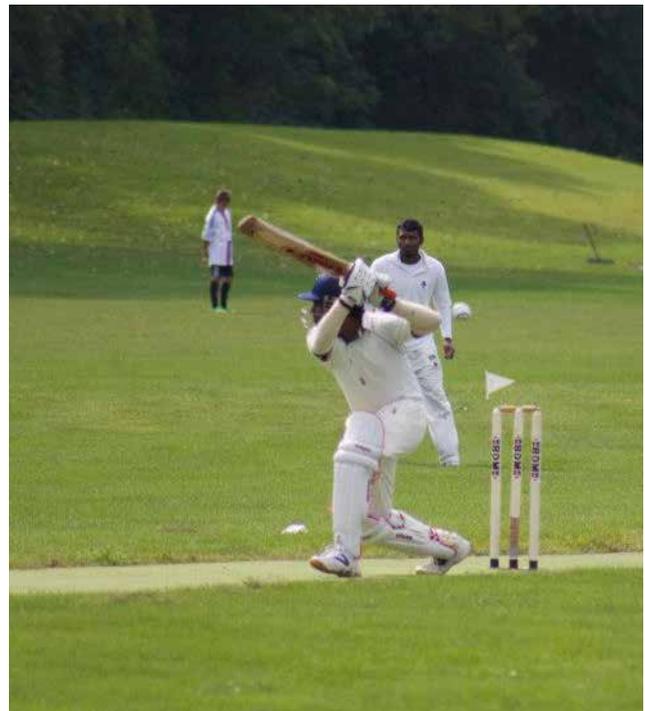
Novartis Sports Club and working out there together with their colleagues.

Anyone taking a closer look at the program offered by the Novartis Sports Club with around 15 different sport disciplines will soon realize that this is an interesting alternative to pay-TV and the fitness studio. However, competition grows increasingly fierce, putting company sports in a hard place.

The number of members has for many years fluctuated at around 1000 despite constant efforts to make the club’s program as attractive as possible and gain new potential members.

### **The golden years**

When the first soccer players from Geigy, Sandoz and Ciba convened in separate teams between 1920 and 1925, there was of



Top: The Novartis Sports Club is open for new members and new sports too, as the two photos from the recently founded Cricket Team show.  
Bottom, left: Beat Schybli, President of the Novartis Sports Club.

# The Novartis Sports Club in figures

.....  
 Founded in

## 1920

.....

Around

## 1000

members

.....

## 20

sections

.....

Average age

## 55.2

years

.....

Percentage of women

## 21.8 %

.....

Annual membership fee

## 90 Swiss francs

.....

course no question of competition with digital media or gyms. And none of the sports-loving company representatives back then would have thought that their company teams would one day no longer play against each other but for a single company and in a joint team.

“The company sports clubs played an important social role well into the 20th century,” explains Rolf Luedi, who for many years managed the sports club as president and head of the playing field committee and today takes actively part in the life of the

club as honorary president. “Our activities served to promote health and after-work relaxation as well as the development of deep and lasting relationships that were intensively cultivated both on and off the pitch.”

Consequently, the Novartis Sports Club grew and flourished for many decades and new members and sport disciplines such as handball, table tennis and chess were continuously added over time until the trend reversed toward the end of the last century.

### Mastering challenges

“We have seen a strong trend toward individual sport disciplines in recent years. A good example of this are the many fitness studios that have mushroomed up all over the place,” says Beat Schybli, demand expert at Novartis and President of the sports club since March 2017. “Members can come and go as they wish, which is obviously not the case with the Novartis Sports Club. Here we have fixed training times and a lot of team sports disciplines for which you don’t just train for yourself but in close collaboration with your teammates.”

It is obviously important to be able to rely on one another and you are also to some extent dependent on each other. But the same is also true in the laboratory, in production and in the department. Schybli has an entirely positive view of this team aspect. “At the end of the day, celebrating successes together is more fun and defeats are dealt with better in this way. Here we pursue shared goals across all the different functions and hierarchy levels.”

With a large number of fitness offers, diving groups and a brand new cricket team, the Novartis Sports Club has in recent years proven its ability to respond to current trends and create attractive offers. “We will be celebrating our centenary anniversary in 2020 and I have every confidence that our sports club still has a long life ahead of it. We’re still on the ball,” assures President Beat Schybli.

### Contact and information

President: Beat Schybli  
 geschaeftsstelle@novartis-sport.ch  
 www.novartis-sport.ch

### ST. JOHANN PENSIONERS HIKING GROUP

All new hikers are welcome. For information: Alfred Weibel, tel. +41 61 781 1201, cell +41 79 655 4888, weibel.fredy@bluewin.ch. Those who wish to come only for lunch should notify the hiking guide by the evening before.

#### HIKE NO. 14/2018

#### “THROUGH THE KALTBRUNNENTAL”

**Date** July 26, 2018 | **Meeting** Laufen station (the hiking guide will meet you here) | **Outbound** Depart Basel SBB 8:06 a.m., track 16, S3, arrive Laufen 8:31 a.m. Continue to Fehren 8:40 a.m., bus 111 | **Return** Depart Breitenbach 3:23 p.m., arrive Basel 3:53 p.m. or every 20 minutes | **Hike** From Fehren through the Kaltbrunnental to Breitenbach | **Refreshments** Kick-off coffee at Restaurant Hofer in Fehren, lunch at Restaurant Kaltbrunnental | **Guide** Fredy Weibel, tel. +41 61 781 1201 or +41 79 655 4888

#### HIKE NO. 15/2018

#### “FROM REINACH VIA BOTTMINGEN TO OBERWIL”

**Date** August 9, 2018 | **Meeting** 9 a.m., Restaurant Reinacherhof | **Outbound** Tram no. 11 (toward Aesch) | **Return** By bus and tram, no. 10, 17, 60, 64, 61 | **Hike** Reinach via Predigerhof to Bottmingen and Oberwil | **Refreshments** Kick-off coffee at Restaurant Reinacherhof, lunch at Restaurant Zur Alten Post, Oberwil | **Guide** Stalder René, tel. +41 61 711 8983 or +41 79 273 0168