



Underwater Hockey Switzerland  
Annual Report, 2014



Report by Martin Reed.

Big thanks to Silvania Avelar and to the UWH group leaders for all of their hard work, and for the translations to

- DE: Wolfgang Lierke
- FR: Charles Ané (USZ-Zürich UWH) & Thomas Lapointe (UWH Basel / Plongée des Trois Frontières)
- IT: Guido Sartoris (USZ-Zürich UWH)

2014 was a tough year, but also a very active year, for Underwater Hockey Switzerland.

The first club to start in Switzerland, the Underwater Hockey group of USZ-Zürich, achieved massive growth, more than doubling in numbers during the course of the year, and went from a state where sometimes there were not enough players to have a full 6 vs 6 game, to club nights where two full games played at the same time has become commonplace.



Wahoo Underwater Hockey Zürich

USZ-Zürich Underwater Hockey also rebranded itself “Wahoo Underwater Hockey Zürich” and took itself all around Europe, competing in four tournaments in France and in tournaments in Spain, Germany and Italy, as well as lending players to potluck teams in tournaments in France, Italy and the USA. It also provided five players to a joint Switzerland-Germany men’s team at the European Club Championships in Rome, where in its first appearance at this long-running tournament the team managed to come “not last” by achieving a 1-0 victory over Serrasalmus of the Czech Republic (Favio Dominguez, formerly the driving force of Underwater Hockey in Geneva, was the golden goalscorer).



The Swiss players of the joint Switzerland-Germany team at the 2014 European Club Championships  
L-R: Philipp Hupp, Brecht Gosselé, Robin Schwarber (USZ-Zürich UWH),  
Favio Dominguez (Hockeysub Genève), Martin Reed (USZ-Zürich UWH)

At national level, we continued our efforts of trying to expand the sport by holding demonstrations around the country, starting with a demo in January to SLRG Bülach in Kanton Zürich. However, with the revelation in March of the massive loss that had been incurred to SUSV by the finswimming group, and that the membership had voted against increasing membership fees to help to close the deficit, the only way for Underwater Hockey to help SUSV to solve this problem was to concentrate our efforts on bringing new membership subscriptions into SUSV by bringing new members into the sport.

We arranged an Underwater Hockey demonstration at Flippers Tenero, the club of Dimitri Kalas, the former President of the SUSV Sport Commission, but this was cancelled two days before the event, and despite repeated attempts to get an alternative date, we were never able to get any further response from Flippers Tenero. We also contacted every other SUSV member club in Ticino to invite them to have a demonstration of Underwater Hockey, but got no response.

We set up a stand at the Reusschwimmen annual river swim and handed out lots of flyers.



Presenting Underwater Hockey at the 2014 Reusschwimmen river swim  
L-R: Martin Reed (SUSV & USZ-Zürich UWH), Fanny Hettrich (USZ-Zürich UWH),  
Robin Schwarber (USZ-Zürich UWH), René Büri (SUSV KomKom)

We also held demonstrations at Wallisellen School in Canton Zürich, to SLRG Büren in Büren an der Aare in Canton Bern, and held an open demo in Basel which was attended by many members of the Roche Sub Aqua Club (RSAC). RSAC expressed an interest in setting up their own Underwater Hockey group, but unfortunately their own pool is closed until 2016, so we worked with them to try to find pool space in public pools or within other dive clubs in the Basel area.

At the end of August, we held the first ever Underwater Hockey Switzerland training camp in Tenero, Ticino, which was attended by more than 25 players, from the whole of Switzerland, with visiting participants from Germany, Belgium and Italy and a guest trainer from Colombia.

17:37		Sommaro delle attività		C S T		Schweizerische Eidgenössische Sportkonföderation Schweiz Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra		Bundesamt für Sport BASPO Ufficio federale des sports USPO Ufficio federale des sports USPO Ufficio federale des sports USPO	
Orario	Gruppo / Società	Attività	Luogo						
18:00 - 19:30	Tri Team Ticino		Piscina 50m - Corsie 5,6		80				
18:00 - 20:30	Salvaggio Sub Tenero		Piscina tuffi 1		80				
18:30 - 20:30	Atletica Tenero 90		Prato Madone		56				
19:00 - 20:30	SAG Gordola Karathé		Gallerie Naviglio 1,2,3		40				
19:00 - 21:00	FC Locarno prima squadra	Calcio	Sintetico Brochin 1+2 (90x57m)		54				
19:00 - 20:30	AS Minusio		Sintetico Brochin 3+4 (90x57m)		53				
19:30 - 22:00	Underwaterhockey Switzerland		Piscina 50m - Corsie 1,2,3,4,5 Schwimmbad 50m - Bahnen 1,2,3,4,5		80				
19:30 - 22:00	Zürcher Skiverband	Torneo di giochi Spielturnier	Prato Verbano Wiese Verbano		64				



The 2015 camp has already been scheduled for the weekend of 28th-30th August, also in Tenero, and all are welcome.

USZ-Zürich participated in the [toasted.ch](https://www.toasted.ch) Sport Schnupper Weekend at the end of August and presented Underwater Hockey and Underwater Rugby, and got several new club members as a result. It also made a presentation at the first day of the new year at the ETH and UZH universities in Zürich.



Olivier Ly, Fanny Hettrich and Warren Cabral of USZ-Zürich UWH attracting the interest of ETH students

We also took part in the Sportissima day of sports in Canton Ticino in mid-September. We submitted a direct registration as soon as the event was announced, but were told by Dimitri Kalas that the registration would be made for all of the SUSV sports by Paolo Formentini, the SUSV Regional Representative for Ticino. However, when the programme and website were released, there was no mention of Underwater Hockey, and the organisers of Sportissima had never heard of Paolo Formentini, nor ever received a registration from the Ticino branch of SUSV. Nevertheless, Sportissima were extremely helpful and supportive, and made timeslots available for us in both Lugano and Bellinzona so that our demonstrations could go ahead as planned.



L-R: Michele Palmieri (Lugano UWH), Katherine Rollins (USZ-Zürich UWH), Martin Reed & Sylvania Avelar (SUSV & USZ Zürich UWH) demonstrating UWH in Bellinzona

In Geneva, after five years of trying to get an Underwater Hockey group started, but getting no interest from any of the local clubs, and nothing but blocks from the local sports council, the players of Geneva decided to look over the border in France, where they were immediately welcomed with open arms by the local dive club in Annemasse, and in October 2014 the new club Hockey Subaquatique Exocet Lemman came into existence as part of the Exocet Lemman dive club in Annemasse, France.

Similarly, in Basel, we wrote to all of the local SUSV member clubs in Basel Stadt and Basel Land, firstly to introduce Underwater Hockey, secondly to announce the [toasted.ch](http://toasted.ch) Sport Schnupper Weekend and thirdly to announce an open demonstration of Underwater Hockey in an open-air pool in Basel, but unfortunately got almost no response from any of the communications. Then a chance meeting with an Underwater Hockey player from Mulhouse led to a contact with the dive club Plongée des Trois Frontières in Huningue, who again welcomed us with open arms, and on 24th November the new group Underwater Hockey Basel came into existence as part of Plongée des Trois Frontières in Huningue, France.



The participants of the first ever Underwater Hockey session of Underwater Hockey Basel / Plongée des Trois Frontières

So we did create two new Underwater Hockey groups in 2014, and brought a number of new players into the sport, and therefore a number of new membership subscriptions into the host clubs. However, due to the lack of interest from Swiss clubs in trying something new, with the exception of the new members of USZ-Zürich, all of these new membership subscriptions are boosting the French federation (FFESSM), not SUSV. If the membership truly wants SUSV to survive and grow, the change - and the effort to make the change - has to start with the clubs.

Adding Underwater Hockey to your sport portfolio WILL make your club grow, as has been shown in USZ-Zürich. We are willing to come anywhere to demonstrate Underwater Hockey and to work with you to get an Underwater Hockey group started in your club. Please contact [martin.reed@susv.ch](mailto:martin.reed@susv.ch) for more information.

Martin Reed, Representative SUSV Underwater Hockey