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A Summary of the Founding of the Swiss Club of N.Z.

By Walter Risi

Meeting on May 10th, 1912.

On this meeting several new members were taken into the club, namely A. Kuriger, A. Hurlimann, Alois Hurlimann, Anton Hurlimann, J. Hurlimann, A. Betschart and Alois Nolli.

The discussion on the Benevolent Fund was continued and this time accepted. Coll. Tobler resigned from the committee and moved Coll. Paul Muller, who was accepted. Re the outstanding contributions owing to the club, it was moved that 50 per cent would be accepted to clear this matter up.

The next meeting: Coll. Anton Steiner invited the club to have the next meeting at his place and they accepted the invitation with thanks to Coll. Steiner and his wife.

Meeting of July 20th, 1912 and August 3rd, 1912.

On account of the sparse participation on this meeting another second meeting on August 3rd had to be held. The first one was at the Kaponga Town Hall and the second one was on Coll. Anton Steiner's residence at the Manaia Road. Again it was decided to reduce the outstanding subscriptions from August 9th, 1911 to August 1912 by 50 per cent. Coll. Kaspar Leuthard, Anton Hurlimann and Anton Steiner were elected as auditors and Coll. John Kuriger and Ignatz Hurlimann as scrutineers.

President Steiner told the meeting to elect the Secretary John Schumacher as President, however, he categorically would not accept it. He made the suggestion to re-elect President M. Steiner again and in case of a refusal to elect Coll. E. Tobler. However, on the voting that followed Martin Steiner was re-elected as President by a big majority. Coll. Kaufmann then moved committee member E. Tobler as Vice-President, however Vice-President X. Wyss was re-elected on the voting that followed.

Treasurer John Steiner then said that he has done the job a further year, because Coll. E. Widmer was not on the meeting of August 9th when he was elected the new treasurer and that it was not possible for him to accept the job and so he (John Steiner) has done the job another year. Again he pleads to the meeting to elect a new treasurer, as it was almost impossible for him to do a good job. President M. Steiner then moved Coll. Alois Schicker and Coll. R. Eberli moved Coll. Tobler. Coll. Alois Schicker gets elected the new treasurer.

The Secretary J. Schumacher then said that up till now a Benevolent Fund for the members is in existence, but in his opinion and in the opinion of many other members is of no value to the club, because none of them would be game enough to seek assistance from it. He suggests that the Club should pay out to each member who is sick or laid up from an accident a payment of £1 per week for six weeks and

then onwards the committee could decide on the continuance of the weekly payment. He said the club would need regular payments of subscriptions of £1 per member per year. This move gets universal approval and gets accepted by the meeting without any vote against it. President Steiner moved that this yearly subscription be paid in the first three months of the year, from August to November. It was also decided at that meeting that the Secretary and Treasurer would both have to pay half of the subscription, 10/- each only.

It was then decided that the next meeting would be on Coll. Anton Steiner's residence in May, 1913.

Discussing the quarterly meetings, Coll. Ignatz Hurlimann moved that two meetings per half year should be held and Coll. R. Meier thought three. Secretary Schumacher then said that the club did not benefit from the many meetings, especially in the summer and suggests that one meeting in May and another one in August of each year would fully meet the needs of the club. This move then gets accepted. Committee member Paul Muller moved to strike all non-paying members and to exclude from the club. No seconder was found for this move. President M. Steiner thanked Coll. Anton Steiner and Mrs Steiner for their welcome to the club.

One further meeting was held in the Oddfellow's Hall, Kaponga, on 15th June, 1913.

There were 12 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. No new members were elected and the paying of the subscriptions was deferred until next meeting on 3rd August in Oddfellows Hall, Kaponga, which according to the minutes never took place. The minutes only go to this stage and we must assume then that the Club ceased to exist, which is a pity as every Club goes through these troughs of low and peaks of high alternating between the two.

However, running an epilogue on the Club and its officers, we must give the President, Martin Steiner, full marks. He was an outstanding President; kept silent when he thought that the occasion demanded it and spoke up when he thought it was warranted.

The Secretary, Mr John Schumacher, was also an efficient Secretary, kept accurate records of the Club's activities and conducted the Club's affairs very promptly.

The Treasurer, Mr John Steiner was very generous to the Club, most of the meetings were held at his residence and he kept the Club's financial affairs going when it was inconvenient for him, after shifting away, and he thought another member was elected, he kept on the job.

Running an epilogue on all the Committee and other members of the Club would be too big a job, nevertheless very interesting when we find the different elements opposing one another and refusing office when the members wanted them to take on a job in the Committee.

Next month we will carry on with the Manaia Festival in July, 1932, where a group of Swiss were very active.

(To be Continued)