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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.), HELD AT THE
CLUBHOUSE OF THE TARANAKI SWISS CLUB, KAPONGA,
ON**

31 MAY 1998, COMMENCING AT 2.10 pm.

Society President, Beatrice Leuenberger, in opening the meeting welcomed everyone to Kaponga and thanked members for coming to the AGM, an ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends - and make new ones too. It was good to see so many attending, although regrettably only two each from Auckland and Wellington. Beatrice thanked the Taranaki Club for its good organisation of the Interclub sport's competition finals, and congratulated them on winning the cowbell from Hamilton Club by 4-0. Beatrice also informed everyone that the donor of the cowbell, Mr. Arthur Müller, was currently not in very good health, and he was wished a speedy recovery.

Present: B Leuenberger (President); R Waldvogel (Secretary); Rinaldo Rust (Editor); Clubs representatives: Hamilton ~ 21; Auckland ~ 2; Taranaki ~ 32; Wellington ~ 2.

Apologies: Auckland ~ A & H Müller, H Werffeli; Hamilton ~ P & H Fransen, E & U Elmiger, H & W Staheli, B Miles, T Wilson; Taranaki ~ D & L Hiestand; Wellington ~ M Beddie-Geiser.

Moved by J Flühler, seconded by M Benkert, and carried.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous AGM were published in the *Helvetia*, and therefore taken as read. Moved by B Leuenberger that they be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by M Stutz, and carried. There were no **Matters Arising** to the minutes.

Obituaries: During the 12 months since the last meeting, the following members passed away: Emil Flepp, Albina Fässler, Joe Weber, Kurt Leutenegger, Peter Eggenschwiler, Elizabeth Reinhard, John Steiner, Paul Flühler, A Blatti, C Wüest - The President invited everyone to stand for a moment's silence in memory of these late members.

President's Report: Beatrice found her first year as President challenging and busy, but most enjoyable. Success was made in always finding sufficient new advertisers, and members were reminded to and thanked for supporting those businesses which supported the Society. Beatrice was also continuing to build contacts with Swiss-related corporate organisations which could one day be approached for possible sponsorship needs. There was a net increase of 23 subscriptions - we can all help increase membership by telling any Swiss we meet about our Clubs and Society and encouraging them to become members. The Society Committee meets about every two months, and also basically constitutes the Editing Team. Beatrice congratulated Rinaldo Rust for his time and immense commitment during the first year of producing the *Helvetia*, and also thanked committee members for their work and dedication, and especially appreciated their support during some particularly difficult months she personally had during late 1997. She thanked the Clubs for the quality of membership lists and speedy advice of address changes. Returned mail has been minimal - none, or only 1 or 2 per issue. Beatrice requested though, that any correspondence be typed or clearly handwritten, as some has been very difficult to read, and we wish to avoid errors. Finally, as decided at the 1997 AGM, Beatrice presented the following people with personalised certificates to recognise their honorary membership: Auckland ~ M-T Melville-Schöpfer, A Müller, M Bachmann, H Sigerist, H Filtzi; Hamilton ~ W Untermährer, K Waldvogel, H Staheli, J Flühler, B Flühler; Taranaki ~ R Dudli, C Schuler, P Rowe; Wellington ~ L Napp, R Messmer, L Sutherland, A Schleicher. Beatrice congratulated and thanked these honorary members, whom she said all well deserved this small acknowledgement for their past and current services to the Society, as well as their Clubs.

Beatrice then moved the adoption of her annual report, this was seconded by B Flühler, and carried. There were no **Matters Arising** from the President's report.

Editor's Report: Rinaldo Rust found the first year rewarding, passing without too much upheaval. Ten issues of *Helvetia* were published; one with 16 pages, and another with a full colour cover photo, which came at an additional cost of \$100,

printed in order to gauge reader's response. Rinaldo thanked all past and current advertisers for their support and participation - without these 'faithful' advertisers, the *Helvetia* magazine wouldn't be viable in its present format. He also thanked the Editing Team for their work; the Embassy for publishing material; Luuk Paulussen as computer assistant; Rosetown Print Ltd, Te Awamutu; and of course all members who had made contributions to the magazine throughout the year. Rinaldo apologised for any mistakes, omissions, or possible controversial decisions taken. He finished by saying that we must always remember the aim of the *Helvetia* - to foster bonds of friendship amongst Swiss in New Zealand, and to enrich the magazine with articles suitable for the majority of readers. This is no easy task within the framework of a 12 page booklet, financial constraints, and the large diversity of membership, but is still achievable.

Adoption of the Editor's report was moved by M-T Melville-Schöpfer, seconded by Heidi Leuenberger, and carried. There were no **Matters Arising** to the Editor's Report.

Financial Report: Beatrice reported that the restructure of jobs, with the President, rather than the Secretary, overseeing the financial duties, has worked successfully, and this format could continue. Overall, an increase in membership has raised subscription income by nearly \$600, and Beatrice congratulated all the Clubs for their efforts. Advertising has remained steady, with new advertisers constantly being sought. Interest income is dropping, a general trend, so best investment rates are closely monitored. As to expenditure, every possible effort is made to save in administrative spending, resulting in a considerable surplus of \$2,725 for the past financial year. One change has been the opening of a new savings account so surplus funds can earn higher interest than in the cheque account.

Following a Committee discussion, Beatrice requested all Clubs help the Society maintain its cashflow by making occasional payments of Society Subscription collections (\$25 per Member) during the year. The Society must also meet high monthly accounts to cover *Helvetia* production and postage, so assistance from Clubs would be very much appreciated.

Beatrice moved the Financial Report for adoption; seconded by Mathias Seifert; and carried.

Matters Arising: It was explained by Sid Melville that the \$100 auditor's fee he had received in previous years had always been returned to the Society as a donation.

Swiss Abroad Delegate's Report: Heinz Leuenberger told the meeting that he and his wife had last year attended the Swiss Abroad Congress in Lugano. The lengthy Delegate Sessions included discussions on Federal Subsidies for the 16 Swiss Schools abroad, and proposed changes to voluntary AHV / IV. Finances also became a topic, as these are under pressure due to cost increases, as well as a reduction of Federal subsidies. Heinz asked the meeting to give some thought as to how we, as a Society, could make a difference. Recently, the Secretariat in Berne appointed Mrs Nicole Helsdon, of Orewa, as the Youth Programme Co-ordinator for this new position in New Zealand. During talks last year, Dr Wyder, Director of the Secretariat, it was thought that the formation of some sort of liaison with Australia may be beneficial. Some contact had actually already been made at the Congress, but is still in early stages, although one immediate area of common ground is Youth Exchange.

Heinz Leuenberger moved the adoption of his report, seconded by P Canziani, and carried.

Matters Arising: Bert Flühler inquired about Congress expenses and was informed that participants bear all costs themselves. He thanked Heinz for his personal commitment, and proposed some sort of Society support. Following some discussion, Bert Flühler moved that, "The Society pay for the application fee of the one official delegate to the Swiss Abroad Conference." Seconded by M Poppe, and carried with one vote against.

Riflemaster's Report: Peter Rust thanked all Clubs for once again supporting the Society's sports competitions, and was pleased with the increasing participation of our younger members. He congratulated medal winners, of which several were

children. The theme 'old buildings and castles' on the medals over the past five years has now ended, and a new motif will be seen on the new ones which would be arriving shortly. With the charge increase from \$3 - \$4, income now nearly covers the cost of purchasing and importing the medals from Switzerland, so it is hoped even more would participate next year. Peter thanked both his wife, Doris Rust, and Beatrice Leuenberger, for their help with much of the paperwork and preparation of scoring and medal winner lists. All Clubs now have copies of the updated sports' rules, and there haven't been any problems, but Peter could be contacted for information at any time. For the next sporting year, Peter wished everyone well, and encouraged everyone, of all ages, to take part.

Matters Arising: Ruedi Dudli asked the current price of medals. These cost about \$11 each.

Subscriptions: It was moved by Beatrice Leuenberger that the subscription for the 1998/99 financial year remain at \$25. Seconded by Marianne Benkert, and carried.

Election of Officers: Vice-President, Bert Flühler took the Chair, and nominated Beatrice Leuenberger as President, seconded by K Waldvogel, and carried unanimously.

Beatrice returned to the Chair. M-T Melville-Schöpfer moved that all further Office holders (Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary); the Editor; and Society Committee (incl. Editing Team) be elected en-bloc in their previous positions. Seconded by M Benkert, and carried unanimously. The President also moved that Nicole Helsdon (Youth Exchange Co-ordinator) be co-opted, ex-officio, to the Society Committee, and her name be included in the *Helvetia's* list of Officers. Seconded by Sid Melville, and carried. Beatrice Leuenberger moved that the Committee be empowered to co-opt further members, seconded by Theres Risi, and carried.

General Business:

1. Rule Change "That the following rule be added to the Statutes, in order to acquire tax exemption status with the IRD - 14. Withholding Tax Exemption Status Requirements. a. No part of the organisation's income or funds is to be used or be available for personal use or gain of any member or an associated person of any member. b. In order to prevent forfeiture of tax exemption status, no alterations may be applied to Rules 13.b or 14.a." Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger, seconded by Sid Melville, and carried.

2. Rinaldo Rust asked the meeting for any suggestions about activities which could include or entice younger members to join the Society and Club activities. He suggested that over the next 12 months Clubs and Society members think about how this could be achieved. Beatrice also reminded everyone that 1998 was the Society's 65th anniversary, and welcomed any ideas to mark this occasion.

Closure: Roland Schütz, Wellington Swiss Club President, then invited all Clubs and Society members to attend the 1999 AGM, to be held in Wellington at Queen's Birthday Weekend, 1999. Finally, Beatrice thanked everyone involved in successfully organising and catering for the complete AGM weekend, and then presented the Honorary Certificates to those members in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Grateful thanks to all businesses who have so far sent in their details to be included in our planned business directory, which will be compiled following the AGM in June. Response has been good, but more can still be accepted, so please, if you have, or are involved in a business that you'd like the whole Swiss community to know about, tell us now. For just a small fee,

let us help you !!

Please send your details (Name, Address, all contact numbers, i.e. phone, fax, e-mail) to: Business Directory, B Leuenberger, 44 Montgomery Crescent, Hamilton, or fax 07 843 7941 (ph. 07 843 7971).

look forward to hearing from you soon!!

SWISS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Swiss Society invites all members and friends to attend the Annual General Meeting, to be held on

6 June 1999, at 2.00 pm

(Queen's Birthday Weekend)

at the Clubhouse of the Wellington Swiss Club in Ohariu Valley, Johnsonville.

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (31 May 1998) and Matters Arising
4. Obituaries
5. President's Report and Matters Arising
6. Editor's Report and Matters Arising
7. Address by the Patron of the Society
8. Financial Report and Matters Arising
9. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report and Matters Arising
10. Riflemaster's Report and Matters Arising
11. Setting of Subscriptions for 1999/2000 year
12. Election of Officers (President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer / Editor)
13. Election of Society Committee and Co-Options
14. General Business
 - Rule Change
 - Club Reports
 - Other
15. Setting of date and venue for Society AGM, 2000
16. Meeting Closure.

Motion: Addendum to Rule 4, Subscriptions

- 4.c. All Clubs must pay to the Society at least 50 % of Society subscriptions, which they must collect annually from their members, on behalf of the Society, by 30th Sept., a further 30 % by 31st Dec; and the final balance outstanding by 15. March, each year. The first two payments shall be calculated based on total members, exclusive of honorary members, of the previous financial year, and final payment on the current financial year.

Beatrice Leuenberger, Society President