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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.), held at the Clubhouse of the Auckland Swiss Club, Kaukapakapa, on 4 June 2000

Meeting opened: 1.40 pm

Welcome: The Society President, Beatrice Leuenberger, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to the 'Swiss Farm'. Our new Ambassador, Mrs Silvie Matteucci, was also introduced and welcomed. Beatrice congratulated the Taranaki Club for once again winning the annual Cowbell Competition final against Hamilton earlier in the day.

Present: Beatrice Leuenberger (President), R Rust (Editor), R Waldvogel (Secretary), S Matteucci (Patron), and 64 Society members.

Apologies A & H Müller, H Werffeli (Auckland Club); T Wilson, B&J Flühler, D&P Rust, (Hamilton Club); R&M Zimmermann, D&L Hiestand, R Dudli, L&R Benkert, M Canziani, M Benkert, (Taranaki Club); R Messmer, A Schleicher (Wellington Club).

Moved by Heinz Leuenberger;

Seconded by Mathias Seifert Carried

Minutes: The minutes of the previous year's AGM (1999) had been published in the May *Helvetica* - it was hoped that everybody had read these, and so they were taken as read. As there were no Matters Arising, it was moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved by M-T Melville-Schöpfer;

Seconded by Herbert Staheli Carried

Obituaries: Sadly, a number of Society members and friends from around the country passed away over the past 12 months. These were: Michelle Köpell-Schneider (Wellington Club); Adolf Imlig, Louis Steiner, V Waldner (Hamilton Club); Willy Müller, Ueli Luginbühl (Auckland Club); Josef Föhn, Joseph Nolly (Taranaki Club); as well as Dagmar Graf, Fritz Brähm, Tom Gisler, Peter Weiss, Simi Hartmann and Sonja Furer. Everyone was invited to stand for a moment's silence in memory remembrance of these past members and friends.

President's Report: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Having celebrated the end of the Millennium in Wellington in 1999, we are meeting now in Auckland to take the Society, now in its 66th year and still strong and active, into the new century.

Our membership has again increased slightly, with a net increase of 40 over the past five years. Many are new immigrants from Switzerland - and contact is made through the Embassy, the internet website, word of mouth and a pro-active approach. Once again, thanks go especially to our Editor, Rinaldo Rust, for consistently producing the *Helvetica* magazine to such a high standard each month. Thank you also to the team of 'packers' who then prepare the *Helvetica* for posting, as well as all other committee members for helping in the smooth running of the Society. The new system of collecting Sub payments from Clubs at regular intervals is working well - thanks to all Club treasurers for prompt payments. Address lists are also being checked by Clubs annually, with only minor changes required. Very little mail is being returned.

As reported in the June 2000 *Helvetica*, the proposed Business Directory would not go ahead. Although a reasonable number of responses was received, there were not enough to warrant the work. The information received will be safely filed and kept for possible future reference.

In line with tradition, our new Ambassador was recently asked to become our Honorary Patron for the duration of her posting in New Zealand, a role Mrs Matteucci has accepted. The report was moved for adoption.

Moved by M.T Melville-Schöpfer;

Seconded by Herbert Staheli Carried

Editor's Report: (Rinaldo Rust reported) In our third year, we have again produced 10 issues of the *Helvetica*, including one enlarged to 16 pages. We have been well supported by, and are grateful to, both our long-term and occasional advertisers, and remind readers to kindly support such advertisers whenever possible. We have enjoyed excellent co-operation from

Club secretaries. Thank you to everyone who helped by sending reports of events, and to the Embassy for some very useful reading material. For the coming year, more 'Personal Profiles' of members would be most welcome. The monthly competition is still very successful, with a good number of responses each time. The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Rinaldo Rust;

Seconded by Heidi Leuenberger Carried

Introduction of Ambassador: After being without an Ambassador for some time, the unexpected recent announcement that one had finally been appointed to New Zealand came as a surprise to many! The President introduced the Ambassador, Mrs Matteucci, with a brief description of her diplomatic postings spanning nearly three decades - this one being the first outside of Europe. Beatrice welcomed Mrs Matteucci to New Zealand, wishing her a happy and successful time here, and also thanked her for becoming the Society's Honorary Patron.

Address by Patron of the Swiss Society: Mrs Matteucci thanked Beatrice for the introduction, and passed on greeting from her 'boss' Josef Deiss (Auslandminister). She explained that New Zealand was without an Ambassador for four years: following the collapse of the Berlin Wall, all available diplomatic staff were required for the newly 'opened' countries of Eastern Europe. But it is still important for New Zealand to have an Ambassador. Currently, there are approx. 5000 registered Swiss citizens. It was hard for Switzerland to keep the WTO (World Trade Organisation) in Geneva, but with Mike Moore as current WTO Chairman, there is even more reason to have an Ambassador in New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji. Mrs Matteucci is the 8th woman Ambassador in New Zealand.

Financial Report: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Copies of the financial report were circulated for everyone to read. Excess Income of \$2049 was only slightly lower than previous year. The Committee and Editing Team are always aware of costs, and every effort is made to maintain and increase membership numbers and have adequate advertisers. Accumulated funds as at 31 March 2000 were \$28,559.

The Financial Statements were moved for adoption.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Herbert Staheli Carried

Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report: (Heinz Leuenberger reported) The Swiss Review continues to inform us on important matters. Information received from the Secretariat is regularly being published in the *Helvetica*. Next year the four year term for Delegates expires with new elections for 2001 - 2005 to be held at the next AGM. The 2000 Swiss Abroad Conference will be held in Zug - Marie Therese Melville Schöpfer will attend. Report moved for adoption.

Moved by Heinz Leuenberger;

Seconded by Hans Vetsch Carried

Riflemaster's Report: (Peter Rust to attend and reported in writing) The annual competitions have again been well supported, with people still keen to win a medal. A good number of younger members participated in the now popular junior categories. Swiss farm houses will continue as a theme for the medals. The Riflemaster's Financial Report once again shows a loss, this year about \$450, however at this stage there are still sufficient funds in the account to cover costs without increasing competition fees. Exchange rates, which are quite low at the moment play a big role in the annual cost of medals imported from Switzerland. Peter thanked everyone who had helped him throughout the year.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by M Melville-Schöpfer Carried

Setting of Subscriptions 1999/2000: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Beatrice thanked all the businesses who have advertised in the *Helvetica* over the past 12 months, both regular and casual. This income is much appreciated - without advertising revenue, subscriptions would be at least \$10 higher. The committee sees no valid reason to adjust subscriptions for the coming year, and moves that the fee once again be set at the

current cost of \$25 per household.

*Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger
Seconded by V Pfenniger Carried*

Election of Officers: Beatrice vacated the Chair to Hamilton Club President, Herbert Staheli, who thanked the Ambassador for attending our meeting and for the informative speech. He also thanked the Auckland Club for their input in organising this AGM weekend. Nominations were then called for:

- President and Treasurer - Beatrice Leuenberger,
*Moved by Rinaldo Rust; Seconded by Herbert Staheli
Carried*

Herbert then congratulated and thanked Beatrice for work well done, and wished her a further successful year. The President returned to the Chair and called for further nominations for:

- Vice President - Bert Flühler Carried
Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger; Seconded by J Staheli
- Secretary - Ruth Waldvogel Carried
Moved by Heidi Leuenberger; Seconded by Rinaldo Rust
- Editor - Rinaldo Rust Carried
Moved by Ruth Waldvogel; Seconded by Paul Amstalden
- Committee Carried
- Joe Staheli, Karl Waldvogel, Doris Rust, Trudi Wilson
(Current members, *all elected en bloc, with the power of the committee to co-opt new members during the year*)
Moved by Ernst Gfeller; Seconded by Margarethe Poppe
- Auditor - Bill Miles Carried
Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger; Seconded by Herbert Staheli

General Business:

1. Club Reports: Club Presidents - Walter Seifert, Taranaki; Herbert Staheli, Hamilton; Roland Schütz, Wellington; and Ernst Gfeller, Auckland - each gave brief reports on the past year's activities in their Clubs.

2. Funds Received: Beatrice informed the meeting that a letter, dated 21 May 2000, together with a cheque of \$1686.45 had been received from Past Society President, André Schleicher, of Wellington. These funds are the surplus from the 'roadshow' organised by the Swiss Embassy in 1991, to celebrate 700 years Switzerland. Beatrice suggested that these funds be deposited into a separate savings account at this stage, and that it be mentioned in the *Helvetia*, so that Clubs and members may have some thoughts on what it could be used for. This was briefly discussed. *Motion: that the funds be deposited into a savings account. Carried*

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger; Seconded by Oskar Roggen

3. Changes of Address: Members are requested to please advise the secretary of any changes of address as soon as possible so that *Helvetia* magazines can be correctly addressed and are not returned.

4. Medal Competitions: It was asked whether the cost for medal competitions would increase - this was also discussed at the previous AGM and it was found that a price increase was not yet justified, as there were still sufficient funds in the Riflemaster's accounts, which are totally separate to the Society's accounts.

Venue for next Meeting: Hamilton Club President, Herbert Staheli, invited all members of the Swiss Society to meet in Hamilton at Queen's Birthday Weekend 2001, where the Hamilton Swiss Club would be pleased to host the next AGM.

Meeting Closure: On behalf of the Society, Beatrice accepted the invitation of the Hamilton Swiss Club to host the next meeting, and sincerely thanked and congratulated the Auckland Club committee and members for a very well organised and successful AGM weekend.

Finally, Beatrice thanked all members present for their attendance and participation, and wished everyone an enjoyable evening function and a safe journey home.

The 2000 AGM was declared closed at 3.20 pm.

Swiss Society Annual General Meeting

The Swiss Society invites members and friends to attend the Annual General Meeting, to be held on 3rd June 2001, at 2.00 pm (Queen's Birthday Weekend) at the Cosmopolitan Club, Hamilton East

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (4 June 2000) (printed in May *Helvetia*) & Matters Arising
4. Obituaries
5. President's Report & Matters Arising
6. Editor's Report & Matters Arising
7. Address by the Patron of the Society
8. Financial Report & Matters Arising
9. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report
10. Riflemaster's Report & Matters Arising
11. Setting of Subscriptions for 2000/02
12. Election of Officers (President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer / Editor)
13. Election of Society Committee & Co-Options
14. Election of Delegates for Swiss Abroad**
15. General Business & Matters Arising
 - Club Reports
 - Maintaining and funding Society Website
 - Other business
16. Set date and venue for 2002 Society AGM
17. Meeting Closure

**For the new 2001-2005 term of office, under the new rules, New Zealand is now entitled to one Delegate and two Deputy Delegates - to be elected at the time of the Society AGM.

President's Message

It does not seem so long ago since I was very nervously preparing to chair my first AGM - and now I am already heading towards the fourth !! As usual, besides preparing for the meeting, there is also a lot of work to be done in organising a number of various activities and functions to be held at this weekend - and the Hamilton Club is very busy planning a special weekend for everyone to enjoy, so please do come along and join us.

In this issue, we have printed in full the minutes of last year's meeting, as well as the Agenda for this year. I do hope to see a good number of members at the meeting. On the Sunday morning, prior to the meeting, the Taranaki Club will once again compete against Auckland or Hamilton (whichever Club wins their upcoming semi-final) to take the Society's cowbell back home with them again for another year...good luck to you all !

Congratulations to the Christchurch Club on reaching your 40th year - hopefully there will be many more !!

I look forward to catching up with many of you at Queen's Birthday Weekend. With kind regards, Beatrice.