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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.), held at the
Cosmopolitan Club, Hamilton, on 3rd June, 2001**

Meeting opened: 2.00pm

Welcome: The Society President, Beatrice Leuenberger, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to Hamilton. Beatrice congratulated the Taranaki Club for once again winning the annual Cowbell Competition final against Auckland that morning. She also thanked the Hamilton Committee for organising the competition final, and providing a delicious morning tea and lunch.

Present: Beatrice Leuenberger (President), R Rust (Editor), R Waldvogel (Secretary), and 60 Society members.

Apologies: A & H Müller, O & S Suri; V & S Steiner; L Rufer; E Gfeller, H Werffeli; M Drummond; B T Miles; T Brühlmann; F Hochuli; R Dudli; M Rufer; P & C Amstalden; M Seifert; J Bischof; E & T Rust; H & V Vetsch; T Wilson.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

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: Ettie Camenzind, Tony Steiner, Rosa Steiner (Hamilton Club); Alex Kuriger (Taranaki Club); Molly Sarasin (Auckland Club); Everyone was invited to stand for a moment's silence in memory remembrance of these past members and friends.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous year's AGM (2000, Auckland) had been published in the May *Helvetia* - 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 Heinz Leuenberger;

Seconded by K Waldvogel - Carried

President's Report: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported)

The Society has run smoothly over the past year. For me personally, it was a busy year, particularly the three months when our Editor was in Switzerland and I took over the publication of the *Helvetia*. I was grateful for the monthly editorials Rinaldo still provided - he always seems to find an inspirational topic, and I'm sure everyone enjoyed reading of Rinaldo's interesting impressions of Switzerland as it is today.

Membership numbers have been static - there are always those who resign, move away, or simply do not renew, but these are offset by new members. These are gained through the Clubs directly, the web site, and the letter the Embassy sends to new registrations - as well as by 'word of mouth'. If anyone knows, or happens to meet, someone Swiss, please tell them about the Society and Clubs. Even if they don't join a Club, they can still become Society members and receive the *Helvetia*. Thanks also to all the Clubs for their perseverance in the collection of subs from Club members.

Over the past year we have attempted to run competitions and activities for younger members, and it is unfortunate that the response hasn't been fantastic. I'd like to ask parents to encourage children to take part in future activities and get them involved in reading the *Helvetia* - afterall, they are tomorrow's members. Once again, I'd like to thank the Society committee for their input in running the Society. Thanks in particular our Editor, Rinaldo Rust, for the large amount of work, time, effort in producing our magazine - this on-going commitment is much appreciated by many.

The report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Trudi Fill - Carried

Editor's Report: (Rinaldo Rust reported) For our fourth year of our 'term of office', eight 12-page and two 16-page issues of *Helvetia*. These could regularly be delivered thanks to the co-operation of Club secretaries, the Printer, and the editing team working together in harmony and goodwill. Special thanks to Beatrice for her help during the year, especially during my Swiss holiday last Winter. Regular contact was also enjoyed with the Embassy.

Colour photos from Clubs can be printed on the back page on request and at the Editor's discretion. The monthly page one 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 Heinz Leuenberger - Carried

Financial Report: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Copies of the financial report were circulated for everyone to read. Excess Income of \$1,382 plus \$1,686 ('700 years Switzerland' funds raised in 1991 and previously held by Embassy) increased our accumulated funds to total \$31,627. A good portion of income is through advertising, and we again urge all members to support our advertisers.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Markus Bühler - Carried

Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report: (Heinz Leuenberger reported) The Swiss Revue is a good source of information about economic and political issues. Also talked on the merits of voting in the Swiss elections or referenda, and the role of the Swiss Abroad Organisation. The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Heinz Leuenberger;

Seconded by Walter Seifert - Carried

Riflemaster's Report: (Peter Rust reported) Events during the past year took place without any problems. It was good to see so many juniors take part - these are the 'cowbell holders' of tomorrow! Medals are still partially subsidised, and a net loss of nearly \$200 was recorded. The Riflemaster's account balance is now \$1,277. The low NZ dollar has effectively increased the cost of medals. The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Peter Rust;

Seconded by Bert Flühler - Carried

Setting of Subscriptions 2001 / 2002: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Thanks to advertisers for their continued support. The actual cost per membership would be about \$35, so without advertising, subscriptions would be much higher. We are also very aware of costs and try very hard to keep expenses down. The committee could see no reason to increase the subscription and recommended that the fee once again be set at the current cost of \$25 per household.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Hans Iten - Carried

Election of Officers: Beatrice vacated the Chair to Vice-President, Bert Flühler, who thanked everyone for the smooth running of the Society.

Bert suggested that, with the exception of Vice-President, the current office holders be nominated en-bloc.

Moved by Bert Flühler;

Seconded by Lou Camenzind - Carried

Vice President - Marianne Drummond nominated

Moved by Walter Seifert;

Seconded by Holdi Mathys - Carried

Delegate for Swiss Abroad - Heinz Leuenberger

Deputy Delegates (2 red.) - Roland Schütz (Wellington) and Bruno Nötzli (Taranaki)

Moved by Walter Seifert;

Seconded by Herbert Staheli - Carried

General Business:

1. Club Reports: Club Presidents were invited to report on Club activities over the past year.

Hamilton - Herbert Staheli Good support at functions, especially the six card evenings during the Winter months. Membership numbers remains steady at about 123 (households).

Taranaki - Walter Seifert Functions also well attended. Membership is currently about 250 (people).

Wellington - Roland Schütz Pleased with the work on the new Clubhouse, but still a lot to be done on the outside. Roland invited everyone to Wellington for a working bee! Mrs Ruth Messmer has been the Club's Treasurer for 57 years. Membership is currently about 100 (people).

Auckland - Uli Kipfer Power is now connected at the Clubhouse. Still lots of work to be done at the farm. Membership is about 130 (households).

2. Web Page: Heinz Matysik talked about the importance for Clubs to have a web page, but it has to be regularly updated - each club named a person responsible for updating information... Auckland - Heinz Matysik; Taranaki - Markus Rufer; Hamilton - Anna Rufer; Wellington - Lotti Napp. Clubs are responsible for their own information.

Cost of web page: It was suggested that the \$250 cost of maintaining the web site be taken over by the Society, also using the interest from the '700 year fund'.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Uli Kipfer - **Carried**

3. Medal Competitions: The method of calculation for sports' medals was queried and discussed. Medals are given to the top 20% of placings, so sometimes more are awarded if the last qualifying placing has multiple winners. It was preferred to award 'more rather than less' medals. Rules are available on request, and all clubs were sent copies about five years ago.

4. Swiss Flag: It was discussed how to go about preventing the misuse of the Swiss Cross for advertising and labelling purposes. The Swiss Embassy would probably know more about this, and should be notified of any misuse discovered.

Venue for next Meeting: Taranaki Club President, Walter Seifert, invited all members of the Swiss Society to meet in Kaponga at Queen's Birthday Weekend, 2002, where the Taranaki Swiss Club would be pleased to host the next Annual General Meeting. This would also coincide with the host Club's 50th Anniversary.

Meeting Closure: On behalf of the Society, Beatrice accepted the invitation from the Taranaki Swiss Club to host the next meeting, and sincerely thanked and congratulated the Hamilton 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 2001 Annual General Meeting was closed at 3.45 pm.

Typical

While on a car trip, an old couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. About a half hour after they left, the old woman realized that she left her glasses on the table and had to go back to get them. The old man fussed and complained all the way back to the restaurant. When they finally arrived, as the old woman got out of the car to retrieve her glasses, the old man said, "While you're in there, you may as well get my hat, too."

Swiss Society Annual General Meeting

The Swiss Society invites all members
and friends to attend the
Annual General Meeting,
to be held on 2nd June 2002, at 2.00 pm
(Queen's Birthday Weekend)
at the Taranaki Swiss Club, Kaponga

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (3rd June 2001) (printed in May Helvetia) 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 2001/02
12. Election of Officers (President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer / Editor)
13. Election of Society Committee / Co-Options
14. General Business
 - Club Reports
 - Other
15. Set date and venue for Society AGM, 2003
16. Meeting Closure

President's Message

We are once again nearing our Annual General Meeting weekend - the only function each year when all four North Island Swiss Clubs come together.

This year we will be meeting in Taranaki - where there will also be a celebration of the Club's 50th anniversary - a milestone well worth getting together for.

A lot of preparation goes into organising these meetings, so please do come along - a good time is always guaranteed at a Taranaki Club function!!

Prior to the meeting, either Hamilton or Auckland will also be competing against Taranaki to fight out who will win the 'cowbell' competitions for another year - competition is sure to be tough.

In this issue, we have printed the minutes of last year's meeting, as well as the agenda for this year.

I look forward to catching up with many of you at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Kindest regards, Beatrice.