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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Held at the Clubhouse of the Wellington Swiss Club, Wainuiomata on June 1, 2003

Meeting opened: 2.10pm

Welcome: The Society President, Marianne Drummond, opened the meeting with a big welcome to the ladies and gentlemen, and a special welcome to Daniel & Karin Ruegger, representatives of the embassy, to the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. Congratulations to the Taranaki Swiss Club for winning the final of the Cowbell Competition against Auckland. It was great to see all the participants enjoying themselves, and grateful thanks to the Wellington Swiss Club for hosting this weekend and organising the final. The presentation of the Cowbell will be done tonight. The lunch provided was scrumptious, and it's wonderful to see people from the various Swiss Clubs mingling. I hope you all continue to enjoy the weekend and the hospitality of our Wellington friends. Would all Society members please sign the attendance register that is circulating, and feel free to take part in any discussion during the AGM. When speaking to the AGM, please state your name and which club you are from. Thank you.

Present: Marianne Drummond (President), W Seifert (Vice President), S Schuler (Secretary), and 74 Society members from the Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki and Wellington Swiss Clubs.

Apologies: U Hess, D Hess, U Kipfer (Auckland Club); B&J Fluhler, H&W Staehli, P&D Rust (Hamilton Club); O Hebler, F Schuler, P Amstalden (Taranaki Club). An apology was also received from our Patron and Ambassador, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci.

Moved by Rinaldo Rust
Seconded by Heinz Leuenberger

Minutes: The minutes of the previous year's AGM (2002, Taranaki) had been published in the May issue of the Helvetia ... I am sorry that it appeared out of sequence in the issue, but am sure that everyone got the gist of the minutes. I assume that these have been 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 Marianne Drummond
Seconded by Hans Iten

Obituaries: Sadly, several Society members and friends from throughout the country have passed away in the past twelve months. These were: Julia Wehrli, Werner Gerber (Wellington Club); Max Bachmann (Auckland Club); Josef Arnold, Josef Boesch (Hamilton Club); Felix Suter, Alfred Andreoli, Dominik Hiestand, Keith Anderson, Martha Fluehler (Taranaki

Club), and our previous patron Mr Ernst Thurnheer. Would everyone please stand for a moment's silence in remembrance of these past members and friends.

President's Report: Well folks, this is my first report.... and what a full year we have had!!! It has been a big learning curve for the editing committee as none of us have been involved in a job of this nature before. It has been a lot of hard work, but we have also had much enjoyment from it. By far the biggest component of being on the Swiss Society executive has been the production of the Helvetia magazine. To this end I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Stratford Press very much for all their help - they have been wonderful to deal with, and we look forward to their assistance over the next four years!!! To all the club secretaries for your input - thank you very much. Also grateful thanks to other society members for their contributions. Please remember this is YOUR magazine, so any contributions of items are always gratefully accepted. We have run a few competitions over the past year, and these have been well supported. We are grateful for all entries that we receive, so keep them coming!!! I sincerely hope that you have all enjoyed reading the Helvetia magazine. Membership has increased slightly over the past year...this is always a good sign ... and we now have 541 members, including 18 honorary members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive for all the work and effort that they have put into the Helvetia, and also to all the people involved in packing the magazine. You have been marvellous to work with. Many thanks also to my husband, Adrian, who has never bickered about the amount of time I spend working on voluntary projects, like the Helvetia magazine! I would like to move my report for adoption.

Moved by Marianne Drummond
Seconded by Beatrice Leuenberger

Info: Akld 127, Ham 119, Tki 124, Wgt 56 and Soc 97, Honorary 18.

Editor's Report: The past 12 months have been a very steep learning curve for the editorial team, as I'm sure they would all agree. But I would like to say what a tremendous job everyone who has been contributing to the creation of the magazine, has been doing.

Most of us have had full-time commitments, such as work or study, during the time we have been putting the Helvetia together and to get it out each month - is no mean feat. So I would just

like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has been helping. This also includes members from other clubs who supply the magazine with club news each month and yet others who sent in interesting articles over the past year. I think you would all agree what a wonderful job the Taranaki Swiss Club is doing, looking after the Helvetia magazine. As you are probably aware I am now the new editor of the Stratford Press, a community paper in Central Taranaki. As this role demands a lot of time - events are often outside normal working hours - I am now stepping down as editor of the Helvetia. My father, Paul Amstalden, has agreed to write the monthly editorial. I have enjoyed the year I've spent as editor, although towards the end I really only wrote the monthly editorial. It gave me some good experience and let me slip slowly back into writing, before I started at my current job. I wish the editorial team well for future issues of the Helvetia and will continue to enjoy reading it each month.

Regards, Liz Amstalden

The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Marianne Drummond
Seconded by Walter Seifert

Address by a representative of the Embassy: Mr Daniel Ruegger

He introduced himself and his wife Karin, and spoke about issues regarding Switzerland and the Swiss Abroad.

Financial Report: Copies of the financial report were circulated and Walter reported that excess of income over expenditure was \$5,578.66 due mainly to the donations that we received. Many thanks to the Taranaki Electricity Trust and the NZ Community Trust for their generous donations. Good income was once again obtained through advertising and we encourage all Swiss Society members to support our advertisers whenever possible. Accumulated funds now stand at a healthy \$ 38,557.66. Rinaldo recommended that we should keep up with the good work we do. The Financial Statements were moved for adoption.

Moved by Walter Seifert
Seconded by Heinz Leuenberger

Delegate for the Swiss Abroad's Report: (Heinz Leuenberger reported)

He has continued working on the issue of introducing English as the third language at the Swiss Abroad meetings. Had received notification that Dr. Georg Stucky (President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad) would be coming to NZ, and will keep clubs informed. Heinz will attend Swiss Abroad Conference in Crans-Montana whilst in Switzerland.

The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Heinz Leuenberger
Seconded by Walter Seifert

Riflemaster's Report: (Peter Rust provided a written report.) I would like to apologise for not being at this Annual General Meeting as once again I am moving from one farm to another. This is my last report as Swiss Society Riflemaster as I am passing this position on to the Taranaki Swiss Club. I would like to wish the future Riflemaster all the best. If the new Riflemaster has any queries please get in touch with me. The year has passed once again without any problems and there has been very good participation for the various Club events and competitions. It is great to see new members taking part in the competitions, especially the children. My thanks go once again to Beatrice, who helps me out in various ways, making MY job a lot easier. I hope everyone enjoys their weekend in Wellington and I hope to join you next year in Auckland.

Regards, Peter Rust

The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger
Seconded by Heidi Leuenberger

Setting of Subscriptions for 2003/2004. It was recommended that subscriptions remain the same for the next year, following a good financial report. The fee once again be set at the current cost of \$25 per household.

Moved by Marianne Drummond
Seconded by Rinaldo Rust

Election of Officers:

Marianne vacated the chair and Walter took over.

President: Marianne Drummond
Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger
Seconded by Trudi Fill

Vice President: Walter Seifert
Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger
Seconded by Trudi Fill

Treasurer: Walter Seifert
Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger
Seconded by Trudi Fill

Secretary: Silvia Schuler
Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger
Seconded by Trudi Fill

Editor: Paul Amstalden
Moved by Marianne Drummond
Seconded by Walter Seifert

Auditor: no nominations received

Riflemaster: Mark Kiser
Moved by Lisette Benkert
Seconded by Peter Canziani

Committee Members: will be appointed by the above executive.

General Business:

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

Wellington: Roland Schuetz reports; that the Club is going strong, also the catering. Would like to put up a new roof on top with a floor - thanks to members compiling the Helvetia Magazine.

Taranaki: Walter Seifert reports; it was an extremely busy year for the Swiss Club, as we just celebrated our 50th anniversary, last year. The membership of our club has increased by 12 people, and we are very grateful to all the parents, who encourage their children to become involved in our club activities!

Hamilton: Vitus Ackermann reports; the year went well, good attendance for the card evenings - 48 participants for the medal - Eureka is going good - Picnic, Fondue and Family walks with, "sometimes 15 people attending" very good.

Auckland: Trudi Fill reports; thanks for hosting and she thinks they have to do it again next year. - 113 members - 10 socials a year - 7 card evenings - 8 weekends shooting. Tramping days are not as successful in Auckland - hard to get new members - putting in a new floor, but need some money. Thanks to all.

Heinz Matysik would like to update all the committee names and addresses for the web-page.

Christchurch: Heinz Leuenberger will have contact with Christchurch Swiss Club.

2. Honorary Membership

Marianne suggested that as honorary membership could become quite onerous on the Swiss Society, and also that many honorary members don't have any involvement with the Swiss Society or their club, the executive may award up to \$ 400.00 (in total) per year in travel expenses to the office bearers. This would be in lieu of bestowing honorary membership at the end of their term. It was decided that all clubs would discuss the issue of Honorary Membership and bring it to the next AGM.

Has anyone seen the Common Seal of the Swiss Society of New Zealand? ... It has been many, many years since anyone has seen it, and this valuable item should be handed to every secretary upon taking up office. No one could shed any light on this matter.

Would everyone please send all contributions to the Helvetia to either Silvia Schuler or Marianne Drummond so that we know that all contributions to the next issue have been received **by 15th of the month.** Thank you.

Everyone agreed to close two saving accounts and make a term investment.

H Iten: Why different rules for card games? This was once again discussed at length, and Mr. Iten was advised that

we must abide by the rules.

Venue for next Meeting: Edith Hess, representing the Auckland Swiss Club, invited all members of the Swiss Society to meet in Auckland at Queen's Birthday Weekend 2004.

Meeting Closure: On behalf of the Society, Marianne accepted the invitation of the Auckland Swiss Club to host the next AGM, and sincerely thanked the Wellington Club committee and members for a very well organised and successful AGM weekend. Marianne thanked everyone for attending and participating in the AGM and wishes all a great evening and a safe journey home. The 2003 AGM was declared closed at 3.20pm.



PROGRAMME

Of the Swiss Society
Annual General Meeting
Queen's Birthday Weekend
Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th June 2004
In Auckland / Kaukapakapa.

Saturday 5 June 2004, Newmarket Club Inc.
Teed St. Newmarket, Auckland

5pm onward: Welcome of the Clubs from around the country with Dinner provided.

Sunday 6 June 2004, At the farm, Rapson Rd, Kaukapakapa 9am-12noon - Cowbell Competition. The match is held between Taranaki and Auckland!

12. 30pm - Lunch

2pm - Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. Chaired by the president, Marianne Drummond of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

Sunday evening Folklore Night to conclude the weekend. 6pm - Doors open at Sorrento, One (Tree) Hill, Auckland 7.30pm - Dinner served followed by entertainment and Dance to the tune of the Holzacker Band.

Cost \$45 per person

Everyone is cordially invited to take part in this weekend. It is a unique opportunity to mix and mingle with the members of the big colourful Swiss/New Zealand family that is scattered around this country, and make acquaintances for the future.

Directions to the venues are available to each club.

**For any bookings, contact your local club representative or Edith Hess
Tel. 09 444 6972**