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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Incorporated, held at the Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa, hosted by the Auckland Swiss Club, on 1 June 2008

Meeting opened: 2 pm

Welcome: Roland Schütz, the Society President, welcomes everyone to the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, with a special welcome to our Ambassador of Switzerland, Dr. Beat Nobs. Congratulations to the Auckland Swiss Club for winning the final of the Cowbell Competition, and a big thank you to the Auckland Swiss Club for hosting this weekend. We all appreciate this opportunity to get to know Swiss compatriots from the other Swiss Clubs.

Would all Society members please sign the attendance register that is circulating. Feel free to take part in any discussion during the AGM; please tell us your name and the club you belong to.

Present: The Ambassador and 56 Society members from the Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki and Wellington Swiss Clubs.

Apologies: Othmar and Marlies Hebler, Heidi Werder, Paul and Christine Amstalden, Walter and Myrtha Seifert, John and Bertha Kuriger, Franz and Silvia Schuler, Charlie and Doreen Schuler, Margrit Dudli, Adrian Drummond, Beatrice Leuenberger, Rinaldo and Gritli Rust, Herbert Stäheli, Karl Waldvogel, Vitus Achermann, Ueli and Erika Elmiger, Peter Deutsche, Henry Werffeli, Heidi Wilson, Heidi Amelung, Max and Rosina Fuhrer.

Address by the Patron of the Swiss Society, the Ambassador of Switzerland, Dr. Beat Nobs: The Ambassador's speech was printed in full in the Helvetia of July 2008.

On behalf of everyone, Heinz Leuenberger thanks the Ambassador for coming to the AGM and for his informative speech.

Scrutineers: Leo Zehnder and Ruedi Benkert are nominated by Roland Schütz and seconded by Sepp Kiser.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous AGM held on 3 June 2007 have been published in the May issue of the Helvetia. Copies also lie on the tables. Presumably they have been read. There are no matters arising. The president asks for a mover and a seconder that these minutes are a true and correct record. Moved by Marianne Drummond, seconded by Marcel Rüedi.

Obituaries: Sadly, a few Society members have passed away in the past twelve months. These are:

from the Auckland Swiss Club:

Maria-Theresia Hafner and Arthur Müller

from the Hamilton Swiss Club: Bernard Leuthardt

from the Taranaki Swiss Club:

Tom Walker, Audrey Meuli, Nik Werder, Joe Kaiser

Swiss Society Only member:

Alfred Leo John Steiner

Would everyone please stand for a moment's silence in remembrance of these past members and friends.- Thank you.

President's Report: Roland Schütz, the president, acknowledges his predecessor, Marianne Drummond - difficult to fill her footsteps! He also acknowledges the work Heidi Amelung and Trudi Brühlmann put into the Helvetia. - Then he focuses on the purpose of the emergency social welfare fund of the Swiss Society - and hopes we do not need it. The president also asks the members for ideas about how the activities of the Society could be diversified. Suggestions would be very welcome, all through the year to his address, or next year at the AGM.

Peter Canziani moves that the report be accepted; Lisette Benkert seconds it.

The Ambassador Dr. Nobs thanks the president and his team for their effort. He expresses his appreciation of the late Arthur Müller, who had been Honorary Consul in Auckland for many years.

Editor's Report: Trudi Brühlmann, the editor, thanks everybody who made the team's efforts easier and praises Heidi Amelung for her outstanding work and computer skills with the layout and the pictures. - Trudi moves that her report be accepted, and Marcel Rüedi seconds it.

Treasurer's Report: As Heidi Amelung, our treasurer, is absent, Trudi Brühlmann reads her report. Copies of the financial report are on the tables for everyone. No questions are asked. Trudi Brühlmann moves that the report be accepted; Marianne Drummond seconds it.

Delegate for the Swiss Abroad's Report: Heinz Leuenberger reads his report. He stresses the importance of being represented at the Congresses of the Swiss Abroad and hopes a successor, and deputy delegates can be found. Heinz Leuenberger moves

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that his report be accepted, and Marcel Rüedi seconds it.

Riflemaster's Report: Mark Kiser reports that the participation in the Cowbell Competition is about the same as in previous years. As soon as he has the results from all the clubs, he will order the medals. Mark Kiser moves that his report be accepted, and Marianne Drummond seconds it.

Setting of Subscriptions 2008/09: It is recommended that subscriptions remain the same for next year. Roland Schütz moves the recommendation, and Peter Canziani seconds it.

Election of Officers: Marianne Drummond takes the seat for the election of the president. She nominates Roland Schütz, and Marcel Rüedi seconds it. Then Roland Schütz takes over again. Heinz Leuenberger suggests to change the rules and have the committee elected for the full 5 years. The meeting, though maybe agreeing with the idea of having the same committee for the whole 5 years, thinks it is not worth the costs and the effort of changing the rules. The following people are nominated:

Vice President: Max Fuhrer, moved by Roland Schütz, seconded Marcel Rüedi

Treasurer: Heidi Amelung, moved by Roland Schütz, seconded by Anita Zuber

Secretary: Trudi Brühlmann, moved by Roland Schütz, seconded by Marie-Theres Melville-Schöpfer

Riflemaster: Mark Kiser, moved by Roland Schütz, seconded by Mathias Seifert

Editor: Trudi Brühlmann, moved by Marianne Drummond, seconded by Peter Canziani

Auditor: Lyn Hansen, moved by Marianne Drummond, seconded by Trudi Brühlmann

Election of Committee: Committee members will be appointed by the above executive as required; moved by Roland Schütz, seconded by Marianne Drummond.

Election of the Delegate and the Deputy Delegates for the Swiss Abroad: The Ambassador Dr Nobs stresses the importance of having a representative, even if New Zealand is a long way from Switzerland. He suggests that our representative could be an ad hoc representative, somebody who spends some time in Switzerland anyway and would be prepared to give the time to represent the New Zealand Swiss. He suggests to leave it open for the moment and maybe look for somebody by publishing the need in the Helvetia. This proposal is moved by the

Ambassador, Dr. Beat Nobs, and seconded by Marcel Rüedi.

General Business:

Helvetia: Marcel Rüedi thanks the new Helvetia team and says their Helvetia is just as good as the Taranaki Helvetia was.

Life membership in the Society: This issue does not require a discussion or motion; it will fizzle out if subsequent Society office holders follow the example of Marianne Drummond and her team.

Club Reports

Auckland: The president of the Auckland Swiss Club, Marcel Rüedi, reports that Auckland has had a good year. The membership has grown, mainly thanks to the internet. Auckland has 62 shooters, and a membership of 142, up from 131 last year.

Hamilton: Hans Vetsch reports for Herbert Stäheli, who is in Switzerland. The Hamilton Club was very active. The membership has increased. He thanks the Auckland Club for the opportunity to shoot in Auckland. Hamilton has around 40 card players on the card evenings. The Hiking Weekend, the Picnic, the Fondue, 1st August and the Family walks are popular, too; all is going well.

Taranaki: In the absence of the president and the vice president of the Taranaki Swiss Club, Marianne Drummond congratulates the Auckland Club to the Cowbell. The Taranaki Club has 230 members, about 150 come to the functions. Marianne Drummond thanks the teams who organize Jassen, Shooting, Kegeln - and the Kitchen staff. All these contributions by members make a great club.

Wellington: The president of the Wellington Swiss Club, Roland Schütz, reports that the Cards Evenings (or afternoons) are not very well attended, but the Fondue is a hit; many young people came and had a good evening - and a good fondue, too. The next event is a film afternoon at the Army Camp. Wellington has now also a Suisse Romande in the committee. The club is in good shape - and still working towards a new roof.

Venue for the next meeting: Hans Vetsch, on behalf of the Hamilton Swiss Club, invites all Swiss Society members to Hamilton for next year's AGM to be held on Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Roland Schütz accepts the invitation on behalf of the Swiss Society and thanks the Auckland Club for their hospitality. He thanks everybody present for attending and participating and wishes everybody a great evening.

Meeting Closure: The 2008 Annual General Meeting is declared closed at 3.40pm