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Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

Held at the Matangi Hall, Matangi

Hosted by the Hamilton Swiss Club on 2 June 2013

The meeting opens at 3pm.

Welcome by the President

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg, the Society president, welcomes everyone to the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and thanks the Hamilton Swiss club for hosting the event and the wonderful catering.

The Cowbell Competition this year went to the Hamilton club after a tight competition with the Taranaki Swiss club. Tanja congratulates both clubs and hands the bells to Herbert Stäheli of the Hamilton club and Othmar Hebler of the Taranaki club. Results are as follows: Shooting (Taranaki 280 points/ Hamilton 279 points), Steinstossen (Hamilton 66.4m/Taranaki 52.5m), Bowling (Hamilton 647 points/ Taranaki 513 points), Jassen (3 to 1 for Hamilton).

The president asks all Society members to sign the attendance book. If you take part in the discussion, please tell us your name and the club you belong to and speak loudly, so that everybody can hear you.

2 Apologies

Hamilton club: Vitus und Ray Ackermann, Lina Rufer, Jo Staeheli. **Taranaki club:** Ruedi and Lisette Benkert, Adrian and Marianne Drummond, Mark and Emmi Kiser, Ruedi and Verena Kull, Margrit Dudli, Albert Schuler, Paul and Christine Amstalden. **Auckland club:** Ueli and Dominic Hess. **Wellington club:** No apologies.

3 Address by the Patron of the Society, the Ambassador of Switzerland

The Ambassador of Switzerland, Marion Weichelt Krupski, delivers her speech about the "Daily life of the Swiss Ambassador in New Zealand" later in the day during the Society dinner.

4 Appointment of Scrutineers

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg nominates Herbert Stäheli and Hans Vetsch seconds it. Marcel Rüedi nominates Adrian Blaser and Peter Canziani seconds it.

5 Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM, held in Auckland on 3 June 2012, were printed in the April/May 2013 Helvetia. Copies of the minutes also lie on the tables. The president allows Society members a few minutes to read them, then Heinz Leuenberger moves that these minutes are a true and correct record, and Adrian Blaser seconds it.

6 Obituaries

Sadly, a few Society members have passed away in the past twelve months. They are from the Auckland Swiss Club: Molly Gianotti, Yvette Caviezel, Jo Kaiser and Koebi Glauser. From the Hamilton Swiss Club: Walter Steiner, Theresa Kennel, Karl Eschmann and Ted Lischer. From the Taranaki Swiss Club: Sepp Kiser, Lena Hermann and Tony Hardegger. From the Wellington Club: Max Fuhrer and Werner Stutz. Would everyone please stand for a moment's silence in remembrance of these past members and friends - thank you.

7 President's Report

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg reports on the first year of operation of the Swiss Society in Auckland. She introduces the Swiss Society Officers and thanks them for their support. She discusses the work that has been done on the new Swiss Society website and acknowledges the help of David Latham in this. She also notes the development of the new on-line Society member database that will be managed directly by club secretaries via the new website. Marcel Rüedi moves that the report be accepted and Carmen Fitzi-Gordon seconds it.

8 Editor's Report

Susie Wood reports on the first year of producing the Helvetia in Auckland. She thanks the previous Helvetia team in Wellington, Trudi Brühlmann and Heidi Amelung, for the smooth handover. She also thanks the Auckland Helvetia team and club secretaries, as well as the ASO representatives and the Swiss Embassy for their support over the year. She gratefully notes contributions from advertisers and the printers McCollam's in Auckland. She invites all present to offer comment to any Auckland club members present, and to write to the Editor and Helvetia readers. Trudi Fill-Weidmann moves that report be accepted and Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg seconds it.

9 Treasurer's Report

Carmen Fitzi-Gordon explains the figures on the balance sheet. The financial situation looks positive and the accounts are in a good position. Swiss Society accumulated funds have grown from \$58,863 in June 2012 to \$63,765 in June 2013. Carmen notes that the accounts include printing costs for two Wellington-based issues as well. A few accounts receivable are outstanding. The accounts were audited by Marcelle Kiely. Peter Camenzind moves that the accounts be accepted and Herbert Stäheli seconds it.

10 Delegate of the Swiss Abroad's Report

Othmar Hebler reports on his last four years as the Delegate of the Swiss Abroad. He attended two conferences in Lucerne and Lausanne, while the Deputy Delegate Mani Züst attended one in St Gallen. He notes that over the last four years, the numbers of Swiss abroad have increased from 680,000 to 718,000. A key issue that has been discussed is electronic voting which appears to be quite expensive but will be fully implemented in 2015.

11 Riflemaster's Report

Ernst Lanz reports that the competitions for the medals have gone well. Today is the last day for shooting results to be submitted to the Riflemaster to make sure that medals will be received before 1st August celebrations. Medals will be ordered next week. There were a total of 260 contributors of which 54 won single medals, nine double medals and one a triple medal. The winners' list will be printed in the August/September Helvetia. Ernst Lanz thanks all competitors, organisers and riflemen. Marcel Rüedi moves that the report be accepted and Heinz Leuenberger seconds it.

12 Setting of Helvetia Subscriptions 2012/2013

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg suggests that the Helvetia subscriptions should stay the same, i.e. \$25. Adrian Blaser moves it and Mathias Seifert seconds it.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting cont.

13 Election of Officers

The entire Auckland-based Swiss Society team offers itself for re-election at the AGM. Heinz Leuenberger suggests that the team is elected for a 5-year term, but Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg confirms that the Swiss Society rules require Officers to be elected annually. It is agreed that one vote will serve to re-elect the entire team. This is moved by Henry Werffeli and seconded by Hans Vetsch. It is noted that Nelly Steinemann has offered herself tentatively as Secretary. In her absence, Henry Werffeli moves this and Herbert Stäheli seconds it.

The Officers are as follows: **President:** Tanja Latham-Zurbrügg, **Vice President:** Marcel Rüedi, **Treasurer:** Carmen Fitzi Gordon, **Secretary:** Nelly Steineman, **Editor:** Susie Wood and **Riflemaster:** Ernst Lanz.

As the current representatives for Swiss Abroad Othmar Hebler and Mani Zuest are standing down, a new Delegate and deputy Delegate need to be voted in. Peter Ehrler's CV was printed in the previous Helvetia issue and Peter Canziani introduces himself at the meeting. Peter Ehrler and Peter Canziani are nominated for these honorary positions. Othmar Hebler moves that Peter Ehrler is elected as Delegate and Mathias Seifert seconds it. Othmar Hebler moves that Peter Canziani is elected as deputy Delegate and Heinz Leuenberger seconds it.

14 General Business

14.1 Rules for Society Competition

Ernst Lanz proposes three changes to the rules of the Swiss Society. Change No. 1 relates to changing the time for reporting results to the Society Riflemaster from June to May to allow the ordering of medals in time. Changes No. 2 and No. 3 refer to the introduction of a new medal category for the Shooting and Steinstossen, by dividing the category for "Juniors" into "Girls" and "Boys". This will make the competition fairer. All changes are accepted by a majority of votes. A discussion ensues whether an additional category by weight should be introduced to enable both stones and "kugeln" to be thrown at Society competitions. It is noted that the current rules state it should be "either or". The weight category is decided on informally by club presidents before the Society competition. Each club can do what it wants for internal competitions. Other issues raised include age categories for juniors and added costs for medals due to more categories.

14.2 Club Reports

Hamilton: The Hamilton president Herbert Stäheli thanks his hard-working committee for organising a great function. He reports on very successful card and fondue evenings and other events such as the picnic and 1st August held at lunch time rather than in the evening. He notes the large number of 160 participants at Society medal events. He thanks everyone for coming to the AGM, and invites them to enjoy the Happy Hour and evening function.

Taranaki: The Taranaki president Othmar Hebler thanks Hamilton for a great event. The Taranaki club membership currently stands at 300. The biggest function of the year is always the picnic, with over 400 people attending - this year top Schwinger Mathias Sempach and two of his wrestling mates attended our Schwingfest and they took the first three places. The prize Galloway Bull even made it to the "Schweizer Illustrierte". Other popular functions include the fondue and sauerkraut evenings, as well as the jass competitions. Othmar also notes the loss of Sepp Kiser, their patron, this year.

Wellington: The Wellington club president Murray Simons reports that the Wellington Swiss club has a membership of 100. Events are always a great success, including fondue and card evenings. The club is focusing on developing more family-oriented events. The club has experienced some issues with the ownership of existing club rooms but is working very positively on possible solutions, with the Hamilton model serving as a key example. Murray notes the passing of the Wellington club's patron, Max Fuhrer. Thankfully, his wife Rosina remains as patroness of the Wellington club. Murray thanks the Hamilton club for a great event.

Auckland: The Auckland president Adrian Blaser reports that the club has about 150 addresses, mostly couples and families. Edith Hess, a long standing member, has left the Committee and is thanked for her great service. Alexandra and Martin Beskid have become new co-vice presidents, and Sabine Wyss is a new Committee member. Jass has become popular and attracts all ages. Samichlaus is always very popular and has an audience of over 60 children. The club has a very strong shooting section. The Market Day was again a highlight in the club year – all possible thanks to a dedicated committee. The joint weekend of the Hamilton and Auckland clubs at Whatipu is highlighted. Upgrades at the farm are noted, together with issues of burglary.

14.3 Other matters

The need for the Ambassador attending the Society AGMs is raised. It is acknowledged that the current Ambassador Marion Weichelt Krupski feels this may not be appropriate in her role as ambassador. However, members believe that it is important for the Ambassador to attend in her role as patron of the Society. It is suggested that this matter should be raised with the Ambassador on an informal basis.

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg suggests that the number of years each club is responsible for Swiss Society matters be reduced to 3-4 years. This will help each club manage this quite large commitment more easily. It will also help with innovation and loss of inspiration. Responses are varied, but it is highlighted that the rules do not prescribe a duration of term for Society Committees. Individual committee members can resign if it is too much.

15 Date and Venue for the Society AGM 2014

The Taranaki club president Othmar Hebler invites all Swiss Society members to Kaponga in Taranaki for the Swiss Society AGM on Queen's Birthday weekend on Sunday, 1st June 2014.

16 Meeting Closure

The meeting closes at 4.30 pm. The president Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg wishes everybody a great evening and a safe trip home.

Swiss ballot results 9 February 2014

A controversial anti-immigration initiative won the backing of the Swiss electorate on February 9. On the same day, voters rejected a proposal that called for abortions to be removed from basic health insurance. In a third vote, the Swiss gave their support to a government plan to boost funding of railway infrastructure.

Source: http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss_news/Immigration_quotas_approved_by_voters.html?cid=37613610