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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Incorporated, held at the Wellington Swiss Clubhouse, hosted by the Wellington Swiss Club, on 3 June 2007

Meeting opened : 2.00pm

Welcome : Marianne Drummond, the Society President, welcomed everyone to the AGM of the Swiss Society of NZ, with a special welcome to our Ambassador of Switzerland, Mr Beat Nobs, and his wife, Irene. Congratulations to the Taranaki Swiss Club for winning the final of the Cowbell competition against Auckland. Thank you to all the people participating in the final of the Cowbell Competitions, as well as their supporters. It is great to see the commitment you all give your clubs, by participating in the Cowbell competition. A big thank you to the members of the Wellington Swiss Club for hosting this weekend and ensuring that there is plenty of entertainment and activities for everyone to enjoy. I hope that you all appreciated a delicious lunch, and that you are all enjoying each other's company. Queen's Birthday Weekend is a great time to catch up with people that we may only see once a year and I hope that everyone enjoys the remainder of the weekend. 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, would you please tell us your name and which club you belong to? Thankyou.

Present : Marianne Drummond (President), Roland Schuetz (Vice President), Walter Seifert (Vice President / Treasurer) Silvia Schuler (Secretary), Paul Amstalden (Editor) and 60 society members from the Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki, and Wellington Swiss Clubs.

Apologies : John and Bertha Kuriger, Johnny and Margaret Bishop, Ueli and Erika Elmiger, U & I Hafliker, Vitus and Rae Acker-

mann, Ricky and Heidi Wehrli, Beatrice Leuenberger, Hilda Iten, Paul and Heidi Fransen, Franz Schuler, and Heidi Seifert.

Moved by: Marie-Therese

Melville-Schopfer

Seconded by: Othmar Hebler

Address by the Patron of the Swiss Society – Mr Beat Nobs addressed the gathering, advising that it was a great pleasure to be with us today. He especially welcomed all who have travelled all the way from Auckland, Hamilton and Taranaki to be with our club members of the Wellington Swiss Club. Thank you very much to Roland Schuetz and his committee for providing great food and wonderful entertainment last night. May I take this opportunity to thank all the clubs that I have visited over the past year for their great hospitality? To help improve the bilateral relationship between Switzerland and New Zealand, Federal Councillor Pascal Couchepin visited NZ, and then our Foreign Affairs minister Winston Peters visited Bern, together with other important visitors who came to NZ. Issues of Interest – encouraged people to vote (some cantons engaging trials of systems to enable voters to use the internet to cast their ballots), promoted the Swiss Solidarity foundation, promoted the Annual Congress of the Swiss Abroad and the importance of a New Zealand representative attending it, they have done and are continuing to do as much as possible to try and remedy the situation of the NZ Superannuation versus Swiss AHV, visited the Christchurch Swiss club and encouraged them to become members of the Swiss Society and also attend the AGM. The full report was printed in the July '07 issue of the Helvetia.

On behalf of everyone present, Heinz Leuenberger thanked the

Ambassador for his informative and interesting speech.

Scrutineers :

Herbert Staheli – nominated
Marianne Drummond, seconded
Rinaldo Rust.

Remigi Zimmermann – nominated
Marianne Drummond, seconded
Othmar Hebler.

Minutes : The minutes of the previous AGM held on 4 June 2006 have been published in the May issue of the Helvetia. Presumably these have been read. May I please have a mover and seconder that these minutes are a true and correct record?

Moved: Heinz Leuenberger

Seconder: Heidi Wilson

There were no matters arising.

Obituaries : Sadly, a few Society members and friends from throughout the country have passed away in the past twelve months. These were : Taranaki Swiss Club – John Hunger; Auckland Swiss Club – Henry Sigerist, our past editor and life member; Wellington Swiss Club and Hamilton Swiss Club – none, and Swiss Society friend Max Girsberger. Have I inadvertently missed anyone? Would everyone please stand for a moment's silence in remembrance of these past members and friends?

President's Report : I have been proud to be part of the Swiss Society's executive for the past five years, and hope that you have all enjoyed the contribution that we, as a team, have made. With the Society's executive changing from club to club every five years, it ensures that the content of the Helvetia is varied with each change. We hope that you have appreciated any changes that we have made, and I am sure that the next executive will change things too! How-

ever I know that they will ensure that our members continue to read the magazine from cover to cover! I believe we should all be proud of our little magazine, but it is only with the wonderful contributions from the various Swiss Clubs (especially with several colour photo spreads this year) that the Helvetia will continue to prosper and be read, and thereby our culture and traditions will be fostered. The main focus of your executive continues to be the compiling and packing of the Helvetia, which has ten issues of 12 or 16 pages sent out every year. On behalf of the editing team I would like to thank all participants in our competitions, especially the children who regularly participate. This year we have appreciated an excellent number of pictures, and I'm sure our readers enjoy looking at them. My grateful thanks to the following people: Paul for his interesting editorials, Walter for his efficiency as treasurer and his delightful Spruch des Monats, Silvia for her excellent secretarial duties, organising the various competitions and for ensuring that club articles arrive on time, Lisette for the interest This 'n' That Corner and for all the quotes, funnies and other articles that she has provided, to the personnel from the various Swiss Clubs for submitting interesting articles and photos for publication about their past events and for advising us of their forthcoming events (without your ongoing commitment, the Helvetia would not be what it is), to the wonderful team at Jago Print who creatively put together our magazine and offer terrific service, and to the dedicated packers and baby-sitters who turn up to help pack every issue. Without your dedicated support and commitment with every issue, my job would have been much more difficult, if not insurmountable!!! I would also like to thank Adrian for his support in allowing me the time to attend to the Society's matters, and mum and dad for baby sitting when needed. Membership now stands

at 538, including 16 life members. Finally I would like to wish the Wellington Swiss Club personnel all the very best for the 'Helvetia' for the next five years, and please let us know if we can assist in any way (and I certainly don't mean that we would do your five year stint!!!)

Moved: Marianne Drummond
Secoded: Herbert Staheli

Editor's Report :

Paul proudly reported his fourth and final Annual Report as Editor of our favourite little magazine, Helvetia. I hope that you have all enjoyed reading my editorials, which I have tried to make interesting. I believe that we are handing over the reigns of the Society in a good financial position, however unfortunately our advertisers have dropped off a little; a sign of our changing times I guess. I thank all the other members of the executive for their tremendous support, and thank Adrian for his terrific support of Marianne during the past five years. I would like to thank everyone who in any way contributed to the Swiss Society over the past year, especially our Patron, Beat Nobs, who has made a huge effort to meet compatriots in all corners of our country.

Moved: Paul Amstalden
Secoded: Marie-Theres Melville-Schopfer

Financial Report: Copies of the financial report were circulated and Walter reported that we have had an excess of income over expenditure of \$5,762.70. We are very grateful for the continued support of our loyal advertisers for the revenue that they bring, and I asked that everyone please support them whenever possible. I wish to acknowledge our grateful thanks to the Taranaki Electricity Trust, The New Zealand Community Trust and The Lottery Grants' Board for their very generous donations. Accumulated funds now stand at a very healthy \$49,226.86, an increase of over \$16,000.00 since taking over the Society's matters.

Moved: Walter Seifert
Secoded: Rinaldo Rust

Delegate for the Swiss Abroad's Report : Heinz Leuenberger read his report. He encouraged everyone to utilise their right to vote, that e-voting was under continuing investigation, and advised that although Swiss Radio International stopped broadcasting a while ago it had been reinstated.

Moved: Heinz Leuenberger
Secoded: Marcel Ruedi

Rifle master's Report : Mark advised that numbers participating in the Swiss Society games were about the same as last year, and that we were awaiting Hamiltons' results to be able to order the medals. It would be nice to see more juniors participating.

Moved: Mark Kiser
Secoded: Paul Amstalden

Setting of Subscriptions for 2006/2007 : It was recommended that subscriptions remain the same for the next year.

Moved: Marianne Drummond
Secoded: Mathias Seifert

Election of Officers :

President :

Roland Schuetz
Moved: Marianne Drummond,
Secoded: Mathias Seifert

Vice President:

Trudi Bruhlmann
Moved: Roland Schuetz,
Secoded: Heinz Leuenberger

Treasurer :

Heidi Amelung
Moved: Walter Seifert,
Secoded: Trudi Bruhlmann

Secretary :

Trudi Bruhlmann
Moved: Silvia Schuler,
Secoded: Heidi Leuenberger

Rifle Master :

Mark Kiser
Moved: Othmar Hebler,
Secoded: Marianne Drummond

Editor :

Trudi Bruhlmann

Moved: Roland Schuetz

Seconded: Rinaldo Rust

Auditor :

This was left for the executive to organise.

Othmar Hebler moved that in recognition of their effort in running the Swiss Society's affairs, including compiling the Helvetia magazine, that Marianne, Paul, Walter and Silvia be made Life Members of the Swiss Society. *Seconded :* Herbert Staheli.

Marianne replied : On behalf of Walter, Paul, Silvia and myself, I would like to thank you for bestowing Life Membership on us. Please do not think that we are ungrateful, but we all wish to decline Life Membership. Life Membership should be awarded for extraordinary service to a club, and we feel that this can not be achieved in only five years. The Swiss Society currently has sixteen Life Members, which is far more than any club I know of, and excessive. It seems that it is the Swiss Society's policy to bestow Life Membership to all retiring executive officers, and we feel that because this is 'automatically' awarded every five years, the honour which is intended with Life Membership has been rescinded. Once again, we hope that you don't think that we are unappreciative of your endeavours to award Life Membership to us, but we would like to recommend that the Swiss Society review the way in which it awards Life Membership.

Committee Members: will be appointed by the above executive as required.

Moved: Marianne Drummond

Seconded: Heinz Leuenberger

General Business :

Club reports :

Christchurch : With Beat's endeavours to encourage participa-

tion of the Swiss Society to members of the Christchurch Swiss Club, Marianne advised that one of their committee members had been in touch asking what involvement would be required on their part. She advised that compiling and printing of the Helvetia would not be required of them, but that we would welcome more news from them to print in the magazine.

Hamilton : Herbert advised that they had an excellent attendance of 359 people at their 50th jubilee celebrations and it was a great function. Best attended picnic for many years. Excellent Ruapehu trip. Herbert is proud to be their president with a great committee.

Wellington : Roland advised that he was proud of their club house. Have quite a few younger members, with most of their functions well attended.

Auckland : Marcel thanked Roland for his great efforts in organising an excellent weekend. The highlight of their club year was their 50th jubilee celebrations with 257 attendees. Jass evening numbers are improving. Their Christmas function was great with 60 children attending.

Taranaki : Othmar advised that membership is 236, and he is grateful to have an excellent committee. We're looking at putting on a new roof. Good attendance at functions, encouraging increased participation of card afternoons. Othmar thanked the Wellington Swiss Club members for organising a great weekend.

Other Matters

On Thursday Marianne received the Swiss Societys' minute book which has minutes from 1967 to the current time. However we don't appear to have any minutes prior to this, and asked whether anyone has any recollection as to where they might be? Also there are no balance sheets and other

documentation for those years, except our current term, and asked if anyone has any of that information. If so, please forward to Trudi Bruhlmann.

Both Roland Schuetz and Beno Noetzli have indicated that they don't wish to continue in their roles as Deputy Delegates to the Swiss Abroad. In Beat's speech he felt it was very important that we have a delegate attend the Swiss Abroad Congress each year, and I move that each club look at possible members who could represent New Zealand at the Swiss Abroad Congress in the event of Heinz (our current Delegate) not being able to attend. *Seconded* Silvia Schuler.

Swiss Review : This magazine currently has a middle page spread which has articles from the various Swiss Clubs around the world. As this is a relatively recent addition to the magazine, Marianne wondered whether the new committee would look at providing articles from time to time for publication.

Beat thanked Marianne and her team for their efforts with the Swiss Society, and commended them on their decision and response in declining Life Membership.

Venue for the next meeting : Marcel Ruedi invited all Swiss Society members to Auckland for next years' AGM to be held on Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Meeting Closure : On behalf of the Swiss Society, Marianne accepted Marcel's invitation (Auckland Swiss Club), to host the next AGM. Marianne thanked the Wellington Swiss Club for organising such a wonderful weekend for everyone, and I hope that you all enjoy the dinner and entertainment tonight. Marianne thanked everyone for attending and participating in the AGM and wishes all a great evening and a safe trip home.

The 2007 Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 4.00pm.