

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 84 (2018)
Heft: [2]

Rubrik: The Swiss Society of New Zealand

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The Swiss Society of New Zealand

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on Sunday, 04 June 2017, 2pm, at the Matangi Hall, Hamilton

Present:

Juerg Bono, representing our Patron, and 51 members

Welcome

Hans Vetsch, President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, welcomed all present, with special thanks to Juerg Bono, the presidents of the clubs and all the members.

Apologies

- *Auckland*: Tanja Latham, Daniel Wiederkehr, Edith Hess
- *Hamilton*: Gritli and Rinaldo Rust, Erika and Ueli Elmiger, Rae Achermann
- *Wellington*: David Vogelsanger, Gloria Guigno, Peter Hynes
- *Taranaki*: Othmar and Marlies Hebler, Remigi and Erna Zimmermann, Walter and Myrta Seifert, Johny and Margaret Bishop, Emmi Kiser

Moved Peter Canziani, seconded Vitus Achermann

Appointment of Scrutineers

Adrian Blaser and Mark Kiser

nominated by Marianne Drummond, seconded by Herbert Staheli

Minutes AGM 5 June 2016 held at the Auckland Club's Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa, appeared in Helvetia, and distributed today.

Matters arising – 31 not 13 copies sent to head of political parties in OSA delegates report

Moved Peter Deutsche, seconded Marianne Drummond

Obituaries:

Sadly, some of our members have passed away in the past year:

Auckland: Nil

Taranaki: Con Kuriger, Mavis Schuler and Bruno Stutz

Hamilton: Agnes Reichmuth, Werner Fässler, Karl Nolly, Maria Sweetman

Wellington: Andre Schleicher, Theresa Scherrer

Society: Nil

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of these members

President's report (Hans Vetsch)

Summarised and previously published in Helvetia.

Moved Hans Vetsch, seconded Vitus Achermann

Editor's report (Heidi Wehrle)

Report published in Helvetia and read.

Moved Heidi Wehrle, seconded Peter Canziani

Treasurer's Report (Sandrine Smith)

from 31 March 2017
The accounts have been audited in May 2017. The Swiss Society of New Zealand has made a net profit of \$453 compared to \$567 for the year ending 2016. Six issues of the Helvetia were produced and sent out at an average cost of \$2,408 (last year \$2,421) per issue. The Society has approximately 588 paying members: Society only: 75; *Auckland Club*: 145 – incl. 4 honorary; *Hamilton Club*: 139 – incl. 7 honorary; *Taranaki Club*: 186 – incl. 1 honorary; *Wellington Club*: 59 – incl. 4 honorary. **Total = 588 members.** Advertising revenue is \$500 lower than the previous year. This is due to some misunderstanding which has now been addressed. All account receivables and payables have been paid for the year ending 2017. Accumulated funds increased from \$70,822 in the prior year to \$71,376 in the current year. Thank you to the Clubs' treasurers for helping me.

Moved Sandrine Smith, seconded Herbert Staheli

Rifle master's Report (Manuela Epp)

Statistics on participation: *Auckland*: 44 participants in 58 events / 16 medals (1 double, 1 triple); *Hamilton*: 53 participants in 64 events / 20 medals (1 double); *Taranaki*: 40 participants in 98 events / 19 medals (4 double, 1 triple); *Wellington*: 16 participants in 16 events / 6 medals. In Total 153 participants in 236 events / 61 medals, 10 stars i.e. total of 71 awards (same as last year).

Moved Manuela Epp, seconded Mark Kiser.

Delegate for Swiss Abroad Report (OSA), Peter Ehrler.

• Automatic Exchange of information and Section 70 have been major big topics this year.

• Peter Canziani went to OSA meeting in Switzerland 2016 and both will go this year to OSA in Basel.

• In October 2016 Oceania conference was held and the launch of the Webpage to reach more people in AUS/NZ and Pacific Islands. Oceania conference was initiated 4 years ago. 2018 Conference will be in Sydney – all presidents of Swiss Clubs invited. Australia doesn't have governing Body like we in NZ who have the Swiss Society – all clubs independent thus communication is difficult.

• Contact with political parties in NZ concerning Section 70 – met with Winston Peters arranged by Swiss Ambassador. Other countries facing same problems. If NZ First becomes a coalition partner at the next elections, coalition talks will include section 70 which has to be abolished. Total of 86,000 NZ residents same problem.

• Platform was given by the Ambassador to speak to Mr Gasser, State Secretary of Switzerland – before signing Joint Declaration regarding AEI. Mr Gasser promised that at every meeting he will attend, section 70 will be brought up.

• Beginning of year many people including Swiss Society have written letters protesting to Federal Council and political parties about Sec 70 and AEI and have received feedback.

• March this year Hungarian OSA delegate member had a motion wanting to go to court about the Swiss banks – withdrew the motion if OSA would take it on board and take it to court about not being able to have an account in Switzerland.

• NZZ approached Adrian Blaser about section 70 and pension problems in NZ. Passed on to Peter E – article has been published. 400'000 readers.

• National Council voted 81/79 against making banks accept Swiss abroad. Found out who voted and not – betraying the OSA. Sent heavy protesting letter to the Executive members of OSA

• Dr. David Vogelsanger, Juerg Bono and others at Embassy have worked hard to fight against section 70. Sincere thanks

Moved Peter Ehrler, seconded Adrian Blaser

Setting of Society Subscriptions 2017/18

• To set subscriptions for the following year starting 1 April 2018/19. No increase whilst accounts looking OK.

Moved Hans Vetsch, seconded Marianne Drummond

• Change of invoice/payment dates and pro-rata subscriptions:

Invoice individual members 1 April next year, 1 Sept for clubs – to be paid by 30 September. No pro rata invoices.

Moved Marianne Drummond, Seconded Herbert Staheli

• Guideline of reimbursements, donations and honorary payments:

To set payment for delegate attending OSA/CSA. Moved that reimbursements are at the discretion of the committee.

Moved by Marianne Drummond, seconded Henry Werfelli

Election of Officers

No changes to current office holders – elected for a four year term.

Re-elect the current committee en bloc.

Moved Vitus Achermann, seconded Ruth Waldvogel

Delegate for Swiss Abroad:

Peter Ehrler

Moved Peter Deutsche, seconded Lisette Benkert – all in favour, yes.

Deputy Delegate: Peter Canziani

Moved Lou Camenzind, seconded Heinz Leuenberger – all in favour, yes.

The Swiss Society of New Zealand

Club Reports:

Auckland – Adrian Blaser

No longer president, Daniel away on holiday. Few changes - Sandra Hess, Pia Knarsden on committee.

Highlights – last year 60 years celebrated. 50 year Swiss farm this year, jubilee shoot in November. Market day big success, beer from Switzerland plus other new products. Sausages from new butcher in Blenheim. Generally lower attendance at functions, less shooters, farm rented out few more times. Enjoyed OSA conference in Melbourne – same issues at clubs. 2020 conference in NZ.

Moved Adrian Blaser, seconded Juerg Bono

Hamilton - Herbert Stäheli:

60th jubilee at Karapiro, 200 people – twice as many as Auckland, fondue 140 people, five card evenings 32-36 players. Happy and proud to be Hamilton president. Thanks to committee and spouses

Moved Herbert Stäheli, seconded Richi Wehrle

Taranaki – Zeno Hospenthal

Vice president

Club increased slightly to just over 300. Functions well attended with 160 people at fondue evening. Medal competitions held end of May – great to see a lot of children competing. Looking forward to Anniversary Shoot at beginning of July and to Sauerkraut and pork meal on 1 August with Swiss wine kindly donated by Embassy. Fortunate to have hard-working team on committee. Would like to thank Helvetia team for great work they do and Hamilton Swiss Club for hosting us this weekend.

Moved Zeno Hospenthal, seconded Vitus Achermann

Wellington - Roland Schütz

Thanks to the Helvetia team – clubs have different ideas. Where's Berne articles? Thanks for competition today. Difficult for their club to make journey – and only had narrow loss. Hard to get people to make journey. Semi-final easier path at Taranaki picnic which makes it fun. Came 25-30 years ago to Hamilton to first AGM – finished very quickly, not worth the long journey. Generation gap at club - people with children and then don't mix. Hard to get interest going but enjoyed today. 700 at their jubilee thanks to the Embassy. Run their club like a restaurant. Fondue 78 people – have to diversify. Some new people in committee. Thanks to Ambassador and people from Embassy who are trying to help the Wellington club.

Moved Roland Schutz, seconded Zeno Hospenthal

General business:

- Review of constitution to take place during the year – to be in Helvetia. Membership and eligibility of family members – communicate with clubs. Move that committee look at rules, get back to clubs and publish prior to next AGM. Including review sports rules.

Moved by Marianne Drummond, seconded Peter Deutsche.

- OSA Conference to be held in NZ 2020. Someone to organise and attend next year's conference in Sydney. Drop clubs a note to remind. Full day of speakers of interest to Swiss, dinner at Swiss restaurant, Melbourne market day. Elect someone now to organise – Hans to get Agenda/content out to clubs, Peter Ehler to get some financial information for running conference.

- Look at costs for medals - approx half price if purchased in NZ. Majority supported NZ medals.

- Adrian Blaser moved that Hamilton club receives \$1000 to host AGM weekend, seconded Marianne Drummond.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm

Next meeting

Sunday 3 June in Taranaki – Zeno would like to invite Society members.

Anita Zuber, Secretary – Swiss Society of NZ

The Taranaki Swiss Club invites you to attend our functions / events organised over Queens' Birthday Weekend, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy camaraderie, fun and laughter with fellow Kiwi-Swiss. Please make your own accommodation arrangements – options are the Kaponga Tavern, Punehu Stream Cottage near Opunake or motels in Eltham or Stratford.

Please register with your club secretary for Saturday and Sunday dinners by the 12th of May 2018, and would any Society only members please contact Marianne on 06 7628757 or e-mail at littleacres@xtra.co.nz

Programme

Saturday 2 June 2018

4.30pm Meet at the Taranaki Swiss Clubs' clubhouse at Grace Avenue, Kaponga for drinks and dinner. Cost of the 6.00pm meal is \$15.00 per person with a cash bar open. Musical entertainment will be provided and Jassen for those who are keen, together with a good catch up!!!

Sunday 3 June 2018

10am Final of the Cowbell Competition (Keglen, Steinstossen and Jassen) to be held at the clubhouse. All will be revealed.

1pm Lunch provided by the Taranaki Swiss Club.

2pm AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

5.30pm Happy Hour – a time to mix and mingle

6.30pm Dinner prepared by our club at a cost of \$25.

Monday 4 June 2018

Au revoir; safe travels home.

Proposed changes to Swiss Society Constitution

Following on from discussions at the 2017 AGM the committee has looked into making changes and updating the document that was last updated in 1999. Please check these changes on the Swiss Society webpage by going to swiss.org.nz and clicking on the links section on the right hand side. There you will find the document with some clauses deleted and some changes or alterations in bold. If you are interested in making a comment please contact your Club Secretary prior to the AGM in June. If you are a Society only member you need to contact the Swiss Society Secretary. All contact details are on page 18 in this issue of the Helvetia magazine. Please also check the document "Sports Rules" as there are also a few minor changes.