

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Held on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 1pm, at the Hamilton Gardens Function Centre, Hamilton

### **Present:**

Ambassador Michael Winzap – Patron of Swiss Society, Adrian Blaser – Hon Consul and 28 members

### **Welcome**

Hans Vetsch, outgoing President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, welcomed all present, with special thanks to Michael Winzap, Ambassador and Patron of the Society. Due to Covid-19 this meeting had to be postponed from the planned AGM in Auckland on Queen's Birthday weekend, hence a smaller group and condensed format to enable our handover to Taranaki Club. Please keep items brief with no contentious items to be discussed due to lack of representation from the wider membership.

### **Apologies**

- **Hamilton:** Manuela Epp, U & E Elmiger, H & B Leuenberger, Max Schwitzer,
- **Wellington:** Bernie Napp
- **Taranaki:** O & M Hebler, R & L Benkert, R & V Kull, Mark Kiser, Zeno von Hospenthal, Terese Orchard, Amanda Sherman, R & L Wagner, Marcus Rufer, P & M Canziani

Moved Neil Kaiser, seconded Peter Ehler

### **Address by Ambassador**

Michael Winzap gave the members an update on his involvement with the Swiss community and clubs since his arrival in NZ. He acknowledged Adrian Blaser, Hon Rep for his involvement with Swiss tourists stranded here during the lockdown and how the Embassy had been very busy helping with repatriation flights. A brief mention was made on his involvement with the NZ government and ongoing issues with AHV and NZ pension deductions.

### **Appointment of Scrutineers**

Richard Wehrle and Henry Werfelli, nominated Marianne Drummond, seconded Herbert Staheli

### **Minutes AGM 2nd June 2019 held in Wellington**

Appeared in Helvetia and distributed today.

Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Neil Kaiser

Matters arising – Gabrielle Saville's apology should be Wellington Club – not Taranaki

### **Obituaries:**

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

**Auckland :** Amelia Fitzi, Evelyn van Doorn, Alois Holzgang

**Taranaki :** Sonja Speck, Margrit Dudli, Tilly Riddick

**Hamilton :** Fritz Haesli, Joe Kennel, Lydia Lengenhager

**Wellington:** Karl Signer, Luzia Keller

**Society:** Nil

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

### **President's report (Hans Vetsch)**

Published in June Helvetia and taken as read

Hans added that any application for financial support as per constitution needs to go to current committee

Moved Hans Vetsch, seconded Walter Zuber

### **Editor's report (Heidi Wehrle)**

Published in June Helvetia and taken as read.

Heidi wished the Taranaki team all the best and hoped that the life stories will continue.

Moved Heidi Wehrle, seconded Herbert Staheli

### **Treasurer's Report (Sandrine Smith)**

The accounts have been reviewed by an independent party in June 2020. Based on the review, nothing has come to the reviewer's attention that caused him to believe that the financial statements didn't give a true and fair view of the financial position. The Swiss Society of New Zealand has made a net loss of \$2884 compared to a net profit of \$841 for the year ending 2019. Expense for the printing of the Helvetia has increased slightly from \$10,237 to \$11,372. The Treasurer recommends members to opt into subscribing to the digital issue. Expenses for conferences: \$1000 to Peter Ehrler for the 2019 OSA Conference and \$1000 to Wellington for hosting 2019 AGM. Medal expenses have increased from \$716 to \$1,208. The company Swiss airlines has not renewed its sponsorship due to covid-19. Six issues of the Helvetia were produced. The costs of the 6 issues were \$17,921. The income from the subscriptions and adverts were \$16,580. That represents a loss of \$1,341 for the year or \$223 per issue. The Society has 611 paying members as per 31 March 2020. Swiss Society: 73, Auckland 134-4 honorary; Hamilton 144-7 honorary; Taranaki 211-1 honorary; Wellington 65-4 honorary. Total 611 – 15 more than last year.

Heidi commended Sandrine on her very efficient recording of the finances

Moved Sandrine Smith, seconded Vitus Achermann

**Update on 2020 Oceania Presidents Conference** – Hans gave an update on postponement of conference to October 2021 which will be communicated to delegates in January. He expressed thanks to the Embassy for their continued financial support together with some of the clubs and other sponsors.

### **Rifle master's Report (Manuela Epp) – read by Anita Zuber**

Statistics on participation: Auckland: 36 participants in 49 events with 10 medals (5 double, 1 triple); Hamilton: 55 participants in 77 events with 17 medals (1 double); Taranaki: no competition held due to Covid-19; Wellington: 20 participants in 29 events with 9 medals (1 double).

In Total 111 participants in 155 events – 36 medals (9 stars). Manuela thanked all the clubs for their support and wished to remind club secretaries/treasurers to make sure participants are members of their clubs and recorded accurately on Society database. Family members over 18 years need to be listed separately and pay a subscription.

Moved Anita Zuber on behalf of Manuela, seconded Trudi Fill-Weidmann

### **Delegate for Swiss Abroad Report (OSA), Peter Ehrler**

Peter thanked the Ambassador for paying for lunch and everyone showed their appreciation.

Peter attended the Delegates Conference in Montreux August 2019. There are big issues with OSA's E-Voting due to legal and security issues not yet resolved; Banking issues remain a topic but signs some banks have had second thoughts; Continued lobbying with Swiss parliamentarians concerning the NZS/Swiss pension problems. Still getting many calls from Swiss in NZ re their problems with MSD. Also issues with people going back to Switzerland before 65 and no entitlement to NZ Super; The 2020 OSA Delegates conference which was to be held in Lugano has been cancelled due to the Corona Virus.

Moved Peter Ehrler, seconded Adrian Blaser

### **Setting of Society Subscriptions 2021/22**

- Subscriptions for the following year starting 1 April 2021. Move that they stay the same.

Moved Hans Vetsch, seconded Marianne Drummond

### **Election of Officers**

President: Othmar Hebler. Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Herbert Staheli

Vice-President: Zeno Hospenthal. Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Heidi Wehrle  
Editor: Terese Orchard. Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Adrian Blaser  
Sub-editor/designer: Amanda Sherman. Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Trudi Fill-Weidmann  
Secretary: Marlies Hebler. Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Vitus Achermann  
Treasurer: Marianne Drummond. Moved Johnny Bishop, seconded Sandrine Smith  
Riflemaster: Mark Kiser. Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Richard Wehrle  
Webmaster: Shaun Clarkin. Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Vreni Vetsch  
Reviewer: Alison Turner from Staples Rodway

Committee to be appointed as required.

Moved that ANZ bank signatories be transferred to Marianne Drummond, Richard Wagner and Othmar Hebler. Sandrine Smith continue to have access to 02 account for Oceania conference expenses.

Moved Adrian Blaser, seconded Trudi Fill-Weidmann.

Taranaki do not wish to have a representative on the Oceania conference committee.

### **Club Reports:**

#### **Auckland – Neil Kaiser, President**

First year as president for Auckland Club. Most functions have been well attended but ongoing problems trying to get enough committee people after several resignations. They have seen a massive effort by club members at working bees and events. AGM will be held 1<sup>st</sup> August together with fondue so hope to get more people on board. Club does most of communication via email but have realised that the personal phone call still works well. Also need to communicate with those who do not have email. There are 300 metre shooting issues, but this is not society issue. Neil raised the issue of what processes are in place if members request financial support from the Society. Any queries will be handled by incoming Society committee.

#### **Hamilton – Herbert Staheli, President**

Herbert acknowledged and thanked the Society committee for their work over the last four years on behalf of the Hamilton Club and reflected on when he was approached 5 years ago to be vice-President and managed to persuade Hans Vetsch to take over this role. The Hamilton club is functioning well with a hard-working committee and we have had very successful functions with good attendances up until the lockdown where several events were cancelled. The shooting weekend was our first event after lockdown and our next function will be the fondue evening. Two long-standing members, Hanspeter Burch and Vitus Achermann have resigned from the committee and we hope to get some new committee members on board at our AGM.

#### **Taranaki – Marianne Drummond on behalf of Othmar Hebler, President**

The Club is successfully being run by a team of fourteen committee members plus many other helpers and has a current membership of 328. Our picnic was a huge success with a great attendance, helped in a big way by the Swiss-Kiwi Yodel Group from Auckland performing several items and the presence of our Ambassador of Switzerland, Michael Winzap and his wife Marina. As always, the Schwingen is a great attraction, and together with the many other activities, kept our crowd occupied. We participated in the Multi-ethnic parade and extravaganza and our items were well-received. Like all clubs, Covid-19 put a halt to our club activities for a while but have recommenced the jassen followed by our other functions, which so many of our members are looking forward to. Congratulations to the Hamilton Swiss Club for their hard work and commitment to running the Society's affairs for a four-year term, especially producing a quality and interesting Helvetia magazine every two months. Thank you for organising the AGM to assist with a smooth transition of Society matters to our Club. We wish all Swiss Clubs the best for the coming year and look forward to our normal AGM at Queen's Birthday Weekend next year.

#### **Wellington – Trudi Fill-Weidmann on behalf of Bernie Napp, President**

They have had their usual planned functions with fairly good attendance. One highlight was winning the cowbell semi-final when Taranaki Club came to Wellington. Other highlights included the Zwingli film and the recent garage sale. They have had monthly cultural afternoons to share language and craft with

children and their families to try and encourage new members, though not huge attendances so far. 1<sup>st</sup> August bonfire is planned together with their usual festivities.

**General business:**

- Willetta Staheli updated members on the planned Jass Competition to be held next year at the AGM. After some discussion it was agreed that the AGM be held in Hamilton and Auckland Club would forfeit their turn which they missed this year due to Covid-19. Heidi Wehrle, seconded Herbert Staheli. The competition would include participants from Australian clubs together with the four NZ clubs and be held on the Saturday of Queen's Birthday Weekend. It is a full day and includes lunch. A final decision will be made in January once travel restrictions have been lifted.
- Cowbell Competition this year will not count due to only one semi-final taking place. All clubs will participate in a new semi-final next year with the final being held in Hamilton.
- Ammunition problem was raised by Neil, but this is not a Society issue.

**The meeting closed at 2.40pm.**

**Next meeting to be hosted by Hamilton Club, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Herbert extended the invitation.**

Anita Zuber, outgoing Secretary – Swiss Society of NZ