

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Incorporated

held on Sunday 6th of June 2021 at 2.00pm at the Matangi Hall, Hamilton

Present: Ambassador Michael Winzap (Patron of the Swiss Society), Adrian Blaser (Honorary Consul) and 50 members.

Welcome President Othmar Hebler welcomed all present to the Annual General Meeting, especially our Ambassador, Michael Winzap.

Apologies- **Hamilton** – Rinaldo and Gritli Rust

Wellington – Anne-Claire Kung

Auckland - NIL

Taranaki – Terese Orchard, Amanda Sherman, Zeno von Hospenthal, Ruedi and Vreni Kull.

Society Only – NIL

Moved Peter Canziani, seconded Alby Schuler

Address by Ambassador

Michael Winzap introduced himself, and advised that he would be retiring in July / August 2022 after three years in New Zealand. He is very appreciative of the huge contribution Swiss Clubs and groups make to Swiss communities, and the hard work and dedication required preserving our culture and ensuring that clubs prosper and enjoy success. He thoroughly enjoys the amazing atmosphere our clubs create. He is very thankful to Peter Ehrler and Adrian Blaser for their contributions to the Swiss communities, and encouraged people to ensure that changes in address and circumstances need to be advised to the Swiss Embassy.

Appointment of Scrutineers

Marianne Drummond nominated Henry Werffeli and Heidi Wehrle, seconded Fidel Good.

Minutes of the AGM held on 11th July 2020 in Hamilton were available on the webpage of the Swiss Society of New Zealand or could be posted out upon request, as advised in the Helvetia magazine. It was moved by Adrian Blaser and seconded by Marianne Drummond that the minutes were a true and correct record.

Matters arising – Marianne advised that the Treasurers' Report stated that there was a profit of \$841.00 for the year ended 31 March 2019 when in fact it was a loss.

Obituaries – sadly several members of our Society have passed away in the past year.

Hamilton - Lydia Lengenhager

Wellington - Lina Sutherland – life member

Society Only - Werner Burri

Auckland - NIL

Taranaki - Rudi Milesi, Maria Haesli, Antoni Sherman, Freda Hurley and Hans Krummencacher.

Othmar asked that everyone present please stand for a minutes' silence.

President's Report

Othmar advised that it was hard to believe that we had already completed one year of our four-year term. After a shortened AGM last year, it's great to get together and enjoy catching up in the traditional manner. He thanked his hard-working committee for compiling, designing and packing the Helvetia magazine; Peter Ehrler for his sterling work as Delegate to the Swiss Abroad; and the Embassy staff for their visits and support of the Swiss Clubs and groups. It was hoped that the Oceania President's Conference would go ahead in October 2022. He thanked everyone for attending the AGM and functions over the weekend, and also to all those supporting their Swiss Clubs and groups during the year.

Moved Othmar Hebler, seconded Heinz Leuenberger.

Editor's Report –read by Marianne

Terese Orchard has enjoyed putting together each issue, and has been grateful for all the positive feedback we have received. She is very thankful to everyone who contributes bits and pieces to ensure we have a varied magazine. Grateful thanks to Peter Ehrler for his interesting articles and to the secretaries of the Swiss Clubs for their reports. Huge thanks to our loyal advertisers for their support, with some new ones joining our established ones. She is grateful for the great team of people who share the workload with her. She looks forward to the next three years of putting together more top quality issues for everyone to read.

Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Vitus Achermann.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts have been reviewed by an independent party in April 2021 which showed that nothing had come to the reviewer's attention that caused her to believe that the Financial Statement did not give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Swiss Society for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Society made a small profit of \$180.00 compared to a loss of \$2,884.00 the previous year. However this past year the Society didn't make a payment to the Delegate of the Swiss Abroad for a conference nor to the Hamilton Swiss Club for hosting the 2020 AGM. We did, however, purchase envelopes for two years so will not have that expense this coming year. We produced six issues of the Helvetia magazine, and have attracted several new advertisers and also an increased paying membership from 611 to 635 (Society Only 77, Auckland 141 (4 life), Hamilton 141 (6 life), Wellington 63 (2 life) and Taranaki 226 (1 life). We would like to do full colour issues but will wait until we have completed a full financial year ourselves before committing to this. Marianne thanked Anita Zuber and Sandrine Smith for their great help during the change in administration from Hamilton to Taranaki, and also Alison Turner from Baker Tilly Staples Rodway for her wonderful help and professional advice as reviewer for the Society.

Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Herbert Staheli.

Update on Oceania President's Conference

It was reported that this conference will be held in October 2022. However if it can't happen, the conference will be cancelled. Adrian Blaser will get Novatel deposit refunded which will be banked into the Oceania account. The Conference committee will continue running this event.

Rifle Master's Report

Mark reported that he hasn't received all competition results, however competition numbers were: Auckland 37, Hamilton 101, Taranaki 77 and Wellington 25. Further matters regarding this competition will be brought up in General Business.

Moved Mark Kiser, seconded Richard Wehrle

Delegate to Swiss Abroad Report (OSA) Peter Ehrler

Peter advised that he enjoys his role where he mainly has phone calls and e-mails from Swiss people regarding the AHV issue. He actively promotes the Swiss Society to those who aren't members. He hasn't been able to go to Switzerland for a while, but they have on-line meetings. He thanked the Embassy for their continuous help. For a positive outcome with the AHV issue, the NZ Government must change its' rules, otherwise nothing will happen.

Moved Peter Ehrler, seconded Heinz Leuenberger.

Setting of Society Subscriptions 2022/2023

Marianne advised that the Swiss Society of New Zealand remains in a good financial position and moved that subscriptions effective from 1 April 2022 remain the same.

Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Hans Vetsch.

Election of Officers

Except for the Delegate and Deputy Delegate to the Swiss Abroad, office holders are elected for a four-year term and to show that all officer will continue in their roles, it was moved that all current office holders and committee members be re-elected.

Moved Hans Vetsch, seconded Mathias Seifert

The four year term for the Delegates to the Swiss Abroad is coming to an end and the job vacancies were advertised in the Helvetia. However we are very appreciative of Peter Ehrler and Peter Canziani wishing to continue in their roles.

Delegate to Swiss Abroad – Peter Ehrler, moved Trudi Wilson, seconded Heinz Leuenberger.

Deputy Delegate Swiss Abroad – Peter Canziani, moved Trudi Wilson, seconded Heinz Leuenberger.

Club Reports

Auckland – Neil Kaiser, Club President, reported that they had had a good year. They had a great 1st of August with Fondue and the Samiclaus event was excellent. They have a hard-working committee with a few new faces. Sadly Vice President Pia Knarston has resigned due to their move to New Plymouth with work. Henry Werffeli has recently resigned as Rifle master, and Neil thanked him very much for the outstanding work he has done.

Hamilton – Herbert Staheli, Club President, advised that due to Covid they didn't have a big year with functions. He thanked his committee of eleven for their hard work. They had a great picnic, and a fabulous weekend at Ohakune. They have had excellent attendance at card evenings.

Wellington – Trudi Fill-Weidmann, Club secretary, advised that Anne-Claire Kung is their new President and they have several new committee members. Trudi thanked outgoing President, Berni Napp, for his tireless work. They've had a few new members and have had well-attended functions. Monthly jass afternoons are enjoyed. After an offer for the purchase of their club house, members were adamant about keeping it and everything seems to be going well.

Taranaki – Marianne Drummond, Club secretary / treasurer, advised that they have had an excellent increase in membership. It was a pleasure to hold functions again and great to see people participating in and enjoying our events. The picnic was great, and the Fondue combined with a celebration of 40 years since the opening of our club house, was excellent. It's wonderful to see families coming along to enjoy functions. Our Singing and Entertainment group is kept busy performing at various events and rest homes. Many thanks to the Hamilton Swiss Club for organising this fabulous weekend and we're looking forward to a great evening.

General Business

Othmar Hebler moved that the Swiss Society of New Zealand make a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Hamilton Swiss Club to help with costs associated with organising this weekend. Seconded Alby Schuler.

Marianne Drummond moved that Peter Ehrler be paid \$500.00 as reimbursement for costs associated with being Delegate to the Swiss Abroad. In the event that Peter attends a conference or meetings in Switzerland this year another \$500.00 should be paid towards his travel arrangements. This was seconded by Trudi Fill-Weidmann.

Swiss Society Competition – we have had feedback that many people don't like the medals, and that we should perhaps look at other options. After much discussion it was decided that certificates be made for winners, signed by the Patron of the Society, with clubs then given funds to purchase their own winners' prizes. It was moved by Hans Vetsch, seconded by Heidi Wehrle, that the current committee decide on a new format.

Adrian Blaser advised that a Nelson Swiss Group has been formed. We should encourage more of these groups to form, as this will also increase our Swiss Society membership. Herbert Staheli was disappointed that no South Island members came to Hamilton and the Jass Tournament. Henry Werffeli has spoken to organisers of this new group regarding attendance at the Swiss Society AGM, however they advised that they are only new and still finding their way. It is possible that in the future they may attend an AGM. They also felt that their jass skills may not be up to the standard required of a National tournament.

Jass Tournament – Willetta Staheli wondered whether this tournament could be done annually and go around the Clubs. Hamilton has a good Jass player base, but Willetta was hopeful that more participants would have come from elsewhere. She is happy to run the tournament again in Hamilton in 2025, but would like to play in one before then. Heidi Wehrle felt everyone enjoyed the games and that some form of the competition should continue. It was left for Taranaki to contemplate organising one next year, and report via the Helvetia magazine.

ANZ signatories – as discussed last AGM we were unfortunately unable to have different signatories on the various accounts. Therefore Sandrine Smith has been left on as a signatory. She will operate the Oceania account, and Othmar Hebler, Richard Wagner and Marianne Drummond can operate the other two accounts.

Webmaster – Marianne thanked Shaun Clarkin for his work to date. He is looking at a new hosting provider as the existing one is outdated and there are many things that can't be done – eg: alias e-mails directed to new office holders. In this respect Marianne thanked Anita, Heidi and Sandrine very much for forwarding on e-mails. Marianne will keep in touch with Shaun to ensure we can get a workable webpage.

Othmar Hebler invited all members to the Taranaki Swiss Club next year with the AGM being held on Sunday 5th of June 2022 at 2.00pm. He hoped everyone would enjoy the evening and have safe travels home.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm