

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, May 14 2013

1. OPENING

The General Assembly was convened at least fifteen days in advance and the quorum of a minimum of 20 members was reached: 41 members were present and 19 proxies were received. The meeting was therefore validated, and Maria Kienzle opened it at 9:35.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 15 MAY 2012

The minutes of the General Assembly of 15 May 2012, which were published in the newsletter edition of June-July 2012, were approved unanimously.

3. REPORTS

a) President's Report

The Club now has 407 Members of which 109 are Associate members. This year men were registered on the same basis as women, and there are now 16 male members of the Club.

The Committee has been very active; we have improved our inventory of equipment by the acquisition of a projector (672 CHF) and a microphone (287.55 CHF). We have succeeded in getting CERN to repair the broken tables, the roof, and the ventilation in the Language Room. We are hoping to buy some new chairs for the Coffee Morning room next year.

We would like to thank Lynda for welcoming new members – we have continued to receive requests to join the Club throughout the year. I would remind everyone that security at the entrance of CERN is more strict and we must therefore make sure we follow the correct procedures: Ordinary members must acquire a family access card and Associate members must fill in an “EXTERNAL” registration form, which is signed by a member of the Committee. This form is sent to the Staff Association which then gives the list of members to Building 55. The cards are only valid for one year. I also remind everyone that Associate members must come to the registration accompanied by an Ordinary member.

This year CERN has revised its regulations, and consequently the Staff Association are in the process of revising their regulations. It is therefore very likely that we will have to modify our statutes once again. We will discuss this under point 10 of the agenda.

The Languages, Arts and Sports activities are doing well. I would like to remind everyone that the activities are all voluntary; the courses are not meant to become lucrative businesses. Thus I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers for their commitment. We extend our warm thanks to Brittany for her work organizing the activities schedule and the Club rooms. She is leaving the committee in order to enjoy spending time with her baby Imoen who, at four months old, has already actively taken part in a Committee meeting!

The events which give all our members the opportunity to get together are the monthly Coffee Mornings, the Christmas Sale and the Spring Jumble Sale. It is for these activities that we would like to see a greater participation from all members, along with new ideas and commitments.

Donatella Bona is the « good fairy » of the Coffee Mornings, helped by Gisela Luscher: we had one Coffee Morning with a Scandinavian theme and another where we enjoyed the Easter traditions from various countries. We enjoyed a presentation by Jackie Cattaneo of a guide-book for the Geneva region, which is very useful for newcomers to the area. We also had a session with Dr. Grazia Donato who talked about health problems, and we have subsequently invited her to give a series of seminars on the human body, and associated health issues, beginning in September.

The organisation of the Christmas and Spring sales has been the heavy task of our vice-president Laura. We would like to thank her for all her hard work, and we thank Vanessa Maretti for creating such nice posters to advertise the sales. These sales generated 6,400 (4,800+1,600) CHF. This amount has been donated to the Nous Aussi association in Vetraz-Monthoux, near Annemasse. It is an educational medical facility which welcomes children and young adults who are mentally handicapped from Haute Savoie and the Pays de Gex. Our contribution will help them to equip a new specialised gymnasium.

Our thanks go to all those who contributed to the success of these events, either by making donations, or by having a stand at the sale, or by helping to set up and clear away the event. In the future Laura would prefer to pass the responsibility on to another member of the Club, or to a small organizing committee.

Next year the beneficiaries of the Sales will be an association in Geneva called «Coeur des Grottes ». It is a shelter which provides psychosocial support to help women, either alone or with their children, who are temporarily in difficulties.

We would like to thank Edith Cuperus for arranging some artistic outings for us. In December we visited the magnificent exhibition «Jewellery from the roof of the world » at the Baur Foundation in Geneva. The Club is able to offer these outings to Members free of charge, and I invite everybody to participate in these outings and to suggest ideas for future activities.

A huge thanks goes to Nathalie Schneider for putting together the nice colourful Bulletin, and to Mara Ceccucci for looking after our website. Finally, we must not forget the work of our secretary, Helen, the cornerstone of our Committee. I now give the floor to Véronique, our new treasurer.

b) Treasurer's Report

Véronique Paris presented the financial report. She explained each item on the financial spreadsheet. The Christmas Sale and Spring Jumble Sale raised a total of CHF 6,400.

4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE 2012/2013 ACCOUNTS

Anna Lustermann audited the accounts by Véronique Paris. She proposed the approval of the accounts and her honorable discharge.

The accounts for 2012/2013 were approved unanimously.

It was observed that the Club has a lot of money in the bank and Debbie Groby asked whether the committee had considered giving more money to the charity and also the possible remuneration of the members who help with the Club sales. Maria confirmed that the committee have discussed the possibility of increasing the donation to the charity, and we already round up the amount that is sent to

them. We have also increased the amount of funds allocated to the activity groups for the purchase of supplies. The members who help at the sales are not paid, but they do not have to pay for the end-of-year luncheon.

Concerning the purchase of new chairs, Victoria Tranquille asked whether there are other clubs who use the Coffee Morning room and who could be asked to share in the cost of the new chairs. Maria confirmed that she had tried to contact the CERN Ski Club but had no reply. Anna Lustermann observed that the Ski Club do not use the room for a very long period of the year and it is only used for registration of their members, so they are not really using the chairs. Maria noted that CERN have repaired the tables free of charge, and they have also put new grating on the two doors in the Language room in order to improve the ventilation.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013-2014

In the election of Activities Coordinator, Christine Kukowka is the only candidate. She worked for many years in the Users' Office at CERN and retired 6 years ago. She thanked the Club for inviting her to take on this role.

Evelyn Spricht no longer wishes to be on the Newcomers team. She was part of the team for 10 years and does not wish to resume. However both she and Gunilde Doble and Victoria Tranquille are willing to be contacted in case of need.

There is a vacancy for the Toddlers group leader as Katy Lee will be leaving at the end of June.

The Committee for 2013-2014 was approved unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET FOR 2013/2014

Véronique Paris presented the Budget for 2013/2014.

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET 2013/2014

The budget was approved unanimously.

8. ELECTION OF 2 AUDITORS FOR 2013/2014

Ursula Freudenreich and Anna Lustermann were nominated and elected unanimously.

9. PROPOSALS FOR NEW CLASSES OR ACTIVITIES

Brittany Johnson presented the proposals for new classes following the Group Leaders' meeting which took place on 16th April 2013.

1. Alicia Bravo Garrotte proposes another Spanish course. It is a first diploma in Spanish.
2. My Heche proposes a Hatha yoga class.
3. Grazia Donato will give a series of seminars on the Human body and preventative health.
4. Petra Vincke proposed an art history class. She presented her plan for a course on Italian renaissance painting.

10. MODIFICATION OF STATUTES AND RESULTS OF VOTE BY MAIL

As promised at the General Assembly in 2012, the Committee have worked on the modification of the Statutes of the Club. In order to lighten the emphasis on female members Articles 1, 3 and 6 have been modified. Article 1 alters the name of the club; Article 3 refers to the aims of the Club; and Article 6 specifies who can become members. In order to make it easier to change the statutes in the future Article 23 has also been modified. It required the vote of 50% of members. This Article now states that:

“A change in the statutes must be approved by the majority of members present or represented at the General Assembly.” The proposed Articles were sent out to members by email on the 17th April and by post to members for whom we do not have an email address.

The Committee received 229 replies which is 56% of the 407 members who were registered on 22nd March 2013, in the following ratio: 179 Yes; 26 No; 24 Abstaining.

The committee therefore considers that the texts submitted for the vote are approved and the modifications will be updated on the Website.

In the meantime, Thea Vermeulen made the observation that CERN retirees and widows should be specifically included in Article 6.

Maria Kienzle also met with members of the CERN Staff Association on the 16th April 2013 and with Sudeshna Datta Cockerill, who is the Director of the Office of Diversity at CERN, on the 7th of May. In both meetings she encountered no objection to the new texts of the Statutes, but was strongly advised to change the name of the Club. It was suggested to change the name to “CERN Family Club”. Also, in the Staff Association’s new revised rules, they intend to require that the President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Club are active members of CERN and members of the Staff Association. We hope that this will not be the case! Rachel Bray, President of the CERN Clubs committee was present at the meeting and proposed that a special member be added to our committee who would be a CERN representative and who alone would have the right to sign the EXTERNAL registration forms for CERN access cards.

The Committee will work on these issues next year. During this year we should also think about renewing the Committee which has now been in effect for two years.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Nicole Comte is taking reservations for the end-of-year lunch which will take place on June 11, 2013 at Restaurant “Bois Joly” in Crozet.

A beautiful flower arrangement was presented to Brittany Johnson in appreciation of her two years as Activities Coordinator.

12. CLOSING

The meeting closed at 11:05 and was followed by an aperitif.

17 May 2013

Helen Incandela