

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 10th May 2016

## 1. OPENING

The Annual General Meeting was convened at least fifteen days in advance and the quorum of a minimum of 20 members was reached : 47 members were present and 35 proxies were received.

The meeting was therefore validated.

Maria KIENZLE opened the meeting at 9:45 am.

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 12th MAY 2015

The minutes of the AGM of 12th May 2015, which were published in the Newsletter edition of June-July 2015, were approved unanimously.

## 3. REPORTS

### a) President's Report

*The Club membership has continued to increase : this year we have 551 registered members (7% more than last year), 120 of whom are associate members. Especially noticeable have been the increase in ordinary members, who now number 431, and of men active in the club, of whom there are now 65.*

*We must thank all the group leaders for their dedication. A spirit of friendship is fostered in the classes, which fosters the integration of newcomers to CERN. In this regard, the Toddlers group, always so cheerful and active, deserves special mention. On February 9 they animated our Coffee Morning. Children and parents happily celebrated Carnival in costume. Thanks go to Tina Wernicke for having helped create new play and music activities in this group. Unfortunately she will be leaving us next year, but other mothers will take over her work.*

*We organised two series of seminars, one on Astrophysics and the other on Phytotherapy, or Plant Therapy. These seminars were quite a success, and the income from them is added to the income from the Christmas Sale and the spring Bric-a-Brac, to the benefit of the associations we sponsor. For next year we are already planning four seminars on "The Psychology of Women in the Company of Literary Heroines." You are all invited to share your knowledge and enthusiasm in this new type of seminar.*

*The Club offers you guided visits to the museums of our area, to help us become better acquainted with our surroundings. This year we visited the Red Cross Museum and the Museum of the Reformation. In the autumn we are planning to visit the new temporary exhibition at the Museum of Ethnography.*

*The Tuesday Coffee Mornings are always our special meeting place. In January we were enchanted by the music, origami and culinary specialities of our Japanese friends. In April it was Sports Day. The Yoga groups and walking groups convinced us that we should get out of the house, even with a heavy back pack, and that everyone can benefit from Yoga. Thanks to Renata Podolcova, expectant mothers too now have their own Yoga. For the coming year, we invite you to suggest new*

*themes for Coffee Mornings, in order to share with us the riches of your culture and your country.*

*The action of our Club is still centered on the Christmas Sale and the spring Bric-a-Brac. The "Social and Events" group meets regularly on Wednesday mornings to prepare these events and alleviate the task of Vice-President Laura Fantechi. The sales were a solid success. The CHF 6000 income from the Christmas Sale was awarded to the Association "Rêves Suisse," devoted to realising the dreams of children and adolescents suffering from serious diseases and handicaps. The spring Bric-a-Brac brought in CHF 2150 for the "AJ of Neuchâtel," a group of young people who will go to Mexico this summer to meet and work with young Mexicans.*

*Here I want to express my special appreciation to Nathalie Schneider and her team of translators and correctors who give us a very elegant Newsletter three times a year. Again, I invite you all to contribute with articles illustrating the different activities of the Club.*

*A new parquet floor was installed in the gymnastics room, and we owe thanks to CERN for paying for the entire renovation. We bought a new television for the language room, on which to watch films with the addition of a laptop and a cable. We also bought two small loud-speakers that can be plugged into a portable phone. I remind you that group leaders who make purchases for their group with the approval of the Committee, may have them reimbursed by the Treasurer.*

*The most thankless task for Lynda Evans and myself continues to be the application for CERN Access Cards. CERN procedures are evolving, and yet we have no direct access to the Staff Association. Our representative in dealings with CERN is Rachel Bray, the President of all the CERN clubs. I remind you here that the Access Card must be renewed every year, and I urge you to send us the EXTERNAL form well before the deadline.*

*Last year we voted to keep the name of our Club. Therefore this year the Committee is proposing that we choose a new Logo. We have two proposals. We can tweak the chosen logo to tailor it to your comments.*

*Allow me to invite you all to the Club lunch on June 14th at the Auberge Communale de Meyrin, to bring our year to a happy ending on a warm note of friendship.*

*Now I give the floor to the Treasurer, Judy Richards.*

## **b) Treasurer's Report**

Judy presents us the good news that we have an increase in income this year over last year of CHF 6,457.76, owing mainly to the increased number of members and their subscriptions. With a little thought, we should come up with ways to invest some of this money - in better equipment for the classrooms, or in some other worthy project. Total expenses were similar to those of last year. CERN paid for the new parquet floor in the sports room, relieving us of a budgeted expense. The Post Office expenses increased, as La Poste now charges a fee for each payment slip, but printing expenses

were down, as we rely more and more on e-mail for communication. Group expenses increased, with the purchase of a television set etc. We now have reserves of CHF 57,166.95, shared between UBS, whose share is up slightly, and La Poste Suisse.

Judy asks us to pay our subscriptions at UBS, without charge, since payments made at the Poste are now charged to the Club.

The Auditors, Véronique Paris and Federico Bona, approve the Financial Report.

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS**

The reports for 2015/2016 were approved unanimously.

#### **5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016 / 2017**

Maria reminds us that she and Laura have been President and Vice-President for six years now, and that they would be like to pass on the task. They urge candidates to come forward for next year.

In an e-mail (attached) Jenny Van Hove points out that the title "Honorary Vice-President" is not adapted to the function filled by Rachel Bray in our Club, and that it would be more appropriate to call her "Staff Association Delegate" or Staff Association Representative."<sup>(1)</sup>

The Committee was elected unanimously.

#### **6. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2016 / 2017**

Judy Richards presented the Budget for 2016 / 2017. Bank and Post Office expenses are up, and an increase is provided for Group expenses. The total budget is CHF 13,250, up by CHF 1750 over last year's budget.

#### **7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR 2016 / 2017**

The Budget was approved unanimously.

#### **8. ELECTION OF THE AUDITORS FOR 2016 / 2017**

To replace Federico Bona, Ursula Freudenreich was nominated and elected unanimously; Véronique Paris was reelected unanimously.

#### **9. PROPOSALS FOR NEW COURSES OR ACTIVITIES**

Laura stands in for Magali Corthésy to present the new activities slated to start in September. Magali is travelling in India for her Association.

First, Maria Albert and Carmen Rodriguez propose a workshop of Latin-American rhythms and dances, just for the fun of moving together to music. You don't have to sign up with a partner, as is sometimes the case in groups of this kind - this will be a morning activity, for women who feel like letting loose and getting rid of tensions, in a light-hearted atmosphere.

There will also be a new writing workshop, led by Manuela Bonfanti. The aim is not to become a writer, but to try out a different type of self-expression. Manuela will explain more about this in a moment - she has been trained for this type of workshop.

There will be new language courses- beginners' Arabic and Portuguese, as well as new French courses led by Patricia, in response to continued

demand.

We are very pleased with our Club's vitality. If anyone wishes to suggest new activities, send an e-mail to the President - we want everyone to find something fun and interesting to do. The main problem is one of space because we do not have many classrooms, but there are still a few possibilities. Personally, I would like to see a sewing class, or a patchwork class, for the making of items to be sold at the Christmas Sale, or donated as first prize for the Loto... as there used to be.

Carmen and Maria give a description of their workshop, greeted with enthusiasm. Then Manuela explains what she means by writing, which seems to arouse interest.

## **10. CHANGE OF OUR CLUB'S LOGO**

The discussion is opened on the two logos proposed for the Club. The first intervention, by Cristina, is negative : why change, since the original logo is still meaningful ? The colours are not attractive, and the Club's name appears only in English. She says she will abstain. Maria answers : the person in charge at the CERN graphics office felt that the diversity of the Club's activities, combined with the opening of the Club to men, called for an abstract circle, or loop, in pink veering towards blue, and that this would also suggest the infinite and at the same time CERN's research work. The other proposed logo, with its linked W and M, has the colours of the rainbow, also inscribed in a circle. The graphic artist is young, and young people are more comfortable with abstract images which have a clear and immediate impact. Clearly, we must adapt the logo to include both CERN languages, French and English. Carmen says that a logo must contain a symbol that can be recognised even without reading the name. Véronique agrees that we must add French, and likes the idea of the infinite (others note that the infinity sign is a figure "8", not a circle), and of research. Carmen suggests we add the atom to the centre of the circle. But someone else points out that this could lead to confusion with the Staff Association logo. The colours blue and pink were criticised in some quarters as belonging to the realm of newborn babies. Maria Devlin suggested a black and white image. Laura reminded us that the earlier

logo was designed by non-professionals, and obviously so. Mara added that it doesn't even show the CERN connection.

The vote was held, and the result was : 42 in favour of the pink and blue circle, 32 for the alternative, and 4 abstentions.

Maria will resubmit the logo to the Office of graphics, with instructions to add French, with the French and English names in a symmetrical pattern or as a crown, and to see if it is possible to place an atom in the middle without ruining the overall effect.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Nicole COMTE is taking reservations for the end-of-year lunch to be held at the "Auberge Communale de Meyrin" on Tuesday June 14th at 12:30 pm. Reservations may be made until June 5th, at [nc.comte@wanadoo.fr](mailto:nc.comte@wanadoo.fr). The Inscriptions Coffee Morning will be held on 6th September from 9:30 to 11:30 am. We are encouraged to pay in advance, at UBS if possible, to avoid cash payments and shorten queues. Returning members can register on Internet. The EXTERNAL forms should be filled out in advance by those who need them.

## **12. CLOSING**

The meeting was closed at 11:00, and was followed by refreshments.

19th May 2015      Peggy Zavattini

(1) ....

-Candidates for the Steering Committee:

\_ In the list of candidates, it is proposed to appoint Rachel Bray honorary Vice-President.

In French, the term "honoraire" refers to someone who has exercised a function, and has kept the title but not the function : e.g., Professeur honoraire. The term "d'honneur" refers to someone who has rendered eminent services.

In English, the term "honorary" refers to both cases.

As for Rachel Bray who is our link with the Staff Association, I suggest : "S.A. Delegate" or "S.A. Representative." This would be clearer for everybody.

