

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, May 15 2012

1. OPENING

The General Assembly was convened at least fifteen days in advance and the quorum of a minimum of 20 members was reached: 47 members were present and 44 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 17 MAY 2011

The minutes of the General Assembly of 17 May 2011, which were published in the newsletter edition of June-July 2011, were approved unanimously.

3. REPORTS

a) President's Report

The committee was almost entirely new this year. The only committee member who continued from last year was Ivana Rosinska, our treasurer. She has held this position since 2007, and we thank her very much for all her help.

The Club currently has 402 members, of which 117 are associate members.

The security at the entrance to CERN is becoming stricter, and this is why some Ordinary members, who for years had never had to present their access card, were refused entry. We must therefore make sure we follow the correct procedures: Ordinary members must obtain a family access card from CERN, and Associate members must fill in an "EXTERNAL" registration form which must then be signed by the President. The cards will only be valid for one year.

The language classes, art courses and other activities such as gymnastics and walking are going well. We have kept all the language classes in the schedule, including those with only a small number of students, in order to maintain the rich variety of classes available in the Club. I would like to thank the teachers who have continued to teach with only a small number of students in the class. We have also had some new classes such as the Art History class by Miriam Van Praagh and the class on wines by Kat Morse. Some proposals for new classes will be presented in item 9 of the Agenda.

The Coffee mornings have been well attended, especially the one organized by our German friends, which was a great success. Next year we plan to have a Coffee morning with a Scandinavian theme, prepared by our Danish, Scandinavian and Finnish friends. Jean Roderick is trying to set up a group of Chinese women who are new to the area, but so far has had limited success.

I would like to thank to Donatella Bona and Laura Fantechi for organizing the Christmas and Spring sales which raised money for the children of Terre des Hommes. Many thanks also to those who contributed to the success of the sales, either by donations or holding a stand at the sale, or helping with the preparation and the cleaning afterwards. In the future Laura would like to form a committee of several members in order to help organize these activities which involve a great deal of work over a short period of time.

The Sales generated 7240 CHF. This amount was enough to provide an operation for a child at the HUG Hospital in Geneva. In 2011, 246 children's lives were saved thanks to the opportunity for them to have treatment in Europe. These children ranged from a few months old to 18 years old, roughly half were girls and half boys and they came from 11 countries in Africa and Iraq. The Association is in need of volunteers to take the children from Geneva to the convalescent home in Massongex in Valais after their operation. They also need child-minders to visit the children who are in the hospital in Geneva.

Next year the beneficiary from the Christmas and Spring sales will be "Nous Aussi". This is an association in Vétraz-Monthoux in Haute-Savoie. The association was founded in 1959 by parents of mentally handicapped children who had no other institution to go to. Today the association has many institutions: first of all for children (special school, autism section, professional training...) and for mentally handicapped adults (a help centre for work and several types of accommodation depending on the degree of independence of the individual). The Association is recognized by the French authorities and welcomes youths and adults from Haute Savoie, but also from the Pays de Gex, which has very few such institutions.

Ivana Rosinska will end her position as treasurer this year and we would like to thank her for all the years of hard work she has contributed to the Club. We will therefore need to elect a new treasurer and two auditors for 2012-2013.

b) Treasurer's Report

Ivana Rosinska presented the financial report. She explained each item on the financial spreadsheet. The Christmas Sale and Spring Jumble Sale raised a total of CHF 7240.

c) Auditors' Report

Donatella Bona audited the accounts by Ivana Rosinska. She proposed the approval of the accounts and her honorable discharge.

4. APPROVAL OF THE 2011/2012 ACCOUNTS

The accounts for 2011/2012 were approved unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In the election of Treasurer for 2012/2013, Véronique Paris is the only candidate.

The treasurer was approved unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET FOR 2012/2013

Ivana Rosinska presented the Budget for 2012/2013.

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET 2012/2013

The budget was approved unanimously.

8. ELECTION OF 2 AUDITORS FOR 2012/2013

Ursula Freudenreich, Anna Lustermann and Ivana Rosinska were elected unanimously.

9. PROPOSALS FOR NEW CLASSES OR ACTIVITIES

Laura Fantechi presented the report of the Group Leaders' meeting which took place on 7th May 2012, presided by Brittany Johnson, the Activities Coordinator.

All the classes are going well and almost all of them will continue next year. There will no longer be a jewelry creation class, but Jean Roderick will offer another class in Chinese for beginners.

There have been several proposals for new classes. Vanessa Maretti proposes a Creative Art class, including artistic embroidery, clay, crocheting, knitting or decoupage. We have also had some proposals for cooking classes, and also an astrology class and a class on organizing travel.

Vanina Gilomen proposes to continue the Stretching Dance class but to change to another day, as the Friday afternoon class had too few participants. We hope to continue to offer Italian classes, and to this end Frederica Marchitelli will offer three classes: beginners, intermediate and a discussion class similar to the French one which is held every two weeks. The committee would still be interested to hear any other proposals as we would like to continue to offer our members a rich variety of activities.

10. PRESENCE OF MEN IN THE CLUB

Maria Kienzle introduced the subject of men in the Club. There are already a small number of men enrolled in some of our classes. Until this year they were paying the class fees but not the enrollment fee for the Club as they were not allowed membership. The Steering Committee decided this year that men should also pay the membership fee if they are participating in the Club's activities.

Rachel Bray, who is the Director of the CCC (CERN Clubs Coordination) joined the meeting at 10:15. She presented the position of CERN with regard to the Rules and the Code of Conduct which apply to everyone using the CERN site. She praised the CWC for its role in welcoming people new to CERN and the area, but noted that in accordance with CERN policy there must be no discrimination as to who is allowed to participate in its activities. She therefore encouraged the CWC to welcome men to participate in the Club and to potentially change its name to reflect this change.

Following an animated discussion between the members present it was decided that:

- a) The decision of the Steering Committee to require men participating in classes to become a member and pay the membership fee was validated. They will pay as ordinary members, if they are CERN members.
- b) The issue of changing the policy of the club which could involve a change in the statutes was referred to the General Assembly of 2013. Jenny Van Hove confirmed that there could be a vote by email to ensure that at least 50% of the Club members vote on the matter.
- c) It is not necessary to change the name of the Club for the moment.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Rachel Bray confirmed that CERN wishes to change the location of the Club rooms. New rooms are to be built near to the restaurant Le Smash (by the Globe), however there is still no date for the proposed move. She is collecting information from all the Clubs with regard to how many rooms/ how much space they need for their activities.

Nicole Comte will take reservations for the end-of-year lunch which will take place on June 12, 2012 at Restaurant "Le Physalis" in Preveessin.

A beautiful flower arrangement was presented to Ivana Rosinska in appreciation of her five years as Treasurer, and also to Maria Kienzle in appreciation of her first year as President.

12. CLOSING

The meeting closed at 11:10 and was followed by an aperitif.