

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 12th May 2015

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 : 66 members were present and 42 proxies were received.

The meeting was therefore validated.

Maria KIENZLE opened the meeting at 9:45.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 13 MAY 2014

The minutes of the AGM of 13 May 2014, which were published in the Newsletter edition of June-July 2014, were approved unanimously.

3. REPORTS

a) President's Report

The Club membership has continued to increase : this year we have 514 registered members (8% more than last year). Of the 376 ordinary members, 36 are men.

New courses have got off to a good start : Arab culture and writing, Calligraphy, Art history, Tai-Chi. We wish to thank all of the group leaders for their dedication. The classes foster a spirit of friendship that favors the integration of those newly arrived at CERN. In this regard, the cheerful and dynamic Toddlers' group is noteworthy.

We have organized two series of seminars, one on Physics at CERN and the other on the Brain. The profit from these seminars has been added to the profits from the Christmas Sale and the spring Jumble Sale, to the benefit of the associations that we are sponsoring this year. For next year, seminars on Astrophysics and Plant Therapy (phytothérapie) are already in the works. You are all invited to share your skills and enthusiasms in this new type of club get-together.

The Club offers guided tours of the area's museums, to help us improve our knowledge of our surroundings. Thus we visited the *Château de Voltaire* in Ferney and the Geneva Museum of Art and History. As for next year, a visit to the Red Cross Museum has already been organized.

The Tuesday Coffee Mornings have been a great success, and we shall long remember the Chinese New Year celebration, as well as the presentation of Lebanese culture. I invite each of you to come forward and share the wealth of culture your country has to offer.

The central events of our Club community are the Christmas sale and the Spring Jumble sale. The "Social and Events" group meets regularly on Wednesday mornings to prepare these events and to ease the task of Vice-president Laura Fantechi. The sales were a great success. The CHF 7,000 profit from the Christmas sale was donated to "Les Jardins de Voltaire," an association where handicapped young adults can find work in a protected environment. The Spring Jumble sale brought in CHF 3,500 for "Lisa's School." Lisa, a Geneva employee of WHO, was murdered in 2005 while on a humanitarian mission to Africa. To honor her memory, her family and friends are sponsoring a school for both boys and girls in a northern Kenyan village. For next year, we have chosen the

association "Rêves Suisses" which helps ill and handicapped children fulfill their dreams.

The Staff Association has revised its statutes. I'll read you the items that concern us especially:

The club must comprise at a minimum: a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who form the steering committee. These functions may not be cumulated. At least one of the committee members must be a titular member of staff. As far as possible, the other committee members must also be staff members or former staff members.

Nb : it is imperative that one committee member be STAFF for the registration of club members. In effect, only a STAFF member is authorized to sign the EXTERNAL form permitting access to the site. Note also that the club member will be entered into the CERN data base under the Department/Group/Section of the sponsoring STAFF member.

Since our Committee does not include a CERN Staff member, and probably will not be able to, the President of all CERN clubs, Rachel Bray, has kindly accepted the position of Honorary Vice-president of our Committee. Let me remind you that the CERN Access Card must be renewed every year.

Another item of the Rules states:

The Staff Association logo must be visible: on the Club web site and on all posters advertising Club-sponsored events.

Therefore I ask you to send me any course- or activities-related poster so that I can stamp them with the CWC and Staff Association logos.

Cern has established an online procedure for one-day access :

Here is the procedure set down in the online form for enquiries about sports and associations :

The persons concerned must complete an online form available on the CERN website : www.cern.ch

- go to Service portal screen to the right of the Cern Directory after connecting.

- click on the search field - Cern Club -

- from the results click on the desired form (icon SE in green) :

1 / Cern club access request for an individual

2 / Cern club access request for a group (comprehensive list)

The form once complete is managed by the Service Desk, who sends it to the representative of the club concerned (for us Rachel Bray) to verify if the application is approved. If the application is approved, the applicant must print the receipt and present it at the gate for access to CERN.

This procedure may be used by a single applicant up to five times in a given year.

The Staff Association has requested that we change the Club's name to respect CERN's policy of avoiding any form of gender- or other discrimination.

Consequently, we shall call two votes today:

1) Do the Club members agree to change the name of the Club?

2) If the answer is "Yes," what name shall it have?

a) Club des Familles (du Cern)/ Cern Family Club

b) Club de l'Amitié / Cern Friendship Club

c) Club des Familles et des Amis / Cern Families and Friends Club.

The Staff Association will celebrate its 60 years on Thursday 21st May. We will have a stand at the festivities. We are in the process of preparing posters for it, and there will be demonstrations of our activities by the Tai Chi and Painting classes. We are all invited to this day of celebration.

I hereby invite you all to the CWC Club lunch at the Auberge des Chasseurs in Echenevex, to bring our year to a close in the warm glow of friendship.

Now I pass the floor to the Treasurer, Véronique Paris. Véronique has accompanied us very effectively these past few years, and we very much regret her resignation.

b) Treasurer's Report

Véronique PARIS presented the financial report. She explained each item on the spreadsheet and announced a surplus of CHF 2150. The Christmas Sale, the spring Jumble Sale plus the seminars and gifts by members raised a total of CHF 11,156.

4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS

The reports for 2014/2015 were approved unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015 / 2016

Anna LUSTERMANN proposes to replace Véronique PARIS, who is resigning as Treasurer. This is the only change in the Committee proposed for 2015/2016. The Committee was elected unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2015 / 2016

Véronique PARIS presented the Budget for 2015 / 2016.

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR 2015 / 2016

The Budget was approved unanimously.

8. ELECTION OF THE AUDITORS FOR 2015 / 2016

To replace Anna LUSTERMANN and Ursula FREUDENREICH, Véronique PARIS and Judy RICHARDS were nominated and elected unanimously.

9. PROPOSALS FOR NEW COURSES OR ACTIVITIES

Magali CORTHESEY presented an overview of the year 2014/2015, and the proposed new courses:

She said that the year has been excellent, with many activities and participants, although Brazilian Portuguese and Chinese calligraphy were not subscribed. Portuguese will be proposed again in September.

The Club's rooms are in great demand, with more courses than ever, and other CERN clubs using them as well. Therefore it is imperative that everyone evacuates the class-room on schedule to give the next course its full time.

Two new courses are proposed:

-Fruit and vegetable carving - you may have admired Katie's works of art at the Jumble Sale,

-Rhythm and music for small children, up to the age of 5.

Activities Registration Day will be Tuesday 8th September.

10. CHANGE OF OUR CLUB'S NAME

Maria KIENZLE fills us in on the background of the question of the club's name : two years ago, when the club first admitted men, the members had already adapted its original name to reflect this, from Cern Women's Club to Cern WoMen's Club (and Cernoises to Cernois/es). The CERN Office of Diversity did not consider this sufficient. There was a succession of e-mails from this Office and later from the president of the Staff Association, urging the club to bring its name into line with its activities and/or the makeup of its membership. But the club's activities are multiple and its members do not fall into a single category. After much thought, and suggestions by a few members, we have come up with three possible names. These names are on the ballots you have received. **But the Staff Association cannot compel the Club to change its name.** Under our Statutes, it is the members who

decide by a simple majority of those present and represented at the Annual General Meeting.

During the discussion which followed, participants made points for and against the name change, such as :

-Our name reflects our history, and has already been sufficiently adapted

-But it is healthy to change from time to time

-Cristina Giani : The United Nations also has its "Women's Club"

Fu Yaxiao, a Chinese member : in Chinese, "wo" means "we" and "men" means "all of us together" - so I felt very comfortable joining this club.

Alice Maria Donati, who works at CERN, prepared a strong statement :

... I am very happy to know that CERN has a strong program for gender equality. I had to look for it online though, because in my everyday life it is pretty clear that CERN is a place of men in a world for men. I work here, as a Ph.D. student, and while it is true that there are many fellow PHD students that are women, it is also true that as we age it is not as easy to get or to stay here. Half of the women working at CERN are under 30. And it doesn't surprise me: here I speak of my personal case, that might be isolated, but according to my contract I do not get any type of protection in case of pregnancy. I am on my own.

20% of the people working at CERN are women, but they cover only an 18% of the job types requiring higher education. This numbers have gotten better in the past 20 years, since a group of women asked the CERN direction to do something about the huge gender gap.

But it's a slow process, which does not match the well known fact that worldwide the best university students are women, who are quicker in getting a degree and who score higher marks.

Now, absolute equality, they say. In this club, most of us are wives of men that came here making a priority of their career. Maybe you will stay a few years, not enough time to learn a foreign language (or many, considered the kind of competition we face in Geneva), and less to find a job, especially if there are children to be taken care of. This club has been doing for 40 years a magnificent job in welcoming us, in creating a community for people that have chosen to abandon their own community for the sake of the personal growth of somebody else. Which we do proudly and joyfully. But it's still a reality that the spouses of CERN workers are mostly wives.

Changing our name would mean forgetting this. And I believe it would be unfair. It would hide and make more invisible the importance of the women of this community. Without you, CERN would not exist. Of course we admit in the club men, fathers, and all who want to join us. But with our name we make a statement: we exist, we are important and we are together.

Please, let's keep our name. Thanks for your attention. Thank you.

A vote was taken on the first question: **Shall we change the WoMen's Club name?** There were 66 members present, and 42 proxies registered. Two tellers were appointed. The result of the vote was : 97 NO, and 9 YES. (2 ballots were invalid.) The Club's name therefore remains unchanged.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Nicole COMTE is taking reservations for the end-of-year lunch to be held at the "Auberge des Chasseurs" on Thursday, June 11th. (Reservations may be

made until June 5th.)

12. CLOSING

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

17 May 2015 Peggy Zavattini