

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Tuesday, 16th May, 2017, at 9:30am.

1. OPENING

The Annual General Meeting was convened at least fifteen days in advance. The quorum of twenty members was attained : 69 members were present and 70 proxies were received. The meeting was therefore validated.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 10 MAY 2016

The minutes of the AGM of 10th May, 2016, which were published in the Newsletter of June-September 2016, were approved unanimously.

3. REPORTS

a) President's Report

This year we have 518 registered members, 183 of whom are associate members. Our thanks go to Lynda, who bravely keeps tabs on the continual flow of inscriptions. She has noticed that, since we began encouraging people to pay via UBS, we often do not receive the corresponding registration form, with all of the new member's coordinates, especially their e-mail. We must ask group leaders to be more vigilant and to hand over systematically to Magali and Lynda their lists of class members with their e-mails.

We also wish to thank all of the group leaders for their dedication. In the classes a spirit of friendship is born, which fosters the integration of newcomers to CERN. In this regard, special mention should go to the ever cheerful and dynamic Toddlers' group. We should like for the groups not to be closed in on themselves, but to participate in the activities of the Club as a whole - Coffee Mornings, visits, seminars...

The Committee has decided to raise by 2CHF the maximum compensation for course teaching, after a very long time.

We organised two series of seminars this year, one on *The Psychology of Women in the Company of Literary Heroïnes*, by Cristina Giani, and the other, *Introduction to Hypnosis and Chinese Medicine*, by Carla Carpentieri. These seminars were quite successful, and their earnings were added to those of the Christmas Sale and the spring Bric a Brac to form the donations to the associations which we sponsored this year. You are all invited to share your skills and passions through this new form of get-together. For next year, how about each of us presenting *The town (or Country) that I Love ?*

The Club offers us guided visits to the museums of the region, to help us get to know our surroundings better. Thus, this year we visited temporary exhibitions at the Museum of Ethnography and the Barbier-Mueller Museum. For this we owe our thanks to Edith Cuperus and her curiosity, which leads her to suggest interesting visits and then organise them.

The Tuesday Coffee Mornings are our favourite meeting place. In February we were enchanted by the views of Latin American scenes, and we danced to the rhythms of the Latino group's dances. For next year, we'd like you to suggest new Coffee Morning themes, to share with us the cultural wealth of your countries.

The Christmas Sale and spring Bric a Brac are still the central actions of our Club. Here we owe a great debt of gratitude to Laura, who for six years has successfully organised these events with great dedication. Since she is leaving her position of Vice-president, we can show her our affection with a bouquet of flowers. But we well know that she will not be abandoning us ! The *Social and Events* group meets regularly on Wednesday mornings to prepare for these events, and this is at the same time an opportunity to meet new members who may be feeling a bit lost. The CHF 5460 earned by the Christmas Sale were donated to the Association D.I.R.E. The spring Bric a Brac sale brought in CHF 1630 for Magali's Association EVE, which helps (disadvantaged) children in India with their schooling.

We have a new team for our Web pages - Monica and Evelyne, and for Facebook - Isabel and Anne. They are already busy, applying their enthusiasm and know-how to the task. They deserve our encouragement ! (*applause*) Many thanks also to Mara, who accomplished this task with dedication for many years!

Here I should like to thank all of those who have faithfully supported the Committee for so many years - Donatella, Nicole, Federica, Marie-Thérèse - in the multiple tasks of registration and welcoming new members. Thanks also to Nathalie and her team of translators and correctors, who put out a such a lovely Newsletter three times a year. Here again I invite you to contribute articles illustrating the various Club activities...

As you have observed, CERN application procedures are in a state of continual evolution. Classroom reservations, access to CERN for a day or for a year, these are now automated. That is why at least one member of the Committee must be a CERN staff member. We thank Rachel Bray, President of all of the CERN clubs, and Artur Wiecek, a member of our Club , for taking on the responsibility of registering our members.

We have long known the difficulty of naming a new President and Vice-president. Judy recently suggested we try the method of the Alpine Club of Carouge : the presidency is made up of three people - a *senior, an adult and a junior* president, who share the various tasks. At the end of each year the senior leaves, and a new junior takes office. With Clara and Valentina, we are going to try to set up this system, which automatically limits each term to three years, and thus should make it easier to participate for those of our members who are at CERN for a short period.

Ghislain Roy, the new President of the Staff Association, has found a new name for our Club of the many-faceted activities: *the CERN Welcome Club*. On April 4th

he explained to us the reasons why this change is necessary for CERN. He has done us the honour of being here this morning, and is going to present us once again CERN's position on this. Then we shall vote.

I invite you one and all to the Club lunch on June 15th at the Auberge Communale de Collex-Bossy, in order to bring the year to a close in the warm glow of friendship.

Now I give the floor to our Treasurer, Judy RICHARDS.

b) Treasurer's Report

Judy RICHARDS presented the financial report. Our expenses were similar to those of last year. Our income was down slightly, but our assets have now reached CHF 61,183.10, up again from last year. To reduce this surplus, which is incompatible with our non-profit status, the auditors suggest that next year we increase the size of our Christmas and spring donations. This idea was approved by the Steering Committee.

The idea is approved by the Meeting.

The auditors also propose that we close our Post Office account, which gets very little use. Only thirty-five payments were made through this account this year, and we were charged CHF 1.50 for each. The Committee has decided to close this account without delay. We will then have only two payment methods for our subscriptions : in cash at the Coffee Mornings, or by direct payment to UBS.

The auditors, Véronique PARIS and Ursula FREUDENREICH, approve the financial report.

4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS

The reports for 2016 / 2017 were approved unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2017 /2018

The positions of President and Vice-president are vacant : Laura FANTECHI, Vice-president, has resigned, and Maria KIENZLE, President, wishes to resign. Maria presents the new presidential formula which the Committee wishes to implement, borrowed from the Alpine Club of Carouge. This rotation system has three members, a *junior* president, an *adult* president, and a *senior* president, so-called. Each member begins as *junior* president, and when he or she leaves after three years, has filled the three offices, including that of *adult* president, who is responsible for running the club for one year. There is no vice-president. On condition that we test this new system, which limits each term to three years, two candidates have volunteered : Clara RAIMONDO for President, and Valentina VLASSOVA, for Vice-president. The rest of the Committee is unchanged.

The new Committee was elected unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2017 / 2018

The only novelty in the Budget presented by Judy RICHARDS is in the website item, which will receive CHF 3500 , for modernisation and installation of new software. The rest of the budget is similar to that of last year. Judy asks us to find and present ideas for useful expenditures, since we now have three times the normal amount of assets in reserve.

Question : What is the Committee Indemnity?

Answer : It is the indemnisation for expenses of the Committee members and the members of the teams that have contributed their work to the Club, such as the Coffee Mornings welcome team .

Q : Could we establish a scholarship for a young woman who wants to study but lacks funds ?

A : That would be too complicated, because we have no ties to the academic world, or to people who could evaluate the applications.

But proposals for associations to benefit from our Christmas and spring donations are welcome - the donation from the 2017 Christmas Sale will go to the children's circus associaton *Salto de l'Escargot*.

The Christmas donation traditionally alternates from year to year between a Swiss and a French association. For the spring Bric a Brac, we may sponsor initiatives that operate in foreign countries, such as this spring Magali's association, EVE, which is active in India.

7. APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR 2017 / 2018

The Budget was approved unanimously.

8. ELECTION OF THE AUDITORS FOR 2017 / 2018

The Auditors, Véronique PARIS and Ursula FREUDENREICH, were re-elected unanimously for the coming year.

9. PROPOSALS FOR NEW COURSES OR ACTIVITIES

Magali CORTHESEY presented a portrait of the Club's multiple activities. There are over thirty activities, including social ones - the Toddlers, discussion groups, bridge, arts and crafts for the Christmas Sale,; artistic activities, such as painting, life drawing, watercolour, and the more recent additions, such as calligraphy, patchwork, fruit sculpture. There are eight languages taught, or nine if you include IT; physical activities we've always had, such as gym and yoga, and new ones, such as Latino dancing, and Swiss ball (Pilates-derived); outside activities, like "gentle walking," and all-day hiking. About forty group leaders are needed for all of these activities. We thank Debbie Groby, who is leaving her English teaching after fourteen years, but not leaving the Club. We welcome Laura, our new English teacher, and Nougaret, who teaches Japanese. Laurent Guillerminet has had to give up his Tai Ji course, and Edith Arduini her Nordic walking group.

New courses proposed in the autumn will be Embroidery, Qi Gong, and possibly expressive painting, which has yet to be submitted to the Committee.

Our main problem is a lack of space. All the classrooms, including the gym room in the barracks at the CERN entrance, are fully booked. There is a suggestion to look for something outside of CERN.

With such tight scheduling, everyone must make sure to pack up and leave the classroom right on time, to let the next group begin on time.

Noise continues to be an issue, especially on the mezzanine. We plan to install a glass partition in the stairway, but if someone has a better idea, we are open to other solutions.

There are also two group leaders' meetings per year, in the autumn and the spring, where you may make proposals and raise questions.

10. CHANGE OF OUR CLUB'S NAME: PRESENTATION BY GHISLAIN ROY, HEAD OF THE STAFF ASSOCIATION, OF THE REASONS FOR THE NEED FOR THIS CHANGE; DISCUSSION AND VOTE

Ghislain Roy, accompanied by Céline Grobon, coordinator, relates to us the often reiterated insistence of the CERN Administration on the imperative need to eliminate any reference to gender in all Staff Association clubs. We must remember that we have the CERN Administration to thank for our access to CERN and the use of its premises.

"It was not easy to find a name which would cover the Club's multiple activities, but it seemed to us this year that the name *CERN Welcome Club* would might pretty well summarise your mission, and would not require you to change your acronym; en French, we have *Le Club de bienvenue au CERN*. The Committee has agreed to this name.

This is the context. Let's be brief, since we have already heard the arguments on both sides on April 4th."

Véronique : Jenny VAN HOVE, a founder of the Club, and the one who chose the name, was enchanted with the new name, which so well reflects the Club's function.. I myself had always refused the name "CERN Women's Club " which seemed to ignore the women who actually worked at CERN, like me.

Q: Why is there a problem with gender names ?

A : CERN is immersed in politics, with the demands of the LGBT community. CERN wants to be inclusive, but without singling out one or another group by its identity. Your club was born to welcome the wives of CERN newcomers, but its aim was inclusive back then, it brought families together.

Q : Is the aim to prevent other clubs from forming ?

A : No.

Q : Normally, "Welcome" implies housing services, schools, etc. This could mislead people.

A : Yes, you can see it from different angles. But if people contact you by mistake, you can redirect them to CERN Services, and at the same time they may discover your Club.

Q : Why not *CERN Activities Club* ?

A : Other clubs also have activities. And this club does not have a single activity.

Q : (Grazia) : Our name is important for the women who founded the Club. To change its name means to change its history. A UNO report shows that women's situation in Europe is not good, they do not have equality with men. The name is

an important international social message. Ms Gianotti, the Director General, wrote that women suffer discrimination at CERN. Our name is also a message for the women working at CERN.

A : In the SA, our team is mostly women. We applaud the Director General - her statement originated with the SA. But international problems are not part of our agenda. Feminism is not a theme for a CERN club. Outside of CERN, no problem. Of course, this is logically a space for the discussion of women's issues.

Grazia : Human beings deserve respect - men as well as women. This Club was given a name, that is its history, it is important.

Q : Feminism is not at issue, since we have opened the Club to men. We have not heard the main reason - Why now?

A : It has been several years now. CERN does not want to enter into matters of gender, to have clubs based on identity rather than activities. We at the SA agree. Véronique said it well - the reality of today is different from what it was.

Q : We have already changed our name, to the CERN WoMen's Club and Les Cernois/es. People from outside CERN love it.

A : We are inside CERN, we have to comply with the requirements of CERN.

Q : If this doesn't pass, will we be seeing you often ?

A : No, it will be somebody else - I have other things to do.

The vote was taken. The ballots were counted by Grazia DONATO and Evelyne MONTILLET.

There were 75 "Yes" votes and 58 "No" votes. The name was changed.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There is a request to replace the broken chairs in the Toddlers' room. It was brought up in the Group Leaders' meeting, and is being taken care of.

There is a request that those who use the tables clean them off after their course, so that the patchwork makers can use them without wiping. The problem is a recurring one. The water pail has disappeared, as usual. It would suffice to use wipes. But we'll buy a new pail, etc.

Clara : Some people are not happy with the new name. We could perhaps add "formerly CERN Women's Club," possibly on our Website, to keep a trace of our history.

Maria reminds us that Nicole is taking names for the Club lunch on Thursday, 15th June. Otherwise, we can write to her at : nc.comte@wanadoo.fr

12. CLOSING

The meeting was closed at 11:15, and was followed by refreshments.

21 May, 2017

Peggy ZAVATTINI

