

# Minutes of the AGM, 22nd May, 2018

## 1. OPENING

The Annual General Meeting was convened at least fifteen days in advance. The quorum of twenty members was attained : 42 members were present and 17 proxies were received. Two Steering Committee members are excused : the Vice-president, Valentina Vlassova-Grinbaum, and the Activities Coordinator, Magali Corthésy.

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 16 MAY, 2017

The minutes of the AGM of 16th May, 2017, which were published in the Newsletter May-September 2017, were approved unanimously.

## 3. REPORTS

### a) President's Report

Hello everyone and welcome,

This is my first year as President of the CWC and therefore my first general meeting in this rôle.

The club continues to be very dynamic, with more than 30 activities offered, and to supervise all these activities there are roughly forty motivated and devoted group leaders.

The Club's interests range from toddlers' social activities, and other activities for young children (for which we recently renewed all the carpets), to work in crafts, or bricolage, at the beginning of the year.

Artistic activities include painting, drawing from observation, calligraphy, and painting on porcelain.

There are of course our language courses: 11 languages are taught, including French, English, Italian, Spanish German and Russian, but also Chinese, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, Arabic... and computer programming.

And then there are the sports activities: gym, yoga, dance, kinesthesia, especially with children, and outdoor activities including gentle walking and hiking.

All the groups work very well. In the classes there is a spirit of friendship, which favours the integration of newcomers to CERN. This is the very reason for being, the purpose of our club, which has changed its name but not its spirit.

With this in mind, this morning the Director General of CERN, Fabiola Gianotti, did us the honour of spending some time with us, highlighting the interest the Organisation takes in our Club.

We currently have 534 members, 134 of whom are associate members, and they continue to come. This year men represent 14% of our membership, up from only 11% last year.

Compared to past years a larger number of members (even some men) helped us to prepare the "bric a brac" and the Christmas Market. I saw many new faces, while in previous years there were always the same people.

Let me urge Club members to participate in the various activities offered during the year, and not only in the gym and language courses, etc. : take, for example, our seminars, that are always very interesting, the museum guided tours that enable us to learn more about our surroundings, and of course the Coffee Mornings where we meet to share convivial experiences. Some highlights this year were the Russian Coffee Morning, and a very successful raffle.

I invite you to keep up with all our activities on our website (which will soon have a more attractive look) or on our Facebook page, which are regularly updated.

During the past year we have prepared the works that will take place in our classrooms this summer: ventilation of the language room, closing off of the mezzanine to cut down on noise, an emergency door to the toddlers' room. These changes should solve many problems and allow us to offer our activities in much better conditions. They will be carried out from July 1st to September 10th, and while they are underway we will not have access to the upstairs rooms.

To simplify the running of the club, we would like to send more documents by e-mail, including the Convocation to this meeting, so from next year I will ask you to clearly indicate on the registration form if you wish to continue to receive the Convocation by post. Otherwise by default it will be sent electronically.

I did not mention anyone by name in this speech, because I want to thank all the members of the Steering Committee for supporting me in this role, and all those who have helped us, and with whom I have worked with pleasure in the interest of our club.

However, I will mention those who are leaving us, and whom I thank warmly for their dedication to the Club :

Martine Herrmann (Watercolor), Stéphanie Schwickerath (Singing Mice and Jumping Tigers), Liliane Jung (German), Federica Marchitelli (newcomers), Nathalie Schneider (the Newsletter).

Thank you for your attention.

Clara Raimondo

b) Treasurer's Report

Our income was 20,382.99 for the 2017-2018 financial year (April 1st 2017 to March 31st 2018). The surplus was 2,133.59 CHF, noticeably lower than last year's, which was 3987.15 CHF. For a not-for-profit institution like ours, that is a success.

After allowing 20,000CHF for building work in the classrooms this summer, our assets still amount to 43,286.68 CHF, all in our UBS account now. Our Postal Account, hardly used, was closed in the interest of simplification and to save the fees charged for each subscription we received through it.

This year's expenses were very similar to last year's.

The Committee members' expense allowances appear only partially (330 CHF) in this year's Report, since they are now paid at the end of the academic year (except for those who leave in the interim), and will thus appear in next year's Report.

In reply to a question from the floor on the item Formation informatique [IT Training], for 2183.35 CHF, Judy explains that after an unsuccessful search for trained IT specialists to run our Website, we decided to offer a training course to a team who would be willing to help for at least two years. Monica MENDOZA and Evelyne MONTILLET answered the call, and their work is very much appreciated. In the near future there will be sweeping changes in the CERN operating system, for which they will be well prepared.

The auditors, Véronique PARIS and Ursula FREUDENREICH approved the Financial Report.

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

The reports for 2017 / 2018 were approved unanimously.

#### 5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2018 / 2019

The changes proposed in the Steering Committee are as follows : Nyedja DA SILVA MARINHO will be assistant Secretary to Peggy ZAVATTINI at first, and then gradually take over the position of Secretary ; Chiara CHESI MANFREDI will take over part of the Treasurer's work.

Of the co-opted members, Alessandro RAIMONDO will replace Artur WIECEK as CERN Staff representative ; Sara CASTELLS will join the Coffee Mornings team and will help with Newcomers Registration, replacing Federica MARCHITELLI who is leaving ; Manuela MEDINA will replace Nathalie SCHNEIDER, who is giving up the Newsletter ; Isabel GARCIA ARECES has had to leave the Facebook team, which will now be led by the duo Anna KRASNOPOLSKA and Laura FANTECHI.

The new Committee was elected unanimously.

#### 6. PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2018 / 2019

We expect expenses to be similar to last year's, except for the item Equipement des salles, [Classroom Facilities], for 22,000 CHF. These are the works planned for this summer in all of the upstairs classroom areas, aimed essentially at improving sound insulation. The cost of the undertaking, estimated at 60,000 CHF, is to be borne in equal shares of 20,000 CHF each, by CERN, the Group of clubs that use the area, and the CWC.

## 7. APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET FOR 2018 / 2019

The Budget was approved unanimously.

## 8. ELECTION OF THE AUDITORS FOR 2018 / 2019

Véronique PARIS agrees to continue as Auditor for another year. Ursula FREUDENREICH is resigning after several years in this role. Yaxiao FU has volunteered to replace her. The Auditors Véronique PARIS and Yaxiao FU were elected unanimously for the coming year.

## 9. PROPOSALS FOR NEW COURSES OR ACTIVITIES

Courses.

- A course in Modern Greek is proposed, if there is interest, by Daphne Karastathi. She is asked to contact Magali CORTHESEY, who is absent today.
- The Prenatal Yoga class was so successful that Renata PODOLCOVA wishes to add a Yoga course for mothers and babies.
- The course in Artistic Expression (originally Watercolour), led by Martine HERMANN, will be taken over by Tatiana KHRISTOVA.
- Petra VINCKE has agreed to take on the German courses led by Liliane JUNG, but she will try to speak to Liliane first, to get more information on how the courses were taught.
- Clara throws out a general invitation to revive the Wednesday morning crafts group, for the shared fun and satisfaction of making things with our hands, to sell at the Christmas Sale and Spring Bric-a-brac. But Donatella BONA reminds us that many lovely objects made by the group have not sold, and have had to be put away for another sale, and another. We should think, she says, about what to make that people will buy.

A member voices regret over the Patchwork group, which in times past used to make quilts which brightened up the Christmas Sale.

Lovely Advent wreaths, attractively displayed, also added charm to the Sale. They were made in the past by a member, and no one has taken over that task since she "retired."

The passing of the homemade orange marmalade is also lamented.

The younger generation of buyers seems to be more attracted to the book section. We need to raise our book prices again, after making the mistake of

lowering them last year. Christmas sales have multiplied in Geneva in the past few years, but there is general agreement that our results could benefit from improvements in our decoration and displays, as well as perhaps our publicity, which should be able to make good use of our Facebook page and Website.

Kristiina PENNAR offers to help draw up a questionnaire that could be sent to members each year, to ask what they would like to see offered for sale at the Christmas Sale. Her suggestion is accepted.

Seminars.

- Maria KIENZLE suggests a series of seminars to be given by members, who could present their home cities or regions. Our diverse membership opens the door to a wealth of possibilities in this regard.
- Other seminars would also be welcome. Clara awaits our suggestions.
- We also want to resume our visits to museums and temporary exhibitions in our area, as we have missed them this year.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee reminds everyone of the new CERN rule that our Access Card must be clearly visible while we are on site. As the DG, Fabiola Gianotti, explained to the Committee before the AGM this morning, this is chiefly a result of the host countries, France and Switzerland, challenging CERN to do more to prevent the thefts of valuable materials which have multiplied in recent years, and for which CERN is repeatedly obliged to ask their help.

Nicole COMTE is circulating the inscription form for our end-of-year lunch, to be held this year on Tuesday, June 12th, at the Café de la Place in Meyrin-Village. It is also possible to sign up with her before 7 June by e-mail at [nc.comte@wanadoo.fr](mailto:nc.comte@wanadoo.fr).

## 11. CLOSING

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

31 May, 2018

Peggy Zavattini

