

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – AGM of the CERN Welcome Club – CWC May 16, 2023, 10 am Room 504

1. OPENING

The CWC Annual General Meeting was convened at least fifteen days in advance. The quorum of 20 members was reached: 28 members attended the meeting. All members of the Steering Committee are present, except Valentina Vlassova-Grinbaum, Paula Goossens and Sara Castells.

2. REPORTS

2.1 President's report

« Dear friends,

Our Club has grown considerably over the years, withstanding difficult times like this pandemic, and we're ready to celebrate our 50th anniversary next year. We're going to have a party, which I'll tell you about, with fireworks and cotillions. It's an important date and I think it was in May that the Club was founded, I don't remember but it was in this period in a year's time in fact and it's something we'd never have imagined.

Our Club remains unique in the landscape of CERN Clubs because we offer a variety of activities you know very well and it's this diversity that makes our club so special. I'm very grateful to every one of you for your contributions to our club and to our initiatives.

I'm thinking, for example, and this is very close to my heart, of the Wednesday craft workshop. I wanted to keep it a secret, but I'll say it. Wednesday mornings are great. We do one Wednesday out of 2. It's great because we do things together, we make things, objects for the Christmas Sale but also for the Bric à Brac, both, and it's great. It's a great atmosphere run by Monica, Lynda, Galith and Valentina, who isn't here today. There are a few activities we do here that also enable us to do charity work. This is also the aim of our Club.

Language classes have always been an important part of our Club and a valuable service we offer to our community; through our language classes we've been able to help people from all walks of life improve their language skills and communicate more effectively. But our Club is much more than that.

I'm thinking of painting. There are some wonderful things. When I was at the vernissage, it was great, frankly. Our Club is much more than that. From physical activities to cultural events to supporting our community, we're committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those around us.

Afterwards, we'll have a slide show with all the activities we've done.

There was a writer who came to give us a seminar, there was the Bric-à-Brac, the Christmas Sale with the various associations we helped, and on June 2nd there will be a seminar on the Renaissance. You're all invited. It's not just the Italian Renaissance we know, but all the Renaissances. It's also a way of being in harmony and talking about things that enrich us, and besides, if there's someone who knows a certain subject, Marie Louise for example, Brigitte, it might be nice to propose seminars on a few subjects that are close to your heart, for example. We ask for a small contribution of 5 Swiss Francs.

I'd also like to talk about the subject of membership fee; sometimes people say: "I don't want to pay the membership fee."

Why should "I pay the club membership fee?"

Well, we've already talked about insurance several times, but it's also a way of supporting our Club, because with the membership fees we support activities, we can afford to organize and keep alive our Club, which has been able to resist, yes, but also thanks to the efforts of the committee, the people and so on, as well as the membership fee. It contributes and it ensures that we're committed to something, because it's not only to pay for language courses or painting, et cetera. We're here to help one another, to share moments.

I mean, it's not just a one-off activity. It's about sharing, and that's what the Club is all about. You still must pay your membership fee to be here, and as we move forward, I think it's important for us to stay focused on our goal of integration and continue to work as a team.

Speaking of teamwork, last year we decided to do just one online class. I still think it's a good idea. We remain open to the idea because it's fundamental otherwise we'd be dead. I'm sure of it, and we wouldn't have reached our 50-year anniversary. I'd like to thank our teachers and group leaders who worked online because they kept us alive as a Club. But it's good to leave room for an online class because it also allows people who can't come but are interested in the club to participate anyway. I think a small class is not a lot so people who still want can take part in our activities.

Integration is also about sharing at some point, and that's a lesson we've learned with COVID. Sometimes I walk around our premises and see people who are here but don't feel part of a Club. They just come to do their class. Maybe there are people who can't come but would be motivated to participate anyway, so I think it's good to leave room for that.

We need to continue to support and encourage each other as we strive to have a balanced impact in our community - it's only through your hard work and commitment that we've been able to accomplish things.

Thank you all. Thank you to everyone. »

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF MAY 17th, 2022

Clara asks if members agree with the approval of the minutes of the AGM of May 17th, 2022, which were available on the Club's website.

The minutes are unanimously approved.

4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF 2022/2023 FINANCIAL REPORTS AND 2023/2024 BUDGET

Clara invites Lynda Evans, standing in for Treasurer, Paula Goossens, to present and explain the CWC's expenses and income in 2022/2023 and the budget for 2023/2024.

Lynda explains the overall figures, income streams and expenses in 2022/2023.

Lynda presents the budget for 2023/2024.

Clara asks if members agree to approve the Club's financial reports for 2022/2023 and the Budget for 2023/2024.

The financial reports and budget are approved unanimously.

The current auditors, Peggy Zavattini and Yaxiao Fu, also approve the financial report for 2022/2023 and the budget for 2023/2024.

5. ELECTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2023 / 2024

Clara asks if members agree with the proposed Steering Committee for 2023/2024.

The Steering Committee is unanimously approved.

6. ELECTION OF AUDITORS FOR 2023 / 2024

Clara asks if members agree with our auditors for 2023/2024. Yaxiao Fu and Peggy Zavattini are auditors for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The auditors are unanimously approved.

7. ACTIVITIES

Evelyne and Monica present a Slide Show with all the activities that took place during the 2022-2023 period, including the Bric à Brac and the Christmas Sale.

8. CLOSING

Clara closes the meeting at 12.40pm.

May 16, 2023.

Nyedja Marinho

CWC Secretary

Clara Raimondo

CWC President