

Annual General Meeting
of the
Swiss Club Edinburgh
14th November 2015 at 1.45pm
at the Queensferry Boat Club

MINUTES

Present:

Freddie Wyser, Ursula Ross, Trudi Bott, Franz and Ruth Muheim, Marie-Florence McDonald, Elisabeth Davies, Alec and Ursula Lamb, Jill Shanks, Tildy Marshall, Peter Mueller-McDougal, Muriel Dorthe, Sandra Wenk, Mark Newman, Pam Smart, Eddie Hendry, and Janine McNeil-Häusermann

Apologies for Absence: Irene Woerz, Astrid and Dougie Steed, Carina Cairns, Naomi Richardson, Regi Claire, Helen Reid, Dorothy Brown, Catherine Huber, Erna Webber, Suzanne Henderson, Patricia Rudolf von Rohr, Jane Müller-McDougall and Daniel Wenk

1. Welcome

The meeting started at 1.45pm. The President welcomed everybody to the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Club Edinburgh.

2. Apologies for Absence

As listed above

3. Presidents Report:

The President informed us about the passing of Martha Hodge and Helen Anderson this year. The president expressed his deepest sympathy to both families on behalf of the Swiss Club.

The attendance of the events over the last year had been supported by the members of the Swiss Club. He passed review on the various events.

The President thanked the committee members for their support throughout the year.

He pointed out that there was a big event coming up for next year which would be the FOSSUK AGM 2016.

He acknowledged Ursula Ross's resignation as Welfare coordinator and thanked her for all the work she had done and effort she had put into this position.

4. Minutes of AGM 2014 and Matters arising:

Ruth Muheim raised the question about the annual dinner not being explained well enough in the last minutes and that the club members did not have an opportunity to give their feedback where the next one should be held. Ursula Lamb proposed to accept the Minutes and Tildy Marshall seconded, the minutes were accepted.

5. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer was pleased to announce that the Club is in good health. The Membership had increased from 44 to 45 members. The balance on 31 October 2015 was £2586.45. The increase was less than the previous year due to the fact that we had invited the Gospel Choir to our 1st August celebrations in North Berwick. The Fondue was priced slightly more than before and contributed a profit which offset the cost of the Christmas Party. A donation had been made to the Red Cross in aid of the Ebola Crisis which had been sanctioned by the committee. Mark Taylor has examined accounts and has agreed to continue in his function. Alec proposed to have the subscription fee remaining at £15.00 per member.

A discussion started about the money in the bank. Trudi suggested to lower the subscription fee and to use some of the funds. Pam Smart said we should reconsider that as we might need funds for our next big anniversary. Franz Muheim suggested that the subscription fee should remain the same and that the club should dip into the funds whenever necessary eg Fondue, special events. Alec discussed the principal of having some funds in the bank in view of the coming FOSSUK AGM. Peter Mueller proposed to use funds to update the Website. Franz mentioned that even FOSSUK's webpage costs as well and pointed out that the upkeep should be managed by somebody.

6. Budget and Membership Fee:

Pam proposed to keep the fee at £15.00 per head and Franz seconded. The vote was taken by 17 people, with 2 objections.

It was agreed that it is useful to have reserve funds but to review this point again at next years AGM after this year's passing.

Franz Muheim proposed to accept the financial reports and was seconded by Jill Shanks.

7. Welfare Report:

Ursi reports on the Benevolent Fund. Flowers and cards have been paid out of that fund. If the Club wants to continue with this tradition the club will have to pay for these expenses in future. It was pointed out that the Club has always paid for floral contributions for over 80's.

Founder member Helen Anderson, 89, passed away this year and Ursi said that there will be an obituary in the next issue of the Swiss Review.

Nelly Robson is still in good fettle. Tildy Marshall is 92 and is still enjoying outings when supported by other members/friends.

Erna Webber, 89, is relatively fine. She has had a knee replacement.

The Ellis' are also in good spirit considering their ages.

Ursi thanked the club members for their help and support in transporting the elderly members throughout the year.

Ursi has had her own health issues and has decided to resign from her post as health officer with immediate effect.

Franz thanked Ursula for all her hard work and enquired about the status quo of the Benevolent fund. Ursi informed that it will fold up and also explained that only people who have worked in Britain would be able to benefit from any of the money if needed. The money will be sent to London where it will be ring fenced and looked after by the embassy. Ursula Ross also gave a brief account of the history of the Benevolent Fund and who was in it.

8. Elections of Office Bearers and Committee Members:

The position of Janine McNeil has to be reelected.

Janine offered to stay on as secretary and gets reelected.

Ursula Ross asked who would like to take over the position as Welfare officer. She explained the role of that position (taking flowers and birthday cards to elderly members and staying in touch with the elderly members; on very rare occasion hospital visits).

Peter Mueller suggested that we need more younger people in the committee. Clubs like ours needed to attract younger people to sustain themselves and to look forward.

Peter proposes Sandra Wenk as a new committee member and put it to the floor for discussion.

Sandra said she would be happy to help but was not entirely sure she would be the right person for this position. However she would suggest that this role might possibly be done by two people.

Alec Lamb also pointed out that there aren't many elderly people living outside of Edinburgh.

Freddie put to the floor that Sandra Wenk and Ruth Muheim would join the committee. Ruth would be happy to help but also makes clear that if there is need that flowers and cards will be sent if there is no way of visiting people at that time.

Sandra and Ruth get elected as new committee members in joint position of the Welfare.

The committee for 2015/2016 is as follows:

President:	Freddie Wyser
Vice President:	Irene Woerz
Secretary:	Janine McNeil-Häusermann
Treasurer:	Alec Lamb
Committee members:	Jill Shanks and Ursula Lamb
Welfare:	Ruth Muheim and Sandra Wenk

9. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence this year

10. AOCB:

The program for 2015/2016 will be discussed at the next committee meeting and members were asked to put any suggestions forward. The program was opened for discussion.

The known dates for the program are:

6 December 2015 Christmas Party and Samichlaus event at the Saughtonhall Community Centre from 2.30 to 5pm.

The **Annual Dinner** will take place at the Balmoral Hotel on **Friday, 29th January 2016**. The cost is set at £45.00 per head. Peter kindly offered wine for that evening and Freddie has the Champagne from previous events. Freddie said that the corkage is £10 per bottle, Peter pointed out that that was a discount rate for us.

Ruth puts to the floor that we should perhaps change the venue for next year as we had this discussion last year because of the high cost. Change of venue will be put onto Agenda for Committee meeting for discussion. The committee was urged to take into account that the cost factor is quite major for some of our members.

Freddie pointed out that we get a good deal at the Balmoral.

The Menu for the Annual Dinner will be decided by the committee.

Possible Theatre trip between **8 – 12 March 2016 to the Kings Theatre** for a Gilbert and Sullivan show. Pam suggested to go as a group as one would get special discounts and a pre play talk.

The **Fondue** dinner is set for **Saturday 19th March 2016** at the Saughtonhall Community Centre from 6pm to 10pm. Sandra pointed out that the Swiss Bakery is able to provide a Cheese mixture for the Fondue and asks the committee to bare that in mind.

The **FOSSUK AGM** will be held **20 to 22nd May 2016** in Edinburgh. Freddie, Peter and Franz are organising venue places as well as accommodation. The Registration, the cocktail reception and the Dinner will be held at the Balmoral. Accomodation has been booked at the Motel One across the road from the Balmoral. (Cost at Balmoral for double £350 / cost at Motel One £114 for double occupancy). They have thought of a program and have put suggestions towards the FOSSUK Committee for them to decide. Program would include to visit Roslyn Chapel and the Glenkinchie Distillery. There are no costs involved for the Swiss Club.

The **Swiss National Day celebrations** will be held on **31st July 2016**; at the Saughtonhall community centre 2 to 6pm.

Mark Newman suggested to hold another guided tour at the Botanics as we had before which proved really popular. He will liaise with Janine regarding a suitable date.

The **Swiss Ambassador's Concert** will take place in **October**, date and time to be confirmed.

The **AGM** will be held on **22nd November 2016** at the Saughtonhall Community Centre, time will be confirmed nearer the date.

And the **Christmas Party** will take place on **4th December 2016**, time and place to be confirmed.

Freddie turned back to the point Peter earlier made regarding getting new members. There is also the discussion of changing the name of the club to attract more members. Peter Mueller said that as a Honorary Consul he could state that Aberdeen was a very active club but tended to do their own thing. He also commented that it was sad to see the West of Scotland folding up at the end of the year. Edinburgh was not inviting a wider section and that we should be more inclusive and not be exclusive. He posed the question of how to be a more open club for the central belt with people eager to join us. Discussion is put to the floor. Freddie was open to name change but hesitant at the same time because this would involve changing the constitutions. He pointed out that it had to be done in a legal way. Peter also mentioned that the likes of Hans-Martin Senn would love to be part of this club.

The talk went back to the website issue to be seriously considered in order to attract new members. Alec Lamb pointed out that we never have managed to attract any students. Peter said that we should be present in the social media and therefore need to update all. He put the idea of the "Stammtisch" to the floor which had been mentioned a year ago by Franz. If one is around one can join in the evening if not then another time.

Ursula Ross said that this would be like going back to the beginning when they got the club started and was very supportive of this idea. She said it is vital for somebody to take the responsibility to get it organised. Franz proposed to invite people from the central belt who are keen to join to meet them and to get to know them. Franz was eager to get the Stammtisch going and he will try and find a venue. For those interested and who would like to support him please get in touch with him. He thought that meeting once a month would be optimal.

Sandra said to be able to advertise it it would be best to put it out on social media to reach as many as possible. She pointed out from her work experience that a website has a lifetime of 5 years. She asked for the information of the website. Sandra suggested to create a new website. She suggested to use a website too that wouldn't cost anything and were all information could be uploaded.

Janine proposed Sandra should write down the hours and costs for creating a new website and bring all the information to the next committee meeting.

Franz updated on FOSSUK and new law for Swiss abroad including youth parliament.

FOSSUK has a new president, Loredana Guetg-Wyatt

The next FOSSUK AGM will take place in Edinburgh 21 May 2016.

OSA - the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad will celebrate its

100th anniversary next year during a meeting in

Brunnen on the shores of Lake Lucerne on 15 to 17 April

OSA has set up a Youthparliament of the Swiss Abroad,

see <http://aso.ch/en/youthparliament-of-the-swiss-abroad-ypsa>

the new Law for the Swiss Abroad has come into effect on 1 Nov 2015

see <http://aso.ch/de/die-auslandschweizer-haben-ihr-gesetz>

Freddie closes the meeting at 4.30pm. Tea/coffee were served.