



Procès-verbal de l'assemblée générale du Club des Combins

13.02.2016 - 18h30 Médran

1. Opening of Assembly, Attendance Check
2. Approval of Minutes of Last General Assembly
3. President's Report
4. Presentation of 2015 Year End Accounts
5. Auditors' Report
6. Approval of Accounts and Discharge to the Committee
7. Presentation and Approval of Modified Statutes
8. Presentation and Approval of Safety Fund Regulation
9. Reappointment of the Committee
10. Miscellaneous

1. Opening of Assembly and Attendance Check

The president opens the Assembly at 18.45 and welcomes the members present.

He asks the Assembly to observe a minute's silence in memory of Yves Paternot, founding member of the Club, and Werner Kolb, who both passed away this week.

The attendance list is circulated for the present members to sign.

- 66 members are present.
- 48 members are excused.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Last General Assembly

Mr Berghmans requests to refrain from reading out the minutes of the last Assembly of 14 February 2014, a copy of which can be found on the Club website.

The request is accepted and the minutes are unanimously approved.

3. President's Report

Dear Club members,

Time goes by so quickly. I have already reached the end of my four-year presidency of the Club des Combins. When I started my role as the President of this Club, my goals were to set up a pension fund for our mountain guides, and to increase the number of Club members in order to be able to finance part of our guides' pension benefits.

In 2014 we finally managed to modify the terms of our pension fund in order to set up a retirement plan for our mountain guides. I wish to point out that this is a first in Switzerland, and only mountain guides who are members of the Club des Combins can become affiliated to this 2nd pillar system, as is offered to all people employed in Switzerland. This important step was consolidated financially by transferring a reserve fund of CHF 200,000 into the pension fund.

With regards to the number of Club members, I am very pleased to say that 42 members have joined our Club since 2012, which takes us up to a ratio of 2 Club members for each mountain guide who benefits from the pension fund.

Last year our Committee has been busy with various tasks which I would like to share with you.

Verbier Festival

The association of the Verbier Festival contacted the Club des Combins in the beginning of 2015. Our Club was given the opportunity to set up a stall during the Verbier Festival and to advertise on the various communication media available. The presence of our Club was appreciated by many and has allowed us to increase our visibility in Verbier.

During the Festival, we conducted an auction of two photos and we thank the members for their participation that has allowed us to raise CHF 1,100.

Increase of Club Members

As mentioned before, the number of Club members has gone up by 42 since 2012. Nevertheless, we must be active in finding new members. Several members have left the Club since the beginning of the year, mainly because they decided to stop their ski touring activity due to their age.

Financial Situation

Despite setting up an Education and Safety Fund and participating in the Security Fund of the Guides de Verbier, the Club's financial situation remains strong. This is mainly thanks to payment of entrance fees of new members.

I would also like to point out the important contribution by the Juchum Foundation who for the third consecutive year have made an exceptional donation to the Club, with an amount of CHF 20,000 this year.

Creating a Reserve Fund for Education and Safety

During its last meeting in July 2015, the Committee decided to allocate an amount of CHF 50,000 for the setup of an Education and Safety Fund. The Committee considers it the Club's responsibility to promote education in matters of mountain safety, especially for younger generations. At this point I would like to remind you that Club members benefit from a free "Swiss Mountain Training" course. In addition, partners, children and friends of Club members may participate at the special rate of CHF 150. Please sign up for this course with Raphaëlle at the Guides de Verbier office.

I would like to close my report by reminding everybody of our Club's main goal, which is to provide reliable insurance coverage for our mountain guides. I am happy to announce that today, after 15 years of commitment we are able to provide a cover in the event of death or disability to our guides, as well as the possibility to set up a retirement plan through our pension fund.

Thank you.

4. Presentation of 2015 Year End Accounts

Mr Berghmans hands over to Jérôme Rausis for the presentation of the 2015 year end accounts. To ensure prior visibility for all members, an account statement was sent along with the invitation to the General Assembly.

Mr Rausis reads through the various positions explaining the details.

The assets of the Club as at 31.12.2015 are CHF 621,098.39.

5. Auditors' Report

The accounts have been checked by the company "Alpes Audit SA" and their report is presented by Jérôme Rausis.

6. Approval of Accounts and Discharge to the Committee

The Assembly unanimously approves the 2015 accounts and gives discharge to the Committee.

7. Presentation and Approval of Modified Statutes

The president hands over to Mrs Valérie Delerue whose duty is to check and modify the statutes. She explains some of the changes that were made, for example:

- Articles 6 and 7 have been changed to make them easier to understand
- Articles 11.c and 13.b regarding the responsibilities of the GA and of the Committee with respect to the distribution of funds from the solidarity fund
- Article 15 which gives details on eligibility and duration of different functions of Club members
- Articles 3 – 7.2 and 10.1 were removed as they were obsolete.

In addition, Mrs Delerue points out that when the Committee is reappointed in 2017, new procedures will be followed, requiring consultation of the founding members.

The new statutes are approved unanimously by all members.

8. Presentation and Approval of Safety Fund Regulation

Mrs Valérie Delerue takes the floor again and presents the aims, the resources, and the applicability of the solidarity fund.

Regarding the fact that in the event that a family needs financial support urgently following an accident or an accidental death, somebody questions whether it is too risky to wait for the next General Assembly to decide on pay-out of benefits:

- The answer is no, as the Committee has the power to allocate an annual financial aid up to CHF 25,000 per case but up to a total maximum of CHF 50,000 per year. Above that amount, the approval of the GA is required. If needed, an extraordinary Assembly can be organised in order to get an urgent approval.

The safety fund regulations are approved unanimously by all members.

9. Reappointment of the Committee

The mandate of Committee members is renewed every three years.

This year, the following members will complete their term and have expressed their interest in another mandate:

- Giampiero Grandi who entered the Committee in 2004
- Lionel May in 2013
- Pierre Mathey in 2010
- The president Mr Berghmans announces his resignation and suggests to nominate as his successor Mr Giampiero Grandi. M. Grandi, who is a resident of Verbier, is available for this role and he is very committed to the values of the Club.

Mr Giampiero Grandi is elected unanimously with applause. He takes the floor and thanks the members for their support. He congratulates and thanks Mr Berghmans, adding that without him the Club would not be what it is now. He has invested a lot of energy into achieving the Club's goals, and Mr Grandi suggests to elect him honorary president of the Club, which is accepted unanimously with applause from all members.

In order to thank Mr Berghmans for his work and commitment, the Committee offers him a rare quartz stone from the Argentière glacier and a book with photos of the summit illumination project in the year 2015.

10. Miscellaneous

As there are no miscellaneous agenda items, Mr Berghmans suggests to meet at the Relais des Neiges for the traditional aperitif and fondue. He also thanks Jérôme Rausis for his work and professionalism during the past years, and Raphaëlle Derivaz from the Guides de Verbier office for her great support.

Mr Berghmans closes the meeting at 19.35.