



Minutes of the general meeting of the Club des Combins

02.03.2019 – 18:00 Médran

1. Opening of the meeting, record of attendance
2. Approval of minutes of last general meeting
3. President's report
4. Presentation of the accounts for 2018
5. Auditor's report
6. Approval of the accounts and grant of discharge to the committee
7. Election of committee members
8. Any other business - Entertainment

1. Opening of the meeting, record of attendance

The president opened the meeting at 18:15 and welcomed those present.

The attendance sheet was circulated for signature.

- 52 members were present
- 45 members had sent apologies for absence

2. Approval of the minutes of the last general meeting

Mr Grandi proposed to dispense with a reading of the minutes of the last general meeting on 10 February 2018. This document is available for viewing, in both French and English, on the Club's website.

This proposal was accepted and the minutes were therefore approved.

3. President's report

This year has been relatively busy, with three committee meetings and several meetings about the pension fund. As regards the latter, we have had some concerns and have had to commission an expert to examine the operation of the fund. This report, which endorses our approach, cost us CHF 6000.

We have been able to renew the policy with Swiss Life before its expiry date. It has been renewed for a period of 5 years, from 1 January 2019.

We have also been working on ways of making the Club more attractive:

- A new website is now live.
- A new booking platform has been created for members, in partnership with the Roped Up website. Members can use this website to book free days out with guides.

The dinner for female guides and partners of guides took place yesterday evening. Organised by Louise del Balzo and Valérie Delerue, it was a great success, attracting 17 people.

Ms del Balzo attended the event, as did Ms Delerue, who gave a speech. They both wanted to pay tribute to all these women, who are rarely mentioned. They are energetic and courageous, the majority of them managing their work, home and children alone during their partners' frequent absences.

The financial support given to Mrs Annelise Locher after the death of her husband ceased at the end of the 2018 school year.

Since 2015, 7 guides have received assistance from the emergency fund. The remaining balance in this account currently stands at approximately CHF 34,000.

Donations amounting to almost CHF 20,000 were made into a Club account after the death of Mr Gary Goodman. His widow would like this money to be paid into the Bureau des Guides emergency fund. This request was approved by the meeting.

As at 31 December 2018, the Club had 247 members. This number has remained stable for several years.

4. Presentation of the accounts for 2018

The president handed over to Mr Jérôme Rausis of Fiduciaire du St-Bernard for the presentation of the accounts for 2018.

Members had received the accounts with the notice of the general meeting, and had therefore been able to read them beforehand.

Mr Rausis went through the various entries. As at 31.12.2018, the Club's resources amounted to CHF 687,682.599.

Since 1 January 2019, three new guides have joined the Club and the pension scheme.

Mr Berghmans asked how many of the guides who are members of the Bureau des Guides also belong to the Club. Of the Bureau's 93 members, 70 are registered with the Club. Some are no longer Club members because from a certain age, they are no longer covered. It is also worth noting that around sixty guides work full-time. The others work part-time, and have another job. However, all the guides working in the valley belong to the Club.

5. Auditor's report

The accounts had been audited by Alpes Audit SA, the report was read by Mr Rausis.

6. Approval of the accounts and grant of discharge to the committee

The accounts for 2018 were approved unanimously and the members granted the committee discharge from their liability.

7. Election of committee members

In accordance with the articles of association, the term of office for committee members is 3 years. This year, Pierre Mathey reached the end of his term, but agreed to have his appointment renewed for a further 3 years.

Lionel May retired as president of the Verbier Bureau des Guides in mid-December. His successor, Mr Daniel Coquoz will, naturally, take his place within the Club des Combins. Mr May thanked the committee for all the work it has done for the guides, and handed over to Daniel Coquoz.

Daniel was born and bred in Verbier. He completed his training as a guide in 2011, and became a member of the Bureau des Guides. He is delighted to be working with the Club.

Mr Giampiero Grandi has also reached the end of his term of office as club president. After 15 years working with the committee, he felt the time had come for him to step down. He had discussed the matter on several occasions with Ms Tania Lehmkuhl, one of the Club's founder members. She is available to fulfil the role and keen to do so. Unfortunately, she was not present at the meeting, but has been a committee member for several years, and knows both the region and the guides very well.

Giampiero asked for there to be a vote on the appointment of Ms Lehmkuhl. The appointment was approved unanimously.

Mr Jacques Emsens spoke to thank Giampiero for his commitment throughout all these years. His work for the Club and with the guides has been greatly appreciated.

8. AOB – Presentation

Mr Christian Savioz gave a presentation about the Valais Snowsports Foundation, of which he is president. The aim of this foundation is to contribute to the development of winter sports in Valais, drawing together all those involved in winter tourism.

Mr Grandi thanked Mr Savioz for his presentation and congratulated him on the work that has already been done to give skiing and mountain sports a boost.

The president thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 19:15.