



Minutes of the general meeting of the Club des Combins

10.02.2018 – 17:45 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 2017
5. Auditor's report
6. Approval of the accounts and grant of discharge to the committee
7. New committee members – appointment of a vice-president
8. Presentation concerning widening of membership of the pension fund
9. Any other business - Entertainment

1. Opening of the meeting, record of attendance

The president opened the meeting at 18:00 and welcomed those present.

The attendance sheet was circulated for signature.

- 68 members were present
- 37 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 25 February 2017. 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

The president took the floor and informed the meeting that the committee had been particularly active this year, with 4 full committee meetings plus various other meetings involving smaller groups of committee members.

The new website is now live. It includes a shop and the option for new members to join and pay their first subscription online.

For the third consecutive year, we have renewed the support given to Ms Locher, widow of Roland. Amongst other things, this assistance enables her to pay for her children's education.

On behalf of the committee, Mr Grandi wished to offer special thanks to the Goodman family. Following the death of Mr Gary Goodman, the sum of CHF 19,628.96 has been paid to the Club. As agreed with Ms Joan Goodman, these funds will be allocated to the guides' relief fund.

The president has had several meetings with the Guides de Verbier. From next winter, they will offer a certain number of days to Club members. These days will be used, in particular, to promote the Club among young people. The booking details have not yet been finalised, and will be sent to members via the newsletter before the start of the 2018/2019 season.

He handed over to Mr Lionel May, president of the *Bureau des Guides*:

- For the guides, finding clients who would like to join the Club is not always easy. The decision to offer these days was taken with a view to helping correct this. This will allow each guide to acknowledge the Club and show their gratitude to it. These days will be the responsibility of the guides themselves, not the *Bureau*.

Thank you for your attention.

4. Presentation of the accounts for 2017

The president handed over to Mr Jérôme Rausis of Fiduciaire du St-Bernard for the presentation of the accounts for 2017.

Each member 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 31.12.2017, the Club's resources amounted to CHF 786,877.22.

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 2017 were approved unanimously and the members granted the committee discharge from their liability.

7. Election of committee members

Mr Hugh Morrison and Mr Yves Rausis had reached the end of their second period of office and did not wish to be re-elected for a third period. Mr Grandi thanked them warmly for their work and their commitment.

Ms Valérie Delerue and Mr Jacques Emsens had reached the end of their first period of office and both agreed to remain on the committee for a further 3 years.

Mr Hugh Morrison was replaced by Mr Jean-François Beth from the company Bruellan.

Mr Yves Rausis was replaced by Mr Jo Morelli. Mr Antoine Darbellay took over from Mr Rausis as vice-president of the Club.

It was decided to increase the number of committee members from 9 to 11, as the Club's articles of association allow this.

The two new members are Ms Tania Lehmkuhl and Mr Etienne Moineville.

We offer these 4 members a warm welcome to the committee.

8. Presentation concerning widening of membership of the pension fund

Mr Grandi said that one of the Club's projects is to examine the possibility of widening the membership of the pension fund to guides who are not members of the *Bureau*.

When the fund was established, we gave the number of guides to the insurers as 100, which is not currently the case.

At present, we have not had any accidents, but if any were to happen between now and the policy expiry date, in two years' time, it is possible that the insurance company might decide not to renew the policy. This is why we are currently working on some solutions.

Mr Grandi handed over to Mr Jean-François André, an actuary, who is our adviser.

This was the 3rd time that he had been involved in one of our AGMs; on this occasion, he came to speak about this new project.

The fund currently provides cover for 72 guides, each of whom pays an annual contribution, the combined total of these contributions amounting to CHF 220,000. Half of this amount pays the premium for accident and life insurance and the rest is paid into a savings fund. The pension savings fund for guides currently contains around CHF 610,000. The money is paid to Swiss Life.

The fund is managed by a board consisting of 4 members of the Club des Combins: Maître Jean-Charles Roguet and Mr Giampiero Grandi and, for the guides, Mr Maxime Derivaz and Mr Bernard Polli.

This gives us the assurance that the fund remains under the direction of the Club des Combins, a point that will have to be clearly stated in the articles of association if membership of the fund is widened.

The advantages of widening the membership of the fund to guides who are not members would be:

- Adequate size: if the fund is too small this could lead the monitoring body to request that the fund be liquidated because it is not viable in the long term.
- Economies of scale: the administrative costs would be distributed over a larger number of members. Increased scope for negotiating with insurers.
- Stability: a larger number of people would provide greater predictability as regards claims. As the number of people increases, so the average annual number of claims is closer to the norm.
- Reputation: the fund would be national in scope and would become a major fund.

The risk would be a loss of control of the fund.

The president stated that new guides who are not members of the Club will pay the full insurance premium and would not be "sponsored" by the Club. Nor will they be able to join the Club des Combins or the board of the pension fund. This will remain exclusive to guides who are members.

In order to find other guides, a meeting will be organised with the members of the Yeti Club Zermatt. They operate as our fund used to do previously, in other words, each guide is insured separately. A proposal to combine with the Club will possibly be made, so that they enjoy the benefits of the joint policy and ensure the long-term viability of our fund.

Members raised the following questions:

Why would guides who are not members want to take advantage of our insurance?

- The risk premiums are, in Mr André's opinion, about half of what guides pay privately for insurance against the same risks. So, even if they pay the full insurance premium as we propose, this will still be much more advantageous for non-member guides than maintaining their personal insurance.

What would be the costs?

- We pay approximately CHF 12,000 in fixed charges, which are currently shared between the 72 guides. With regard to these administrative charges, it would be possible in future for the work to be performed by the Association Suisse des Guides de Montagne, on the basis of a contract of agency. This has yet to be discussed and defined.

What number of guides would we like to have?

- At least the number stated when the policy was taken out, i.e. about another thirty guides. However, the ideal would be to have 50 additional guides.

How many guides belong to the Yeti Club?

- About 80.

As president of the fund, Maître Roguet took the floor. The very positive side is our insurance, which is unique in Switzerland. In his view, we should proceed with caution, making quite sure that all the insurance-related aspects, particularly the composition of the fund's board, have been taken into consideration before the membership of the fund is widened.

We also want to maintain the spirit of friendship and respect for guides that is central to the Club des Combins.

9. AOB – Entertainment

Mr Grandi took his leave of the meeting, offering his good wishes and hoping that everyone would enjoy the rest of the evening.

The president thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 19:10.

Mr François Perraudin showed an excerpt from his film about the Haut Val de Bagnes.