



Minutes of the general meeting of the Club des Combins

5 May 2022, 5.30 pm at Espace St-Marc – Le Châble

1. Opening of the meeting, recording of attendance
2. Approval of the minutes of the last general meeting
3. President's report
4. Presentation of the accounts for 2021
5. Auditor's report
6. Approval of the accounts and granting of discharge to the committee
7. Election of committee members

1. Opening of the meeting, recording of attendance

The President opened the meeting at 5.30 pm and welcomed those present.

The attendance sheet was circulated for signature.

- 73 members were present
- 34 members had sent apologies for absence

2. Approval of the minutes of the last general meeting

Ms Lehmkühl proposed dispensing with a reading of the minutes of the last general meeting on 29 February 2020. This document is available to view 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, 2021, has been shaped by the pandemic, but less so than last year, as Swiss resorts and guides have been able to work as normal, albeit with travel restrictions in place in many countries and many public facilities being closed.

However, the last season was of course particularly marked by the deaths of three of our member guides in mountain accidents:

- Jean Marc Krattiger, on 15 November 2020
- Christophe Gay-Crosier, on 23 January 2021
- Grégory May, on 13 June 2021

These tragic deaths are now added to those of:

- Roland Locher, on 28 March 2014
- Sébastien Gay, on 30 December 2006
- Frédéric May, on 15 April 2003
- and Marco Bruchez, who died on 26 February 2001, and whose death was the original reason our club was created on 2 March 2002.

Please observe a minute's silence in their memory.

These events have once again proven the value of the provisions that the Club des Combins has put in place. I would like to highlight how efficient our insurer has been in dealing with these cases and how responsive the Bureau des Guides and our governing bodies have been with regard to the difficulties faced by the families affected.

Other issues of concern this year included the following:

We have been trying to monitor how the pandemic is evolving and ensure that no guide is affected to an unacceptable extent. Rather than giving money directly, we paid for 13 guide days for restaurant and hospital staff.

Our pension fund is always aiming to increase the number of guides in order to ensure our contract with Swiss Life can continue. With this in mind, and in light of the high level of claims last winter, we have contacted the insurance company to ensure that the policy will not be adversely affected. The insurer replied that due to the (relatively) small number of policyholders, it did not carry out a profitability check and it offered to extend the contract by 5 years until 31 December 2026.

Our expansion efforts last year brought us one new guide from Basel. However we still have a few more avenues to explore and we will keep you posted on our progress in this area.

There has been a pleasing development in another area - the arrival of several institutional members. Commune Val de Bagnes, Téléverbier SA, Besson Immobilier, Julius Bär and Raiffeisen have all become institutional members, as have UBS and Bruellan, whose generosity has helped support us for many years. Next year, we will put forward a proposal to amend the statutes to include this new member category.

In terms of our emergency fund, due to the excellent performance of the 2021 trading year and of our manager, as well as the generosity of the new founding members and existing members who made additional donations, we were able to replenish the amounts spent as a result of COVID and the tragic deaths. Hopefully the year 2022 will be different...

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the members of the committee for their time, dedication and support. I would like to give a special thank you to the ad hoc COVID committee members and to the 20th anniversary committee for their remarkable initiative, drive and enthusiasm, as well as to all the people who have worked in any way to make this evening a success. I hope you will enjoy it.

Thank you for your attention.

4. Presentation of the accounts for 2021

The President handed over to Mr Jérôme Rausis of Fiduciaire du St-Bernard for the presentation of the accounts for 2021.

Each member had received the accounts along with the notice of the general meeting and had therefore been able to read them beforehand.

Mr Rausis went through the various items in the profit and loss account, which showed a profit of CHF 27,467.43 this year. The balance sheet also showed a balance of CHF 884,758.28.

He also reviewed the accounts of the emergency fund, which had a balance of CHF 618,499.05 on 31 December 2021.

5. Auditor's report

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

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

The accounts for 2021 were approved unanimously and the members granted the committee discharge from their liability.

7. Election of committee members

Two members reached the end of their term in 2021. As we did not have a general meeting, their terms had been automatically renewed for another year.

The two members are Ms Valérie Delerue, who agreed to remain on the committee for another 3 years, and Mr Pierre Mathey, who decided not to extend his term. He proposed the Guide Thomas Hallen as his replacement.

The President thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 6 pm.