



Minutes of the general meeting of the Club des Combins

25.02.2017 - 18:30, 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 2016
5. Auditor's report
6. Approval of the accounts and grant of discharge to the committee
7. New committee members
8. Any other business

1. Opening of the meeting, record of attendance

The president, Mr Giampiero Grandi, opened the meeting at 18:40 and welcomed those present.

He announced the death of Mr Gary Goodman, a founder member who had been heavily involved in the Club. Before his death, Mr Goodman had requested that donations in his memory should be given to the Club des Combins. This gesture was appreciated by the members.

The attendance sheet was circulated for signature.

- 66 members were present
- 35 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 13 February 2016. 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

Dear Members,

Your Club, our Club, is in very good health. This year, the number of new members balanced the number whom we have lost.

This encouraging state of affairs is due in no small measure to the efforts of my predecessors, Mr Jean-Pierre Berghmans and Ms Ullens, whom I should like to thank for their sterling work.

I would also like to thank the Juchum Foundation which, for the 3rd consecutive year, has donated CHF 15,000. We therefore end the year with a positive balance of CHF 16,000.

The market value of the disability insurance and life insurance that are managed by the pension fund, in other words, what it would cost each guide to take out insurance privately, is in the region of CHF 2300. With the policies that have been set up, CHF 2100 is paid by Club members and the guide makes an annual payment of CHF 200. In this way, thanks to the Club, each guide receives support worth more than CHF 2000 per year.

A member asked how the pension fund works: Mr Jérôme Rausis took the floor and explained that a guide who joins the pension fund at 25 years of age will receive, at age 70, capital sum of about CHF 200,000. He or she can only take this amount in the form of capital, not as an annuity.

The majority of the guides joined the pension fund in 2014 with the option of buying additional years. Several guides have already opted for this solution. The pension fund now has about CHF 431,000 set aside. This capital is managed by Swiss Life in accordance with the criteria for pension funds. If a guide changes his/her pension fund, his/her money will be paid into the new pension fund.

One of the areas on which the committee and I would like to do more work in future is recruiting new members, to ensure the Club's continued existence. We have started to put in place methods of communication via social networks (Facebook, Instagram, etc.).

The activities that have been organised, in particular the two SMT training days, were appreciated. Some SMT2 training days will be scheduled for March.

Thank you for your attention.

4. Presentation of the accounts for 2016

The president handed over to Mr Jérôme Rausis for the presentation of the accounts for 2016.

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 31.12.16, the Club's resources amounted to CHF 670,084.64.

The money in the training and safety fund had not been used in 2016. It will be used in the next financial year, with the organisation of the SMT training days.

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 2016 were approved unanimously and the members granted the committee discharge from their liability.

7. New committee members

This year, there were two committee members whose period of office had come to an end: Mr Bernard Polli, vice-president and Ms Floriane Roth, member.

Mr Grandi handed over to Mr Polli, who gave a brief history of the creation of the Club and its objectives, before introducing Mr Antoine Darbellay who joins the committee as a guide member.

Mr Yves Rausis has taken over from Mr Polli as vice-president.

Mr Polli is not relinquishing all his roles, as he is still a member of the foundation board.

Mr Grandi then thanked Ms Roth for her contribution during her period of office and, in particular, for organising the meal that evening. He then introduced Ms Louise Del Balzo, who will fill the vacancy. Ms Del Balzo has been living in Verbier for over 30 years. She has skied with guides for as long as she can remember. She is very much involved in the resort and Mr Grandi is delighted to have her as a colleague.

It is hereby noted that, in accordance with article 12 of the articles of association, the founder members were consulted in order to add to the committee and that no proposal was received from them.

8. Any other business

- Mr Stéphane Hottinger presented the "Echo 112" application created by his client. In the event of an accident, in Switzerland or elsewhere, it enables the user to find out directly what emergency number to call. With this app, the injured person is geolocated and his/her position is transmitted directly to the emergency services. The caller has to tell the call handler that he/she is using this application. Of course, in order to use the app and call the emergency services, users have to be in a place that is covered by the network.
- Mr Gabriel Besson, pilot with Air Glaciers, guide member of Les Guides de Verbier and of the Club, introduced the rescue company Air Glaciers, formed in 1963 on the initiative of Mr Bruno Bagnoud. During a training course in which Mr Bagnoud was participating, a member of the group was injured on the Trient glacier. Because of the altitude, no helicopter could fly in. The casualty had to be transported by toboggan as far as the Orny valley, and only then was air evacuation possible. Today, Air Glaciers is a company with 160 employees spread across 7 bases, the main base being at Sion. The fleet of aircraft comprises 14 helicopters and 7 aeroplanes and to date, it has flown more than 60,000 rescue missions. Air Glaciers can assist with firefighting, vine-spraying (with organic products), house construction, concreting, transporting injured animals, transporting wood, transporting grapes, flying supplies to mountain huts, high-altitude construction, pylon erection and inspection. It also has a training and rescue department. The mountain rescue centre enables the company to achieve an unparalleled degree of effectiveness in dealing with mountain rescues and road accidents, and also in helping people in a state of physical or mental distress.
 - Is there still some pressure to eliminate landing-places for heliskiing? The 2015 review currently guarantees 40 landing-places and these ought to be maintained for the next 20 years if there is no change of policy.

Members should be aware that individuals can subscribe to a rescue card with Air Glaciers, Air Zermatt or the REGA. This is not an insurance policy: in the event of an accident it is generally your accident or health insurance that pays for you to be rescued. However, if you are trapped in the mountains and your insurance does not cover the costs of this, in that situation they will be paid by one of these organisations.

The president thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 20:00.