

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

English Books at CERN

Monday, 7 March 2016 at 5.30 p.m.
Room B, Main Building

Mark Jones was elected Chair of the meeting.

1/ Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was agreed. Mark Jones, John Pym, Eva Slettenhaar, Peggy Pithioud, Rafaella Obergfell, Karel Ha, Paolo Palazzi, Morna Robillard and Margarita Rebelo were present.

Apologies were received from Eric McIntosh.

The quorum was reached.

2/ Approval of the minutes from the 2015 AGM

The Minutes of the previous meeting were **approved**.

3/ President's report on 2015

-Membership numbers

Membership numbers are up again from an alarming low of 18 last year to 29 this year, mainly thanks to the membership drive undertaken at the promotions table outside R1.

-Book Selection

Two book selections took place, one in March and one in June 2015 with 27 new titles purchased. Two boxes of donated books are still to be added to the collection.

-Network connection in the club rooms

No progress was made on this subject in 2015 so the club still doesn't have a self-checking system.

-Club rooms

The returned books box has been removed as it seems that all the returned books are now in the catalogue. Many thanks to Eva for keeping an eye on this.

-Publicity

Two new posters/flyers were designed during the year by Kevin Moles (thanks go to him), but they still need a bit of fine-tuning. However, we only have a pdf file.

- Book sale at the Relay Race on 21 May

As usual we had a stand at which old and donated books were sold and 60 CHF were donated to the Happy Children's Home. The sale was less successful and less fun than in previous years due to the poor weather. The club decided to pull out of the Staff Association party on the same evening, due to lack of support

- Summary of 2015

Another quiet year for the club, but membership numbers are up and plenty more new books have been added to the collection.

4/ Treasurer's Report for 2014

The club had outgoings of 400 CHF in 2015 and receipts of 525 CHF thanks to the many new members attracted by the lower subscription rates agreed at the previous AGM (30 CHF with a 10 CHF discount for Staff Association members) leaving a balance of 4450 CHF at year-end. The club's annual accounts have been checked and approved by our auditor, Catherine Spencer, to whom many thanks.

The club's 2015 accounts were unanimously approved.

5/ Appointment of an auditor

Catherine Spencer has asked to step down as our auditor, but Peggy found a replacement, I. Macchioni, who has agreed to take over for 2016.

The appointment of I. Macchioni as the club's auditor was **unanimously approved**.

6/ Election of Committee members for 2016

The club committee was unanimously re-elected for 2016 with Mark Jones as President, John Pym as Secretary, Peggy Pithioud as Treasurer and Eva Slettenhaar as responsible for the Club Rooms.

7/ Membership numbers and future of the club

Given the increase in membership numbers in 2015, the club is back in good health again so Mark suggested that we carry on for another year. However, concerns were raised by both Mark and John about the future prospects if no active staff members among the club's members come forward to take over the roles of President and/or Secretary. Mark has been President for ten years and John has been an active committee member for even longer than that. Both Mark and John are willing to continue for a while but if the club is to survive in the medium to long term, new volunteers will be needed for the main posts – with the important constraint that, according to the Staff Association's rules, the main posts can only be filled by active staff.

8/ Subscription fees

Peggy noted that the decision last year to lower the club subscription fees to CHF 30, and CHF 20 for Staff Association card-holders had been very successful in attracting new members so the fees should remain the same. A discussion ensued about the timing of the decision on subscription fees from one year to the next, and Morna suggested that the annual fees should become due on 1 April in each year rather than 1 January, which meant that the decision for the forthcoming year could be taken at the AGM in February-March. **It was thus agreed** that the subscription fees for a given year would fall due on 1 April and that the 2016 fees should be kept at the 2015 level, i.e. 30 CHF, and 20 CHF for Staff Association card-holders.

9/ Programme for 2015

Mark suggested the following (limited) objectives for 2016:

- 2-3 book selections
- Around 50 books to be purchased
- Maintain/increase membership
- 2 promotions tables
- Update the website (who?)
- Finally get the self-checking system up and running (who?).

Paolo wondered whether the Staff Association had anyone who would be willing to help improve the website. Morna said she doubted it would and that the clubs had to do such things for themselves, relying on their own members' know-how. Mark said that he had been using MS Wordpress for the website. Paolo said that his wife Claudia might be able to help if she was given an idea of what the club wanted. Morna and John said that they would be prepared to sit down with Paolo and his wife to discuss a new design for the website. Paolo said that he would get things moving on that score after his next trip to Italy.

Eva said that she is a member of a book discussion group of the Geneva international organisations and she would try to drum up interest in the CERN club among its members.

Regarding the self-checking system, Mark said that the scuba diving club had installed a Wi-Fi hub just down the corridor from our club rooms and he had investigated the possibility of pulling a fibre-optic cable from our club room in order to connect to it. However, it might be more efficient to connect to it wirelessly. Paolo said that, if John was still prepared to donate a PC, screen, mouse and keyboard, he would look into how to obtain a wireless internet connection. If that worked then Jens Vigen of the CERN Library had said that he would donate a bar-code reader and software. John and Paolo said that they would try to get things moving.

Eva asked whether it was possible to do a promotions table at Restaurant 2. It was agreed to do just that, as soon as the next batch of books has been received. The next book selection would be scheduled for the first week in April (John to set the date). A second promotions table could be done at Restaurant 1 in the autumn.

At the suggestion of Paolo and Karel, **it was agreed** that paperbacks should be preferred ahead of hardbacks, as they are lighter and cheaper. But they might also be harder to cover by our supplier Payot.

Finally, Paolo mentioned that he is a member of the Meyrin Library, which offers an e-books borrowing service. He said he would look into the possibility of the service being extended to the CERN club.

10/ Other business

Refreshments were served immediately after the meeting.

John Pym
7 March 2016