



Minutes of General Assembly of the Club des Combins

01.03.2014 – 18.30 salle de Médran

- 1) Opening of Assembly, Attendance Check
- 2) Approval of Minutes of Last General Assembly
- 3) President's Report
- 4) Presentation of 2013 End of Year Account
- 5) Auditors' Report
- 6) Approval of Accounts and Discharge to the Committee
- 7) Admissions to the Committee
- 8) Decision about Setting up the Pension Plan
- 9) Miscellaneous

1) Opening of Assembly, Attendance Check

The president, Mr Jean-Pierre Berghmans, opens the Assembly and thanks all the present members.

An attendance sheet is circulated for signature.

69 members are present.

25 members are excused.

2) Approval of Minutes of the Last General Assembly

Mr Berghmans requests to refrain from reading out the minutes of the last Assembly of 9 February 2013.

The minutes are unanimously approved by raising hands.

3) President's Report

Increasing number of members

One ambitious goal of the club was to increase its number of members by 30 in 2013, in order to be able to set up a pension plan for the mountain guides. Thanks to the great efforts made by the Committee, the guides and all members, last year the Club des Combins

has seen an exceptional increase of 35 members compared to the situation as at 31.12.2012, to reach a current membership rate of 243.

He reports the arrival of 3 new founding members, Mr Suntay Kurt and his wife, Mrs. Suntay Aylin, and Mr. Schoenlaub Julien. All of them had been members before and decided to become founding members. The President expresses his gratitude for their contribution.

Activities organised by the Club

➤ Free day outing with a guide for new members

The Club has been offering a free day trip with a guide to every new member since 2013. This offer is greatly appreciated by everyone. The President points out that this is possible thanks to the Guides de Verbier who offer their first 5 day tours every year.

➤ Mountain guide days first come, first served

This initiative, which consists of booking a guide for the Club members, has picked up only slowly in the beginning; the first weekends may have been chosen a bit too early. The February dates have been more successful with two fully booked days, and there are still a few spaces left for the 15 and 16 March; interested members are asked to book at the Club office.

➤ New flyers

The new flyers are now available, to be picked up after the Assembly or from the Club office. The President invites the members to distribute the flyers generously. The Club has also created a small leaflet for the guides to distribute to their clients.

➤ Promotional items with logo

This year the Club offers a lightweight Mammot windbreaker jacket at the cost of CHF 350 instead of CHF 550.

Next year Pierre Mathey is going to present a new Club offer.

➤ Partnership with the Chalet Blanc

The project for a mutual partnership to connect the 2 clubs was unfortunately not a success. The Chalet Blanc no longer accepts any new members.

➤ Juchum Foundation

M. Berghmans extends a warm thank you to Mr. Patrick De Preux, member of the Juchum association, for their exceptional donation of CHF 20,000 to the Club.

The Assembly gives a big round of applause to Mr. De Preux.

4) Presentation of 2013 Year End Accounts

Jérôme Rausis presents the 2013 accounts and summarises them as follows:

| | 2013 | 2012 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Total income | 166'496.55 | 131'663.20 |
| Total outgoing | 165'244.85 | -133'074.80 |
| Non-recurring income and outgoing | 538.50 | 15'004.50 |
| Net profit | 1'790.20 | 13'592.90 |

Assets of the Club as at 31.12.2013 : **CHF 845'233.69**

5) Auditors' Report

The accounts have been checked, as set out in the statutes, by the company « Alpes Audit » whose report is presented by Jérôme Rausis. The auditors recommend approval of the accounts and discharge to the Committee.

6) Approval of Accounts and Discharge to the Committee

The Assembly unanimously approves the 2013 accounts and gives discharge to the Committee.

7) Admissions to the Committee

The Committee suggested to increase the number of Committee members, Jean-Charles Roguet presents and welcomes Mrs. Roth Floriane as a new Committee member.

Mrs. Roth gets a warm round of applause.

Mr. Roguet informs that a new member of Scandinavian origin might also join the Committee. The potential new member will be presented at the next General Assembly.

8) Decision about Setup of a Pension Plan

Jérôme explains the current cover of the pension scheme:

- **Disability risk:** disability pension of CHF 24,000 in the event of an accident or disability; premiums are paid by the Club.
- **Death risk:** payment of CHF 300'000 in the event of death; premiums are paid by the Club.

He also introduces an expansion project:

- **Retirement pension:** capital insurance with a variable premium according to age group. Premiums are to be split between the Club and the guides. CHF 30,000 paid by the Club and the remaining premium by the guides.

The contract is to be renewed every 3 years.

In the event of death, the death capital is paid to the descendants. Jérôme reminds the guides to provide the office with a list of the beneficiaries.

A few questions are asked by Committee members:

- What is the goal of the safety fund?
 - To support the guides and their families, to help finance professional training or studies.
 - To support older guides who have no insurance coverage.
 - If a guide suffers an injury at the start of the season, the Club will offer financial help during the first 30 days. It should be noted that each guide needs to have his personal insurance for the following 720 days.

The Guides de Verbier would like to create a safety fund; the Club Committee is going to examine the possibility of using the Club's safety fund to finance the Guides de Verbier's safety fund. Each subsequent request would then be examined and managed directly by the Board of Directors of the Guides de Verbier.

- Who is going to manage the pension fund?

The pension fund committee, presided by Mr. Jean-Charles Roguet, assisted by Mr. Jean-François André.

Jean-Charles Roguet adds that an insurance for mountain guides is difficult to be accepted by an insurance company. The Club has been very lucky for Swisslife to accept this pension plan.

He adds that no insurance claim has been made so far.

The pension plan is unanimously accepted by the Assembly.

Jean-Pierre Berghmans thanks the Assembly for their trust.

9) Miscellaneous

Jean-Charles Roguet wishes to give a brief summary of the Club's activities.

These activities undertaken since the Club's creation are the following:

- Assistance provided for Denis Bertholet's projects for the construction of schools in Nepal.
- Financial support given to Frédéric May's family, although he was not registered under the pension plan.
- Financial contribution to Jean-Yves Michellod's film.
- Financial support for Denis Bertholet's son's studies.
- Financial contribution to the film about the Haute Route.

Jean-Pierre Berghmans hands over to Pierre Mathey, President of the Swiss Mountain Guide Association.

Mr. Mathey introduces himself and describes his new responsibilities:

He was democratically elected for a 4-year mandate.

Part of his responsibilities is the training of mountain guides, mountain leaders, climbing instructors and road access technicians.

There are about 1,200 active guides. He is also in charge of defending the mountain guide profession and ensuring its succession and continuity.

Some of his current dossiers are:

- Controlling access to nature protected areas.
- Setting up limited noise impact areas.
- The new federal legislation
- Justifying the necessity of heli-skiing for mountain rescue companies who partly finance their activities with heli-skiing and pleasure flights.

Grégory May asks for help with negotiating the limited noise impact areas.

There are no more requests to take the floor.

Jean-Pierre Berghmans closes the Assembly at 19.50 and invites all members for an aperitif at the Relais des Neiges.

Sylvie Nicollerat

Secretary