



MINUTES OF
THE 54rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 18th MAY 2019 14:00
AT THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND
16-18 Montague Place London W1H 2BQ

PRESENT

FOSSUK COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Franz Muheim	President of FOSSUK, OSA UK Delegate
Loredana Guetg-Wyatt	OSA UK Delegate
Joelle Nebbe-Mornod	FOSSUK Committee
Vincent Croset	OSA UK Delegate

MEMBER DELEGATES

Rose-Marie Breitenstein	Frauenverein / La Causerie
Rita Day, Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom	Unione Ticinese (UT)
Ruth Muheim	Swiss Club Edinburgh (SCE)
Jane Muller-McDougall	Swiss Club Edinburgh
Camilla Ghislanzoni	New Helvetic Society (NHS)
Suzanne Egloff	Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS)
Margrit Lyster	
Renée Boyce	Swiss Club East Surrey (SCES)

GUESTS from the UK and Switzerland

Ariane Rustichelli, Director of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA),
Bern, Switzerland
H.E. Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, Hon. President FOSSUK

GENERAL CONSULS, EMBASSY

Franziska Hewitt	Honorary Consul Belfast
Eleonora Gherardi	Honorary Consul Gibraltar
Ruth Thomas-Lehmann	Honorary Consul Wales
Hans Scheiwiller	Honorary Consul Manchester
Peter Müller-McDougall	Honorary Consul Edinburgh
Manuela Ferrari	Swiss Embassy

Sarah Lager

Swiss Embassy

OBSERVERS

Hans Martin Senn

MINUTES

Joelle Nebbe-Mornod (JN), Franz Müheim,
corrections Rose-Marie Breitenstein (with thanks)

1. WELCOME

President FM opened AGM at 14:00 hours. AGM started with a welcome address from H.E Swiss Ambassador Alexandre Fasel. General instructions regarding coffee were then given. President FM welcomed all to the AGM and thanked the Ambassador for generously hosting this event.

2. APOLOGIES

Ané-Mari Peter, Gioia Palmieri, Nathalie Chuard (all FOSSUK committee members) and Southern Area Swiss Club.

3. Minutes of AGM 2018

AGM took place in Belfast. Margrit Lyster needs to be added to the list of those attending. Minutes of AGM 2018 are approved, proposed by Joe Broggin and seconded by Rita Day, both Unione Ticinese.

4. Annual Report

President's report was sent with invitations. Many items will be covered later so won't mention these here. Comment by Margrit about the importance of keeping things up to date – and passing it to the embassy. President agrees, Organisation of Swiss Abroad (OSA) also needs to be informed. Annual report was approved, proposed by Joe Broggin (Unione Ticinese) and seconded by Marine Plaquet (New Helvetic Society).

5. Constitution

The constitution was last revised in 2008, A new revision was presented and discussed at last year's AGM where it was decided to send it back to the committee for a further iteration. Main changes since last year are

1. The membership now includes social groups
2. The procedure allows for future changes.

3. The Swiss review regional pages are controlled by OSA and not by FOSSUK any more

Questions on social groups – Sidela Leon from SwissQualityUK asked about getting mentioned on Embassy list and FOSSUK website. This was not granted in the past. New Constitution will in principle allow this for FOSSUK, so worth re-discussing this (JN). Question on difference of membership categories by Camilla Ghislanzoni. This concerns voting rights and the delegate sponsorship. Revised FOSSUK constitution was approved, proposed by Suzanne Egloff (Swiss Benevolent Society) and seconded by Ruth Muheim (Swiss Club Edinburgh). No vote was demanded, so new constitution was unanimously approved and adopted.

6. DELEGATES REPORT

Delegate reports for 2018 were written by Vincent Croset and Nathalie Chuard, delegates to the Council of the Swiss abroad elected in 2017. The following notes from the congress were mentioned at the meeting

1. E voting – Of particular interest to our delegates. The position of the Swiss Abroad position is in favour of eVoting as it is required for many of us to participate and exercise our political rights, But the news have been unfavourable: the canton of Geneva e voting system was suspended, the e voting system by Swiss Post encountered security issues, and now there even is an initiative “Stop Evoting”. Security needs to take precedent and we will have to wait.
2. Banking rights – Banque Cantonale de Genève (BCGE) offers accounts to Swiss Abroad from the UK. We would like feedback if anyone has opened or tried to open an account.
3. Council elections will take place 2021 and should be made more democratic world-wide. As in 2017 we will attempt to have an open election where all Swiss in the UK can participate. We plan to use online voting, if technologically possible.
4. Vincent Croset presented the work of a task force on the Council of the Swiss Abroad (with CV and LGW as members) on a proposal to add Swiss Abroad members in the National Council, to allow direct representation for the Swiss Abroad in their own “27th canton”, rather than diluted in cantons. A survey was done of Swiss Parliamentarians. All were in agreement about this being important, but against dedicated seats for the Swiss Abroad.

The next congress of the Swiss Abroad will take place in Montreux in August 2019.

Delegates reports were approved, proposed by Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom (UT) and Suzanne Egloff (SBS).

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Report was given by Loredana Guetg-Wyatt, FOSSUK treasurer. The balance is low, around £900 – club membership is decreasing, and sponsors are harder to find. Arrears are hard to cover. Repeating what Margrit said about keeping data up to date. We would like to cover delegate's expenses but we cannot afford it. This is important to allow younger people to take part. Thanks were given to the Auditor, Camilla Ghislanzoni and Skincode and on-Idle for their sponsorship but we need another £3000 so if you know anyone please get in touch. LGW asked to

1. To adopt the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ending 31/12/2018 (Encl.5) – proposed by RM SCE and seconded by Renée Boyce (SCES).
2. To receive the Hon. Auditors' Report and appointment of the auditors for 2018 (Encl.6) – proposed by Rita Day (UT) and seconded by Ruth Muheim (SCE).
3. To accept the budget for 2019 – proposed by Camilla Ghislanzoni (NHS) and seconded by Ruth Muheim (SCE).
4. To accept membership subscription for 2019, keeping it at £1 – proposed by Ruth Muheim (SCE). and seconded by Camilla Ghislanzoni (NHS).

Questions on budget included a discussion on NHS membership: Camilla Ghislanzoni – please send an email for auditing membership. Members would like to receive regular emails, but sometimes these end up in the spam folder. Margrit Lyster reminded us that in doubt, there are always phones. LGW we will try our best, but asked Swiss clubs to participate at the AGM.

8. FOSSUK COMMITTEE

Alexandre Tissot has resigned as a delegate in March 2019 - he was relocated to Amsterdam for professional reasons. We thank Alexandre for his excellent contributions to FOSSUK and as an OSA delegate, he did a fantastic job. We also wish him all the best in the Netherlands.

For replacing Alexandre, FOSSUK committee asked the runner up in the 2017 election, Sandra Grand-Clément, if she were willing to become a delegate for the remainder of current Council period until 2021 and she accepted.

Committee asked

1. To elect Sandra Grand-Clément as a new UK delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad – proposed by Emilie Martinoni Hoogenboom (UT) and seconded by Camilla Ghislanzoni (NHS).

This decision will be communicated to OSA and SGC will be formally elected to Council at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Montreux.

9. FOSSUK COMMUNICATION & FUNDRAISING

VC is presenting and standing in for NC. It is our remit to arrange for communication for all the Swiss Abroad. Website, Swiss Review and social media. We want to be useful, easy accessible, and relevant. The following list illustrates what we are doing

1. FOSSUK website where we observed a nice growth. It contains a diary with events, links, and member societies. We are hoping for more sponsorship.
2. Social media – Facebook, Twitter
3. Topics of main interests – Evoting, Brexit, congress

10. FOSSUK FORUMS

A Jungbürgerfeier was proposed by FOSSUK and is organised by embassy and NC, which will take place on 28th June 2019. Around 1000 Swiss citizens (18 and 19 years old) in the UK received an invitation. This is an excellent initiative and we are looking forward to it. The event will feature information, informal dinner, ambassador, certificate and a celebration of “coming of age”.

Discussion and Questions:

1. Camilla Ghislanzoni requested an invitation and was referred to Manuela Ferrari or Simona Regazzoni at the Embassy.
2. From UT– how can we promote societies? Will be discussed informally.
3. From SBS on age of invitees – 18 and 19 years was confirmed.
4. From Renée Boyce (SCES) – the only email I get from FOSSUK is the invitation to the AGM, can we get this information too? The FOSSUK

facebook page cannot be joined, shouldn't it be a group? Shouldn't we be on other platforms as well?

The Swiss national day will take place on 1st of August at the Swiss church from 5-9 pm. Thanks a lot to Carla Maurer from the Swiss Church and NC for organising this event.

11. SWISS REVIEW

Gioia Palmeri cannot attend due to an unexpected personal emergency. VC I takes us through her report. Four times year GP reaches out to the community to find content. We all agree that Gioia does a fantastic job – and send her a warm round of applause.

12. VENUE OF THE AGM 2020

The default plan is to hold the FOSSUK AGM 2020 again in London but we are open to invitations or suggestions.

13. Q&A

Venue of the AGM - How about using colleges? Challenge is to find a student society. Margrit Lyster mentions that Carla Maurer will be in Oxford soon talking to students so this could be an option.

We will decide on a date of next year's AGM with the Ambassador. As foreseen in the Constitution, the AGM needs to be in May or June 2020.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Christoph Burgdorfer and Sidela Leon mentioned Swiss Quality UK. They have a large facebook group "Swiss in London & in the UK" and connect Swiss business to the UK.

Isabelle mentioned that she just moved from Brasil and embassy told her about FOSSUK. FM replied: Welcome to the UK

Ursule Thurnheer mentioned the Theodora children charity which is in the UK for 25 – They plan to organise a picnic or a cruise and an event at the Science Museum in November.

President closed the AGM at 15:16 hours.

ADDRESSES

Ariane Rustichelli, Director of OSA, Bern, Switzerland

H.E Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, Sarah Lager -
Update on Brexit and Swiss citizens' rights

Suzanne Egloff, Swiss Benevolent Fund - Assistance to the vulnerable

Alexandra Lavizzari - Swiss artist and writer

Elena Flury – Swiss musician