

Minutes of the VIC Hiking and Mountaineering Club's Annual General Meeting Held on 14 February 2012 at Heurigen Feuerwehr Wagner, 19.Grinzingerstrasse 53

The meeting was opened by the Club President Maria Hofmann shortly before 7 pm, a bit later than expected due to bad weather conditions which had delayed some participants. Maria welcomed the attending members and together with Herta Kaschitz, former long-term President of the VIC Hiking Club, she forwarded regards, greetings and best wishes from former members and members who were not able to join the event. In particular, the absence of Christine Colella was noted since she was co-founder of the club and coordinator and advisor in the current committee, and had previously never missed an annual general meeting of the club. The President further expressed satisfaction that 2011 had been another year for the club free of any serious accidents.

Margarethe Ehrenfeldner, Vice-President of the Club, presented a summary of the Club's activities for 2011, the outline of which can be seen in the Club's web-site. Most importantly, in June 2011 the Club celebrated its 40th anniversary in the Reichraminger Hintergebirge. It is noteworthy that some of the former committee members and hike leaders of the club were travelling from as far as Argentina and France to attend this occasion. Other activities during 2011 included hiking trips abroad, challenging and not so challenging bicycle tours, cross country skiing, snowshoe hiking, and many hiking events ranging from difficult and strenuous mountaineering events to evening hikes and cultural hikes. In total, approximately 100 events had been organized by the club during 2011.

The meeting then reviewed the financial report for 2011 and noted that the Club's finances were in a good state. There was no substantive question about the income or expenditure of the club.

At the next agenda item, the President proposed a change of the club fees, the first such change since about one decade. The meeting adopted the new simplified fee structure without any dissent.

Christine Slater then presented a revised draft of the club statutes to the meeting, and highlighted the changes that had been introduced compared with the previous statutes. (There were hardly any substantive changes, only the language of the statutes had been modernized and the rules concerning the Club's Committee as well as those of the Club's assistants were amended in the new draft, to reflect current practice.) The meeting adopted the new statutes unanimously.

In preparation of the election of the Club Committee, Maria Hofmann, the outgoing President, explained that due to new private and professional challenges she had stand down from the presidency of the club. However, she promised to remain active as web master and hike leader. Maria then chaired the election of the new committee during which Christine Slater was elected for Club President and Isabelle Boutriau as Club Contact Person. The other Committee members and assistants were re-elected: Margarethe Ehrenfeldner for Club Vice President and Programme Coordinator, Irene

Karpischek as Club Treasurer and Membership Coordinator, and Evelyn Hesp as well as Nancy Wonisch will continue to help with proof-reading the programs. It is understood that Christine Colella will continue as club advisor. The meeting was informed that Margarethe and Irene would only continue in their present positions until the next AGM, at which stage successors for them would need to be found. All members were invited to consider assisting in the day-to-day work of the club and to join the committee meetings as a means to get acquainted with the work of the club officials. The meeting applauded and thanked all committee members and helpers for their commitment and support.

When reviewing the most important activities planned for 2012, Paul Hesp explained some of the peculiarities of the hiking trip to Norway, which he will lead in summer and for which sufficient members had already registered. He further offered to lead again a map and compass reading exercise during 2012, in case of interest of 3 persons, who should contact him directly on this to allow timely preparation.

Maria then informed the meeting that the new web site and web-based database of hike reports are almost ready. In addition to offering an attractive website to the public, this new system will simplify procedures for preparing the programs and hike reports. In particular, hike leaders will directly enter their plans in the web-based database, and members are encouraged to register for hikes from the website. In addition, it will be an easy to use platform for the exchange of photos. The new web-site should soon be available for the general public at the present address.

Christine Slater reminded the members of the “guidelines for hiking in a group” and highlighted the most important ones: members should not run ahead of the hike leader, and weaker hikers should not be left alone behind the group. Maria pointed out that in the new website all participants would have to agree with those guidelines in order to be able to register for a hike.

Members of the Committee reiterated the need for additional hike leaders several times during the evening. In this regard, Peter Jirak indicated that in 2014 he intends to retire as active hike leader for the VIC hiking club. All participants were asked to consider becoming a hike leader or to ask their friends or acquaintances to do so. Assistance from experienced hike leaders or the committee will be offered during the learning phase, and the club is able to fund courses for potential hike leaders, as necessary.

At around 8:30, the club thanked Maria, the outgoing President, for her many contributions to the Hiking Club and offered her some presents as a small token of gratitude. After that Maria brought the official part of the meeting to an end and invited participants to stay to enjoy food, drinks and the social gathering.

The meeting was attended by about 35 members, hike leaders and friends and rose around 10:30 p.m.

Margarethe Ehrenfeldner
Vice President of the VIC Hiking Club

**Annual General Meeting
of the VIC Hiking and Mountaineering Club
Tuesday 14 February 2012
Heurigen Feuerwehr Wagner, 1190 Wien, Grinzingerstr 53**

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Report on Club's activities
3. Financial report (see back of this page)
4. Adoption of the new fees
5. Adoption of revised statutes
6. Election of the Club officials
7. Activities in the upcoming year
 - a. Paul Hesp:
 - Map/compass work
 - Trip to Norway
 - b. Announcement of new Website
8. Guidelines for hiking in a group
9. Questions
10. Social gathering