

**MINUTES OF THE 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE SWISS ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE, MARCH 23, 2015**

**UBS AUDITORIUM, ONE RAFFLES QUAY, 49TH NORTH TOWER, SINGAPORE 048583**

**Present:**

Committee	President	Mrs Claire Lecomte
	Treasurer	Mr Roel Simons
	Webmaster	Cathia Magnenat
	Event Coordinator	Stephanie Furrer, Marina Schaefli

**Members** A total of 38 voting members, including one of the two auditors: Mrs Laurence Chehab-Fabry

**Guests** A total of 3 guests were present.

**Excused**

Committee	Event Coordinator	Mrs Susanne Cifuentes
	Secretary	Mrs Julia Ewell
	Vice President	Mrs Murielle Henchoz
Auditor		Mr. Laurent Reber

**1. Welcome**

The President Mrs Claire Lecomte welcomed the members and 3 guests to the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Association of Singapore (SAS) and thanked everyone for coming.

Mrs. Lecomte thanked UBS for their continued support of the SAS and for hosting the Annual General Meeting. She also thanked Ambassador Thomas Kupfer, who was not able to attend the AGM, for everything he has done for the SAS including inviting us to special official event and giving legitimacy to the association through his strong support at the Embassy.

Mrs Lecomte also thanked Astrid and Tania, Consul and Vice-Consul of the Swiss Embassy, for their presence and representing the Swiss Embassy at the 8<sup>th</sup> SAS AGM.

Since the quorum has been met according to Art. 13 of the Constitution of the Association (25% of all voting members or 50, whichever is the lesser) and the invitation as well as the agenda has been sent out to all members, the SAS President declared the official meeting open.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> AGM held on March 13, 2014**

The adoption of the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on February March 13, 2014.

**3. Approval of the President's report**

Mrs Lecomte did not read the President's report as it had been mailed to all Members over 21 days before this AGM, as per the constitutions requirements.

Mrs Lecomte highlighted a few key points of the President's report.

- All of the 2014 objectives are met, for example:

**New website** – a large financial investment, but a large benefit for everyone. Benefits for the members but as well for the committee.

- Integration of PayPal and new payment options, e-registration and e-renewal for memberships; faster process, time saver for secretary.
- Direct event booking; confirmation, payment info, time saver for event coordinators.

**Improved communication** – a main goal. Facilitate links not only between Swiss, but with the local communities, spread a little bit outside our boundaries.

- Attracted new members through our own personal and professional networks. Especially via Swiss School and new committee members.
- Facilitated links between members and compatriots, between members and German or French speaking natives and also with UAS.
- An on-going promotion of the SAS by attending various events throughout the year and partnering with various institutions for events (such as: Swiss School - Swissnex & SBA – International Red Cross Bazaar).
- 2014 Survey – the trends that came out of it, what the members are expecting of SAS and what the members thought about the events.

**Treasury** – Major changes

- Change of Bank; expecting bank fee savings for 2015 : 500 SGD
- Accounting clean-up done by Roel Simons: faster auditing, time saver for the treasurer.

**Events** – the President is encouraging the members for any feedback and comments

- The number of events increased by 50% from 2013, 34 events + 4 free monthly ones
- Better distribution of events throughout the year

**Membership statistics**

- The SAS memberships slightly decreased compared to the last 2 years. Total number of members on 31.12.2014 was 339. 61 families, 39 couples, and 9 singles. There's 108 children. Newcomers consistently join throughout the year. The trend is slightly changing. The Committee and other institutions such as the Swiss School, Swiss Club and other various associations have noticed that there are fewer families coming to Singapore, definitely more young couples or singles.

The adoption of the President's report was unanimously confirmed.

#### 4. **Approval of the Treasurer's report**

With the invitation of the AGM each Member received a set of documents relating to the 2014 financial reports.

Mr. Roel Simons thanked everyone for their contributions.

Adoption of the audited financial report 2014 was unanimously confirmed.

Mr Simons highlighted a few key points of the financial year and previsions for the next financial year:

- Loss of SGD 980 due to approximatively SGD 5'000 of extraordinary non-recurring events
- The majority of the Association's income comes from members' fees, followed by events. Sponsorships barely count.
- FY 2014 finished with a small loss. All the major expenses for this financial year are not going to be repeated within this year. The main investment this year was for the addition of PayPal, but at the same time with the change of bank, there will be more savings for this upcoming year.
- The numbers of events have been increased, so it will make a larger profit for 2015.
- There is a slightly decrease in membership if compared to the same month last year, but as the events are more profitable, previsions are good.

Mr Simons thanked Laurent and Laurence for their audit of 2014.

## **5. Adoption of a new role within the SAS committee: Sponsorship responsible**

Sponsorship member benefits require a lot of time, therefore the President and the committee are asking to create this new role.

The audience unanimously approved for the creation of the new role. Mr Simons will be the first Sponsorship responsible.

## **6. Appointment of Auditors of the SAS year 2015/16**

According to Article 17 of the Constitution, two voting members not being members of the committee and not related by family to any committee members shall be elected as auditors at each Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Roel Simons thanked Laurent Reber and Laurence Chehab-Fabry for their help in making the SAS healthy financially, and asks for volunteers to take on the task for 2015.

Laurent Reber kindly volunteered again.

The AGM elected Mr Laurent Reber as one of the two Auditors for Financial Year 2015 Audit. The second auditor still need to be recruited.

## **7. Election of the Committee of the SAS for the year 2014/15**

Mrs Lecomte then proceeded to nominate the committee members standing for election and re-

election:

President	Janine Bachmann
Vice-President	Stephanie Furrer
Secretary	Joanna Saïd
Treasurer	Laurie H. Khan
Webmaster	Marina Schaefli
Event Coordinator	Stephanie Furrer
Event Coordinator	Susanne Cifuentes
Event Coordinator	Marina Schaefli
Fund raiser	Roel Simons

All committee members were presented to the assembly.

As there were no questions or comments, Mrs Lecomte then proposed to vote for the election of the nominated Committee members. The Members agreed unanimously the vote en bloc.

As the vote en bloc was unanimously accepted, the nominated committee was unanimously elected.

## 8. Various

Mrs Lecomte proposed to increase the membership of the singles – from 60 SGD to 70 SGD yearly fees. Family and couple memberships will remain at the same price (120 SGD – 140 SGD)

The proposal was voted and accepted unanimously by the audience.

## 9. Thanks you's

Mrs. Lecomte thanked the outgoing committee for their hard work during this year. The President thanked as well Karin Vo Van who helped for the events and gave a special thanks to Ryan Huber for his wonderful and generous service to the Association. The President then gave a present to him.

Mrs. Lecomte then closed the meeting and invited everyone to attend the cocktail catered and sponsored by Huber's Butchery.

Claire Lecomte  
**PRESIDENT**

Joanna Saïd  
**SECRETARY**