

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FORTY FORTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Cardiff 2009

The Meeting was held at the Manor House in Cardiff in the presence of many Delegates, Guests, Committee Members and Observers.

First and foremost, I would like to say a very special thank you to South Wales Swiss Club and in particular to the Hon. Swiss Consul for Wales, Ruth Thomas, for having arranged so much for us. It was a memorable weekend that will linger with us for a long time.

We remember the concert at St David's Hall with Thierry Fisher conducting, dinner at Mario's, visits to various parts of the city including Cardiff Castle, the unforgettable concert at St Peter's Church with the Welsh Choir and our own VOS DA LOCARNO, the reception sponsored by our Ambassador H.E Lautenberg with again the Choir from the Ticino providing us with impromptu rendition of some of their memorable songs and finally more visits to many Cardiff points of interest.

With regard to the AGM, it was of course held at the Mansion House in the presence of our Honorary President Ambassador Lautenberg with Consuls, and Honorary Consuls.

This year's AGM was in particular very important as we had to vote for Delegates to represent the Swiss living in the UK to the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad and Committee Members of FOSSUK in a different format from previous Elections.

This you may recall was due to changes imposed by OSA then approved by our Delegates. The Constitution was amended accordingly. At the same time it was decided that the Committee Members would be also elected for a period of 4 years or a mandate from 2009-2013. In addition to other changes proposed and agreed by the FOSSUK Corporate Members, we changed the way of seeking the Delegates to OSA. You will remember that we decided to elect 2 members with FOSSUK and 2 from the wider Swiss Community.

The end result was that we have new 'blood' representing you in Bern and also on the Committee. This will I hope give new impetus to our somewhat flagging Committee and through it get a more dynamic FOSSUK.

FOSSUK COMMITTEE

The Committee met on four occasions. The main task was to implement the changes and see that the forthcoming Elections were handled in a proper manner.

FINANCES

Please see accounts for full details.

SWISS REVIEW

Erika Farwell, Honorary Treasurer presented the accounts. As usual thanks are due to Derek Meakin and Jeffrey Long for their tireless commitments to produce time after time most interesting UK pages and profitable revenues from adverts. As usual it had been a very good year financially.

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

2 OSA meetings, one in Bern in the spring and the Congress in Lucerne in August proved to be most interesting.

CONCLUSION

As the year has passed, I am pleased to see that there is a different wind blowing. New ideas are being formulated and the most interesting outcome was the coming to life of the 'FORUM'. I can say that, with the help of a Sub-committee chaired by Daniel Pedroletti in conjunction with the New Helvetic Society and FOSSUK, this proved to be a success. It was decided at our last Committee Meeting to introduce it to more areas in the UK. More information on this will follow.

APPRECIATION

Many thanks to all whose help was much appreciated, to the Committee and to the Guests, Delegates and observers for coming to Cardiff and in particular to Ambassador Lautenberg and Ruth Thomas for her relentless effort to ensure that Cardiff will remain a very special weekend.

Freddie Wyser

April 2009