

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CERN English Book Club

Monday, 5 March 2012 at 17h30
Club room library at CERN

1/ Election of the Chairman of the Meeting

Mark Jones was elected Chairman of the meeting.

2/ Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was agreed. Mark Jones, Paolo Palazzi, John Pym, Kevin Priestnall, Morna Robillard, Eva Slettenhaar were present. Walter Wuensch sent his apologies.

The quorum was reached. The Minutes of the previous meeting, 22/11/2010 were approved subject to some minor drafting changes.

3/ Report on Activities in 2011

-Book Selection & Suppliers (John)

One order had been made in spring 2011 and another at end of the year and all books were on the shelves. The invoice for the last order will be paid in 2012 accounts.

-Donated books

Some books had come into the club and a few selected to be incorporated into the library as the titles were interesting and the books in good condition.

-CERN Relay Race

The club had run as a team in the race and also had a stand at which old and donated books were sold to support the Ashinaga fund in Japan (support fund for children affected by the Fukushima disaster).

-Screen in Main Building

The new media screen outside the newspaper kiosk in the main building is now functioning and all clubs have been asked to prepare some advertising pages if they wish to.

-Shelves

The extra shelving is now functional and a total book re-shelving must be envisaged in 2012 to give space under certain letters of the alphabet.

-Locks

The plan to change the code outside had been followed up but no-one had any information on how to change this coding. It was therefore decided to change the lock on the inside library door. A new coded lock was installed in December 2011. The code will be changed each year and only given to members who have paid their subscription.

4/ Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer apologized for presenting only now the 2010 accounts along with 2011 accounts. A very heavy workload and family illness had prevented her from keeping up to date. However, a positive bank balance was shown.

The supplier in Geneva is proving to be very good and at competitive prices and will be retained for 2012. The Treasurer will close the account with WWS in UK under circumstances that on imminent retirement from the position of Treasurer, the club prefers to make purchases locally now.

The Treasurer read out the thank-you letter received from the Ashinaga fund thanking the club for the donation to the fund for the survivors of the Fukushima disaster.

Book covering which is included in the price of books from OffTheShelf and should be looked into with the supplier since some covers are not remaining in place correctly.

5/ Appointment of an Auditor

It had been understood from Ed Friesen that he could audit the 2010 and 2011 accounts. As he was not present, the Treasurer would ask if he was willing to continue as Auditor for 2012.

6/ Election of Committee members for 2012

Adam Park had sent in his resignation as Communications and Publicity secretary. There were no volunteers to take over the job. Morna reminded the committee that as of December 2012 she could no longer act as Treasurer due to imminent retirement in January 2013. Mark suggested that a deputy Treasurer be appointed to start taking over. After much discussion on the matter of committee membership it was decided to re-elect for 2012 Chairman: Mark Jones, Treasurer: Morna Robillard. John Pym accepted to be Secretary for Communications and Publicity as well as continuing with Book Selection with the help of Eva Slettenhaar. Kevin Priestnall agreed to give a hand with updating the database. Paolo Palazzi will look into matters concerning future projects and notably concerning a future membership drive and the possible move towards including e-books in the clubs collection.

The next AGM should be held in November/December 2012 to ensure continuity of the Treasurer's functions.

6/ Proposed Activities in 2012

-Membership drive

The membership has to be increased if the club is to continue surviving with committee and members. The number of staff who are members of the club is less than 50% now. Ideas of what to do were exchanged. Advertising the club in the experiment collaborations was proposed in order to promote a better understanding of English which is badly needed. A name-change was discussed but no solution proposed. Many persons seem to imagine the club is a literary round-table discussion group and not a library. Any suggestions for a new name can be sent to the Chairman.

Other ideas such as re-designing the club logo, overhauling the database access and introducing searches with ISBN numbering were made.

Mark and Eva will prepare a publicity sheet for Paolo to use.

John will check out with HR Dept. how the club is promoted at Induction sessions.

Kevin and Eva will think about how to target staff coming up for retirement. Contact with GAC and pre-retirement meetings in HR will be checked out as well as the UK nationals group which meets in June and December each year. A search for a contact group of American nationals will be made too in order to promote the club to them.

-Adding a collection of e-books

There was much discussion on this point and finally a proposal to meet with the Head of CERN Library to find out what is going in this area now and how the club may move in this direction or not was adopted.

Paolo Palazzi will contact the CERN Library.

-Updating the online catalogue

The database needs to be looked at and perhaps ideas of revamping could be discussed with the CERN Library. Kevin will undertake to look into this.

7/ AOB

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 19h20.

Morna Robillard
6 March 2012