

# UNIONE TICINESE

FONDATA A LONDRA NEL 1874  
SEZIONE AUTONOMA DELLA PRO TICINO

## Minutes of the Extraordinary & Annual General Meeting, 26 March 2011 at 5.30 pm, at Swiss Embassy London

Minutes taker: Joe Broggin

### **Present :**

Rosemary Allegranza, Christiane and Peter Barber , Stephanie Brittain , Joe and Alison Broggin, Ivana and Peter Cohn, Christopher Cook, Rita Day-Giollo, Stella Eusebio, Ian Giuliani, Maureen Jacomelli, Kenneth Keer, Margrit Lyster, Linda Portavecchia, Rosalina Rigamonti, Peter Roger & wife, Ane & Marc Peter

**Apologies were received from** Peter and Vittoria Baillie, Karen Dales-Genoni, Joe Piffaretti, Francesca Bucher, and Valeria Ossola, Rose-Marie Breitenstein, Alain Pike and the following Committee members also apologised: Maddalena Bucher, Emilio De Maria, Antoinette Groom, Daniel Pedroletti, Virgilio Pellandini

### **Members entitled to vote: 16 in compliance with existing Constitution**

Before commencement of proceedings those present were invited to stand for one minute silence in memory of Leo Cima, Joan Cima, Fausto Ferrari and Daniele Demicheli

<u>EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING</u>	<u>Action to be taken by C' ttee</u>
<p><b>0. Introduction</b> The meeting started 6 pm and Chairman Ian Giuliani (IG) in welcoming those present, reiterated that the meeting was in two distinct parts : The Extraordinary General Meeting to be followed by the Annual General Meeting and although inquorate, debates and decisions had to be taken and subsequently put to the Membership at large for endorsement.</p> <p><b>1. Proposed New Constitution</b> To vote on the acceptance or not of the new constitution</p> <p>The New Constitution is the outcome of decisions taken at AGM of 27 March 2010, when the Unione Ticinese found itself in a crisis situation following the resignation of President Ian Giuliani after his 5 year spell in office and the resignation of Vice-president Joe Broggin.</p>	

However a 'full melt down' of the Society was averted by IG offering to stand as Chairman for a further year, subject to a Crisis Management Team submitting a way out of the situation by March 2011.

The Team composed of Antoinette Groom , Peter & Christiane Barber, Stella Eusebio, Maddalena Bucher and Joe Brogini, after in depth deliberations on August 21/22 at the Grooms' residence in Canterbury, proposed to the Committee: a) the candidature of Peter Barber as the 2011 President, b) a New Constitution and c) the rebranding of the UT-website.

The New Constitution has been drafted by Daniel Pedroletti, Ian Giuliani, Peter Barber, Maddalena Bucher, Stella Eusebio and Antoinette Groom.

The essence of the new constitution lies in its brevity, streaming the present membership into one main category only and restricting the responsibilities of the trustees to the Society's graves.

After this preamble, a debate was open to the floor and it started with discussing point by point Valeria Ossola's comments previously emailed to Committee.

The decision was then taken to accept the new Constitution as amended by taking into account points raised by Valeria Osceola and agreed by members present at the EGM. The New Constitution will come into force immediately.

**In summary the EGM resolved as follows:**

**Point 1**

Amount of background information / history to be included in introduction to new constitution

The meeting resolved that the introduction should read:

**"The UNIONE TICINESE (UT) was founded in London on 8 February 1874 by Ticinese immigrants"**

**Point 2**

President's term of office. The meeting resolved that:-

**"The term of office for the President will be limited to five years"**

**Point 3**

Dissolution of the Society

The meeting resolved that:-

**"An EGM be held to consider and be responsible for the dissolution of the Society"**

**Point 4**

The meeting held that:-

**The proposed clauses 2.3 & 2.4 should stand as currently scripted**

Point 5

Records of Members

Records of members will contain - as noted on application form - their relationship with Ticino - whether of an hereditary nature or not

**The meeting held that no further action was needed**

Point 6

The term 'Benemeriti'

**The meeting held that the term 'Benemeriti' is to be retained as scripted in the proposed constitution.**

Point 7

Membership dues and Donations as assets of the Society

**The meeting held that** these important assets are included under the heading 'Capital' and that **no change should be made to the proposed Constitution.**

Point 8

Vittorio Abate Memorial Fund

Proposed Constitution: Graves 5.4

**The meeting held that the words "including maintenance" to be deleted**

Point 9

Vittorio Abate Memorial Fund

The provisions in the proposed constitution go further than those in Art 22 of the existing constitution in that the current proposals attempt to be more precise in allocating responsibility for administration of the Graves of the Society in the event of the dissolution of the Society.

Hence the inclusion of Trustees to oversee correct financial administration of the fund.

The meeting held that this was acceptable and an improvement but it would be appropriate to review the Trustees remit and duties.

**The meeting held that no change of the proposed constitution was required at present -** any subsequent revision being subject to consideration by the overall membership.

There being no other points raised by others, which had not been taken 'on board' by the above, the proposed Constitution was voted approved unanimously, on the basis of the above and the proposed constitution being revised - as directed by the this EGM

It (the revised proposed constitution as amended at the EGM) is to be sent, in paper or if possible in electronic form, to

<p>all members forratification, on the basis that 'no response' is taken as an acceptance and the majority holds.</p> <p><b>In conclusion, this EGM- despite it being inquorate -, is the authoritative voice of the UT and its decisions will become official once the new Constitution has been sent to and tacitly accepted by membership</b></p>	
<p><b><u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Introduction:</b> Chairman IG stated that membership numbers had remained steady. He added that items 1-13 of the Agenda will be dealt with under the New Constitution.</p> <p><b>2. The Minutes of the last AGM meeting (27.03. 2010):</b> were approved unanimously and signed by IG.</p> <p>Proposer                      Christiane Barber-Zamboni  Seconder                      Peter Barber</p> <p><b>3. Matters arising:</b> All matters were considered previously under the Item : New Constitution</p> <p><b>4. Chairman's Report:</b> With renewed thanks to Committee, IG offered clarifications if any to his Report. The Report was unanimously accepted.</p> <p>Proposer                      Rita Day-Giollo  Seconder                      Stephanie Brittain-Diviani</p> <p>5. Audited Accounts: Unanimously accepted subject to clarification about the amount of £ 719.50 to FOSSUK in 2010</p> <p>Proposer                      Stella Eusebio  Seconder                      Chris Cook</p> <p><b>6. Trustees Report:</b> IG read out the Report in full. Some issues such as donations to the Serravalle castle society and to the Quercia, old peoples' home. It was decided this year there should be no donations to either as the latter has fulfilled its functions and, as to La Quercia, IG ifelt that a present in kind to the OAPs had more of an impact on the recipients. Christiane Barber proposed in future to donate to the Swiss Benevolent Society instead. A question was raised about the £ 500 income drop shown in the 2010 accounts.</p>	<p>Hon. Secretary to communicate statistics of Members registered, paying subscriptions and number in receipt of Pro Ticino Review.</p> <p>Committee to query details of the £ 719.50 figure with the Treasurer Virgilio Pellandini</p> <p>Committee to ask for details about the £ 500 drop in income in 2010 with the Treasurer Virgilio Pellandini.  Committee to discuss the Quercia donation situation.</p>

**7. Budget proposal:** Inquiries from the floor were raised particularly with regard to two items, namely Miscellaneous and Cultural Events

Proposer                    Rosemarie Allegranza  
Secunder                    Rosalina Rigamonti

**8. New members:** Francesca Bucher, Lugano/TI, Graham Genoni, descended from the Genoni family of Semione/TI Mattia Ferretti, from Camorino/TI, Finn Giuliani, from Torre/TI, Paul Gruhn, late wife from St Gallen, Monique London, Bellinzona/TI, Alexandra Marshall, Bellinzona/TI, Ghislaine Runcie, Evronaz/ VS, Lorenzo Sargenti, Magadino/TI, Fabio Toschini, from Acquarossa/TI

Proposer                    Christiane Barber-Zamboni  
Secunder                    Ivana Cohn-Merlini

**9. Subscription:** The yearly membership subscription of £ 15 has remained unchanged for years and at presents it barely covers the running costs of the Society. The outcome of the ensuing discussion  
Rita Day's proposal for a new subscription rate of £ 20 was unanimously accepted to come into force in March 2012.

**On the suggestion of Joe Broggin, UT-member Margrit Lyster accepted the role of Pro Tem Chair with the task of guiding the election of Officers and Committee members for the 2011-2012 mandate.**

**The following nominations were then duly elected:**

**10. Election of Officers:**

President : Peter Barber, accepted with popular acclaim,  
Hon Secretary: Antoinette Groom-Corti,  
Hon. Treasurer: Francesca Bucher

**Election of Committee members:** Some were elected in absentia with their previous consent and the following were elected en bloc:

Hon Vice-president: Giuseppe (Joe) Broggin, Rosemarie Allegranza, Vittoria Baillie, Christiane Barber, Maddalena Bucher, Ivana Cohn, Chris Cook, Stella Eusebio, Ian \Giuliani, Daniel Pedroletti, Rosalina Rigamonti

**11. Election of Auditors:**

The Budget for 2011 has been referred back to the new C' ttee and also to seek details from the outgoing treasurer VP

Committee to ensure that Membership is informed on time in order to enable members with standing orders to the UT the necessary banking changes

Stephanie Brittain-Diviani and Carl Brittain

On behalf of the Society and as a token of the Society's thanks for his work over six years, Peter Barber as the newly elected President presented the outgoing President and Chairman of the Unione Ticinese; Ian Giuliani, with an

off-print of an article on Mario Botta's early work in Lugano, with a personal dedication by Botta to the British architect James Stirling,, and also a volume of photos of the Val di Blenio of 1938.

In the absence of Monica Giuliani, Ian also accepted a bunch of flowers for her unstinting support behind the scenes to the Unione.

In his acceptance speech as the new President of the Society, Peter Barber underlined the change to the Unione best reflected by the New Constitution and the fact that he is the first President of non Ticinese extraction but nevertheless had a longstanding and deep involvement with and interest in Ticino and its history, and with past and present members of Ticinese background. Peter, pledged that in future the Society will be given a strong cultural emphasis and in the spirit of today's reality the emphasis will be placed on two strands of its Membership: The Ticinesi and their descendants and to the many who just like the Ticino, its way of life with all the peculiarities of a minority Swiss linguistic culture. It's going to be an exciting time, Peter concluded.

**12. Presentation of the rebranded Unione Ticinese Website:**

Ane' and Marc Peter of On-idle, after silently sitting through the lengthy proceedings, were finally given the opportunity to present on a big screen, the new Website. All agreed that it is a true reflection of the image our 137 year old Society and what it will be about in the foreseeable future.

**13. AOB: Margrit Lyster on behalf of FOSSUK invited the Unione Ticinese to host the FORUM event at the Embassy planned for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 which seeks to present and debate issues focusing on the Swiss National Election in the presence of politicians representing main stream political parties.**

The following dates are relevant to the Membership and to Delegates appointed by the Committee to officially represent the Society :

**June 2011**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Pro Ticino Assembly of Delegates in Tavannes

Saturday 18 to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> FOSSUK-AGM in York with Sunday outing

**July 2011**

All members of the Committee with email access, will be given the link by On-idle for additional comments and Joe Broggin and Chris Cook will then relay changes to be made before the official launch.

Committee to assist its other two members Daniel Pedroletti and Joe Broggin to fulfill this UT-image enhancing task.

Saturday 23

Swiss National Day London  
at University College, Gower Street

**August 2011**

Friday 26/27/28

Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano

**September 2011**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Forum re Swiss Elections at Embassy

The meeting was officially closed 8 pm and before inviting all to well deserved refreshments, Peter showed some delightful 16mm films dating back to 1932 and rescued from the archives of the Albertolli family from Portsmouth and Semione/TI

The Minuter in conclusion to these Minutes , is indebted to Christiane Barber for preparing such delightful Ticinese style finger food, solidly assisted by Ivana Cohn and with Peter Cohn being in charge of the Wine, everyone went home in the certainty of a very bright future for the Unione Ticinese.

*JB/ 28 March 2011,  
amended 03 April 2011*