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EDITORIAL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS ALL BACK TO FRONT

For many years the "tradition" has been for the Swiss Society's AGM to be held during Queen's Birthday Weekend at the beginning of June.

Considering that all the Swiss Clubs, who actually form the Swiss Society, are holding their own individual AGM's

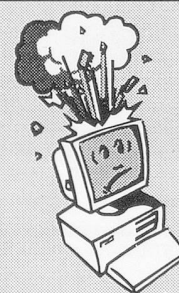
during April or May, the date of the Swiss Society's own AGM is rather peculiar to say the least. Traditions are notoriously hard to break. But tradition or no tradition, from a practical and logical point of view, the present situation is totally back to front. It is a bit like putting the cart in front of the horse to coin a popular phrase amongst our many farming members. With such an arrangement, it is mighty difficult to move forward. The same applies to the Swiss Society.

To understand the problem, you have to look first at the rules that govern the Swiss Society. One of the Society's objects under the rules is "To encourage the formation of provincial branches and affiliations who would organise their local functions independently of the parent body. A Branch elects its own Committee and looks after its own affairs within the Rules of the parent Society. As the parent body, the Swiss Society is called upon to make decisions from time to time which obviously must affect all its members, such decisions must also have an impact on the individual Swiss Clubs as a whole. By placing the Society's AGM after the Clubs' AGMs, an awkward situation has been created whereby any decision taken at the Swiss Society's AGM becomes often difficult to implement immediately by the individual Clubs because, by June, they already had their own AGM and, in accordance with their own rules, they may not be able to follow suit without calling for an extraordinary General Meeting which no one is keen to do.

Failing this, the decision of the Swiss Society can only be implemented by the Clubs at their following year's AGM, in other words some 10-11 months later. It is clear that such a cumbersome way of conducting business is ridiculous and contrary to the interest of all members.

Accordingly, it seems logical to do away with an old outdated tradition and to advance the Society's AGM to a date as early as possible in April, certainly before any of the Clubs' AGM's. In this way any decision reached at the AGM of the Swiss Society can then be tabled at each Club's own AGM. This way of conducting business would be much more logical and far more efficient even if some old traditions have to be broken. At least the horse would find itself in front of the cart again....

Following a request from one of our readers who does not wish to be mentioned by name, we will from now on publish the address of our Embassy in Wellington in the Helvetia magazine.



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