

## SAC General Assembly Lugano - 15<sup>th</sup>. and 16<sup>th</sup>. June 2019

The General Assembly of the SAC takes place every four years and I was delighted to be invited as a guest representing the Association. The General Assembly ran strictly to time beginning at 10:30 and ending promptly at 16:00 so as to give time to prepare for the evening dinner. On Sunday there was a choice of activities.

The General Assembly this year was held in the lake shore town of Lugano close to the Italian border. The last time the Association had been invited was back in 2009 when Alasdair and Pam attended.

The General Assembly is when representatives from all sections of the SAC are invited to approve the annual report, financial statement and vote on motions presented by staff. The annual AGM is a business meeting.



The invitation came from Francoise Jaquet the current President and Daniel Marbacher the Secretary general with the inviting preamble: "After four years we are celebrating the Central Feast again this year. It is the opportunity to cultivate club fellowship and celebrate the values of the SAC".

*Francoise Jaquet, President addressing the conference*

Two items were highlighted, the first a discussion and vote on the commitment to the Glacier Initiative. The Central Committee had already spoken out in favour of it but it was the opinion of the Central Association that delegates and thus the sections must also stand behind it. Rene Michel presented the resolution and answered questions from delegates for nearly one hour, the resolution was passed. The second item covered election of members to the Central and Audit Committee as current incumbents had come to the end of their term of office. After the launch of the SAC Route Portal and the new website, the SAC continues to advance in digitalisation and for the first time, sent the official invitation electronically. [The 2018 Annual Report](#) is available in digital form and can be translated on line.

The gala dinner was held in the Hotel Splendid Royal and I had the pleasure of sitting with a number of past Presidents including Frank-Urs Muller who attended the ABMSAC 100<sup>th</sup>. anniversary dinner in Patterdal in 2009 and Thomas Kahr UIAA Vice President. The evening

was a tour de force in that it started at 6:30 pm and coffee was served just before midnight! Between courses entertainment was provided by a group of three jugglers and an accordionist.



On Sunday a large group climbed aboard the funicular to visit Monte San Salvatore and walk back down to Parco San Grato in Carona followed by a guided tour of the botanical gardens with their amazing sculptures.

During the tour I met with Carole Maeder – Milz President of the Neuchatel Section. Her

father Hermann Milz was Central President of the SAC, made an address and unveiled a bronze plaque 35 years ago at the Britannia Hut during the ABMSAC 75<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary celebrations which Belinda and I attended. She told me that he was in a nursing home but remembered our President Peter Ledebor and had fond memories of their time together at the anniversary. The customary aperitif was followed by a crowded bus ride back to Lugano.

My thanks to the Ticino Section for organising the weekend, Francoise and Daniel for the invitation and hospitality and to Stephanie Bellwald who arranged the event. We may get a call from Stephanie as she is planning a cycle tour of Scotland later this year.

James Baldwin

26/06/2019