

57th Meeting of the Textile Institute Swiss Section

eschler SWISSKNIT

25th of January 2006

On this occasion the 27th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Section of the Textile Institute took place first. The Chairman could welcome approx. 30 persons to this meeting, members and non members of the Textile Institute as well as friends of the Swiss Section.

The Chairman reported first about the activities of the outgoing year 2005. The 26th Annual General Meeting was held on 26th of January 2005 for its first time at Heberlein Fiber Technology Inc. in Wattwil. Heinz Michel/CEO and Andreas Weber/Director of Sales and Marketing took this opportunity to present the Heberlein® Components Group and its activities. An interesting tour to the factory ending in the new modern textile laboratory was rounding up the 55th meeting.

The 56th meeting was organised across the border to Germany in the city of Bad Saeckingen where the Swiss Section got the unique chance to visit the newly installed most modern combed compact ring spinning plant in Europe of Brennet Ltd. Rainer Asal/Technical Director introduced the audience regarding history and key figures of the group before he explained in detail the reasons of the investment. In the second part of the meeting the widely explained mill was visited. Under the competent guidance of Christian Marx/Mill Leader and Rainer Asal all machinery and auxiliaries could be seen and touched. Approx. 20 visitors enjoyed this journey to Brennet.

Afterwards the Chairman reported that the Swiss Section counted by end of December 2005 40 individual and 4 patriot members and that these figures show a decrease by 3 on the individuals respectively 1 member on the patriot members. 45% of the individual members are still active in their professional life. Two members passed unfortunately away. These were George Hefti and Professor Kurt Zollinger. In order to strengthen the member base of the Swiss Section discussions were held with the Chairman of the German Section Dr Rainer Lorenz. It was decided to invite also the German members to the Swiss Section Meetings. The forthcoming meetings will show how successful this decision was and what will be the continuation. Finally it was decided by vote that the next summer meetings will be organised always in the first half of June on a Wednesday. The dates for the summer and winter meeting should be published at least 8 weeks earlier giving interested parties a chance to plan their attendance early enough.

Then the Treasure's Report and the Voting followed. The Swiss Section has a sound financial situation which was carefully accumulated of the past decades. The income was mainly generated by non members paying a contribution for their attendance to the meetings. It's regrettable that the Head Quarter doesn't pay a portion back to the Swiss Section of those how are members of the Textile Institute and paid over many years on time their member ship fee.

The Committee unfortunately had to accept the departure of Andreas Bodmer by 29th of September 2005 due to personal reasons. Therefore the Committee has a vacancy of one member at the moment which should be refilled till the next Annual General Meeting. The remaining Committee composed by Othmar Forster, Andreas Hellwig, Dr Roland Seidl/Honorary Treasurer and Andreas Weber/Chairman was re-elected honourably.

The dates for the next Meetings are already fixed as follows:

- 7th of June 2006: Jakob Ltd., Dorfstrasse 34, CH-3555 Trubschachen; a special rope manufacturer.
- 24th of January 2007: 27th Annual General Meeting with a plant visit (details will follow on time).

After the Annual General Meeting Alex Eschler, Co Managing Director of eschler SWISSKNIT together with his brother Peter who was absent, introduced his company. The company has today two sites in Switzerland (Buehler and Muenchwilen), one site in Germany and one in Thailand. eschler SWISSKNIT is famous for its high quality knitwear for alluring lingerie, competitive ski clothing for international skiing and many other active wear products for in and outdoor sports. The visitors were impressed of the modern manufacturing facility in Buehler and the dynamic team which stands behind the name of the successful company eschler SWISSKNIT.

Andreas Weber

Chairman Swiss Section of the Textile Institute

Elgg, 26th of March 2006