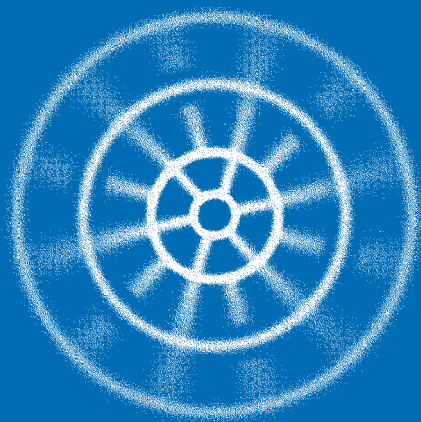


# POCKET INFO ON THE CLUB

## *The Helsinki* FINNISH CLUB



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[www.klubi.fi](http://www.klubi.fi)



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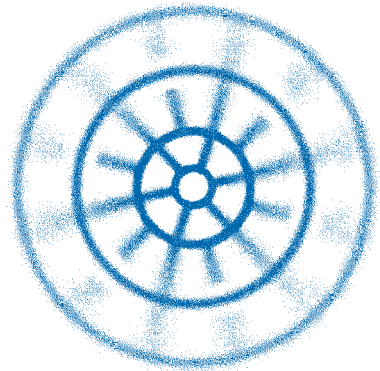
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The Club is a cosy and comfortable base in the heart of the capital where you can relax engaging in free conversation with the other Club members or spend time going in for several kinds of hobbies. The Club is also a place where you can make contact with people representing various social and economic domains.



This brochure is made out for those who wish to become acquainted with the Helsinki Finnish Club and its role in the Finnish society.

## Short history

■ ■ The history of the Helsinki Finnish Club is a fascinating chapter in the history of the Finnish nationalist movement towards the end of the 19th century. During this period of time, Finland was part of Russia as an autonomic Grand Duchy, after belonging to the Swedish monarchy for centuries. After the middle of the 19th century there was a gradual change from subservience over to nationalist thinking along with the awakening of parliamentary activities and cultural life.

In 1876 Luku- ja Konversationi-klubbi Helsingissä (The Reading and Conversational Club in Helsinki) was founded in the capital and its rules were ratified in the Senate on April 25th, 1876, which consequently is the birthday of our Club.

The founders of the Club were young men whose average age was only 34 years and most of whom were masters of arts or lawyers. There were few entrepreneurs among them.

At that time there was severe competition between the Finnish-speaking (Fennomans) and the Swedish-speaking (Svekomans) intelligentsia. It was the guiding principle of the Fennomans that the Finnish culture cannot become national and the common property of the nation unless the nation became Finnish-speaking, whereas the Svekomans were of

the opinion that culture in Finland could only be possible in Swedish.

In one sense, the Finnish Club was established to strengthen the position of the Finnish language and culture and to alleviate the language exchange of the members.

It was the time of the Assembly of the Representatives of Estates. The Fennomans of different estates needed a place to assemble, so the Finnish Club became a parliamentary club where the fennophile policies were discussed and agreed upon over class distinctions.

## The principles and activities of the Club

The Helsinki Finnish Club is a cultural club where the men of different ages, committed to the ideology of Finnishness, meet each other. It is also a club of public utility whose extensive electronic activities reach international audiences as well.

The Club is a conversational community where it is possible to obtain new stimuli from persons with various different professional backgrounds and experiences. The Club is a forum for such social ideas and actions that could not perhaps be encountered elsewhere.

The Club offers its members a versatile program of cultural and other interests

from choir singing to literature, from history to foreign policy, from billiards to golf etc, which interest active citizens.

The objective of the Club is to cherish Finnish culture and traditions and the Finnish language throughout the country, to give the Club members a chance of enlightening mutual intercourse in the spirit of Finnishness, and to promote the discussion concerning patriotic, cultural, social and national defense issues.

The basic program consists of the monthly meetings, minister lunches, Club evenings, festivals and numerous hobby evenings.

There are also occasions that deal with certain themes, such as literature, military policy, foreign policy, history, judicial policy, medicine, aviation and economic questions. The themes concentrate on the special issues in each area but the lectures attract many listeners from other areas as well.

The traditional festivals of the Club include honorary anniversary dinners of members, crayfish party in August, veteran and national defence evening, independence day festivities, the first of May festival, jazz evening and different gourmet dinners etc.  
The boat trip at the beginning of June

closes the annual program for summer holidays.

The Club choir and the Club brass band are the two great success stories of the Club. They entertain audiences on various occasions. The choir gives several concerts each year at home and abroad.

The extensive program and vast supply of activities is due to the fact that the Club members represent a large variety of different walks of life and willingly volunteer to arrange events and lecture in the theme evenings.

### **Club members**

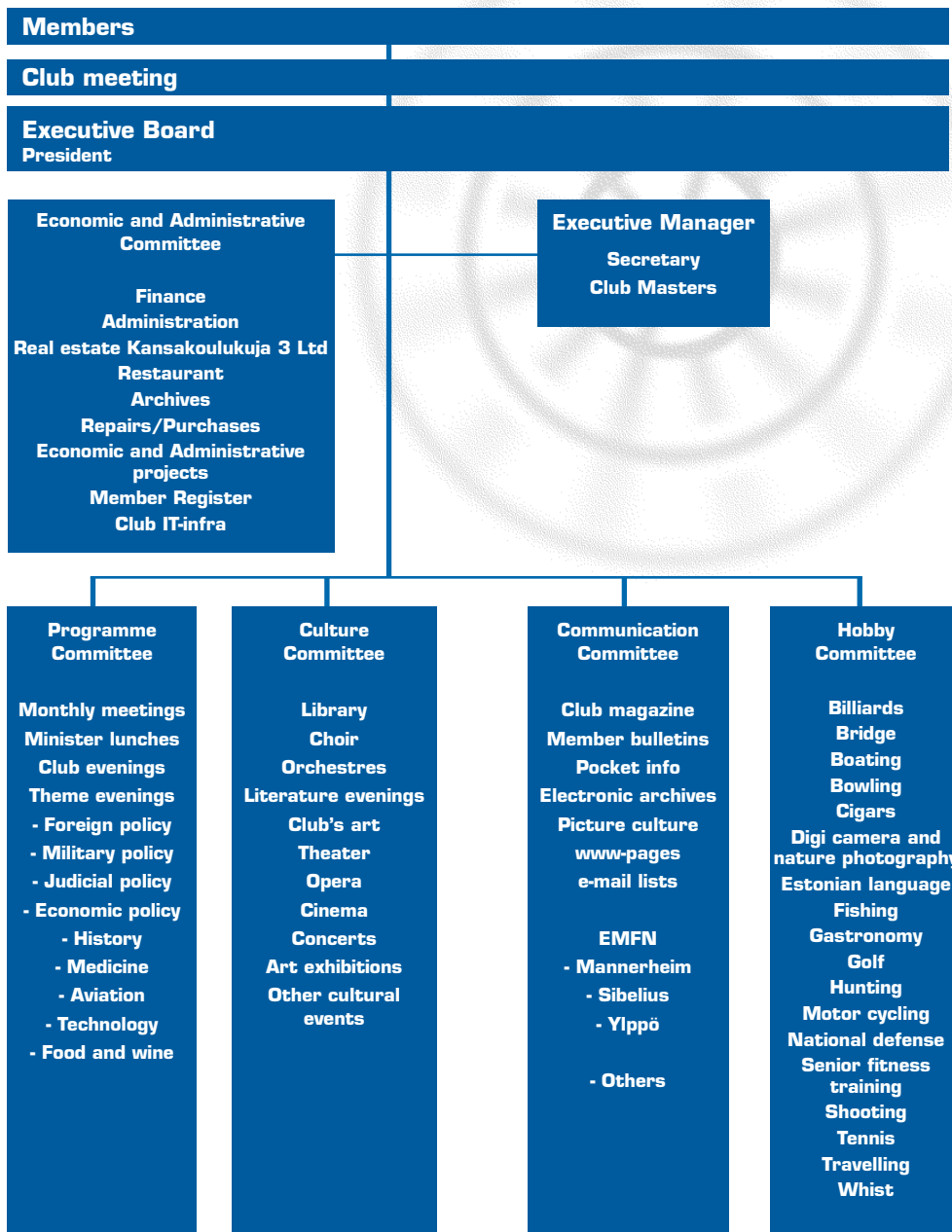
At the beginning of the year 2013 the Club counted over 3000 members accepted by the Club's executive board on the basis of a written application and recommendation by two Club members.

The members are to be male Finnish citizens of good reputation and they are to accept the objective of the Club as stated in paragraph two of the rules.

### **The Executive Board of the Club**

The Executive Board consists of the president of the Club and eight members elected for three calendar years. The resigning member can be re-elected once.

# Club organisation



The function of the Executive Board is to promote the objective of the Club, to attend to the expectations of the members and to represent the Club. In an optimal situation the Executive Board represents all the areas of know-how presumed for managing a club.

The president of the Club carries the main responsibility of the Club's identity and spirit.

A particularly distinguished former president of the Club is elected the honorary president. The Club also has honorary members particularly distinguished in the Club activities, artist and scientist members and associate foreign members.

The Board is assisted by five committees, whose chairman is in most cases a member of the Board. The functions of each committee are stated in the organisation chart.

The committees have organised their work in such a way that the interests, expertise and professional skills of the members can be channelled into the Club activities through them.

### **Information**

The club's most important medium of information is the Club magazine. Other information channels include the internet-

pages ([www.klubi.fi](http://www.klubi.fi)), member register, pocket info and member bulletin, weekly letter and a notice board in the premises.

### **The Electronic Memory of the Finnish Nation (EMFN)**

The Club has been introduced in the Internet since the year 1995 when plans for developing services open for everybody in the world net ([www.klubi.fi](http://www.klubi.fi)) were initiated. The Club has registered the electronic trademark The Electronic Memory of the Finnish Nation (Suomen Kansan Sähköinen Muisti).

The extensive Mannerheim pages were made in 1998. They have now been published in Finnish, Swedish, German, English, Russian and French. The document consists of 300 pages and approximately 1000 pictures, and they attract thousands of visitors from nearly all the countries in the world every month. The data has also been saved in a CDROM, of which around 25,000 copies have been distributed without charge to schools, museums, foreign services, garrisons and many other places.

The Internet pages on Sibelius have been published in Finnish, Swedish, English and German, and in addition to the text and pictures they also contain a vast selection of music. Part of the material had never been published before. The project has

greatly been supported by the copyright owners of Jean and Aino Sibelius. They have given original material without charge to be used in the pages.

The Club has also composed Internet pages on archiater Arvo Ylppö (1887-1992).

The Club's Internet pages also include a list of Karelian soldiers fallen in the wars. The list contains 12,500 names ([www.ksv.mpoli.fi](http://www.ksv.mpoli.fi)).

### **The Club premises**

The Club owns an apartment house in Helsinki where it has retained the three upper floors and some basement premises for its own use. The floors from one to four have been rented out for business purposes.

Many Club cabinets are suitable for small group gatherings. Similar individually furnished, comfortable rooms cannot be found in other restaurants in Helsinki.

The Club entrance and the premises for festivals are located on the fifth floor where the kitchen and a bar can also be found. In the main hall there is room for approximately a hundred persons. Right next to it are the bank cabinet for 20 persons and the Pohjola cabinet for 30 persons.

The sixth floor contains the following rooms: Helsinki cabinet for approximately 30 persons, the Club library, open only for members, the Club drawing-room for 24 persons and the billiards room with carom, pool and snooker tables, both for the Club members and their male quests only.

The topmost, i.e. the seventh floor comprises the following cabinets: Johtokunta for about 20 persons, Vähäkallio for 12 persons, Sipilä for 10 persons, Tanttu for 4 persons and Ylppö for 6 persons.

The Club has a restaurant with facilities to offer gourmet dinners as well as home cooking prepared from Finnish ingredients.

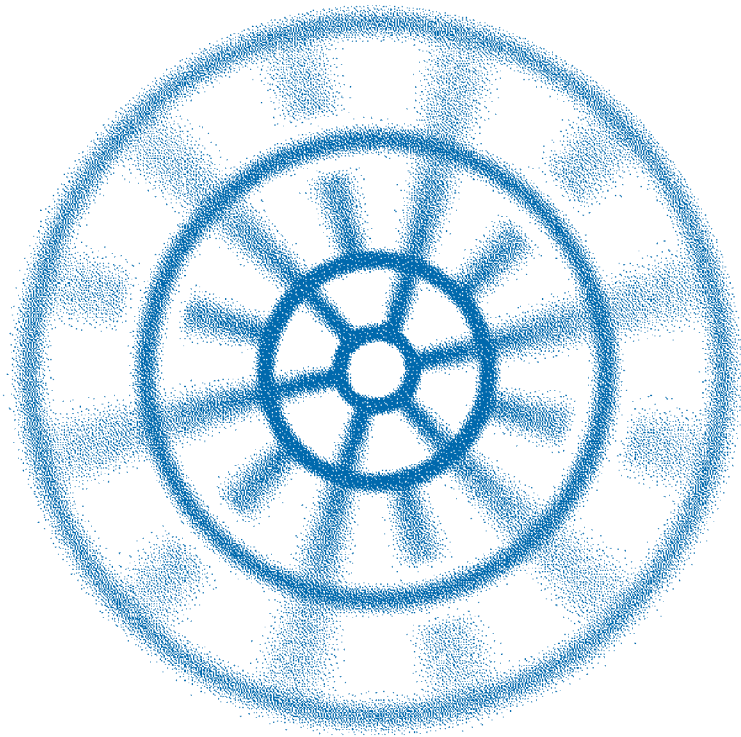
The Club requires certain etiquette. The members are expected to observe good manners and also show in their dressing that the Club is a place where you can bring distinguished guests. Therefore, a tie must be worn in the main festival hall where sweaters and jeans are totally out of place. The atmosphere in the billiards room is more relaxed, and the game can naturally be played without a jacket. In case you have to pay an unexpected visit to the Club, you can request the use of one of the cabinets or borrow a jacket and a tie from a Club master.

## The Foundation

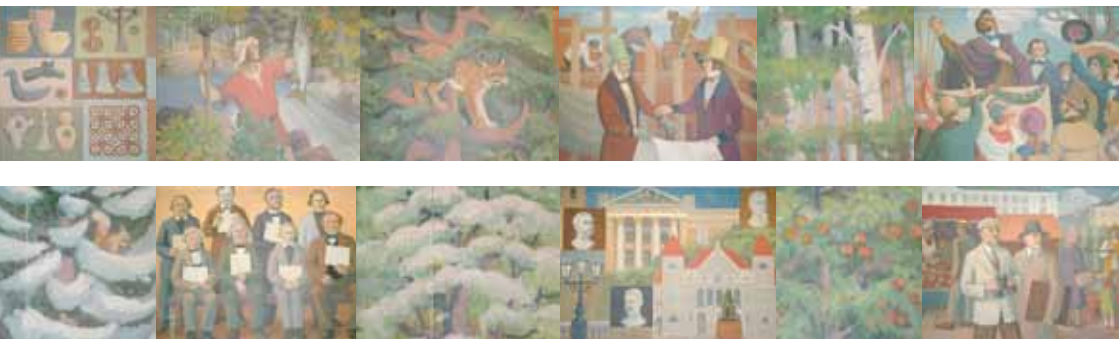
The Foundation of the Helsinki Finnish Club was established on September 9th, 2007.

The basic function of the Foundation is in line with the objective of the Club, i.e. to support activities upholding Finnish culture and traditions as well as to promote discussion on national, cultural and social issues in the spirit of Finnish nationalism all over the country.

The activities of the Foundation are focused on the youth, future and top know-how, concentrating on the importance of the Finnish language and introducing the life-work and heritage of the promoters of Finnishness to the future generations.







*A panorama of the growth of Helsinki from a stone age village into the capital of Finland painted by professor Onni Oja, an artist member of the Club. The painting was exposed in*

*the festival hall of the Club in 1983. The central figures of the Finnish national movement can be found in the painting. It also reflects the development of the entire Finnish society.*



*Pohjola cabinet*



*Bank cabinet*



*Sipilä cabinet*



*Vähäkallio cabinet*



*Ylppö cabinet*



*Club drawing-room*



*Billiards room*



*Regular member table*



*Helsinki cabinet*