

The Helsinki Finnish Club
www.klubi.fi

Kansakoulukuja 3, 5th floor
00100 Helsinki

Founded in 1876
Membership count: Approximately 3000

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Club masters
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Executive Manager
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Secretary
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Restaurant - Room and table bookings
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POCKET INFO ON THE CLUB

- English summary

The Helsinki Finnish Club

The Club is a cozy and comfortable base in the heart of the capital where you can relax, engage 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 of the club

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 autonomous 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.

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

The Helsinki Finnish Club is a cultural club where 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, from luxury watches to gastronomy 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 minister lunches, Club evenings, festivals and numerous hobby evenings. There are also occasions that deal with certain themes. The traditional festivals of the Club include honorary anniversary dinners of members, crayfish party in August, veteran and national defense 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 requires certain etiquette. The members are expected to behave in good manner and also show by their dress code that the Club is a place where you can bring distinguished guests. The dress code is traditional business attire. The dress code for more festive events are specifically informed in the invitation.

The atmosphere in the billiards room is more relaxed, and the game can naturally be played without a jacket. In case you have to make an unexpected visit to the Club, you can request the use of one of the rooms or borrow a jacket and a tie from a Club master.

Club members

Club has approximately 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.

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 activi-

ties, artist and scientist members and associate foreign members.

The Board is assisted by six committees, whose chairman is in most cases a member of the Board. The committees have organized their work in such a way that the interests, expertise and professional skills of the members can be channeled into the Club activities through them.

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.

Information

The Club magazine is the most important information source of the Club. Other information channels include the internet-pages (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) were initiated.

The Club has registered the electronic trademark The Electronic Memory of the Finnish Nation (Suomen Kansan Sähköinen Muisti).

Finland 100's pages portray the influence and main events leading to Finland's independence. The country celebrated its one hundredth anniversary as an independent nation on 6.12.2017.

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 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.



Raimo Ilveskero was elected as the President of The Club in 2020.

The Club premises

The Club owns a real estate 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 rooms 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 room for 20 persons and the Pohjola room for 30 persons. The sixth floor contains the following rooms: Hermann 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 guests only.

The topmost, i.e. the seventh floor comprises the following rooms: Johtokunta for about 20 persons, Vähä-

kallio for 12 persons, Sipilä for 10 persons, Tanttu for 4 persons and Ylppö for 6 persons.

Restaurant

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



The Club offers its members a versatile program. The speakers are the top experts in their field.

Helsingin Suomalainen Klubi ry
www.klubi.fi

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