

SHREE KSHATRIYA ASSOCIATION OF UK
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 7th OCTOBER 2012

Venue: SKA Hall, 2A Villiers Road

Time: 3PM

Chaired by: Kamlesh Motiram

Minutes by: Raj Pravinchandra Khatri

Total Number of Members Present at time meeting convened: 40

Total number of Members Present when meeting concluded: 50

AGENDA: As Published in SKA Newsletter No. 137

1. Approval of minutes
2. Approval of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012
3. Re-Appointment of Auditors
4. Approve the conversion of the Association to a new company limited by guarantee in or around 1st April 2013.
5. To approve the Articles of Association of the new company limited by guarantee.
6. To approve that the new company limited by guarantee apply to the Charity Commission for charitable status on the same or similar terms as the Association.
7. To approve attendance by fellow Gujarati community members (non-SKA members) at SKA Social Evening.
8. Any other business.

1. Approval of minutes

Kamlesh Motiram (KM) welcomed everyone to the SKA **AGM** and announced that if anyone had any comments or wanted to say something to please come up and speak into the microphone. Everyone was requested to read through the previous **AGM** minutes and asked whether anyone had any comments. **Anil Hazratwala (AH)** commented on a misspelled name on Page 8 as it should be **Harivadan Dhansukhlal Gohil**. Minutes were then approved by **Harendra Dhirajlal Khatri (HDK)** and **Bhavin Shantilal Khatri (BSK)**.

KM apologised for a few committee members not being present on the day.

2. Approval of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012

The accounts were presented by **Mukesh Vallabhbhai Khatri (MVK)** as the Treasurer and the Vice Treasurer were unable to attend the meeting. **MVK** said that this year everyone has been given a full set of accounts including the detailed Statement of Financial Activities. **MVK** started with a review of the Statement of Financial Activities:

1 - Hall & utensil hire in 2012 was down compared to 2011 due to a lack of the hall being hired by the community and the general public.

2 - Membership fees have increased due to the 50th Mahotsav when we had members join the community.

3 - Gas and Electricity bills were high and the reason for that was that the meter had not been read for two years so a bill was received for two years together. In order to resolve this issue the committee took the decision to get a 'smart' meter.

MVK asked if anyone had any questions with regard to the accounts. **AH** asked about the new members who joined at the 50th Mahotsav: Are they still members? **MVK** answered that everyone has been invoiced this year and the outlook is hopeful.

AH asked about the social evening: There is income of £3,500.00 and expenditure of £2,500.00, does this include alcoholic drinks? **MVK** answered, yes, it is accurate estimate because we buy in bulk for events like social evenings, Diwali party, etc. and allocate cost accordingly.

MVK added that in, members will see the cost for the children's Christmas party and Easter party because we arranged a Christmas party, which had to be cancelled on the day due to heavy snow fall, so we arranged an Easter party to make up for that and that in the same calendar year we held a Christmas party.

MVK started on the main Accounts, mentioning that the first page has the current committee members' names, followed by the trustees' report, which mention who resigned and who has joined, then on Page 4 the Auditors report signed off by MCT Partnership.

Page 7: the committee purchased a laptop under tangible fixed assets which helped with keeping the accounts up-to-date on a regular basis. Another benefit was that the debtors this year were £16,000.00 where last year's were £42,000.00. The reason for this is because in 2011 the invoices were sent out late because the bookkeeping was behind schedule and that's why this year the cash is higher than last year.

MVK gave members a few minutes to review the Account to see if anyone had any comments. **Sudhir Dayaram Khatri (SDK)** asked about the funds in the SKA's Savings Account, and who is managing this for the SKA? **MVK** responded that the funds are in a Treasury Deposit Account with Barclays Bank on a medium term at low risk.

Accounts were approved by **SDK** and **Nita Bhavin Khatri (NBK)**. **KM** thanked **Prakash Jariwala (PJ)** and **Anil Jadav (AJ)** for their hard work with managing the Accounts.

3. Re-Appointment of Auditors

The Auditors' fees have increased by £100.00 to £2,100.00 (excluding VAT) Members agreed to reappoint MCT Partnership as our Auditors and this was approved by *Pravin Shantilal Kapadia (PSK)* and *Pravin Thakorlal Jariwala (PTJ)*.

4. Approve the conversion of the Association to a new company limited by guarantee in or around 1st April 2013.

5. To approve the Articles of Association of the new company limited by guarantee.

6. To approve that the new company limited by guarantee apply to the Charity Commission for charitable status on the same or similar terms as the Association.

The next agenda item was the approval of the conversion of the Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee and *MVK* took the stand to explain this to the members. According to our constitution, Resolutions 4, 5 and 6 are the same but legally we have to pass them individually. With us at this meeting was *Vincent Billing (VB)* who had kindly helped in the process of this conversion to a new Company Limited by Guarantee. Another reason for having him present was that if during the discussion if anyone said, "Let's ask for legal advice" *VB* could help answer any questions.

MVK informed the attendees that this new constitution can only be published in English for legal reasons. SKA arranged a meeting for the elderly members on the 9 September 2012 so that they are also in the loop about this change.

MVK mentioned that there were several points of the constitution to discuss or make known. The first point was the name Shree Kshatriya Association of UK and because UK is used Companies House could object. But the answer to them would be that the community has spread all over UK and that is why we use UK. Another matter is Point 4, the liability of members: At present the constitution has unlimited liability where the whole community will be at risk if anything happened. Now, with the new constitution, the liability is just £1.00 per member if something were to happen.

A couple of other points were clarified, such as Point 5, under 'Objects and Powers' the words Public Benefit had to be introduced. This is a legal requirement; everything we do must be for the public benefit. Point 6, a trustee can offer their professional skills if he or she charges the community at a reasonable rate.

MVK mentioned Point 9, 'Membership'. The current constitution states that we only allow people who are Kshatriya's. In the new constitution it does not say that and it gives the trustees the power to select who we do or do not want as a member. Point 10: right now there are two levels of membership and that will remain the same, but it allows the trustees to create new levels of membership in the future.

In all others matters the same resolutions were maintained as close as possible to those in the old constitution.

MVK opened the floor for discussion on any of the points under the new constitution.

BSK mentioned that around two years ago the current trustees had problems getting new people to join and he asked whether we want to keep it the same because, going forward, it may be harder to get people to join. There is a chance to change it. **MVK** answered that things remained unchanged from the old constitution and that he wanted to keep things the way they are. The committee needs at least ten trustees to make decisions for the community. **VB** also confirmed that according to the new constitution we have six executive members and four Co-Op members with voting powers which makes a total of ten board trustees.

AH recommended that there should be ten executive members and if they need more expert help four more Co-Op members that do not have voting power can be brought in. Therefore, a maximum of 14 people. **PJ** was also in agreement with **AH**'s suggestion and comments and also pointed out that this suggestion was covered under Point 19.7.

BSK asked what provision we are going to have if we do not get these ten executives members. And, do we have to stipulate it into the constitution? **VB** answered that if the Association fails to form an executive committee the election will have to carry on until the executive committee is formed.

MVK left the floor open for anyone to come along and speak in regard to this or any other matter.

AH had a few things to discuss on Points 6.5 B, C and D, about executive committee members charging for their professional skills. He suggested that over the years it has been hard for other executive members to disagree with other members and that is why we should keep an independent person for professional work. **MVK** answered that, looking at the past lack of interest in joining SKA, this stipulation will be a benefit. **PJ** stated that he also would like to keep it the same as with the old constitution.

Members present at the AGM all came to an agreement to take out the charging stipulation and keep it the way it is.

AH asked if there would be a problem if membership was restricted. **VB** answered that the Charity Commission will ask for detailed reasons for why we want to restrict the membership and that normally charities are open to everybody and everyone will be able to benefit from it.

AH asked if there was a conflict with Points 9.6 & 32.2. **VB** said that Point 9.6 is where the members decide the annual membership fee at an AGM and Point 32.2 is for very exceptional circumstances: If the executive members want to change the annual membership fee, they can.

It was agreed to add brackets to Point 32.2 in order to exclude annual membership fees.

AH raised Point 21.2.1 in which the executive members have a decision on who is allowed to join the executive committee and thinks that should be taken out and left to the general members to decide on.

Ganesh Deepak Khatri (GDK) asked: If a member of the community was appointed by majority of the community, would the executive trustees have the power of not appointing that person? **VB** answered that if that did happen then the executive committee would be in breach of the constitution.

It was agreed by everyone that Point 21.2.1 will be taken out so that the right to vote people into the executive committee would remain with the community.

GDK asked about Point 5.2.G. If the community ever had to merge with another community or charity, would the executive committee have the power to make that decision? Or, would it go out to the members? **VB** answered that the executive committee are there for day-to-day running of the charity and if ever a merger had to happen this would have to be a decision that the community makes as a whole, not just executive committee.

AH mentioned that, as it stands, the SKA have some current standing orders, and he asked: If they stand the same in the new constitution or will they need to be approved again? **VB** answered that, yes, all standing orders will have to be approved again.

AH requested to place a standing order, that if any member does not pay membership fee they will not be invited to SKA events. **VB** said that it is already in the paragraph about membership; if a member does not pay within six months their membership will lapse. **AH** also requested that this went in the next newsletter.

MVK further mentioned that, in regard to members who do not pay membership fees, the current committee is working hard to phone members and chase them down.

PJ was also concerned about non-members attending SKA events but he was satisfied by **MVK**'s information.

MVK proposed two options to the general members. First, all the points discussed in today's meeting should be revised and brought back to the next AGM. Second, they are approved right now, with the appropriate revisions.

MVK proposed the approval of the conversion of the Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee in or around 1 April 2013. This was approved by **AH** and **PJ**.

MVK proposed to approve the Articles of the Association as revised at today's meeting of the new Company Limited by Guarantee. This was approved by **GDK** and **Nayan Bharat Vakharia (NBV)**.

MVK proposed to approve that the new Company Limited by Guarantee would apply to the Charity Commission for charitable status on the same or similar terms as the Association. **MVK** mentioned that after we present this application, if we have to change a lot of points, the executive committee will bring this back to the next AGM. This was approved by **BSK** and **Harivadan Dhansukhlal Gohil (HDG)**.

Agenda No 7: The current executive trustees proposed the attendance of fellow Gujarati community members (non-SKA Members) at SKA Social Evening

BV asked what the current capacity of the hall is when a social evening is held. **MVK** replied that the hall has a capacity of 70 people and at the social evening our fee-paying members have first priority.

AH said that there is nothing wrong with calling non-Khatri members but disagreed with *MVK* that the social evening is not a subsidised event, it is subsidised from his previous knowledge as a committee member. *AH* thinks that the revenue has not increased with non-Khatri attendance and suggested that fee-paying members should have priority until Wednesday night and then if there are some spaces they can be offered to non-Khatri members.

MVK replied in regard to the figures of the social evening he will stand by what is written in the Accounts. Furthermore, that everyone fills up their drink during Happy Hour and in the last two months has been noted that most of the alcoholic drink's income comes after Happy Hour. Further still, the executive trustees think that we have given equal priority to our community members to book before a non-Khatri member.

Chandrika Dilip Khatri (CDK) asked if the SKA will be allowing non-Khatri members to events like Navratri. *MVK* replied that the rules for Navratri will be the same as in the old constitution. Only SKA fee-paying members will be able to attend.

The following Resolution was put to the meeting to approve the attendance by fellow Gujarati community members (non-SKA Members) at SKA Social Evening – Approved by majority.

KM opened the floor for AOB matters.

KM gave a quick update on the fire-exit door. The application and building regulation have been approved and a quotation from builders is being worked on.

GDK wanted to know what will the revised capacity will be after the fire-exit door is in place. *MVK* replied that taking these measures is for the health and safety of the members. SKA will reapply once the door is in place but it is not known what the revised capacity will be.

BSK asked if we want to continue with preparing AGM minutes in Gujarati as he thinks there isn't a need for it. *MVK* added that the executive committee will always try their best to get information out to our elderly members but as *BSK* asked: Is there any need? *Ratilal Motiram Kapadia (RMK)* said to continue whilst possible and then when the time comes to make a decision as a community.

AH wanted to bring to the members' attention that the average age group at the AGM must be between 50 – 55 and that Mahotsav the attendance is getting lower and lower each year and especially this year had the lowest within the last five to six years. The question needs to be asked: Where is our community going? Why is the community still asking for donations each year? We need to bring it to a stop and there was a suggestion for a heavily subsidised religious coach trip for the elderly members

MVK replied in regard to the coach trip it was subsidised by SKA had the trip. The executive committee committee felt that the price should be raised this time because it has to be taken in to consideration not just with what one member says but what the whole community has to say.

MVK also mentioned that next year at the Mahotsav the donation team will be given a rest and a new practice will be brought in where everyone is given a donation slip that they complete it with their name, telephone and amount. They will then be collected later on. One more change to the Mahotsav: instead of going around with raffle tickets we will have a table

