



SHREE KSHATRIYA ASSOICATION OF UK
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2014



Venue: SKA Hall, 2a Villiers Rod, London NW2 5PH
Time 3pm

Chaired by: Kamlesh Ratilal Motiram (KRM)
Minutes by: Manoj Naranbhai Khatri (MNK)

Total Number of Members Present: 98

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Approval of Accounts
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. To approve the following resolution

The fiancé(e)s of community members who are engaged to be married and whose wedding date has been announced on the appropriate SKA media, then in these circumstances the fiancé(e)s will be able to attend and participate in all SKA organised events.

5. Approve an increase in membership fee from £10 to £15 per annum
6. AOB (Any Other Business)

MEETING COMMENCED 15.10

KRM said if anyone had anything to say or wanted to make comments they can come to the front announce their name then speak in to the Mic. Everyone was given a few minutes to review 2013 minutes. During this Kamlesh advised everyone that tea was available.

KRM announced apologies from committee members not attending this AGM:
- Jitendra Pravinchandra Khatri

1. Approval of 2013 Minutes

KRM said that for the first time the AGM will be broadcast on the Internet as a web cast, Sandeep Vrajlal Khatri is taking care of that. Also thanks to **MNK** for taking minutes.

Anil Amratlal Hazaratwala (AAH) said Minutes in English page 3, debtors. Solicitors cost rising from £16k to £23k. Is this cost of transferring, please explain ? **Mukesh Vallabhkhatri (MVK)** said these were legal costs not expensed last year they were prepaid by the unincorporated charity carried forward to the incorporated association.

KRM No further comments. The minutes were approved by Harendra Dhirajlal Khatri and Naresh Shantilal Kapadia.

2. Approval of accounts to 31 Mar 2014

MVK proceeded to present the accounts. Normally this is done by the Treasurer but this year is the first year of accounts for the new association as there are a few issues.

MVK said our charity was changed from an unincorporated charity to a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. These accounts are for the new association. The new association was incorporated on 03 Dec 2012. The old association was active to 31 March 13. Results are for one year to 31 March 2014.

Vincent Billings was the first officer of the new association who resigned after the committee took over.

MVK gave everyone a few minutes to read the section on achievements and performances and public benefit.

Pages 5 and 6 is the auditors report. It was confirmed the auditors gave us a clean report

Explained the money in the old association was transferred to the new association where it appears as income. So, the old association donated all its money and assets to the new association and appears as income to the value of £334,749 which includes money and all assets.

On note 3 page 10, explains the transfer in detail so that this can be referred to in future.

This year's accounts have no comparison information to the previous year as this is a new association so there is nothing to compare with for last year.

Balance sheet information is on page 8.

Refer to note 10 on page 12, the hall was transferred to the new association. At the depreciated value of £147,030, the original historical cost of 188,500 is disclosed as a memo in the note.

The detail page gives last year figures to compare.
Donations are down from previous year by about £800
Gift aid is down from previous year
Hall hire income has increased
Utensils hire is down
Interest on deposit with Barclays bank is down
There was difficulty in transferring accounts to the new association. We are looking for a better performing bond that provides better interest.

2012 had good raffle ticket sales, whereas 2013 was down.
Batera party income for 2013 was £521 down from previous year, previous year volunteers paid £5 to attend and this increased profits.

Cricket event expenses was £2,285 and we made no money on this event.

Expense of Diwali party increased due to move from Copland to Kadwa Patidar hall, plus better catering

Within Governance Costs, Professional Fees increased from £1,498 to £5,191 this is due to the cost of solicitor fees associated with starting the new association.

Net movement in funds. shows a loss of £14000.

Mahendra Hargovind Kabawala (MHK) Asked if we are going to get Rates relief from the Brent council? **MVK** said yes but less amount.

Navin Durlabhbhai Vakharia (NDV): Bhajan Shandya expense of £750 and income of £57, I like to know how many people are attending and is it worth to continue with it?

MVK said the Bhajans is not about making money its to offer a cultural event to the community. The cost is not relevant. There is no income other the arti income which is low.

Sudhir Dayaram Khatri (SDK) said the trustees names are missing on Incorporation, why ?. **MVK** said that they are there and are only on when they were appointed.

SDK said that membership fees appears to be is receding. **MVK** said in 2013 we had a campaign to collect, and we are aiming to start this again. **Damyanti Atul Khatri (DAK)** said another reason was the cut off point for the accounts

MVK Thanked Prakash Thakorlal Jariwala for preparing the accounts and submitting on time and incurring no penalties.

Pravin Thakorlal Jariwala (PTJ) said telephone calls of £253 can we disconnect this if not needed? **MVK** said it has been disconnected.

NDV said our Charity has cash reserve of £164,000 and net asset of £318,174. Last time there was a statement that balance sheet of the charity is strong this has now been removed what is the reason? **MVK** said this was because we made a loss and that statement was inappropriate.

AAH asked what is the average attendance of Bajan? **MVK** said that at a guess its 40+, and we will continue next year also. **AAH** said we should encourage each person attending to bring 2-3 people with them, otherwise attendance will decrease.

Ravi Pravinchandra Jariwala (RPJ) said that donations should be clear in the accounts. **MVK** said he agreed but it was difficult due to time restraints.

MVK said Arti money is always donated to charities.

Accounts were approved by:

- Sudhir Dayaram Khatri (**SDK**)
- Purnima Pramod Khatri (**PPK**)

3. Appointment of Auditors

KRM asked about approving the existing auditors MCT Partnership.

This was approved by
- Naresh Shantilal Kapadia
- Ganesh Dipak Khatri

4. Approval of Resolutions

4.1 Fiancée s of community members who are not members of the SKA community being allowed to attend SKA events.

KRM explained this relates to community members who are due to get married to non community members, and where the marriage date has been announced in the appropriate media. In this case should Fiancées be allowed to attend all SKA organised events, a discussion followed about this.

MVK confirmed this resolution only relates to community members whose wedding date has been announced. It's not applicable to boyfriends and girlfriends. Although welcome discussion about that as well.

MHK said that Inter cast is what we are discussing and this is common now. We should allow them, but take a fee. Also if they are long term boy and Girl friends we should allow them also. **MVK** said that for boy and girl friends, how would you define long term? The SKA committee have discussed this and we only suggest fiancées can attend if the wedding as per the resolution..

Ganesh Dipak Khatri (GDK) said in principle he agrees, but with a membership fee. **MVK** said he doesn't agree with fee, It gives wrong impression.

AAH agreed with **MVK** but we should judge how much commitment they have to SKA? There are some parents and their children who are not paying their fees. If the fiancées start paying their fees then maybe they will continue.

MVK Confirmed for all newly married couples, SKA are sending them membership fee request to pay.

GDK said If the member did not pay a fee where does it leave that person for attending events, attending AGM and voting rights. **MVK** said SKA would probably let them vote and attend events. This will only happen 4 or 5 times in a year.

Vinod Natverlal Khatri (VNK) said once its announced in the newsletter, then we send a membership request in the following Nov. So, there is no chance of missing out from getting the membership fee.

Kiran Kantilal Jadav (KKJ) said if non-member can attend all events then what is the difference between member and non member? Secondly, if the wedding is announced can they stand for election? We should take membership fee. **MVK** said it's only a short term problem, max 1 or 2 years. IF they want to run in election maybe they should pay membership. If the anticipation is that they will pay the membership fee, they can attend all events. In money terms its probably £100.

Prakash Thakorlal Jariwala (PTJ) said that when our own children become 18, we capture their payment and we collect accordingly. We need to welcome new members.

Rashmi Bhupendra Khatri (RBK) said member must be a fee paying member.

KRM suggested taking a vote on the resolution.

Approved to attend events without paying fee was passed.

5. Approve an Increase in the membership fee from £10 to £15

KRM gave a back ground to the proposed increase. Indicated factors such as last increase was in 2006. Since then expenses have gone up, Navratri expenses, Diwali party expenses, hence proposal to increase to £15.

Chhaganlal Ambaram Khatri (CAK) said that Instead of increasing the fee we should be reducing the fee, even below £10 it should be £5.

VNK said our members are in very good job positions, in some communities they donate part of their monthly salary to their communities, our expenses are many, and we should be moving forward. We should be able to increase to £15 or £20 or more. We should support the increase in membership fees.

MHK said in the accounts, membership fees are £8580, the Diwali party alone cost £9843. Our membership fee does not even cover the cost of the Diwali party. The £5 increase should be £25.

Kiran Narhari Kapadia (KNK) said if members prefer they can pay the £15 membership fee and give £5 less donation.

AAH agreed to increase the fee. But, we have 860 paid up members. Do we know how many should actually be paying fees? Anil estimated paying members should be over 1,100. A previous committee has chased up around 200 non paying members. Anil estimated that there could be up to 300 non-

paying members currently and 100 households are not paying any donation. Increase fee, but make it compulsory to pay, otherwise they cannot come to any SKA function. Donation will go down in future. The pink donation slips is a good idea, but they end up in pockets unused.

MVK said committee members were are working hard to encourage all members to donate. Also, we believe paid up members is probably about 900. Its hard to police in events if attendees are paid up members or not.

Dhirajlal Maganlal Kapadia (DMK) Commented on a previous committee held outing and it was 70% subsidised. Each house hold only receives one newsletter. Commented donation should reflect the cost running events.

PTJ said the membership fee should be increased to £20 as it will remain this for the next 10 years, this is because we are making losses year on year. Bank interest off set this in previous years but this is not the case now.

Mahendra Jagmohan Gohil (MJG) Commented the accounts do show losses for each year and £5 increase sounds reasonable. But, we should chase up those members who are not paying their membership fees. He does not agree with the pink slip method for collecting donation. Going around and speaking to people can often increase donation. The pink slip method should be scrapped. **MVK** said we have last year followed up on non paying members, and will do same this year. The pink slip method is the one used in India and we believe it works.

KRM said going around to ask people for donation can be quite disruptive to enjoying the Mahotsav.

Someone watching the AGM webcast commented that SKA should name and shame all non paying members.

Nayan Bharat Vakaria (NBV) Suggested that we should create an account on the SKA web site to pay a fee to get a voucher which enables them to enter a SKA event.

MHK said that is the responsibility of the parents to ensure their children pay membership fees.

KRM initiated a vote to approve increasing the membership fee to £15.
- Approved

KRM initiated a new vote and a new resolution to approve increasing the fee to £20
- Not approved

6. AOB

6.1 Proposal form committee not carrying out floral presentations in Wedding

KRM provided a back ground to the reasoning behind the proposal. This included difficulties to attend during week days, it's an outdated tradition, there are a lot more weddings, some outside London, difficult to get time off work for committee members, other samaj unfamiliar with our protocols. etc.

MJG said in most weddings there is usually a committee member or two attending who can carry out the presentation. What other things are you going to cease doing?, Committee should think carefully before stopping the floral presentation.

DPK Suggested **MJG** should create a sub committee to attend wedding for the floral presentations.

NDV said that other committees don't do floral presentations and he is in favour of stopping this practise.

KRM Initiated a Vote to cease doing floral presentations.

- The proposal was approved, effective from Jan 2015.

6.2 Proposal to remove the Pramukh photos from the SKA Hall

MVK Provided the back ground to this proposal. The hall hiring was being impeded due to the photos. Some hirers covered up the photos with balloons during their event. **Vinod Chhaganlal Khatri (VCK)** suggested the photos be transferred to a large frame which has smaller frames in which the pramukh photos will be housed. The frame will can be displayed in entrance passage way to the main hall.

Girdharlal Bhanabhai Balsara (GBB) Asked to clarify what has been decided in this proposal? Suggested an alternative of installing a curtain to cover the photos. **MVK** thought **GBB** suggestion was difficult to maintain going forward.

KRM asked if anyone else had any other comments. No further comments and it was approved to relocate the Pramukh photos.

MHK Suggested the hall needed to be renovated, including installing under floor heating, also suggested installing a baby changing room. **MVK** Agreed that hall does need work to bring it up to date. The floor is being considered to be replaced. As for the cold floor, SKA will invest in electric blankets.

KRM Provided an update of the fire door situation: SKA have withdrawn our proposal to erect a fire door. This issue is closed now. The focus will be on re-decorating the hall.

MHK said for next year's SKA committee election, new candidates should be placed at the top of the ballot paper, as some members vote from top down and end up voting for only the first 10 candidates. For example Sandeep is not well known, so should be on top of the ballot paper. **PTJ** Didn't agree with **MHK**, names should be in alphabetical order. **KRM** said this will be reviewed next year.

PPK said there are sports events but they were all targeted for men. How about sport events for girls. Ask for suggestions in newsletter

Bhavin Praful Narottam (BPN) via webcast, Asked whether we are allowed to bring friends to Navratri and if so, can we charge them? **MVK** gave an example that Kadwa Patidar Samaj, they charge for non members and they have more paying attendance.

Harendra Dirajlal Khatri (HDK) said that when an ex-resident of London passes away whilst residing abroad then that person's name should be included in the obituary announcement at Mahotsav. **MVK** thanked **HDK** for his comments and agreed that this matter would be taken into consideration.

VNK Commented that this year the committee experienced unexpected problems for the Mahotsav, for example items for the programme, unavailability of a venue. The committee worked very hard and this is the time to appreciate them. In short time they found a suitable hall and a run a very successful Mahotsav. . They gave their own time, volunteering their services. Its our duty to support them. Everyone to come to whatever events are arranged and enjoy them.

AAH said with regards to social evening, we should give our community priority over Darji Samaj. Secondly, as we have few people attending we should allow late bookings. Sometime Darji samaj book before our samaj deadline. **Raj Pravinchandra Khatri (RPK)** we give our samaj plenty of time to book and they can't book after deadline has lapsed.

PTJ said ladies don't usually come to the social evening, they are generally vegetarian. They like home cook food, if we did this then more ladies would come to the social evening.

Mahendra Mohanlal Khatri (MMK) said at social evening we have happy hour, we should only allow happy hour drinks for people who are actually there and not allow others to purchase drinks for those who come later. **MMK** suggested scrapping Happy Hour altogether. **MVK** agreed.

It was agreed to cancel Happy Hour at Social Evenings.

AGM concluded at 17.15pm

The above is a true representation of the proceedings derived from the notes made at the meeting.

Ratified by Mukesh Vallabhbai Khatri – President

Ratified by Kamlesh Ratilal Motiram – Secretary

Dated 25th September 2015