



The Scout Association of Malta
National Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly
for the year 2021
held on the 21 February 2023.

The AGA started at 1822hrs after a quorum was reached with 81 members online and 28 members physically present. One member sent a proxy. The number of members present continued to increase to 114 members present by the time the accounts were approved.

The Chief Scout introduced the meeting and we started with a short prayer.

1. The meeting was recorded, and no objections were raised.
2. Questions were raised on the Chief Commissioners report and on why the AGA was held so late. It was clarified that the Chief Commissioner's report is the whole report and that the meeting was delayed due to the delay in the finalisation of the accounts.
3. The agenda was approved with a clarification that the minutes to be approved were those of the AGA for 2020.
4. The minutes of the AGA of 2020 were approved.
5. The CS gave an overview of the work carried out in 2021 by the Council, in particular highlighting the developments in accounts at Group level and strengthening the FAR committee. A question was raised on the status of the NSYC. The CS explained that a proposal is being drafted and that will be proposed for the GA's approval for incorporation of the NSYC into the National Council by increasing the number of youth members. There was a proposal for the NSC to better report on the work it is doing, possibly by publishing the minutes or excerpts of the NSC meetings.
6. The CC gave a brief overview of the work carried out during 2021. 2021 was a tough year for all the Association because of Covid. The CC thanked all the leaders who gave their commitment during this year. He observed that the number of leaders increased, and the average age decreased. He noted that we are here for the kids and especially for their safety. It is important that our focus should always be the children. The CC's targets for 2023 are to improve communications between IHQ and the Groups. There are more than 500 tasks pending at IHQ level and the new employee should help reduce this load. The CC thanked the CS who will be stopping this year and Claudette Camilleri who will be stepping down as Beaver Commissioner this year. From the floor, it was pointed out that the report does not give justice to the volume of work carried out during the year in question. It was also suggested that the NSC publishes a [summary](#) of its work as part of the annual report.



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The Chief Commissioner's report was approved nem con (as presented).

7. The FC gave an overview of the accounts and budget. Peter Degiorgio explained that Darren Mercieca was the Finance Commissioner for 2021. The FC noted that although there was a surplus shown in 2021, this was due to a one-off payment related to the Ghajn Tuffieha car park project. If this is taken out of consideration, the Association made a loss in 2021. The balance sheet shows a strong position for the Association.

The Finance Commissioner observed that the Group reports are again not included in these accounts. GSLs and Group Treasures were encouraged to speak to the FC if there are any difficulties to complete the sheet. A question was raised on the status the sheet - the FC noted that the issue is only one cell which is locked and hence no amendment is required. The FC was thanked by a GSL for his offer of help to complete the accounts. A question was raised on the donation by Heavenly Group to the Association which was then loaned to TSAM Ltd to carry out the works. It was clarified that the Association had carried out a due diligence process on the loan and took legal advice on the procedure carried out.

Another proposal from the floor was that groups should be presented separately in the accounts. It was clarified that all the active groups submitted their accounts for 2021, though 3 groups were late. There was a discrepancy between the amounts reported as paid by the groups and the amounts reported as received by the Association. The FC will investigate this.

The Chief Commissioner pointed out that expenses are increasing and that increases in the membership fees will be proposed for 2024. The CC noted that the Association would have liked to have the group accounts audited but this should now happen next year.

The Accounts for 2021 were approved nem con.

8. A question was raised on why the budget of 2023 was being discussed. The CC explained that this was an anomaly in that the Constitution and hence two years of budget were being submitted since the current year's budget are approved in mid-year.

The discrepancy between the Scout Shop income for 2022 and 2023 was because of an expected recovery of sales to pre-pandemic levels.



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The budget was approved nem con.

9. The FAR Committee Chairman pointed out that the account reporting is still weak and the accounts for both 2020 and 2021 were late. He also pointed out that an association strategy needs to be developed. The FAR Committee Chairman clarified that there was no access to the process of auditing for the 2021 accounts, and their work was to facilitate the work of the auditor and support the Groups in preparing their accounts. The NSC representative on the FAR committee pointed out that there are legal obligations on the Association to comply. He also explained that during the past 3 months there was a significant improvement in the communication between the NSC and the FAR Committee.

Two GSLs also requested more training on the keeping of the accounts and legal requirements, especially for young leaders.

10. The same auditors for 2021 were proposed for 2022. The proposal was approved nem con.

11. The uniform motion was discussed. The CC explained the process. The motion will be discussed today and subsequently an online vote will be taken during the next week. The main proposer explained the motion and the rationale for the motion, as listed in the motion itself. Birkirkara GSL explained that she had the support of the Group leaders and that she also had the support of several other GSLs who seconded the motion.

The CC explained the implications of the motion as identified by the Executive, without going into the merits of the motion. These included:

- The current contract with the suppliers would have to be revised and there will be financial repercussions.
- The design of the current badges would need to be changed to be compatible with the activity wear, and hence there will be costs on the stock.
- The Executive also had concerns about what why the uniform is being changed. The activity wear has different colours, and the badges need to consider these different colours.

Points raised by the floor included:



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- the annual parade with activity wear was not smart;
- the costs of the uniform are high, but some groups are recycling used uniforms;
- having the activity wear shows lack of professionalism;
- there are no known associations which have a track suit as a uniform;
- the current activity wear does not have standard shorts or trousers;
- we should love our uniform and use it more often;
- the cost compared to the time the uniform is used is high and the uniform should be used more often for other activities than parades;
- funds should be available for families in need;
- if we should make away with anything it should be the activity wear not the uniform;
- uniforms are used frequently in groups, including a meeting once a month and during camps;
- membership in Britian fell when they made away with uniform for a few years;
- the kids chose the uniform;
- the motion focuses on the parade, but we should focus on other activities as well;
- if this motion passes, the groups who retain the uniform could have a higher cost due to lower demand;
- the presentation during national events would untidy.

Replies by the proposer included:

- the proposal is for the Birkirkara Group to have the option to wear the activity wear, not for other groups;
- all members attending this AGA were wearing the activity wear;
- the uniform is not comfortable to wear, particularly during the shoulder months
- the uniform is not practical;
- the second-hand option was considered;
- work places are not requiring smart wear for work.



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12 The outgoing Chief Scout thanked all those who worked with him during his term. The pandemic presented a different challenge. Scouting is something for the children's future and we are there to present a role for the future of our scouts. From 32 members of the Civil Protection who volunteered to go to Turkey to help during the earthquake, 12 were ex Scouts. He congratulated the incoming Chief Scout.

The incoming Chief Scout thanked the outgoing Chief Scout and the large teams who are volunteering and two employees of the Association, as well as the

He explained his wish to see an Association that is stronger in terms of governance, resilience, administration, youth participation, the repairs of IHQ, and the communication between IHQ and Groups and within Groups. It is important to have a common strategy for the Association. We are here for our members to reach their potential in a safe environment, and the way we administer the Association is instrumental to us achieving these aims.

The Assembly remembered Ing Anthony Rizzo who passed away this year.

The meeting ended at 2000hrs.