

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly held on the 30 September 2023

The Assembly was held in hybrid format at St Ignatius College, Handaq, with members also being able to attend online via TEAMS. Workshops were held prior to the AGA starting at 0830hrs in person.

The Assembly was chaired by the Chief Scout, Dr Kevin Camilleri. The head table included the Chief Commissioner, Mr Anton Pisani, and the Honorary Secretary, George Cassar.

The AGA started at 1112hrs, after a quorum of one member from each group, except for Birzebbugia, Dingli, Fgura, Iklin, Msida, Paola, Siggiewi, St Augustine, Tarxien and Zabbar, were confirmed at the start of the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

The Chief Scout asked for the approval of the Agenda. This was approved without objection.

Approval of minutes

CS asked for the approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly of the 21 February 2023, that were published on Scoutkeeper. These were approved with no objections.

Update by Chief Scout

The Chief Scout summarized the intensive work that was carried out in the past 7 months. For the first time, Groups were audited. However, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done here. The Chief Scout introduced Ms Elaine Borg Cardona as the new employee of the Association. Work has started on revising the structure of the organization. A regular account of the workings of the Council is being circulated by the Chief Scout on Scoutkeeper. A communications team has been set up and a survey is currently being carried out. Work is being carried out on the revision and update of the POR and the Constitution. Work is also being carried out on the IHQ to make it operational again. Another focus is on outreach to ex-members.

A white paper on strategy will be published soon taking into account feedback from today's workshops. Any strategy has to be owned by the Groups.

Island Head Quarters

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Chief Commissioner's Report

CC reported on the work carried out by the Executive and the Groups. A major activity this year was the Groups audit. A GSLs forum will be held after the AGA to present feedback from the audit. But briefly, receipts need to be kept for all ins and outs as far as possible. The audit process also needs to be improved.

We also have started to shift to ensure that there are people who are employed or an increase in the number of volunteers. It is unfair for an organisation this big to have only one employee, with administrative burden on volunteers.

The CC also emphasised that we need to stop infighting between adults because this creates useless problems.

The CC thanked Brian (funding), Timmy (communications), Fr Anton (Spiritual affairs), Peter (Finance) who have stepped down or are in the process of stepping down from their roles.. The Assembly indicated their thanks to the members who gave their time to the Association. The CC also thanked the Executive team individually including the incoming Finance Commissioner (Mark). The Assembly expressed their gratitude to the members of the Executive.

The CS noted that documents were distributed late and asked for the Assembly whether there are any objections to continuation of the meeting and approval of the documents.

The Annual Report was approved as distributed.

Annual Audited Financial Accounts for approval

The Commissioner for Finance presented the accounts. The importance of independent audits were emphasised. The outgoing Commissioner for Finance expressed his wish to continue supporting the Groups through training. A number of member of the Assembly thanked Peter for his service and support particularly during the audit.

A question was made on the accounts of Rinella. These are shown on page 16 of the accounts. Comments online were made about leaks in the showers and general upkeep of Rinella. These will be looked at after the AGA.

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The Auditor observed that Scout Groups were out of scope of the audit till this year. The objective is to continue along these lines and correct any deficiencies observed.

The floor requested a template of what the auditor will be requesting next year and which groups will be audited. These could not be supplied.

A member had a question on a detail on page 4 of the accounts. There were two items that were included in the total but were not replicated in the breakdown. These accounts were approved provided that these two items are corrected and re-distributed this evening.

Another point raised was whether the census should be calculated in January or another date. This will be discussed later.

Budget Proposal and Approval

The budget as presented in the Schedule of the Accounts was approved.

Appointment of Brincat and Associates as the Association's auditor for financial year 2020 for approval

The AGA approved the reappointment of GSB Malta Ltd as the auditor of SAM.

FAR committee report

The Chairperson of the FAR Committee expressed his appreciation for all the work of the GSLs who were audited for the excellent work carried out, given that this is the first time that groups were audited. The CS expressed his thanks to the whole team.

Presentation by TSAM Ltd

The Chairman of TSAM gave a presentation on the TSAM Ltd. There was a question on the fees for parking by scout campers. The feedback was that there needed to be a reduction in abuse. There was a suggestion that water and electricity metering for each bollard. The feedback was that the costs of metering were too high, and that was a fair use policy

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implemented. There was a suggestion of having a fence around the campsite. High ropes are not certified.

Conclusion

The CS noted that the discussion should not stop here and will continue. The amount of work necessary is extensive and we need additional resources, and maybe a renewed structure to ensure that we function properly. The CS thanked the members who attended as well as all members who believe in our values and continue to give their service to our youth members.

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