

The Scout Association of Malta

General Assembly

6th October 2010



Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of proposed Agenda
2. Minutes and matters arising there from
3. Opening speech by the Chief Scout
4. Presentation of motion and voting (if required)
5. Report by the Honorary Secretary
6. Report by the Honorary Treasurer
7. Discussion and questions from the floor
8. Closing speech and presentation by the Chief Scout

Attendees

63 Eligible Attendees. 55 Attendees to the meeting excluding 2 former Chief Scouts and a former Chief Commissioner and 39 members who attended as observers on the strangers gallery. Hon. Clyde Puli was also present for a brief presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Registration

Upon registration each member of the General Assembly was handed a pack containing the following:

1. The General Assembly Report "A Review of a Movement" with the following Contents:
 - a. A New Era for Scouting in Malta
 - b. Review of a Great Movement – 100 Years Later
 - c. Events
 - d. International Participation
 - e. Census 2006 – 2007 – 2008
 - f. The Role of the Scout Island Headquarters with a Mission "to Serve"
 - g. The Policy Committee
 - h. The Ghajn Tuffieha Campsite
 - i. Interesting Initiatives since the last General Assembly by the National Scout Council
 - j. The Finance Report
 - k. The Way Forward 2009 - 2012
2. Chief Commissioner's Report 2006-2009
3. A Detailed Report by the Training and Programme Department – Jun 2006 to Sep 2009
4. A Detailed International Activities Report by the International Department – 2008/2009
5. A Proposed Motion
6. A set of voting coloured papers
7. National Events Calendar

The Honorary Secretary asked for a slight amendment to the evening programme due to the commitments of Hon. Clyde Puli and the meeting started with a brief welcome to all the members present and formal welcome to the MP.

The Chief Scout explained that there was a very good relationship with the Youth and Sports section within the Ministry for Education. As one of the largest NGOs for non formal education, with the main goal to shape today's youths in tomorrows active citizens it is very important to have the right tools. The Chief Scout also mentioned the fact that it was also easier to communicate and understand each other given the Hon. Clyde Puli was a former member within the movement.

Hon. Clyde Puli delivered a short message praising the Association for its constant efforts towards our society. He also praised the constant challenges which the Association embarks upon for which he wanted to contribute in a tangible manner. Hon. Puli then presented a cheque of € 35,000 for the High Rope Project at Ghajn Tuffieha to the Chief Scout.

The Chief Scout thanked Hon. Puli for his constant support and for such a very much appreciated gesture. After pictures were taken, Hon. Puli left the meeting to allow for the formal proceedings to start.

The Honorary Secretary welcomed once again all the attendees with a special thanks for the former Chiefs for having accepted the invitation and also the very encouraging number of members on the strangers gallery that for the first time had an opportunity to attend as observers for a General Assembly Meeting. He also asked Fr. Anton Briffa, Arch Bishop's Delegate to the Scout Association of Malta to open the meeting with a Prayer.

The Honorary Secretary then proceeded to announce a proposal by International Commissioner and GSL Qrendi, David Schembri to observe a minute of silence in sign of respect to the late Paul Vella, former National Scout Council Member and the late Mr. Emmanuel Falzon, Former Sta. Venera Cub Scout Leader in recognition of their loyal and devoted service to our Association. The Proposal was seconded by Leslie Bonnici and a minute of silence was observed.

The Honorary Secretary explained the content of the registration pack and also the method of voting.

The Chief Scout was then introduced to deliver his address to the Assembly.

Opening Speech By The Chief Scout

The Chief Scout introduced the concept of a train journey gathering momentum to explain the current situation of the Association. He informed the meeting that a number of meetings both within and outside the Association were being held to ensure an all inclusive way forward which embraces everybody, whilst looking ahead without disregarding our values and traditions. He explained that the real challenge ahead will be the Mentality Change.

He also pointed out that changes were required at IHQ level to ensure better service to the Groups, at District Level to promote better communication and at Group Level to allow the younger generation of leaders to get more involved. The Chief Scout said that he felt that all this was already happening but like a train it needed to gain momentum.

The Chief Scout mentioned the reports that were prepared and distributed to all members to guarantee that all General Assembly members are kept well informed and are given the right opportunity to comment on the progress and to set the vision and direction for the future. Obviously there is no doubt that to be in this position today both the National Scout Council and the Executive Committee worked hard for the past 4 months and then continued to list an extract of what had been achieved.

Of special mention was the Scout-in-Need fund which thanks to the Fellowship and the Scout Shop had started to function and the new IHQ structure to be launched later in the year with call for applications to be sent out soon.

Presentation of motion and voting

The Chief Scout then explained that 4 months were too short to be able to set the new trend and given that the policy committee and the districts needed more time to discuss further the way forward as regards to the election of the Chief Commissioner, he proposed to debate the following motion:

'In view of the present state of affairs within The Scout Association of Malta and further to the motion approved at the last general assembly, the National Scout Council recommends that the Chief Scout should be allowed to retain the role of a/Chief Commissioner for a further period of time that is appropriate and until such time that the General Assembly which is planned to meet again in March 2010 will be ready to take a position on the issue relating to the Chief Commissioner position within the Scout Movement.'

'Furthermore the Chief Scout in his capacity of a/Chief Commissioner will be given the facility to appoint on a temporary basis a deputy Chief Commissioner until such time that a permanent decision is taken in the best interest of the Scout Association'

Further to some requested amendments it was agreed to split the 2 paragraphs of the motion in 2 separate motions and to take a secret vote on each. The motions were reworded as follows:

Motion 1

'In view of the present state of affairs within The Scout Association of Malta and further to the motion approved at the last general assembly, the National Scout Council recommends that the Chief Scout should be allowed to retain the role of a/Chief Commissioner for a further period of time but not later than the end of March when the General Assembly is planned to meet again to take a position on the issue relating to the Chief Commissioner position within the Scout Movement.'

Motion 2

'The Chief Scout in his capacity of a/Chief Commissioner will be given the facility to appoint on a temporary basis an Acting Deputy Chief Commissioner until such time that a permanent decision is taken in the best interest of the Scout Association'

The Assembly also appointed 2 members from the strangers gallery to act as an electoral commission and assisted by the Honorary Secretary. The election results were announced as follows:

Motion 1: 51 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention
Motion 2: 47 in favour, 7 against and 1 abstention

Report by the Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Secretary introduced himself since he had been serving in the post for a very short time. He continued to explain that most of what is being communicated today should be no news to the assembly members as all of the meetings at national level were being minuted and a resume posted on Scout Keeper in line with the new transparency policy.

He also took the opportunity to thank all those that made a difference in the past as it was thanks to them that were still meeting after a 100 years and also mentioned some of the achievements of the previous council even though the honorary secretary had only served for the last 2 meetings.

The Honorary Secretary then proceeded to highlight some of the achievements of the other departments:

The Training Department which thanks to a dedicated team had without any doubt made a real difference with the new adult programme, reviewing of section programmes, organizing a number of sectional activities and taking over all of the national events.

The International Department, which thanks to the constant commitment and dedication of the International Commissioner had managed to place Malta on the International Scouting Map, promoted and succeeded in gaining funds and opportunities for all those Groups who managed to take advantage of these and also took part to an impressive number of international events.

He then explained that there was no need to mention the finance as the Honorary Treasurer would be addressing the meeting next and therefore passed on to highlight some of the plans for his own department, namely the Administration Department. He started by thanking his team including the 3 members of the fellowship who had recently joined to lend a hand, for all the efforts they put in. He explained that priorities had been set with a particular focus on internal and external communication and both the Association's and Groups records.

He explained that time was a limiting factor and whilst his involvement in I.T. should prejudice his preference towards the use of emails, msn, sms and the likes, he pointed out that there is nothing like personal face to face communication as body language has a language of its own and tends to minimise misunderstandings. Unfortunately this was not always possible with the constant flow of information and that we should all understand that we are all on the same boat pulling one rope and should avoid getting lost in tiny details and instead concentrate on what we are all here for, that is the well being of our young members.

The Honorary Secretary closed his address with a plea to all present to understand that the council and commissioners are genuinely trying to be closer to the Groups and to the Groups' needs and that this can be achieved with the right cooperation so that the IHQ Team will be in a better position to serve to all the Groups, which is what an Association exists for.

Report by the Hon Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer presented his report which had been distributed as part of the General Assembly Report and then proceeded to answer a number of questions from the floor.

Closing speech and presentation by the Chief Scout

The Chief Scout thanked all those present for the full participation and for a very positive environment. He also thanked the strangers gallery for their presence and all the attendees for the confidence shown in him. He continued that the future holds an interesting pathway with a new mentality and a transparent approach and that today's assembly was only the starting point to establish a strong team for the way

forward. In order to achieve this, we need to forget 'old' perceptions and look forward to work with everybody.

The Chief Scout then proceeded to present a small token of appreciation to the former Chief Commissioner J.G. Grech and former Chief Scouts J.G. Rizzo and Vince Cassar as a thank you for their service to the movement. The Chief Scout also informed the attendees that former Chief Commissioner Godwin D'Anastasi could not be with us today, but that the token shall be passed on at the next event.

The Chief Scout then closed the meeting with a letter addressed to the General Assembly by H.E. George Abela, President of Malta and Patron of the Scout Association of Malta who praised the Association for offering its full support towards the upcoming Istrina charity event and also proposed the idea of a President's Group to be awarded to the Group that comes up with the most creative idea to raise funds for such a worthy cause.

The meeting came to an end with the Honorary Secretary inviting all the attendees for light refreshments.

Minutes approved on
Date

By:

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Kenneth De Martino
Chief Scout
The Scout Association of Malta

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Robert Gonzi
Honorary General Secretary
The Scout Association of Malta