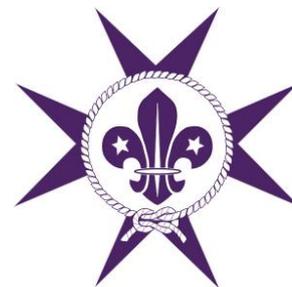


The Scout Association of Malta

General Assembly

13th May 2010



Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of the proposed Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Report by the Scout Council (October 09 - March 2010)
5. Presentation of motions followed by discussion and election
6. Election for the post of National Scout Council Uniformed Member

Attendees

63 Eligible Attendees. 53 Attendees to the meeting excluding the observers on the strangers gallery.

The meeting started with a prayer and the Scout Promise.

1. Approval of the proposed Agenda

The agenda for the meeting had been sent to all the General Assembly (GA) members prior to the meeting. The proposed agenda was confirmed for the meeting. The Chief Scout pointed out that this meeting was not an Annual General Meeting and therefore there would not be any official reports. These will be presented at the next AGM to be held in October 2010.

2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes had been distributed to all the General Assembly members prior to the meeting and were taken as read. The Chief Scout asked for any corrections. There being no corrections, the Chief Scout asked the members for 2 members to approve the minutes. Mr. Vincent Vella, GSL Xghara Scout Group and Pierre Mangion, District Commissioner for the North District seconded the minutes.

3. Matters Arising

The Chief Scout reminded all those present that the Association was a fully registered organisation the Voluntary Organisations ACT and our obligations were to be upheld. He reminded all the GSLs present about the importance to submit the Group Accounts as early as possible so that the finance department would be able to consolidate and present within the tight deadline that we have.

The Chief Scout also mentioned that further to the presentation of the tokens of appreciation to the former Chief Scouts and Chief Commissioners, he had received words of thanks which he was asked to revert to all the GA members.

4. Report by the Scout Council (October 09 - March 2010) Presented by the Chief Scout

'This is the second General Assembly being held following my election as Chief Scout on 2nd June 2009. This report, which for clarity sake is not the annual report of the Scout Council achievements in the first year of operation, is being referred to as an update report confirming the direction that has been taken by the council and the Movement. It also highlights the failures and lack of achievements in the first eleven months of my election as Chief Scout.

I must admit that my first task was the concept of reunification within the Scout Movement. I have listened to all the different views within our Association and I do feel that although I cannot as yet, say that we have been 100% successful, I can certainly say a much higher level of tolerance and understanding is coming from certain quarters and is being felt at IHQ and even at Scout Council level. Our "cancerous cells" are under control and we are healing slowly but I must admit that the time will have to come that some cells will have to be completely removed if healing is not an option!

I must say that despite all my efforts to have an election for the Chief Commissioner with all transparency and with no "foul play" and/or unjust lobbying (as we have all experienced in the past) I still ended up being criticised by a few who prefer to see the negative side rather than look at what has been achieved and what still needs to be achieved. At this point scouters allow me to say good luck to the new Chief Commissioner who has made it clear to me that he will respect the opinion of all the assembly members but governing a movement will need difficult decisions and I for one will be ready to support and I sincerely hope that all Assembly members will also do the same.

During the last few months I had the opportunity to work closer with various leaders of the Movement in particular during the National Scout Conference held last February for all young leaders and also at district events. Whilst I am very happy to report that Scouting at this level is functioning well allow me to ask a question to this Assembly. Are you all representing the ideas and thoughts of your leaders? Permit to say that some of you are miles away from reality and do not realise that this Movement is not about votes and who has the power but it is about creating a better world and giving new opportunities to our younger generation to become great leaders in Malta and who will soon inherit the management of the Scout movement from the leaders of today.

I cannot omit to mention that we had a great Annual Parade. Most of us were proud to display our Groups to the public. Well done but I have once again started to feel that internal issues relating to the management of this Movement are clouding our vision and the train journey we started together could go astray if we are not careful. Allow me to elaborate.

The Group Scout leaders have a mission in Scouting. What is it? They are supposedly managing adults in Scouting for the benefit of our Movement. Is this happening or are we more interested in who has a vote at a General assembly and who has the ultimate power?

The Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners who offer their services to the Movement should be black listed I ask? Should they have a limited say in the effective management of the Association? Perhaps some of us want a "Cabinet" without voting Powers!! I think that the majority would agree with me that this would be a great mistake for all of us and we should understand that IHQ needs to manage and will then explain their actions to this Assembly. Keep in mind that we are part of an international organisation and we cannot "play" with our constitution.

The District Commissioners (DC) should and is the representative of the Chief Commissioner(CC) at a district level. He or she should express the views of the Executive Committee and of the CC. Is this happening I ask? Perhaps it is, perhaps it isn't! Perhaps we do not understand what the true role of a DC should be! These are very worrying to me as the Chief Scout.

My role as Acting Chief Commissioner has come to an end and in eleven months I certainly did my utmost to SERVE in the best interest of the Movement. I have tried to give direction and I have highlighted most shortcomings. I did NOT have enough time to solve them BUT they are highlighted for appropriate action to be taken. I have made the Movement more transparent in its management and I hope that more still has to come. I have listened to all members of the Assembly and I have taken all views into consideration before any decision was taken. I have put the Scout Council (YOUR ELECTED COUNCIL) in the centre of everything and made sure that there is better understanding between the Council, the Executive and even the Scout Groups. I have created a strangers Gallery (although not very much used) and I have tried to make sure that we have a smooth transition from the past into the future. I do admit that I am to be criticised for what I have done and for what I have not done, which is not a problem at all, but I hope that such judgement will be done in a very fair manner. I have already been hit hard for changing IHQ structures as some members feel that I did not have the authority, I have been criticised for having offered my services to my country and participated in a hamlet election. Please, I am adult enough to know what needs to be done and what is ethical and what is not ethical. I will never be a leader who will be afraid to take decisions and to lead and I hope that all our Group Scout leaders will be open to similar attention as this will be the way forward for our Movement. GSL's want to be in the lime light and they will certainly be in such a position. They will be given full attention but they will have to act as GSL's and carry out their duties appropriately.

As your Chief Scout I have no further Executive powers as we now have an elected Chief Commissioner. But you have a Chief Scout who is determined to eradicate all the petty issues that are still haunting this Movement. You have a Chief Scout who will not give up and who will together with the Scout Council get the Association back on track in all areas that we are presently failing. My aim is to be the rock behind the General Assembly and the Chief Commissioner, his team and all the Scout Groups who truly believe in scouting!

Finally I hope that today our Assembly will once again go down on record as being another great meeting with Scouters who are ready to look ahead and who are ready to be the pioneers of the future. We are here to SERVE and not to BE SERVED. The National Scout Council needs the Support of all of you to be able to serve you better.

Good luck to all and please do not let down your Scout Movement.'

5. Presentation of motions followed by discussion and election

The Honorary General Secretary presented each motion as they had been distributed to the GA. In cases where a contra motion had been sent in, he presented this as well and then opened the floor for discussion so that an agreement could be reached on the exact text for each motion prior to taking a vote.

Motion 1 Dissolution Clause

Proposed by: Mr. Kenneth DeMartino, Chief Scout
Seconded by: Mr. Robert Gonzi, Honorary General Secretary

Should the necessity arise to dissolve the Scout Association of Malta, the decision to liquidate shall be taken by the General Assembly, requiring a majority three-quarters vote of the present members in accordance with Article XV and Article XVII of the constitution.

The General Assembly shall be further required to form a three member committee with the aim of completing the liquidation process including the disposal of the Association's assets, whilst seeking out possibilities that such assets be distributed amongst "like minded" organisations.

Further to a debate it was concluded that the text 'within the Maltese Islands' should be added at the end of the proposed text. This was done as the majority of the GA members felt that any possessions of the Association, in such a case, should be passed on to other Maltese organisations.

Motion 2 Policy Committee

Proposed by: Mr. Kenneth DeMartino, Chief Scout
Seconded by: Mr. Robert Gonzi, Honorary General Secretary

The National Scout Council recommends that the Policy Committee, as outlined in Chapter VII of the Constitution, should not remain a separate committee at the same level of the Executive Committee, but should instead fall directly under the National Scout Council as any other Sub Committee whilst retaining its current functions and vacancy procedures.

Further more, the composition should be as follows: A Chairperson and another 2 members appointed by the National Scout Council and another 2 members elected by the Group Scout Leaders Forum who may not necessarily be Group Scout Leaders but one of whom must be under the age of 30 on the day of the election. The term of office shall be that of 2 years.

Counter Motion received by the District Commissioners

The Honorary General Secretary asked for a Proposer and Seconder

Proposed by: Mr. Vince Farrugia, GSL Attard Group
Seconded by: Mr. Edgar Borg, AGSL Msida Sea Scouts

The Districts would like to point out that since the Policy Committee was always chaired by a council member appointed directly by the National Scout Council, the Policy Committee was always a sub-committee to the National Scout Council thus was never at par with the Executive Committee.

Furthermore, in view of the position the General Assembly took after the June 2009 elections where it was clearly noted that an all inclusive approach will be adopted, the Districts recommend that the composition of the Policy Committee should be as follows;

- *A chairperson appointed by the National Scout Council.*
- *Four (4) GSLs appointed by the GSLs' Forum, where there shall be one GSL from each District.*
- *Two (2) IHQ Staff appointed by the IHQ Forum, who may not necessarily be Commissioners.*

Furthermore

- *One or more of the above six (6) members shall be under the age of thirty (30) on the day of formation of the Committee.*
- *The term of office for all above posts including that of the Chairperson shall be that of three (3) years.*

The Chief Scout explained that the motion above was being proposed to facilitate the work of the policy committee. He continued that It is essential that we look at this important organ of our movement as a working team. The difficulties encountered within the policy committee as it is, were especially due to the fact that the CS, aiming to distribute further the discussion process, had recommended to restructure the composition of the Policy Committee in such a way that 4 GSLs were included. This was meant to allow a representative from each District, but had turned out to be counter effective as this resulted in the policy not being able to move forward before each representative went back to the district to seek voting direction. The Chief Scout went on to briefly explain a working model for the Policy Committee – Represented here in point form:

- The Policy Committee shall discuss policies which would have been delegated by the Executive Committee originating from either: the Executive Committee meetings; GSL's Forum; IHQ Forum or even a proposal by an individual member.
- Minutes are kept for every meeting and an agenda is to be sent to all Policy Committee members at least 1 week in advance.
- The members appointed/elected on the Policy Committee are not representing the body appointing/electing them. They are to seek the interests of all the members of Scout Association of Malta in a holistic approach. They must act based on their own experience, knowledge and ideas to recommend the best possible policy.
- The Policy Committee may at any time seek professional advice within or even outside of the Scout Association of Malta and may ask any person to attend any meeting they deem fit on a consultative basis. The committee may also establish sub committees as and when needed.
- The policy committee may meet as frequently as may be necessary.
- The policy is then sent to the National Scout Council for final approval.
- If approved, and the policy does not require a change to the constitution, the policy shall be communicated by the Honorary General Secretary to all the members and the necessary amendments shall be documented. If on the other hand, the policy approved requires a change in the Constitution, the policy proposed shall be presented as a motion at the first General Assembly and only communicated and documented once and as approved.

Mr. Martin Bonnici, DC South, highlighted the fact that we lack written procedures and he proposed that the working method as briefed by the Chief Scout should be documented and distributed.

Further to a debate it was agreed to vote for the counter motion with only one difference, that being of 2 or 4 GSLs in the composition of the committee, to be referred to as Motion 2A for 2 GSLs and Motion 2B for 4 GSLs respectively. Motion 2B was proposed by Mr. Kenneth DeMartino, Chief Scout and seconded by Mr. Martin Azzopardi.

Motion 3 IHQ Structure

Proposed by: Mr. Leslie Bonnici, Chief Commissioner
Seconded by: Mr. Robert Gonzi, Honorary General Secretary

The General Assembly is hereby approving the following IHQ Structure to replace the current Article XXVI para. 'Composition of Departments':

Chief Commissioner; Deputy Chief Commissioner; Commissioner for Administration; Commissioner for Finance; Commissioner for Programme and Development; International Commissioner; A number of District Commissioners.

Furthermore the Executive Committee may recommend any other Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and IHQ Officers as may be needed from time to time, as long as the Scout Groups retain at least 60% of the total eligible voting members at General Assembly Meetings.

Any such appointments are to be issued in accordance with Article XXVI para. 2 of the constitution

Counter Motion received by the District Commissioners

The Honorary General Secretary asked for a Proposer and Seconder

Proposed by: Mr. Joseph Saliba, GSL Qormi Scout Group
Seconded by: Mr. Vince Farrugia, GSL Attard Group

The Districts are in agreement with paragraph one (1) and two (2) of Motion 3 thus labelling the incumbent Commissioners as Heads of Departments. The wording as stated in the motion 'A number of District Commissioners' should be rephrased to read 'The District Commissioners'.

Further more, with reference to paragraph three (3), the Districts are recommending that for the sake of clarity of the appointments any further appointments that the Executive Committee may issue from time to time as the need arises, these shall only carry the ranks of Assistant Commissioner or IHQ Staff.

With regards to voting rights this should reflect the position of the Scout Groups and a one vote per Department will be adopted.

A debate followed. The Chief Scout explained that, as he had indicated in his presentation earlier in the meeting, he felt it was unfair and unproductive should the Assistant Commissioners, who are an integral part of the Association team, be left out of a right to have a say at the GA. Some comments from the floor were this as they felt that the IHQ Administration would end up having too much weight in the decision process and instead the head of department should vote as a representative of his/her team.

The Honorary General Secretary explained that it was exactly the reason why the 40% limit on IHQ votes was being proposed in the original motion, so as to ensure that the IHQ team never outweighs the Groups. He explained that this was in fact a better ratio in the Groups' favour than what was currently present in the Constitution. He continued that with the same argument as that presented in the counter motion, only the DC should be allowed to vote and that he should seek the opinion of his district's GSLs and vote accordingly. At this stage a few GA members protested that this would be against the principles of the new administration which is that of widening the participation of the decision making process and that in the same way as section leaders are not allowed to vote at the GA the same should apply for Assistant commissioners.

The Honorary Secretary, based on the final comment from the floor, proposed to reword the motion to allow all the appointed Scouters of the Scout Association of Malta to have a vote at the GA as this would guarantee a wider participation and also that the Groups would always have a much larger weight. This proposal was however turned down by a few on the floor who suggested we go for a vote with 2 motions.

It was agreed that the counter motion would be used with the only difference being whether the Assistant Commissioners should be considered as full members of the GA with voting rights referred to as Motion 3B, or not referred to as Motion 3A. Motion 3B was proposed by Mr. Kenneth DeMartino, Chief Scout and seconded by Mr. Martin Azzopardi.

Motion 4 Scouter Emeritus Appointment

Proposed by: Mr. Kenneth DeMartino, Chief Scout
Seconded by: Mr. Robert Gonzi, Honorary General Secretary

The National Scout Council acknowledges and is in favour of the Scouter Emeritus recognition to former uniformed members for services rendered to the Scout Movement, which recognition was approved by the National Scout Council further to a proposal by the Policy Committee in 2004.

However the General Assembly needs to ratify this recognition to an Honorary Life Membership rather than a Scouter Emeritus Appointment due to the fact that all appointments of the Scout Association of Malta carry a defined term of office.

Such members shall still be entitled to wear their uniform during scouting events organised by the Scout Movement which are approved by the Scout Association of Malta and shall also be entitled to any awards including the long service decoration award in such cases where the member is still providing a recognised service to the scout movement

This motion was agreed to go to vote as is.

6. Election for the post of National Scout Council Uniformed Member

The Honorary General Secretary explained the election procedure and also the new text of the motions complete with the different options and also offered assistance should anyone have any difficulties in understanding the voting method for the amended motions.

After the counting took place the Honorary General Secretary announced the results of the voting as follows:

Uniformed National Scout Council Member Election:
Election quota: Majority (50%+1) of casted votes = 27

Attendees: 53
Casted Votes: 52

O'Neill Mark: 19 votes
Saliba Joseph: 21 votes
Abstentions: 12 votes

None of the candidates reached the required quota and therefore a new election will need to be held.

Motions:

Requiring 2/3 (35) Majority of casted votes in line with article XXXVI point 1 of the Constitution of the Scout Association of Malta.

Attendees: 53
Casted Votes: 52

Motion 1.	Dissolution Clause:	50 in favour; 2 Against - Passed
Motion 2.	Option A - Policy Committee :	21 votes - Failed
Motion 2.	Option B - Policy Committee :	31 votes - Failed
Motion 3.	Option A - IHQ Structure - A:	16 votes - Failed
Motion 3.	Option B - IHQ Structure - B:	36 votes - Passed
Motion 4.	Option A - Scouter Emeritus Appointment:	49 in favour; 1 against; 2 Abstentions - Passed

Motions passed are therefore the motions as follows:

Motion 1 Dissolution Clause

Should the necessity arise to dissolve the Scout Association of Malta, the decision to liquidate shall be taken by the General Assembly, requiring a majority three-quarters vote of the present members in accordance with Article XV and Article XVII of the constitution.

The General Assembly shall be further required to form a three member committee with the aim of completing the liquidation process including the disposal of the Association's assets, whilst seeking out possibilities that such assets be distributed amongst "like minded" organisations within the Maltese islands.

Motion 3 B
IHQ Structure

The General Assembly is hereby approving the following IHQ Structure to replace the current Article XXVI para. 'Composition of Departments:

Chief Commissioner; Deputy Chief Commissioner; Commissioner for Administration; Commissioner for Finance; Commissioner for Programme and Development; International Commissioner; The District Commissioners.

Furthermore the Executive Committee may recommend any other Assistant Commissioners and IHQ Officers as may be needed from time to time. IHQ Officers shall not be considered to form part of the General Assembly.

Any such appointments are to be issued in accordance with Article XXVI para. 2 of the constitution.

Motion 4
Scouter Emeritus Appointment

The National Scout Council acknowledges and is in favour of the Scouter Emeritus recognition to former uniformed members for services rendered to the Scout Movement, which recognition was approved by the National Scout Council further to a proposal by the Policy Committee in 2004.

However the General Assembly needs to ratify this recognition to an Honorary Life Membership rather than a Scouter Emeritus Appointment due to the fact that all appointments of the Scout Association of Malta carry a defined term of office.

Such members shall still be entitled to wear their uniform during scouting events organised by the Scout Movement which are approved by the Scout Association of Malta and shall also be entitled to any awards including the long service decoration award in such cases where the member is still providing a recognised service to the scout movement.

There being no other matters to discuss the meeting ended.

Minutes approved on
Date

By:

.....
Kenneth De Martino
Chief Scout
The Scout Association of Malta

.....
Robert Gonzi
Honorary General Secretary
The Scout Association of Malta