

The Scout Association of Malta

General Assembly Meeting Minutes

21st October 2010



Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of proposed Agenda
2. Minutes and matters arising there from
3. Opening speech by the Chief Scout
4. Report by the Honorary General Secretary
5. Report by the Honorary Treasurer
6. Questions from the floor
7. Election for the post of National Scout Council Uniformed Member
8. Presentation re the Ghajn Tuffieha International Scout Centre Developments
9. Closing speech and presentation by the Chief Scout

A full Annual Administrative Report and Financial Statements c/w audited accounts was presented to each member of the general assembly in electronic and hard copy formats prior to the meeting and are hereby being referred to but not reproduced as part of these minutes.

Attendees

67 Eligible Attendees. 59 Attendees to the meeting excluding the observers on the strangers gallery.

The meeting started at 6:00pm with a prayer and the Scout Promise.

1. Approval of the proposed Agenda

The Chief Scout welcomed all the members of the general assembly and also the members attending on the strangers gallery. 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. He then proceeded to ask the members to confirm that they have picked up their pack at the registration desk which should contain the following: The Annual Administrative Report and Financial Statements; Ballot Paper for the election of the vacant uniformed National Scout Council Member; Draft proposal for Election Procedures and the draft proposal for the Annual General Assembly Meeting Procedure.

In regards to the election, the Chief Scout confirmed his appointment of Mr. George Mangion and Mr. David Darmanin on the electoral commission and recommended these two members to sit on the said committee for a period of 1 year for any elections as may be needed. This was approved by a majority show of hands.

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 or matters arising, the Chief Scout asked for 2 members to second the minutes (Mr. Kevin Camilleri, National Scout Council Member and Mr. John Micallef Engerer, Assistant Commissioner Training).

3. Opening speech by the Chief Scout

“Good evening Scout Council Members, Commissioners and Group Scout Leaders. Welcome to another General Assembly Meeting which has been prepared with care, attention and I would add a level of detail.

Today we are once again going to experience another achievement of this Association – that of presenting reports that have been prepared, approved by the Council and Audited in case of Financial Statements. I could also add that they are being presented in a timely manner. Well done to all and thanks to all who have really gone out of their way to make sure that this goal is achieved.

Before commenting on the reports themselves which have been distributed to all in electronic format and also a hard copy today, I would like to comment on the Rules of Procedures and Rules of Elections. Although we (General Assembly), as a body are self regulating (in line with our Constitution) I have distributed procedures to be adopted by this meeting – this will allow for better transparency, better management and will, in my opinion, support the idea of reunification – that I personally believe is so important to our Movement.

We all need to keep in mind that we are in the Movement to serve and to educate our young members. We all have positions within the Movement which are not for life but for a period of time and we need to leave a positive influence behind. Here I would like to confirm that our new Chief Commissioner has a ‘Great Challenge’ in front of him and I will not only support him but will expect ALL assembly Members to do the same for the common good of Scouting in Malta”

4. Report by the Honorary General Secretary

“Probably for those of you who did not have the time to have a look at the report and are just now reading the title of my report on page 6, will be thinking that I am planning to join some sort of racing team. What I really mean here is that a number of projects are in hand at IHQ at the moment and we have reached a stage where we need that extra push to get where we would like to be, hence my title ‘Pushing on the accelerator’.

I am very confident that we are starting to reap the benefits of the new structure which is shaping up very well. The enthusiasm of the team is at the very best and this augurs well for the tasks at hand.

Our efforts to increase our external relationships are also getting the first tangible results. Apart from the Eur 35,000 received towards the High Ropes for our international camp site, we have also just signed a sponsorship deal with Nestle’ which will result in a donation of Eur 11,000 spread over 2 years plus goodies to all groups for at least one camp. Nestle’ intension is to promote healthy living and healthy eating through our cubs. Similar deals are in the negotiation phase and I am hoping to close off at least some of these in the near future.

Probably we (IHQ team) are taking up more than what we can handle as volunteers, but it is evident that we are shouldering the weight and not giving up and doing our best not to let our lack of available time effect the quality of our deliverables. Obviously we are not perfect and a little understanding by all parties would go a long way.

At the moment we are very much on track with up to date financial accounts and with regular frequent council, executive and departmental meetings. We are however lacking the policy committee due to lack of nominations for some of the posts. We understand that everyone is busy but we do ask for people to come forward and fill in these posts. The full report by the Chief Commissioner will be emailed to you this week which delves into all the progress and current status of each department (as this was not possible to include in its entirety in the report handed to all members. Together with this report I shall also be

sending you the results of today's election and the revised constitution and bye laws further to the motions passed at the last General Assembly.

A project that we would like to announce today is the national membership card, which will also be a loyalty discount card. I have prepared a short presentation to explain this in further detail."

The Honorary Secretary then proceeded to present the concept of the new membership card which will be presented to all registered and paid up members of the Scout Association of Malta free of charge. During the presentation the Honorary Secretary highlighted the individual member gain, the Scout Groups Gain and the Association's gain from this project. He also announced that the card was planned to be launched in April 2011

At the end of the report the Chief Scout asked for 2 members to second the approval of the Honorary Secretary's report. These were Mr. Arthur Abela, GSL Mellieha Scout Group and Mr. Mario Rayner, St. Augustine Air Scouts Group.

He also asked for same in regards to the Chief Commissioners report which summary was included in the Annual Administrative Report and Financial Statements and taken as read. The members in this case were Mr. Mark O'Neill, representative by proxy of the Zebbug Scout Group and Mr. Vince Farrugia, GSL Attard Scout Group.

5. Report by the Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer asked the attendees to open their Annual Administrative Report and Financial Statements to page 19 and proceeded to read out the financial report. He also explained in detail a number of figures especially the ones relating to the Association's income and the great financial achievements of the Ghajn Tuffieha Camp Site from previous years.

Following the financial report, the Chief Scout opened up the floor for related questions.

6. Questions from the floor

Mr. David Schembri, International Commissioner, forwarded a question in regards to the Travel Fund which was explained by the Honorary Treasurer. The Chief Scout and the International Commissioner took the opportunity to formally thank a donation of Eur 1000 from a couple that wished to remain anonymous to offer the possibility to a scout without the financial means to be able to attend the 2011 World Jamboree in Sweeden.

Mr. Edward Cassola, GSL St. Aloysius College Scout Group, also queried about the centenary clothing. This was again answered by the Honorary Secretary who also explained a write-off amount on this particular stock item. The Honorary Treasurer also asked the members to refer to the accounts notes which gave insight details of a number of figures presented.

There being no further questions the Chief Scout asked for 2 members to second the approval of the Honorary Treasurer report. The members were Mr. David Darmanin, GSL Sliema Scout Group and Mr. Mario Frendo, GSL Paola Scout Group.

Further more the Chief Scout recommended Mr. Peter V Degiorgio to retain his position as Auditor of the Association for the coming year. The recommendation was approved by all present by a show of hands.

The Chief Scout then asked the Honorary Secretary to pass on to explain the election procedure.

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

The Honorary Secretary explained the procedure of the election, the counting method, which will be based on the 'single transferable vote' system and announced that since it was decided to start the counting of votes during the meeting in order not to prolong the meeting further, 3 tellers, namely Mr. James Baldacchino, Fgura Scout Group, Mr. Stephen Galea, IHQ Officer and Mr. Harry Haig from the Scout Fellowship, will be assisting the appointed election commission.

Once all the eligible attendees casted their vote, the counting of votes started whilst the meeting continued as planned. The counting table was placed at the back of the same meeting hall.

Election results

Casted votes: 59 Valid Votes: 58 Quota: 30 or highest number of votes after 4th Count

1st Count

Cutugno Andrew: 24
O'Neill Mark: 9 - *Eliminated*
Saliba Joseph (JoJo): 11
Zerafa Joseph : 14

2nd Count (2nd Preference of O'Neill Mark votes)

Cutugno Andrew: 4 (total so far 28)
Saliba Joseph (JoJo): 1 (total so far 12) - *Eliminated*
Zerafa Joseph : 1 (total so far 15)

3rd Count (2nd or 3rd preference of Saliba Joseph votes)

Cutugno Andrew: 0 (total so far 28)
Zerafa Joseph : 0 (total so far 15) - *Eliminated*

4th Count (2nd, 3rd or 4th preference of Zerafa Joseph votes)

Cutugno Andrew: 9 (total 37) - Elected

8. Presentation re the Ghajn Tuffieha International Scout Centre Developments

The Chief Scout announced to the attendees that a great opportunity is lying ahead for our international camp site. Our Campsite was a dream come true and thanks to the extraordinary personal commitment of the present Chief Commissioner and to a handful of individuals on his team it was steadily making progress. However the Chief Scout informed all present that we were now presented with an opportunity to make an unexpected forward leap.

The Chief Scout announced the prospective formation of a consortium between the Central Government, Island Hotels Group, Gaia Foundation and other investors which we can be part of as well. The consortium was aiming to create what is being referred to as the Golden Sands Experience which seeks to completely transform the golden sands area and surrounding properties, including our campsite in a unique attraction thus enabling us to turn our campsite into a more sustainable project with the opportunity to get third parties to substantially invest into our camp site.

The Chief Scout proceeded to explain how we could benefit from all of this and also explained that our car park in the area was our gold mine in regards to this project being the only one in the area. He then proceeded to illustrate a number of artistic impressions of the area as presented to us by the project architects.

The National Scout Council has in the last meeting unanimously approved to take forward the negotiations on this project which will enable us to investigate further on this opportunity and allow the national council to take an informed decision in the best interest of our association.

The Chief Scout closed off by wishing full support by the assembly members to ensure a campsite with a very high standard for all our present and future members.

The Chief Scout asked for any questions from the floor. Whilst there was general consensus that this is an opportunity which is defiantly to be looked into, a few concerns were raised in respect of who will own the camp site and the car park and who will manage and profit from the intakes. The Chief Scout assured all that there he made it clear with the consortium that the Association will retain full management and profits for both camp site and car park. He also assured that this project will be decided upon by the National Scout Council once all the details were in hand.

There being no further questions the Chief Scout proceeded to his closing address.

9. Closing speech and presentation by the Chief Scout

“First and foremost allow me to thank you all for your presence here today. I sincerely hope that all members see the value of the General Assembly meetings. I think that today we have reached New Standards and we are well on our way to move ahead and make sure that such standards are also maintained at District Level and Group Level – A challenge for all of us in 2011!!

I would also like to ask you all to look ahead, look at the Association as one Movement and understand that we need to all look at the bigger picture – that of educating our young members in Today’s world. It is crucial that it is today’s world and not yesterday’s world – this is the only way that we will remain valid and will make a difference on our members.

Well done to the Scout Council and the IHQ Team who have ALL understood that they are in their roles to serve and I hope that all GSL’s will understand that they are also in their position to serve (both their members and the Movement).

Our train journey started in 2009, has certainly gained momentum but I need more fuel and this could only come from all of you who I am sure want to be on the same journey and also want to arrive at the same destination.

Thank You”

There being no other matters to discuss the meeting was closed by the Chief Scout.

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 Secretary
The Scout Association of Malta