

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

17th July 2014

Meeting Agenda

- 05:30 Registration
06:00 Opening of General Assembly
1. Approval of previous Minutes
 2. Matters arising
 3. Approval of Financial Report
 4. Approval of SAM Auditor
 5. Update on Solar Project
 6. Insurance Policy Update
 7. Any other matter

Attendees

133 members were eligible to vote and attend as full members. Of these 40 were present for the start of the meeting. As the quorum of at least half the membership eligible to vote was not reached at 6:00 p.m. and as by 6.30 p.m. the "1/3 Members attendance after 30 minutes wait (as per Constitution ver. 1.5 Article XIX sub article 3)", equivalent to 44.33 attendance, had not been reached, the Chairman of the Meeting proposed a vote from the members present to proceed anyway with the meeting. This was seconded by Mark Pizzuto and approved unanimously. However after the start of the meeting the total number of eligible voters increased to 45 members and therefore Constitutionally acceptable without the provisional amendment.

The meeting started at 06:30.

Welcome Address by the Chief Scout

The Chief Scout asked the Island Chaplain, Fr Anton Briffa to say a prayer before the Meeting. The Chief Scout then opened the Meeting by welcoming all the members

1. Approval of previous General Assembly Minutes (Agenda items 1 & 2)

The Chief Scout proposed that the Minutes of the General Assembly held on the 7th December 2013, which had been circulated to all eligible voting members be accepted as submitted. This was seconded by The Chief Commissioner and the Minutes were placed to the vote and approved *nem con*.

The Chief Scout requested the Assembly whether they wished to raise any matters arising from these minutes. There were no issues raised.

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The Chief Scout proposed that Item 6 on the Agenda be addressed first as there were guests who were invited to address the Meeting.

2. Insurance Policy Update (Agenda item 6)

The Chief Scout introduced Mr Boris Curmi, Head of Floriana Regional Office, Middle Sea Insurance Ltd and invited him to address the Assembly. Using a power point presentation, copies of which were also submitted to all the members present, and a copy of which is being appended to these Minutes, he went through the Insurance Programme worked out and agreed with the Scout Association of Malta for the years 2014-2015 which included Accidental Damage (Property) Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Travel Open Cover Insurance. In all 17 frames were presented. With reference to Frame 3, Darren Mercieca requested to know to whom "interested parties" referred, and Mr Curmi replied that it referred to anyone connected to the Scout Groups. Darren again asked what was the Excess, and this was answered as 10% of the loss with a minimum of € 100. It was made clear that as far as overseas travel (frame 9) was concerned, the members had to inform beforehand the International Department as otherwise they would not be covered.

The Chief Scout said that up to Frame 12 all items were covered by the existing insurance agreed with Middle Sea Insurance. Middle Sea Insurance proposed another two options which the Chief Scout said were at present too expensive for the Association and these two proposals (frame 13 to 16) will be discussed at the next Annual General Meeting. However, Mr Curmi explained what these two proposals were. With reference to frame 13 this proposal was intended to cover individual leaders of the Association, and not the Association itself in that individual leaders would be covered for accidental injury and payment would be effected to the individuals directly in case of accidents whilst participating in an organised Scout Group activity. The Honorary Secretary asked whether individual members can pay for this extra insurance under the SAM umbrella and the answer was definitely yes with the premium being increased if increased benefits are required by the respective individual. In this respect, the Chief Commissioner submitted that a GSL / AGSL Forum will now be called between September and December to discuss the additional insurance policies proposed. The Assembly members all agreed.

With reference to Frame 16, being the second proposal, this refers to individual scout group cover, a combined policy and insurance on the Groups' property. The Chief Commissioner said that the Association will invite Michele, who is also a member of the Association and works at Middle Sea Insurance, to address each group individually. Joseph Abela Medici said that this would mean that each Group must have a full inventory. The Chief Commissioner said that each Group must even now have a full inventory, and that is why each Group has a Quartermaster.

The Chief Commissioner then mentioned aspects of High Risks. A Risk Assessment must always be done before each activity. Whenever there is an activity that involves third parties (e.g. the public) the Association must contact the Insurance Company beforehand to have cover. The Chief Commissioner submitted that the Administration is working on the forms that will be issued that will be common to all. The Chief Scout said that the mandatory use of these forms will form part of the POR.

3. Approval of the Financial Report (Agenda item 3)

The Chief Scout invited Mark Pizzuto, Commissioner Finance, to give his presentation based on the Audited Accounts of the Association as submitted to all Assembly members in the Annual Administrative Report and Audited Financial Statement, a copy of which is enclosed with these Minutes. Mark Pizzuto stated that there were great improvements in the presentations of Group Cheques and only very few personal checks were received. Some Groups presented their accounts very late and some did not even match their records. Commissioner Finance announced that from this month (July) he has an assistant to help him with the finances of the Association. Kevin Camilleri referred to page 24, Scout Liabilities, and identified mistakes. Charles Bajada, GSL San Gwann, referred to page 16 (investing activities) and requested an explanation and Mark Pizzuto remarked that this was the auditor's way to explain this, but that they were real purchases. Cedric Salafia referred to page 15 re fixed assets. Mark Pizzuto said that these were tangible property and referred to Note 4 on page 18 for a better explanation. The Chief Scout asked about Debtors on page 15, the sum of € 38,519 and Mark Pizzuto referred to page 19 which gives a breakdown with Mellieha Scout Group owing the Association €22,563. He explained that some 2 years ago Mellieha Group had financial liabilities and the Association felt duty bound to pay this amount. The Good Causes Fund had promised the Group some € 20,000 but with the change of Government it was found that the Fund was oversubscribed. Yet the Fund has now started paying the sum promised and by this month the Association has already recovered half this sum, some € 10,000 owed. The Chief Commissioner explained the position. Joe Saliba (Qormi) presented a document, annexed with the Minutes, bearing the letterhead ITC and the signature of the previous Chief Commissioner Godwin D' Anastasi, dated 2003. This document showed that a donation of a Bedford Dumper Vehicle was made to the Association by ITC in the condition "tale quale" without any licences. Joe Saliba asked the whereabouts of this Bedford Dumper and requested a Police investigation. The Chief Scout took note of the document presented, a copy of which was also kept by him and by the Commissioner for Finance, and he promised an internal investigation first, in particular whether it had appeared in the accounts for 2003. The Chief Commissioner confirmed that he remembered this Dumper under a tree at IHQ for some time and said that it then disappeared. Joe Saliba (Qormi) submitted that he knew where it ended up. The Chief Commissioner referred to this case and said that the inventory required by the Insurance will be discussed at the GSL Forum proposed. Mark Pizzuto proposed a motion that the Assembly approve the Financial Report. This was seconded by the Chief Scout. The motion was approved by all present with one abstention from Mark O'Neill.

The Assembly was then referred to the Census at page 11 and it was established that there were major errors in this especially for the Central District.

4. Update on Solar Project (Agenda item 5)

George Cassar explained the events since December 2013 when the Company Cuschieri and Cuschieri have now drawn up a Report. It is noteworthy that the amount that Enemalta will pay from September of this year will go down to 15c5. The Chief Scout said that the decision

whether panels will be either bought by the Association or else the property of the Association will be rented out for the solar exercise has yet to be taken. Charles Bajada (San Gwann) said that San Gwann Scout Group have new premises and this was not subject to the Solar Audit commissioned. The Chief Scout said that the Auditing Company will be sent to survey the site. George Cassar gave an overview but said that the estimates of prices were the average prices on the local market at present.

5. Approval of the SAM Auditor (Agenda Item 4)

The Chief Scout informed the Assembly that our current Auditor, Mr Peter Degiorgio, reported that he was very sick on the day of the Assembly but that he was willing to audit the accounts of the Association. The Chief Scout proposed a motion approving Mr Peter Degiorgio as the Association's Auditor. This was seconded by Cedric Salafia and the motion was passed unanimously.

6. Any other matter (Agenda item 7)

a) National Scout Youth Council (NSYC)

The Chief Commissioner said that in April 2014 a National Scout Youth Forum was organised and over 100 youths attended. Various workshops were organised followed by an election of the first NSYC. 9 youths between the ages 15 to 24 years were elected to the NSYC. So the Association is now in unison with the European Region of WOSM. The Chief Scout said that so far we have no structure in the Constitution of the Association but at the December AGM changes to the Constitution will be proposed. Josmar (NSYC member) said that a report will be published shortly announcing activities of the NSYC. He said that this will address Unity as a Group, Service to raise awareness of the Scout Association amongst the Public, and this will commence with an activity in August for youths 17 years plus called "Relax Plus". Another event being organised is "SWAGS" – Service With a Great Smile – to create a service to the community. It is envisaged that there will be visits on Saturdays to various Orphanages but what direct action would be chosen is still to be decided.

b) Vote of Confidence in Chief Commissioner

The Chief Scout said that this year in March the election for the Chief Commissioner was not contested. According to the rules an eligible voter could have asked for a vote of confidence but no one requested it. The Chief Scout had raised it at the National Scout Council and consequently asked the Assembly for a Vote of Confidence in the Chief Commissioner. It was unanimously approved.

c) Branding Exercise

The Chief Commissioner stated that at the back of the Assembly there was a box for every Scout Group with branding material inclusive of paper, envelopes and a rubber stamp.

d) Procedures at General Assemblies

Josmar (NSYC) said that emails inviting the NSYC to the General Assembly should have been sent. The Chief Scout said that the NSYC is not yet constitutionally recognised. This will be rectified at the AGM in December

Josmar (NSYC) then said that the rules of procedure for the AGM were outdated and should be changed. He also said that the Financial Report and the Administration Report should have been emailed beforehand to the eligible voters to be able to study it before the actual Assembly.

e) Association's formal position re BP Scouts

Emanuel Grech (GSL, Mtarfa) said that on behalf of the Mtarfa Scout Group he wanted to raise the issues which the Baden Powell Scouts were raising causing conflicting messages about the Mtarfa Scout Group. The Chief Scout said that the position of the Baden Powell Scouts is regulated by WOSM. WOSM dictates that no Scout Group can work with them and that Groups cannot accept to do joint activities with the Baden Powell Scouts. Furthermore the Chief Scout declared that if a Group takes part in such joint activity and a member of the Group is injured, that Group will not be covered by Insurance. Joe Saliba (Qormi) said that the Scout Association has decided not to take George Mangion of the BP Scouts to Court because the Scout Association would be in the public eye for the wrong reasons. So he proposed a strong marketing campaign from funds received to benefit all the Groups.

The Chief Commissioner said that he has photographs of Association members who have travelled abroad with the BP Scouts. When the time comes these will be revealed.

f) Annual Parade

The Chief Scout said that there was a request from one Group to decide on the participation of Beavers in the Annual Parade. He promised that at the December AGM the Association will take a vote whether Beavers will march with the Groups or not. Joe Bartolo (Stella Maris GSL) submitted that there was one Group who refused to march at the Annual Parade. The Chief Scout said that this was tackled and the GSL then agreed to allow his Group to participate.

g) District Commissioners

Cedric Salafia (Hamrun) raised the issue of District Commissioners. The Chief Scout said that at present we only have one District Commissioner, apart from the Gozo DC. However, Martin Bonnici, DC South, will retire in January 2015. This issue will also be proposed at the December AGM when a new structure will be proposed to the Assembly.

The Chief Scout stated that the next Annual General Meeting will be held in December 2015, as per our current Constitution and this AGM would have to resolve itself into a symposium possibly over a whole day or a weekend.

The National Assembly Meeting was declared closed at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes approved on

Date

By:

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Arthur Azzopardi
Chief Scout
The Scout Association of Malta

.....
Anthony Abela Medici
Honorary Secretary
The Scout Association of Malta