

Minutes of the Annual General Body meeting held on the 28th of January 2017 – 3:00 PM to 5:00PM at MMA Office, Gorton Mount Primary School, Mount Road, Manchester M18 7GR.

Attendees: 59 members attended the meeting. Please refer to the registration list in the minutes book for full list of attendees.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting started with a minute's silent prayer. Then the President welcomed the members to the meeting and presented the agenda of the meeting. President then invited the Secretary to present the Annual Report.

Jommy Jose, mentioned that he want to discuss an issue which is not in the agenda before anything else is discussed and the President clarified that meeting will carry on as per the published agenda and that any other matters will only be discussed under the 'Any other business' agenda item.

2. Annual Report

The Secretary presented the Annual Report of performance and highlighted all the activities and achievements of the past one year. (Please refer to the minutes book for the full report)

3. Financial Report

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report

[REDACTED]

4. Discussion on the Reports

All the members were individually given the opportunity to express their opinion about the performance of the committee. A number of members commended the performance of the Executive Committee and mentioned that the committee worked with foresight, improved the association considerably from previous years, and all the activities were well organised and that the members appreciated the effort which was needed to organise the range of events and activities.

Gino mentioned that he is not receiving any communication on Whatsapp and George Vadakumcherry enquired about the number of members the association has got and the total number of meetings held in the last year.

The president clarified that there are 151 active members currently and that 13 Executive Committee meetings were held in the last year. It was clarified that for some reason the number of Gino's wife was included in the Whatsapp group and hence he missed the messages and that if he wishes, the number can be added once the new committee is in place.



The Annual Report and the Financial Report were unanimously passed following the discussion.

5. Conclusion of Discussion

The President, then concluded that, as the members confirmed earlier, MMA has changed considerably over the recent years and the participation of the members is the main reason for the success of the association. However he noted that it is important that while criticism and comments are welcome, it should be in the appropriate forums rather than in social media and that it is important the comments should be for the benefit of MMA.

Then the president invited the members of the outgoing Executive Committee to express their opinion about the work of the association. The member who spoke were positive about the functioning of the committee and the achievements made during the previous year.

6. Attendance Report

The Secretary then presented the attendance report of the previous committee. It was noted that the attendance percentages were as follows.

Janesh Nair (100%), Shajimon KD (100%), Anish Kurien (100%), Jixy Sanjeev (85%), Harish Nair (46%), Bindu Kurien (92%), Hans Joseph (38%), Jinto Joseph (38%), George Mathew (54%), Polson Thotapilly (62%), Reena Wilson (62%), Saju Kavunga (92%), Shaju Antony (23%).

It was also noted that as per the provisions of the constitution, Harish Nair, Hans Joseph, Jinto Joseph and Shaju Antony are not eligible to stand for elections to the Executive Committee in the next two years due to their attendance falling below the 50% mark. Also George Mathew will be ineligible to stand for elections due to not attending three consecutive Executive Committee meetings.

7. Code of Conduct for Executive Committee

Mr Kalesh Bhasker talked about the need for a code of conduct for the Executive Committee as there were issues caused during the last onam celebrations which could have been avoided if there was a code of conduct.

The draft of this code of conduct was circulated to the members before the meeting and members were asked for their opinions. Polson Thottapilly suggested that we only need this if we are going for Charity registration and hence this might not be needed now. George Vadakumcheryy queried whether the code of conduct is for the members or just the Executive Committee. Saju Kavumka suggested that there is a need for a code of conduct for the members too. Wilson Mathew suggested that if there is discussion or comments against the interests of the association, it should be dealt with



severely. The Secretary confirmed that this code of conduct is just for the Executive Committee and that the current provisions of the constitution already allows the Executive Committee to suspend and the General Body remove the membership of the members who are deliberately working against the interests of the association.

Based on the wider discussion, the President concluded that the overall opinion is that a Code of Conduct is needed. So a working group consisting of three members, Kalesh Bhasker, Wilson Mathew and Arun Chand were constituted to finalise the draft and present it to the Executive Committee within the next two months for considering at the following General Body Meeting.

8. Suggestions from Executive Committee to the GB

The President on behalf of the Executive Committee made the following suggestions to the General Body for activities in the next year.

1. Permission for Charity Registration – The GB agreed this is needed but wanted the new Executive Committee to proceed only after studying about the merits and demerits of registering as a Charity
2. Registration of a Supplementary School - The GB agreed this is needed but wanted the new Executive Committee to proceed only after studying about the merits and demerits of registering a Supplementary School
3. Projects joining with Kerala Tourism – GB agreed that this can be done by the next Executive Committee
4. Non-Malayalee Members – Following the request from some non-member dance school parents, GB decided not to offer membership to non-malayalees
5. Increase of subscription amount to £20 – GB agreed this and the subscription from 2017 January will be £20 per family
6. Submission of funding reports to the funders – It was agreed that it will be responsibility of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the committee which secured the external funding to submit the final report of those grants to the funding bodies. This is to ensure that there is continuity and that the association is not black listed by any funding bodies.
7. School Parents' Representation – It was agreed that parents of the MMA School kids need to be included in the running of the school.

9. Membership Approval

It was decided to approve the new membership application of the following members

- Aju Varghese
- Laiju Manuel

10. Any other business

- I. Jomy Jose requested clarification on the complaint raised by Shaju Antony. The Secretary gave a detailed explanation for the reasons for the decisions which the Executive Committee took and why the message to the members was drafted as it was. Shaju agreed with the explanations and the matter was considered closed. Jomy further raised the issue about a message Shajimon KD gave Shaju Antony in the Executive Whatsapp group. The Secretary and Mr Shajimon KD explained the reasons behind those conversations and again Shaju Antony agreed with the explanations and this matter was also considered closed.
- II. Sharat enquired about why he was removed by the previous Executive Committee when the message he posted was not offensive. The Secretary explained that while the message was not offensive, it still contravened the Whatsapp policy of MMA and hence he was removed after one warning.
- III. Gino Alias queried why he is not receiving Whatsapp communications and it was explained that since he was originally removed from the group for posting a highly offensive message in the group and his wife's number was added to ensure he receives all the communications. The President noted that he is very active and attends with family almost all the programmes and activities of the association.
- IV. Whatsapp removal timeframe – It was noted that the current policy of removal for a full year from Whatsapp group is too strict and hence the time period need to be reduced to 3 months. However, if the same person breaks the Whatsapp policy again after being reinstated they should be removed for the full year. It was also noted that public interest messages also should be sent to the Secretary first so that the validity of the message can be checked before posting in the group.
- V. Death of Malayalees – It was suggested that if any malayalee death occurs in the Manchester area, MMA should try to send a wreath on behalf of the association.
- VI. Sobin Thomas mentioned that Executive Committee members should refrain from making controversial messages in Social Media while they are part of the Executive Committee.

11. Election of the New Executive Committee

Mr Wilson Mathew was elected to officiate the election of the new Executive Committee. A smooth election process followed and the following members were elected for the next year.



Janesh Nair (President), Shajimon KD (Vice President), Anish Kurien (Secretary), George Vadakumcherry (Treasurer), Sharat Nair (Joint Secretary), Dinesan DK, Jixy Sanjeev, Polson Thottapilly, Radhesh Nair, Reena Wilson, Saju Kavunga, Shilpa Shaji (Female Youth Representative).

It was noted that two women members who are parents of the Dance School students need to be elected to ensure the smooth running of the School and hence the GB entrusted the Executive Committee to select two female members* later on. It was also suggested that in addition to Shilpa Shaji, there need to be a male youth representative in the Executive Committee and the GB entrusted the Executive Committee to select an appropriate member for this.

The new President on behalf of the Committee thanked the General Body for the opportunity and promised to work hard for the betterment of the association.

**The Executive Committee conducted on the 11th of February 2017 selected Mrs Jaya Sudhir and Mrs Nisha Kedia to the two vacant posts.*

***The Youth Meet held on the 1st of April selected Mr Akhil Hans as the youth male representative in the Executive Committee.*

Due to confidentiality reasons certain sections of these minutes are redacted. Please contact the Secretary if you would wish to see the full version.