

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
held on 11/05/2006 at
B.H.C. Auditorium

Meeting started at 3.15 PM.

The president welcomed the members and informed the members the meeting would proceed as per agenda provided to each one of them and questions can be asked as per number 8 item of the agenda. She informed the committee that she and her committee have worked with great transparency throughout the year and tried to remove any murkiness and confusion that existed for over a decade. They have, to the best of their ability worked on the revision of the constitution. She thanked all those who have helped her in doing so.

She asked the floor, if they had any objection in regard to the minutes of the AGM of May 2005. They were approved and passed and proposed by Kavita Ratra and seconded by Harsh Kapur.

She then asked her committee members to read out their reports.

Treasurer:

Niru Kapur explained the account and said that taking membership fee by cheque was a better idea as more than Rs. 50,000.00 can not be deposited in bank, at one time.

Secretary:

Maya Caroli gave a humorous end to the year's working – but made it known that the committee was very pleasant and cohesive and she had enjoyed working with them.

Newsletter Editor:

Emma Horne thanked all members who had helped her in newsletter distribution. She was happy that her publishing expenditures, inspite of new designing and layout, stayed within the budget.

Hospitality:

Yashmita Mehta was glad that the members sent in their cards in time, however, she informed that they should always mark their cards as per their preference.

Second Vice President:

Diane Banz –Derez made it clear in her report that a person with little experience of the club and some knowledge of New Delhi should be given this post, what she held, as it would help them not to struggle as much as she did.

First Vice President:

Kiran Anand thanked her circle leader who she knew really put in their best in producing some excellent programs this year. Cuisine, Book Club, Performing and Visual Arts, Philosophy and Culture and Trips and Travels presented some unforgettable programs. The energy surrounding the activities was palpable.

President's Reports:

Shawn thanked the circle leader and informed the club that attendance to the circle meetings was all time high this year. She thanked her unofficial advisors namely: Bapsi Nariman, Vinu Baig, Gugu Anup Singh, Kavita Ratra, Frenny Billimoria, Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra, Peggy Sood, Annie Howard, Janet Chawla, Monika Sharma and Gita Devi--- who were always there to help her.

The low points of the year:

Diwali Meeting- when some members disappointed her by bringing pieces of used household rubbish, burnt candles and empty boxes as gifts for exchange.
Gala Night—she thought that this event was held to meet each others husbands, the turnout was not good yet she refused to open it to non members and guests as this she felt was a club program with a purpose.
Late comer, last minute telephone calls regretting to attend were some example of rude behavior. Another noticeable thing was that foreign members were not attending the circle meeting. It is a pity as great effort is put in to produce a good program.

The highlights of the year:

The first General Meeting- where we had lots of laughter
Karan Singh's talks – which is always engrossing
Cuisine Groups- fish lunch
Trips and Travels –The Metro ride
General Meeting- picnic at Emma's

Audited Accounts:

She presented the Balance Sheet and asked the floor to approve. It was proposed by Maki Mehta and seconded by Titli Sahni.

She proudly presented the revised constitution, which was also approved by the floor, proposed by Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra and seconded by Kavita Ratra.

Issues for examination by the incoming committee of 2006-07:

Guidelines of re-entry for current ten years members (below the age of 60) should be drawn up and adhered to, by the membership committee.

1) Suggestion for criteria drafted by current executive committee:

- a) All ten year members must submit re-entry application prior to the expiration of their membership.
- b) Application goes to the bottom of the list and should be examined in the order received.

- c) Three club membership must counter sign the application for re-entry.
- d) The Membership Sub-Committee must contact each counter signing club member for verification and feedback.
- e) The decision of the Membership Committee is final and sent up to the Executive Committee merely as a formality
- f) All re-entry applications accepted results in the members becoming permanent members

2) The new Membership Sub-Committee must create a new re-entry application in September

3) There have been request to create a Patron category to allow ten year member over the age of 60, a way to continue to enjoy the club, this should be discussed. Any issue voted upon at the AGM or EGM needs to be ratified before it can come into effect.

4) The new members coffee invitation does not make her a member. She becomes a member only after she has paid her dues.

5) Membership fee should be collected at the May AGM. This would give the Executive Committee, a clearer idea, how they can budget the year's expenditures.

6) A debate is required how rules of the constitution can be applied effectively against members, who are not fulfilling their membership obligations.

7) Regarding trips arranged by the club- it has to be discussed, whether non-members should be allowed to join.

8) The Gala Night is a club event with a purpose—to discuss, if guests should be allowed.

9) Current Executive Committee recommends raising of the membership fee- to discuss

Kavita Ratra proposed a huge thank you to Shawn for her strong leadership and setting standard during the year and maintaining transparency. She made the members feel their opinions mattered and felt they had a say in the running of the club “we need to learn from you”.

Bapsi endorsed what Kavita had said.

Bapsi Nariman said that she did not agree that members of the Executive Committee and Membership Committee should have the right to sign new member's application forms. It was pointed out that this issue had already being voted upon and included in the revised constitution. The Membership Committee members still did not have the right to sign for new members.

Fenny Billimoria thanked Kavita on behalf of Cusine Circle for the fresh produce, she had provided at the last meeting.

Jyoti Wazir made reference to the travel group and said non WIC members should be allowed on the trips arranged by the club. Most of the time members withdraw from traveling at the last moment. The circle leaders worked hard to arrange a trip. However, this problem needed discussion next year.

Shakuntala Mahesh Chandra made a mention that during the time of Mary Gorbooth, she tried to make a contribution as a well wisher of the club. However, this was not accepted nor cheque returned.

Bapsi said that the club was not a charitable institution and did not need extra funds, also it was pointed out that we have to be careful that we do not fall within the tax-payer's bracket.

Raj Nanda said that she had always hosted meetings of the club and provided food. Darshan Indrajit asked what 'other contribution' referred to in the Balance Sheet. It was explained that it covered the sale of cook books.

Praveen Kaur –Nomination's Chairman said she feels that no member should refuse serving the club. She found difficult to convince people to come forward to take responsibility. She announced the new slate for the year 2006-07:

President	Vinu Baig
First Vice President	Vaneeta Podewils
Second Vice President	Smita Divan
Newsletter Editor	Mona Rheinbolt
	Emma Horne
Secretary	Sunaina Agarwal
Membership	Lynne Beuregarde
Treasurer	Meera Juneja
Hospitality	Nandini Pattani

This slate was proposed by the Prama Bhandari and seconded by Shiela Ghatate.

Shawn gave gifts to the incoming committee -wished them all the best and promised them full cooperation and help as and when they needed from her and her committee.

Vinu Baig and her committee than took the Chair. She thanked the members to have chosen her for this challenging job-more so, after the performance of the outgoing President and her committee. She said she will do her best to maintain the standards set for them. She hoped she will get all help and cooperation from all the members so that we could all enjoy the club together.

She has already chosen her circle leader and her first General Meeting is already fixed for September.