

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT HABITAT CENTRE ON MAY 07, 2003

The President Sheila Ghatate welcomed the members to the Annual General meeting. She said she was happy to see a large turnout and looked forward to helpful suggestions and a wholesome discussion on the last WIC. She introduced the new members who had joined WIC in April. They included one each from Switzerland (Marie Ann Derron), Turkey (Sevin Boughardt), and India (Mrs. Bina Singh). She hoped that all the members had received the relevant documents and proceeded with the agenda.

### Minutes of the last Annual general meeting

2. Deep Duggal pointed out that when no report was attached with the agenda, then why was that mentioned? President pointed out that as per the constitution only minutes were to be circulated. If any one wished to have a look at the reports, they would be made available.
3. Nina Dey Gupta suggested that the passport of members should be taken as country of origin.
4. Minutes of the AGM 2002 were passed, proposed by Vinu Baig and Prama Bhandari.

### Reports

#### Membership

5. The Membership Chairperson Harsh Kapur informed that the membership committee had performed well. She said that there were 96 Indian members and 91 international who represented 46 countries.

#### Hospitality

6. In her report, Kiran Anand expressed special thanks to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, as they had been most helpful. She added the Secretary was most co-operative and willing to help when she was away. She requested all members to be punctual in their responses towards participation in various

programmes. Every one should send in their acceptance, regrets in time and also try to reach the venue of programme in time as well to be courteous to the hostess.

### Newsletter

7. The Newsletter Editor, Carolyn Fitzpatrick said she enjoyed working for the Newsletter. She was all praise for Cosima and Shameem for their help in ensuring that she received all the material in time. She said that she had tried her best to brighten the newsletter by adding more graphics and photographs. She expressed her hope that it would always serve as a strong means of communication for the club.

### Treasurer

8. The Treasurer, Barbara Epsworth happily announced that during 2002-2003, the WIC had added Rs. 44000/- to its coffers. She then gave a break-up of the various expenses incurred by the Executive Committee during the year as well as the total incomes received from various sources such as guest fees, Gala lunch, subscription etc. She added that the general meetings and Circle meetings had cost less as compared to the previous year.

### Secretary

9. The Secretary, Maryyam Aman thanked every one in the committee for their help. She said that their cooperation had made her task very easy. She was happy to mention that the Suggestion Box had remained empty throughout the year, which was taken as a compliment for the Executive Committee.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

10. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Shameem Varadarajan said that she was happy that in spite of busy schedules, celebrities found time to grace the Club programmes. She expressed thanks to all those members who had so generously offered their homes for programmes and extended hospitality. She added that only two meetings were held at commercial venues, India International Centre and the Habitat Centre.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

11. Cosima Paul thanked the President for allowing her complete freedom to work. She said that she was very happy to see members enjoying programs. She thanked hostesses for 45 circle programmes. She then commended the Circle leaders for their discipline, creativity, and teamwork. She then thanked Newsletter for patience and last minute deadlines. She mentioned that the dream was to tap the talents of members, which was done. She asked Maryyam to read out names of each circle leader, and gave them each a small token of appreciation.

## President

12. Finally in her concluding remarks, Sheila Ghatate spoke about the rich dynamism of the WIC. She said the members constituted 200 educated, creative and resourceful women from 46 countries. WIC was in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year and had always fostered friendship from all over the world. She thanked her Executive Committee who had put in endless hours of work to make the entire year such a success. She praised each one of the Executive Committee members for their hard work and expertise.

13. She thanked the circle leaders who came up with novel ideas on diverse range of subjects for the programmes and all those who willingly offered generous hospitality. She said that the Membership Committee had been able to extend the representation to 46 countries due to consistent and sincere efforts.

14. She said the Executive Committee had decided to honour some members in recognition of their services to the Club. They have actively contributed over the years in making this dynamic club of high standards and to creating a system, which encourages fun and healthy cultural interaction.

15. They are Frenny Billimoria, Sarabjit (Gugu) Anup Singh, Nathalie Trouveroy and Shirin Khemchand.

16. Finally Sheila Ghatate recommended shifting all the past record of the club on Computer CD -Rom for which some funds needed to be assigned. A resolution to this effect was passed by show of hands. It was proposed by Gugu Anup Singh and seconded by Tuli Mirchandani.



### Audited Statement of Accounts and balance sheet

17. Audit statement and balance sheet were submitted for approval and questions. During the discussion, Bindu Talwar said that money should be spent and not accumulated. Bozena Volkova questioned why there were so many fixed deposits when last year it was decided to spend it. Treasurer answered that money was saved because we got good bargains at many places. The audit statement of accounts was passed, proposed by Deep Duggal and seconded by Bindu Talwar.

### Discussion on other matters

18. Geta Devi congratulated the committee for arranging an excellent Gala lunch.

19. Pushpa Wadhwa suggested using larger venues for circle meetings, so we do not have to tell members not to attend.

### Installation of the New Executive Committee

20. The president thanked the members of the Nomination Committee for their efforts and asked the Chairperson of the Nomination Committee, Peggy Sood to take charge of the installation of the new Executive Committee. Peggy asked the members if there were any new nominations from the floor or objections to the slate. Since there were none, the slate was proposed by Deep Duggal and seconded by Pamela Manmohan Singh. They are:

President	Bozena Volkova
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Rita Gharekhan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Alexandro Feasler
Treasurer	Bubbles Suneja
Secretary	Eman Eid
Membership	Neena Malhotra
Hospitality	Parbeen Kaur
Newsletter	Sudarshana Singh

21. The new office bearers were requested by Peggy Sood to take charge.
22. The out-going President Sheila Ghatate handed over the chain of Office to Bozena Volkova and wished her all the best.

#### Acceptance speech of the President

23. The new president Ms. Bozena while speaking on behalf of the new Executive Committee thanked the out-going President Sheila Ghatate and other office bearers. She expressed gratitude for the out going members for sharing their experience and giving practicable suggestions. She assured the outgoing Committee that her team would make every effort to maintain the momentum generated by them and expressed her hope that she could count on their help in future as well. She added that there are going to be new circle programs.

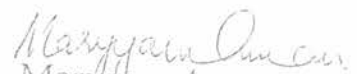
#### Resolution transferring Bank signatory authority


24. The General body passed a resolution, proposed by Komal Dhindsa and seconded by Anita Batra to take charge empowering the new President Bozena Volkova and the treasurer, Bubbles Suneja to jointly operate the bank accounts and the Fixed deposits of the WIC.

#### Vote of Thanks

25. Deep Duggal thanked the out-going Committee for the successful year and wished the incoming Executive all the best. The meeting was then adjourned.

Recorded by

  
Maryyam Aman  
(Secretary)

  
Mrs. Sheila Ghatate  
President

## Acceptance Speech.

Dear Ladies,

It is a great honour for me to have been nominated and elected President of the Women's International Club for the year 2003 -04. I wish to thank all those who trusted me and also those who supported me and made this possible.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to my predecessor, Shiela Ghatate, and her committee for the wonderful service they have done for our club last year.

I am very happy to announce that I, along with my committee, am planning to introduce some fresh and new ideas for the future. Change is always good for progress. In fact this changing face of WIC, is apparent in our membership profile which now has a rather large number of young members. In fact we have two young ladies on our committee. We are not planning a revolution, we are just presenting a few novel ideas.

The first reflection of this will be seen in our Circle programs. We have sought to enliven and stimulate our members by introducing some new topics. The main goal is to offer interesting programs, encourage good relationships and friendship amongst our members, and have lots of fun in the bargain! Some of the very special new programs are:

1. Beauty and Fashion
2. Dance Workshops
3. Culture & Heritage - which will be mostly Indian heritage
4. Books and Films

As you can see, some of the earlier programs have been revived, due to popular demand, such as the Book Circle, which we have expanded to include Films. The other programs have been designed to create more active member participation, rather than the usual passive listening and watching the speakers. To introduce some variety, some programs will be more intellectual, and some a little less, and some programs will be outgoing. We certainly hope to get your dancing shoes on ! More programs will be announced in September.

Perhaps some of you might miss some of the earlier programs, but these can always be brought back next year. I hope all the changes will work for the best.