



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CLUB DELHI

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 12th.May 2010 at the Hyatt Regency.

Attendance. The quorum was full and 108 Members present.

Regret.

Regretfully the President Vaneeta Podewils had to have an emergency operation in hospital and could not attend the AGM. Her absence was felt greatly not only by her Executive Committee but by the General membership as well.

The Meeting was Chaired by the First Vice President Zakia Zaheer.

1. Welcome .

The First Vice President Zakia Zaheer welcomed the ladies to the Annual General Meeting , the last one in 2009-2010.

Zakia informed Members that unfortunately Vaneeta had to have an emergency operation which was why she was Chairing the meeting. Vaneeta had been looking forward to being here and sent her best wishes to all.

Zakia said she could not believe a whole year had passed and it had been a wonderful year.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 6th.May 2009 at the Ashok Hotel.

The Minutes of the AGM held at the Ashok Hotel on 6th.May 2009, were Approved . It was proposed by Gita Kapurthala and seconded by Renu Mehra.

Darshan Inderjit brought up the point about the dues pending from the Park Hotel since last year which the Committee had to adjust in the year 2009-2010 (this, she said, had been pointed out by Niru Kapur last year). Zakia explained that they had talked to the Park Hotel but it had been a mistake in the books and the Hotel did not owe the Club any money. The New Committee would correct the mistake in the new Club Year.

3. Presentation of Reports.

- **Report of the Hospitality Chairperson Alice Gough.** *MEMBERSHIP*

Alice expressed her thanks to her Membership Committee – Prama Bhandari, Annie Howard, Sohinder Nabha, and Mandy Cunningham, for all their work, wisdom and thoughtfulness and said she was lucky to work with such experienced and generous members of our club.

Alice noted that we have a current total of 165 members. Of these 95 are Indian and 70 are International. There were a total of 25 new members, 23 International and 2 Indian. Alice said that we were delighted to welcome all the new members and hoped that would have a happy time in WIC. She thanked those who had introduced new members to the Club and said that without constant recruitment the Club would neither have the revenue or the manpower to run successfully. She mentioned that the Club still needed more International members so to please look out for new members when the Club resumed after the summer.

Alice mentioned that the Directory had been republished and thanked the Membership and Executive Committees for their work into checking and correcting details. Of course a few errors had slipped in, and it was out of date almost as soon as it was published but nonetheless it has been a useful source of information for Members. More importantly, Alice said, we now have an accurate membership list, on Excel, easy to update and maintain. However it was only as good as the information received and as Alice was going to continue to be responsible for the membership list next year she urged members to let her know if there was ANY change in their details, particularly if they were leaving WIC. Renu and her Membership Committee would be deciding how to update the

Directory so they must ensure that the information they have is the best that can be.

Alice wished Renu every success in the coming year and hoped she would enjoy it as much as Alice had. Alice also thanked Vaneeta and the Executive committee for all their support, inclusiveness and excellent company.

- **Report of the hospitality Chairperson Tatiana Rabin.**

Tatiana thanked the Committee for their help and support, and said that during her time at WIC she had enjoyed the warm and pleasant atmosphere, had made many new friends and this would remain in her memory.

Tatiana thanked the Members and said the venues were always well planned and organized without any problems. She was grateful for all the help received from Members and said about 50 venues were offered for Programs this year. She would not individually mention the Hostesses as Zakia had already done that in the Newsletter.

Tatiana reminded the Members to remember to put their names on the Reply Cards in addition to sending the Cards on time. Also, she said, to please remember to inform the Hospitality Chairperson about any changes before events/programs to show respect to the guests and hosts. She also suggested in future one could avoid wastage of paper by electronic communication.

To conclude, Tatiana said she had enjoyed helping the Club organize interesting and rich programs. Tatiana said the Club had taught her a lot about India, its people, culture and friendliness. She wished the new Hospitality Chair member a lot of fun, success and new friendships. Tatiana said her final Goodbye to India, Shalom Israel.

- **Report of the Newsletter Chairperson Anushree Mahajan.**

Anushree thanked everyone for having faith in her which allowed her to achieve becoming a good Editor in spite of having no experience on the job.

She remarked that she had enjoyed the editorial experience and she was happy that there had been no tension or arguments during her tenure. She praised Vaneeta the President for her encouragement, and Zakia the First Vice president, for constantly guiding her. She then complimented all the members of the Executive committee for their help and encouragement.

To conclude she said being a good team was important and the bonhomie showed just that. She wished her successor Maeve O'Connor the very best.

- **Report of the Treasurer Sunandini Kapur.**

Sunandini opened by saying that as she was handing over the post of Treasurer she was thankful that they had selected and entrusted her with the Club's accounts.

Sunandini said that she had the unstinting support from the Executive Committee in keeping expenses to the least, contributing generously, and negotiating and getting the best deals in every situation.

The account statements had been sent out as per the constitution 2 weeks before the AGM, and most of them were hand delivered.

Sunandini mentioned that though this may sound routine, she had to struggle to get the information from the Bank and it was lucky that Zakia through her fantastic network and personal influence managed to extract the figures from a very reluctant Bank.

Sunandini said that as explained by her predecessor, Vibhuti Sharma in her report last year, 'the bank has continued to be uncooperative with providing certificate of interest on the fixed deposit as well as the TDS certificates'.

The Balance sheet has relied on provisional figures which were confirmed by the bank on 26th.April. TDS certificates will be received at the end of May.

Sunandini said that while preparing her report she referred to the report of the last year and the year before i.e.2008-2009, 2007-2008. She found that both Vibhuti Sharma and Sohider Nabha, respectively, faced the same problems as she did in getting essential information from the bank the

reason being that our financial year does not coincide with our working year.

The present committee, Sunandini said, has the advantage that the incoming president Sohinder Nabha has held the post of treasurer three times and thus has the knowledge and experience to see the change thru. INCOME. Sunandini stated that on the 31st.March 2010 Income received @ Rs.2000 from 163 members was Rs.3,26,000.

There were 38 guests at our General Meetings who contributed a total of Rs.7,600. We have received 5 subscriptions after that and another 7 guests an the April General Meeting.

The total of Rs.11,400/- will be credited to the kitty of the next committee. The income and expenditure detail of the months of April and May 2010 have been circulated at the AGM separately as part of the expenses borne during the club year. These will reflect in the Audit report 2010-2011.

Sunandini requested the members to please ensure that the subscription for the year is paid when it is due, i.e. in the month of September. If a member is traveling she could mail a cheque to the Treasurer and should make certain to write her name behind the cheque. This would avoid confusion when the accounts are tallied.

GALA NIGHT. Sunandini reported that we sold 170 tickets of which 112 were members and spouses, and 58 guests.

Our total collection was Rs.1,87,400/-.

We are very pleased to announce that the expenses of Rs.1,85,981.50 were completely covered by our ticket sales and we had left over of Rs.1,419.50 Sunandini said this was a first in the history of the club.

The committee printed the Membership Directory after a gap of one year. It cost Rs.48,282/-.

Sunandini stated that the financial condition of the Club is sound.

As on 31/3/2009

Cash in hand Rs.14,394.00.

Cash in Bank Rs.1,66,036.72.

Cash in fixed deposits Rs.1,90,618.12

At the end of our financial year on 31/3/2010 our account had

Cash in hand Rs.39,151.00.

Cash in Bank Rs.25,420.92.

Cash in fixed deposits Rs.1,98,499.76

i.e. an excess of Rs.92,022.84

The fixed deposit nos.52031005159,5167,5175 mature on 11/5/2011 and will amount to Rs.2,21,285.57

To conclude Sunandini said that our committee had printed the Directory, our Gala was within the Budget, and we had not dug into the club's saving to achieve all this.

Sunandini's suggestions were

- change the financial year to coincide with the working year
- to collect subscriptions in one shot.
- to increase the subscription fees from 2,000/- annum which is very low.

Sunandini wished her successor Ala Madhu and the new Executive Committee all the best for the coming club year and would be happy to assist in any way for a smooth transfer of responsibility.

- **Report of the Secretary Shree Devi Singh.**

Shree Devi said that it had been a pleasure and privilege to work with Such a wonderful Executive Committee and thanked them for their co-operation and help. She wished the new Secretary Anita Dua, the very best for the coming WIC year.

- **Report of the 2nd. Vice President Sudarshana Singh.**

Sudarshana opened her report by saying that the President Vaneeta had suggested that all projects and activities be carried out by the Committee members only and that no sub committee members would be necessary. The committee members worked in Tandem and in perfect harmony and that the relationship made the term a pleasurable one. Sudarshana stated

she would miss the team of eight. She thanked Vaneeta and Zakia for being the team's guiding Guru's.

Sudarshana thanked the following members who had graciously extended their hospitality in their homes :

EVA SCHLAGA for the Program of the EU Experience of Regional Integration AT THE German Embassy residence.

MONA AGGARWAL for the Diwali Celebration at her residence.

DR. SYEDA HAMEED (Zakia's sister) for the Eid celebration program at her residence.

LADY ARABELLA STAGG for the Christmas Celebration and Play at the British Residence. Darshi mentioned that two of the girls who had performed from deprived backgrounds who had performed in the play had now gone in for higher studies.

DR.KUSUM ANSAL for giving her residence for the New Year Program with the food expert Pushpesh Pant.

ANITA MEATTLE for giving her residence for the February Meeting, Dance Drama by "Arpana".

MAXINE WILLIAMS for the Program with the Big Band.

MARGAREDA BARAHOVA for hosting the Gala Night.

BARBARA BILMAN for hosting at the Turkish Residence the Sufi Evening.

GM OF HYATT REGENCY HOTEL for allowing us to host the AGM On 12th.May 2010.

To conclude Sudarshana said to the Hostesses "God Bless their Homes".

- **Report of the First Vice President Zakia Zaheer.**

Zakia began by stating that she had enjoyed working with her 23 Circle leaders and considered herself lucky to have had them. She said their Efforts and initiatives had resulted in varied and interesting Programs. Zakia briefly did a recap of the programs :

"Written Word" was most enjoyable and well attended. From White Tiger to Obama, Lallgarh Palace to a nazi Camp and then onto Victoria

and Abdul, and Dalmia and many more. Zakia thanked Gita and Reva for a journey of diverse subjects.

Sylvia and Rosie excelled in “Gourmet Delights” we went on a gourmet journey through 9 destinations. From Swiss Cheese and chocolate to Mexican Tacos and taquilla, onto mid Eastern and far Eastern delights, and Dumplings as well as exotic Indian dishes. Plus a foot massage and health food thrown in for good measure ! Zakia thanked both of them. Zakia said that Gugu was always a pleasure to have on board as she took us on an international whirlwind tour, starting with Pakistan, China, Italy, And Brazil. Zakia thanked Gugu and Josephina.

Next, “Burning Issues” Zakia said , enlightened us on many subjects, be it Heart Disease in Women, the importance of making a Will, aging gracefully or horrors of rape, and organ donation, they covered it all. Zakia thanked Nina and Rita.

“Performing Arts” lived upto its name said Zakia. Dance, traditional and Salsa, music classical and nostalgic, drama, theatre, performances and talks about all of them. Their 9 Programs were much appreciated and well attended. Zakia thanked Radhika, Nandini, and Ala.

Zakia thanked Emma and Nandita for the treat of getting to know our city better with visits to key places like the Red Fort, Moghul Gardens, Sanskriti Museum and historical walks.

Next, Zakia thanked Neeru and Leena for the array of movies we had been shown. From The Duchess to Australia, Vanity Fair and Rendition, then Gandhi my Father, and Panchwati a movie made from our own member Kusum Ansal’s book.

Thanks were given to Bindu with help from Vibhuti for introducing our members to exotic eating places. MamaGato, Amici, Spaghetti Kitchen, Mainland China, Latitude 28 degrees, and Oh Calcutta to name a few.

“Fun and More” Zakia said was our new group which really was fun and more. From the influence of colour in our life, to an animated talk on the generation gap, to a delightful satire play by Nima showcasing the talents of our own members. Zakia thanked Nima and Kelly.

She then thanked our Yoga expert Anita Dua for teaching us Yoga and its impact on good health.

Best things for the last said Zakia. How could anyone forget the trip to Turkey which was a beautifully organized fantastic experience. She thanked Barbara, Sheila, and Niti for their meticulous planning. Also the Orissa trip which had been a royal treat with luxury, sightseeing, pearls and prawns all included.

Zakia mentioned that besides these 59 Programs there were 4 Special Programs ;

a visit to Lalit Kala (courtesy Frenny),

a picnic at Malini’s Beautiful farm house, Women’s Day movie on Dalai Lama’s Mother, and a beautiful Operetta by Shannoji. She thanked all of them.

Zakia said it would be remiss if she did not thank all of the generous hostesses whom she has named in her letter of Shukriya in the May Newsletter. She said that WIC was about participation and interaction of making friends, learning about each other’s culture and she felt the Committee and Circles had sincerely endeavoured to fulfill this obligation.

Lastly, Zakia requested the members not to sign up if they were not sure of attending a meeting. Members could always ring up and come at the last minute as there is always place and food. But, if they had signed, they should honor the commitment.

To conclude Zakia thanked her Committee and quoted a short verse she had composed on each one of them :

Darshi, the voice of sanity in our meet

Ever so cool, composed and ever so neat
Cautious when we splurged and sober when we drank
Without dear Darshi, we would all be blank!

Alice the just, organized and calm
Always with a smile and always with charm
Her quiet humour and generous ways
Endeared her to all like a burst of sun's rays.

Lovely, and bouncy, full of vigour
With pen and paper she was always there
Laughing and efficient, our Shree was a joy
Any tough job, she was ready to say ahoy!

Tania and her lists were never ending
Email after email she was ever sending
Always sporting and always willing
With her charm and grace she could make a killing.

Bundle of energy and source of joy
Our creative Anu knows how to enjoy
Ready to help, advice, whatever the need
But when it came to Newsletter, she was always worried.

We seek her here, we seek her there
Our elusive Sunandini we seek everywhere
She had our fortunes, funds and account
But she always surfaced in times that count!

Vaneeta the calm, Vaneeta the cool
But ready to battle, could suffer no fool
She sets a record for email, and Text
But with mobile at her ear she is always the best
Charming she was, the birds off the branch
When bargaining for WIC, none stood a chance!

And as for me always juggling the dates
Mike in my car, racing not to be late
To give or not to give was always the dilemma
Dates, gifts, venues, that was the problema!

Zakia then distributed gifts to all her Circle leaders :-
Gita Devi, Reva Singh, Sylvia Kaelin, Roseleen Sahni, Barbara Bilman,
Sheila Ghatate, Niti Judge, Gugu Anup Singh, Josefina Young, Nina
Malhotra, Rita Garekhan, Radhika Birla, Nandini Pattani, Ala Madhu,
Niru Kapur, Leena Singh, Kelly Jarvis, Nima Malhotra, Bindu Talwar.

- **Report of the President Vaneeta Podewils** (read in her absence by Alice Gough)

Vaneeta wondered what to say as everything had already been said!
The year speaks for itself, said Vaneeta. She hoped that that the meetings
had been enjoyed by all as much as we had enjoyed presenting them.
Vaneeta said the year had been very rewarding as we had been told by
many members how interesting the programs had been. This was largely
due to her Committee working in harmony as a team not only fulfilling
their portfolios but always willing to contribute in whichever way they
were needed.

Vaneeta stated that the encouragement and appreciation of the members
by appreciating had been a source of inspiration for us. As for her,
personally, it had been a gratifying year of discovery as a President and
had enriched her in many ways. She had learned a lot about different
cultures, customs, and lifestyles. There were so many highlights this year
and her Committee had already spoken about them.

She emphasized how enjoyable the Gala Night was. We had 112 WIC
members and 58 friend and family members which totaled to 170. Vaneeta
said that the evening was like a 'huge family get-together' and those who
had not come had really missed out.

Vaneeta said that our year in September started off with the motto 'Friendship' at the German Embassy where 117 members were present. Each one was presented with a 'good luck bamboo plant'. These good wishes were given from the Committee personally and not paid for by the budget.

A year of friendship had started and should end in the same spirit said Vaneeta, quoting Zakia's mobile ring tone 'I know that we can always be friends. I know that this will never end. We all should always be friends.' Vaneeta thanked the WIC members and the Committee for putting their trust in her as the President this year. Last but not the least she thanked her husband for his help and patience especially when WIC seemed like a full time job!

Vaneeta quoted 'They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, but an entire life to forget them. Take the time to live and love! Don't value the things you have in your life, but value WHO you have in your life!'

To conclude Vaneeta said that the year which started on a note of 'friendship and let us grow together' should end on that note.

She thanked all her friends and WIC members and wished Sohinder and her committee best of luck for the coming year.

4. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Balance Sheet for approval.

The above were passed which was proposed by Nina Malhotra and seconded by Nandita Lahiri.

5. Any Other Business.

- Smita divan asked the treasurer whether the expenses incurred after 31st.March,2010 (Rs.99,781/-) will be deducted from the amount in the Savings A/C . Sunandini replied that the expenses will be reflected in the next year's report.
- Renu Mehra said she wanted to bring on record that it had been a wonderful year with excellent programs and a very good turnout at the programs. She said the committee had put in a lot of very hard work.

- Bapsi Nariman said that she hoped that Renu and the rest of the New Committee would also do the same.
- Nina Dey Gupta said that she thought the Executive Committees should be elected for a term of two years.

6. Bapsi Nariman thanked the Executive Committee for choosing an excellent Nominating Committee namely, Rita, Janet, Maki, Hemant, Bubbles, and Josefina.

Bapsi read out the new slate :

Presentation of the WIC Executive Committee 2010-2011

- **President** : **Sohinder Nabha**
 - **First Vice President** : **Alexandra Tomasikova**
 - **2nd. Vice President** : **Anita Meattle**
 - **Secretary** : **Anita Dua**
 - **Treasurer** : **Ala Madhu**
 - **Hospitality** : **Maxine Williams**
 - **Membership** : **Renu Mehra**
 - **Newsletter** : **Maeve O'Connor**
- The slate was proposed by Neena Malhotra and seconded by Nandita Lahiri.
 - The Balance Sheet was proposed by Sheila Ghatate and seconded by Radhika Birla.

7. Welcoming of the incoming Executive Committee.

As the new and old Committees exchanged seats gifts presented to the outgoing committee.

The Manager of the Hyatt regency was also given a Gift.

8.Incoming President's Speech of Acceptance.

The President Sohinder Nabha thanked the Chairperson, members of the Nomination Committee, and also the General Membership for placing their faith in her, and said she had been greatly honoured and hoped she would live up to their expectations.

Sohinder hoped to continue the great work of Vaneeta and carry forward the Motto of Friendship and hoped to keep up the high standards of the last committee.

Sohinder also thanked the Nominating Committee for her excellent team. The President mentioned that a trip to China was being planned and that interested members should get in touch with the 1st.Vice President – the details for the same would follow shortly.

9.Tea.

The Meeting concluded with refreshments and tea for the Members.



Vaneeta Podewils
President



Shree Devi Singh
Secretary