

Navnat Vanik Association of the UK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2.15 PM on 13 May 2012 at Navnat Centre, Hayes

1. The meeting commenced with prayers and silence was observed for the peace of departed souls.
2. President, Bhupendra J Shah (BJS) introduced the committee and gave his annual report highlighting that in his third year of office, the 'Executive Committee' (EC) had continued to build on the framework established, developed the library and computer room and his vision was to have a regular footprint at the Centre of 500 this year rising to over a 1000 in a few years.
3. **Minutes of the 2011 AGM**  
The minutes were taken as read having been published on the website and were approved, having been proposed by Dhirajlal Parekh and seconded by Vipin Mithani.
4. **Matters arising were:**
  - 1) Kishor Mehta said that in his opinion, names of affiliates' Committees should be on website.
5. **Honorary Secretary's Annual Report**  
Dhiru Galani read out his report giving a brief account of the various activities in the year.
6. **Accounts**  
The treasurer, Ramesh Shah presented the audited accounts for the year to 31 December 2011 for adoption, explaining the highlights of the year and that bank deposit balances had increased by £100,000 since 31 December 2010.  
**Matters arising:**
  - 2) Mr Jasani queried why premises and other repairs were not combined.
  - 3) Kishor Mehta requested details of £16K expended on hall repairs – these were redecoration costs.
  - 4) It was explained to Baburai Shah that interest income was higher as the deposits had been placed for longer periods.
  - 5) Mr Jasani said that a member's daughter had sent an email about a hire cancellation but the deposit had not yet been returned.
  - 6) Dharendra Sanghrajka's queried the restricted income of £2923 - this related to a fund raising trip by Chetan Parekh of Navnat Bridge Club.
  - 7) It was explained to Baburai Shah that other creditors were made up of deposits, including car park (£8.25K) and a bank overdraft balance at our account in India, as funds were in transit.
  - 8) Jitendra Mehta was informed that income from car park was £110,000 p.a. paid quarterly.
7. **Approval of Accounts:** The accounts were approved, following a motion for their adoption, proposed by Hasmita Shah and seconded by Jaysukh Mehta. The treasurer, his team and the auditors, PSJ Alexander, were thanked for their services.
8. **Change in Membership Subscription**  
Nitin Parekh, read the proposal to change the membership structure, by extending the eligibility criteria for the reduced life membership fee £25, from 60 to 65 years. This was unanimously approved, having been proposed by Jayesh Kothari and seconded by Ramesh Gadani.
9. **Announcement of award of Patronship to Mr Yogesh Mehta**  
In recognition of his considerable contribution to the cause and enrichment of the Association and the wider community, the President on behalf of the EC, BoT and the NVA, had great pleasure in presenting a memento in recognition of awarding Yogesh Mehta the Patronship of the Association. Yogesh Mehta thanked NVA for bestowing him this honour and took this opportunity to pledge £15,000 towards the next building project of the Association.

#### 10. **Board of Trustees Report**

The annual report of the 'board of trustees' (BoT), was read by Manharbhai Mehta. He explained the custodial duties of the Board and the special relationship between them and the executive committee. They held meetings which were generally attended by the EC president and secretary. They assisted the EC in running the Treasury function of investing surplus funds and in other areas when called upon. He thanked Vipin Mithani for his five years' loyal and dedicated service on his retirement by rotation and looked forward to welcoming the new appointee. He also thanked NCVA for allowing NVA to hold their meetings at their Edgware office when requested.

#### 11. **Announcement of New Trustee**

On the recommendation of the EC, and as approved at a duly convened meeting of the EC with the BoT, the new trustees' appointment to the BoT, Mr Jayesh Bhuvra was announced and appointed by members.

#### 12. **Recommendations to incoming committee**

- 1) Consider changing the financial year ending.
- 2) Conduct a professional survey to gather members' views on the future direction of the community
- 3) Attract younger age-groups to centre, with a target of 500 to 1000 new members.
- 4) Outsource some work at the centre to professionals ensuring higher standards are maintained.
- 5) Consider reducing the number of Darpan magazine issues published in a year.

#### 13. **Affiliates' and Subsidiary Bodies' Reports by their respective Presidents/Office Bearers**

Ushaben Shah, Nalinbhai Udani, Roopal Mehta Satish Panchamia and Jay Bhuvra presented their annual reports on behalf of NVBS, NVM, NYA, NBC, and NGS respectively. Key highlights and matters arising were as follows:

- (1) NVBS had conducted their events successfully and were holding their AGM in the following week. NVA and especially the Kitchen Committee were thanked for their support.
- (2) Navnat Vadil Mandal president reported that since their inception in Mason's Avenue, membership had grown to 280 and they had shortened their name as stated. He thanked all the volunteers for their Friday lunchtime and the newly commenced Tuesday sessions, and especially the catering staff and volunteers, who continue to work whilst members enjoy their yoga and other pastimes, including table tennis, seminars, bingo, music, daytrips, short trips etc. and computer classes, for which Dhuru Galani, Rajnikantbhai, Chandubhai and Harshadbhai were appreciated. He requested the EC for a grant of £ 1,000 to start Tuesday gatherings for Vadils.
- (3) NYA membership was growing and the membership drive on Priti Bhojan Day, when they also had their AGM, had been successful. Roopal Mehta thanked NVA for their support and allowing NYA to be involved in the Graduation, Sports and other events such as Navratri. They had taken the lead in the health awareness day. Their activities included meet and greet, dinner/dance and picnic outings.
- (4) Satish Panchamia informed members that the 130 strong bridge club played on Wednesday and Friday evenings and that standards were improving. The club had managed to establish a strong presence in the Middlesex County Association which was affiliated to the English Bridge Union. He was sad to report the loss of three prominent club members during the year, namely, Kishori Gadani, Surendra Mehta and Ramnik Jashapara.
- (5) NGS was running smoothly in its fourth year, the founding committee having retired and a new committee was now in place. They played in both overseas and local courses and were self-financing. The handicaps of young players were falling and he thanked NVA for their support.

#### 14. Long Service Awards

Mementoes were presented to three EC members, who were not standing for election this year:-

- i) Shakuntlaben Sheth, for serving 25 years in the community including serving in the Bhagini Samaj and NVA committees, and most recently being the NVA kitchen Co-ordinator. She has promised to continue to help NVA in the future.
- ii) Bharatbhai Parekh, for serving 17 years as a hard working and dedicated Hall Secretary, who was resigning so that he could spend more time with his wife, who was not keeping well recently. He is one of NVA's silent workers always working behind the scenes.
- iii) Mahendrabhai Kothary, having served in the EC for the last four years but mainly for being the Association's unofficial photographer, from day 1, over 25 years ago.

#### 15. Any Other Business and Questions and Answers from the Floor

1. Jayantilal Sheth – Allocation of ucchavnis to Jiv Daya Fund should be increased – President promised to reconsider on 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of project completion as agreed by members.
2. Kirit Wadher was informed that there were approx. 1800 members.
3. Baburai Shah, questioned why AGM, being a major event, was not mentioned in March Darpan and also no photographs were being taken. He enquired about the current status of the building committee and was informed that incoming EC would appoint sub-committee. In reply to his question, approx. 8 civil weddings had been registered at the Centre.
4. Some reports in Darpan were given late and website needed improvements.
5. Darshana Bajaria was informed that donations, small or large were announced in Darpan.
6. Dhirendra Sanghrajka noted that donations were mainly made to charities in India and wondered why Kenya was not considered.
7. Induben Sanghvi was informed that non-members could not attend affiliates' AGMs.
8. Avanti Jasani recommended that donations should be given according to the size and capacity of animal sanctuaries and costs and inflation should be considered.
9. Rajnikant Shah was informed that no donations were given to charities who did not respond to NVA status enquires.
10. Chandrakant Mehta congratulated the Darpan Committee for improvements in quantity and quality and requested information by area and asked that Centre opening times be published.
11. Kishor Mehta said that that a children's playground was essential and may also be a requirement as per our constitution.
12. Ramaben Doshi and Asha Mehta recommended hiring professional childminders and providing crèche facilities at certain events. Also, allow viewing of IPL final on big screen.
13. Jitendra Mehta applauded the EC for making progress and making advances and recommended more religious seminars on a regular basis.
14. Manhar Mehta stated that as the Association has no branches, they should consider NCVA for dissemination of information as it had connections with other organisations.
15. Nagin Khajuria recommended incorporation and activities via a social enterprise company.
16. Baburai Shah mentioned that:
  - (1) NVBS had more articles in Darpan than NVA EC
  - (2) Why non-members were allowed to attend AGM
  - (3) A think tank sub-committee should be formed
  - (4) Why the Krishna Kanaiyya play was cancelled? Replied that organisers had cancelled.
17. In reply to question from Chandrakant Mehta, members were informed that 12 EC meetings had been held in the previous year and attendance was 90% on average.
18. Mukesh Shah advised NVA to apply for a license to hold paid events.

#### 16. Vote of Thanks and Re-appointment of Honorary Auditors and Solicitors

The proposals to re-appoint PSJ Alexander as Auditors and appointment of Mrs Mamta Parekh as honorary solicitor were duly approved and a vote of thanks proposed unanimously to appreciate their donated services.

#### 17. Appointment of Independent Chairperson for Election of incoming EC

Manhar Mehta, chairman of the BoT was invited to the chair to conduct the proceedings.

#### 18. Dissolution of 2011 EC and Election of 2012 EC

Manhar Mehta declared the 2011 EC dissolved and Kirit Wadher proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing EC.

The following nominations having been received resulted in all of them being elected unopposed as office bearers and committee members: -

President	Bhupendra Shah
Vice-President	Paresh Mehta
Secretary	Dhiru Galani
Joint-Secretary	Dipak Shah
Treasurer	No Nomination
Assistant-Treasurer	Ketan Adani
Hall Secretary	Hasmita Doshi
Membership	Nitin Parekh
Committee:	Kirit Batavia
	Sangeeta Bavisha
	David Holden
	Bharat Mehta
	Ketan Jashapara
	Nemish Mehta
	Roopal Punater

As no nomination for treasurer was received, members from the floor recommended that Ramesh Shah, ex-treasurer, be nominated and he kindly accepted to stand for the position. Manhar Mehta announced that Ramesh Shah was elected treasurer.

The meeting was concluded at 6.30 PM and the independent chairperson, Manhar Mehta and his colleagues were thanked for their assistance.

Bhupendra Shah  
President

Dhiru Galani  
General Secretary

As approved at NVA (UK) Executive Committee Meeting held at 8.00 PM on 28 February 2013.