

Minutes of ESS Alumni Biennial General Meeting held on
Sunday 8th March 2015 at
Mehfil Restaurant, 45 The Green, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4AR

1) Welcome:

The Secretary, Vijay Patel, called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and appreciated their large presence, which was very encouraging. The Chairman, Jayant Tanna thanked everyone for turning up to this Biennial General Meeting in spite of other commitments. He hoped everyone had a good Starter for Lunch and promised that the main course, Dessert and Karaoke music to follow would be even better! He asked everyone to, very briefly, introduce themselves.

2) Members present (29) : Jayant Tanna, Vijay Patel, Nisar Butt, Pradeep Luther, Deepak Patel, Kiran Patel, Varinder Seth, Balraj Sidher, Vijay Sharma, Varinder Singh, Ajay Mahindru, Anil Lakhani, Balbir Singh Bhogal, Bashir Butt, Bhagwant Virdee, Daljit Ohbi, Gurdip Bahra, Kulwant Laly, Madhukant Hirani, Mukesh Varma, Nasrullah Khan Moghal, Piyush Shah, Raichand Desaur, Ramesh Rajput, Ranvir Singh Bhogal, Tahir Lodhi, Trikam Vadher, Zahoor Saif ur Rahman, Amrik Mahindru

Guests present (including 12 spouses): 16

3) Apologies:

Harjinder Singh Chana, Harvinder Singh Ubhi, Harish Luther, Mohan Singh Matharu, Mohammed Anwar Chaudry, Harikishan Mistry, Tarlok Mandair, Suriakant Shah, Kuldip Singh Sumal, Babubhai Patel, Harshad Joshi, Ajit Singh Ryatt, Saleh Mamon, Ramesh Sethi, Manmohan Aggarwal, Hamid Malik, Ahmed Jee Khan, Vijay Modgill, Mansoor Sharief, Kanesh Lakhani, Shashipal Aggarwal, Saleem Mehar and 4 from the USA: Sharad Buddhdev, Chitranjan Patel, Jaswinder Aujla and Surinder Aujla

4) Notes of the last general meeting of 23rd September 2012:

These were agreed as a true record.

5) Matters Arising not covered by Agenda:

None

6) Report from the Chairman – Jayant Tanna:

Jayant started by reading a short prayer 'Make me an instrument of your peace'. He then went through his report, which had been circulated to all members in advance. He reminded members of the two-fold purpose of ESS Alumni – of serving the Alumni and of serving Eastleigh High School. He made the following points using a power point presentation:

a) Serving the Alumni

JT reported that only 51 members had paid their subscriptions. He urged all the members to pay their dues and to get other old school boys to become members. Life Membership of £100 would save the hassle of renewing the £20 biennial Membership. He talked about the Sunday Lunches and said we were quite happy to have these in different locations, North and South of London.

b) Serving the school

JT talked about the visit to Nairobi in November 2013 by him, Vijay Patel, Nisar Butt, Harvinder Ubhi, Gurdip Bahra, Prem Sharma and Deepak Patel. They attended the school prize giving function with the Nairobi alumni and donated KSh. 50,000/- for the school library. They attended the ESS Alumni Kenya inauguration function at Simba Union which was a grand occasion. They consulted many ex students about getting the school repainted as it was in a bad state. One of them, Gurcharan Singh Gill agreed to carry out this project by a big personal donation and by providing his services to get the re-painting done. This was completed in the Easter and August

holidays of 2014. JT, Nisar and Bashir Butt visited Nairobi in Sept/Oct 2014 to formally acknowledge our thanks to Gurcharan Singh Gill by having a school function to celebrate this generous gesture on his part as well as of ESS Alumni. The members warmly applauded our joint efforts and particularly the generosity and dedication of our major donor and alumni, Gurcharan Singh Gill.

c) Loss of all computers

JT mentioned the unfortunate incident of the robbery of all computers at the school in January 2015. We had donated 31 computers on the last occasion in 2012. The school had asked for support and had also requested support for replacing the school desks which were bought in 1956/7/8. The meeting agreed that we should raise funds through donations to help the school, especially in view of supporting students who had taken examination courses in Information Technology.

d) New website - www.essalumni.org.uk

It was very well planned and laid out with aims, plans, projects, accounts clearly posted. It showed school progress, staff, pupils' profiles, and extensive photo gallery of teams, activities, latest News, events, dates for the diary, missing magazines, photos, and profiles. The updated website now had photographs of all EESA events and the Nairobi visits.

e) Suggestions for the future

JT suggested donations from members for computers and desks for the school. JT asked for suggestions on the next Reunion. It was agreed that we may explore the possibility of having a joint reunion with Jamhuri High and invite other schools' alumni including Pangani Girls, etc. in possibly the third week in October 2016.

It was also decided to have Sunday lunch events south of the river. JT asked for support from members in those areas to help organise suitable venue, drum up local support and help the committee to organise it.

Other ideas included organising holidays within the country in order to meet up, socialise and have fun.

Jayant finished his report by thanking the members and the guests for their support and their attendance. He also thanked **all** the committee members for their hard work and dedication.

Everyone applauded the Chairman for his excellent work and the committee for their efforts.

7) Report from the Treasurer - Nisar Butt:

Nisar presented the accounts to the members, which had already been circulated to all members. We had a healthy balance of £1963. We had donated £10,000 for the school renovation and £21,000 had been donated by Gurcharan Singh Gill. He explained in detail the various aspects of our income and expenditure. He invited members to make personal donations for the school and started by pledging £250. He was followed by Jayant Tanna £250, Vijay Patel £250, Nasrullah Khan Moghal £100, Anil Lakhani £250, Pradeep Luther £250, Bhagwant Virdee £250, Raichand Desaur £250, Piyush Shah £250, Kulwant Singh Laly £100, Madhukant Hirani £100, Gurdip Bahra £100 and Varinder Singh £100. Jayant thanked everyone for their generous donations.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

8) Election of the committee 2010-2012:

The Chairman, Jayant Tanna informed the meeting that his was the only nomination for the post of Chairman. Jayant asked the members present to consider a change of leadership as he had been heading the organisation since its inception in 2007. He was happy to stand down in favour of new, fresh blood. The meeting, however, wished him to continue.

There was only one nomination for Secretary – Vijay Patel. There was only one nomination for Treasurer – Nisar Butt. There were no other nominations. Hence all 3 were declared duly elected officers by all present at the meeting.

The Chairman explained that for the 4 committee positions, there were 4 nominations – Pradeep Luther, Harish Luther, Bhagwant Singh Virdee and Harjinder Singh Chana. All four were declared duly elected committee members by the meeting.

However, the Chairman emphasised that we could always co-opt members. He invited members' suggestions. After a brief discussion, Anil Lakhani and Varinder Singh agreed to be co-opted onto the committee.

9) Any Other Business:

There was no other business.

10) Vote of thanks

Varinder Singh rose to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman and committee. He paid a glowing tribute to the members for the excellent work done in the last 2 years.

Varinder Seth too came forward and thanked the Chairman and the committee for their dedication and selfless services for the school. He applauded in particular making two trips to Nairobi at their own expense.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. He thanked the Secretary Vijay Patel for all his hard work with the administration of the function as well as for the singing. He thanked the other two brothers, Kiran and Dipak Patel for helping with setting up the sound system and for receiving and recording payments from members. He thanked Nisar for his services as a Treasurer and for being his constant companion to Nairobi. He thanked all the committee for their services.

The formal meeting came to a conclusion at around 3:45 pm.

11) Karaoke

This was followed by Karaoke singing by Dipak Patel, Vijay Patel, Bhagwant Singh Virdee and our special guest Mrs Tarulata Devani. Everyone enjoyed the lovely melodies from the 60s, 70s and 80s. It was so easy to join in with the lyrics so clearly displayed. Everyone thanked all the 4 singers.

Finally, the members departed the Mehfil, grateful for the excellent and smoothly conducted meeting, the deliciously lovely food, melodious singing and music and a friendly, warm atmosphere.