

Indian Association Baden General Body Meeting Minutes of Meeting

Hotel Zwysighof, Wettingen, 13.01.2018

Presence of the IAB EC 2017: Everyone present (**Mrigya Agarwal, Himesh Parikh, Vikas Kedia, Chaitra Rao, Deepa Kumaran, Aranya Bhattacharya, Anjum Asgar**)

Number of attendees: 90

Proceedings

I. President's Speech

- Good experience being in the committee, thanked the entire EC for the hard work
- Encouraged the members to be in the committee, take the lead
- Thanked the members of the association for giving us the opportunity

II. Secretary's Revue 2017

- Thanked the association for its support and encouragement for making the events possible and for all the fun
- More active on social media- facebook page has more likes as they tried to get more people from outside and make IAB more aware
- Outstanding attendance in all the events
- 126 family members, 24 students and 16 single members
- 16 New Memberships and 6 resignations
- New members:
 - Manan Adlakha and family
 - Pragnya Alatur
 - Jagannath Biswakarma
 - Kishor Butani and family
 - Bansi Butani
 - Rashmi Dindgur
 - Hrishikesh Ghodki

- Satyanarayan Koya and family
 - Anandita Kuchibhotla
 - Lokesh Menghani
 - Abhimanyu Patel
 - Deepu Sebastian and family
 - Shailender Singh and family
 - Dileep Tare and family
 - Yash Trivedi
 - Chandra Vishal and family
- Review of all the events in 2017 – good feedback for all the events, highlights and lessons learned after each event were presented
 - Store room in Neuenhof cleaned by EC 2017, presented pics of before and after, encourage to keep it clean and store the things in the right place and try not to mess it up
 - Meeting with the New ambassador of the Indian Embassy; the new ambassador is very motivated, next committee should take the initiative to interact more with the Ambassador

III. Treasurer presenting the accounts for the year 2017

- Try to give the Association back in terms of enjoyment – use the funds for the benefit of the members.
- Consolidated accounts including Badenfahrt (BF) accounts presented
- Comment by **Neeraj Sukhija**: check the post box, he has been getting mails and got reminders because he was the Ex-president, he got the Betreuung;
Clarification by **Vikas Kedia**: It was a Mahnung for BF, (Mobilar), payment had been cleared so someone should go to Mobilar and talk.
- Comment by **Neeraj Sukhija** on the Secretary's point of interacting more with the Indian Embassy. He got a call from the first secretary after last year GBM and got praising for GALA 2016 and wanted to reimburse for the event expenses (only DJ invoice was paid).
- Typing error of the year needs to be corrected in the accounts (2014 instead of 2017)
- Accounts approved by everyone at GBM (100% approval)

IV. Acknowledgement of IAB members' achievements: Following students were awarded 100 CHF for their outstanding achievements in Swiss Matura

- Pushkin Nagpure
- Rashmi Dindgur

V. Badenfahrt (BF) 2017 Review

- **Presented by Kunal Dhammi on behalf of Aruna Kapoor, finances presented by Sameer Sood.**
- **BF committee was happy that everyone enjoyed, generated funds for activities, presented how much food was sold, a good number of volunteers supporting BF at the stall, presented the highlights of BF, good use of technology (App) documentary coverage of Namaste India – good achievement, live FB coverage, presented lessons learned from the event**
- **Finances presented by Sameer Sood: help form the committee members at the stall and cash desk was appreciated – all invoices settled, nothing pending, and all BF accounts closed.**
- **Questions about finances by Himesh Parikh:** Turnover fell by 40% and profit by 80%. Is it because of increased pricing?
Answer by Samir Sood: Pricing and spread of the event plays a role. Spread was huge and people were roaming all around.
Kunal Dhammi: Prices were not dramatically increased, for drinks it was a bit higher than previous BF.
Vikas Kedia: Prices although not increased, but with inflation almost 0, prices do increase in comparison to last year BF (kleine BF).
Neeraj Sukhija: 2017 was only takeaway and 2007 we were sitting and paying 22 CHF (restaurant) and for takeaway it was too expensive, there was an opportunity to gain more, food expenses only 40%.
Samir Sood: He takes it as a learning that pricing could be done better. **Last comment made by Aboli Ghodki:** Durable and heat proof plates should be provided, aluminium plates were not appropriate.
- **Question by Rakhi:** If CityBaden tax was paid?
Answer by Kunal Dhammi: Citybaden Tax not paid because turnover was less than 150K

- **Finances approved by everyone in the hall (100%)**

VI. Appointing the Chairperson

- EC nominated Nisheet Singh, he accepts it and was confirmed by the General Body (GB)
- Nisheet Singh leads the evening from here: Asks EC 2017 to continue, but EC 2017 kindly declines the offer.

VII. Dissolution of IAB EC 2017

- IAB EC 2017 dissolved unanimously by the GB

Sudha Arasu begins and then the entire halls followed by giving the EC 2017 a standing ovation for their outstanding work in 2017.

VIII. Dissolution of Badenfahrt Committee 2017

- BF committee 2017 was dissolved unanimously by the GB

IX. IAB DF Update

- **Himesh Parikh presented the update about IAB DF since nobody from the IAB DF committee was present**
- **Encourage support for IAB DF, asked interested members to donate**
- **Mr. Jaishankar wants to know who are the members of IAB DF. Nisheet Singh said it was started by Dileep Vimalassery, Shrey Kapoor, Aparna Neelakandhan and supported by Aruna Kapoor; Comment by Suresh Sehgal: Doesn't it make sense to dissolve this committee if nobody shows up to update how much money they spent; he wants someone from the committee to be here to update about the IAB DF expenses. Neeraj Sukhija seconds this proposal. He follows by explaining that even he as a president had to run around to get an update about it. These points will be**

taken into consideration and ask EC 2018 to follow up actively and ask the DF committee to update actively.

X. Proposals

- **Their first three proposals were carried forward from previous GBM.**
- **First proposal presented by Neeraj Sukhija:** Couples defined in the Constitution for registration as members have to be married – **proposal dropped by Neeraj Sukhija himself.**
- **Second Proposal presented by Kunal Dhammi:** If a member intends to resign from the IAB he/she should submit the resignation to the committee on or before 31st March in the year they intend to resign.

Neeraj Sukhija: Voting needs to be done on this proposal.

Vikas Kedia: The voting on this proposal was postponed because the procedure for constitutional changes had to be investigated first.

Nisheet Singh: Senior members (founding members) should be asked first.

Kunal Dhammi: 2/3 people from the people present in the hall need to approve, then the amendments can be done:

VOTING: 31st March date approved unanimously;

Ramesh: What if the member doesn't pay?

Kunal Dhammi: If someone doesn't pay by 31st and doesn't send a resignation, he is deemed to be the member.

Vikas Kedia: By 31st March resignation email has to be sent, if it is not done then the members are asked to pay the membership fees even if they want to resign later;

Neeraj Sukhija: Cutoff date needs to be there for resignation;

Shalini Jaiswal: Automatic mail should go in January that membership fee is due (reminder);

Ketan Parikh: Last date to pay the fees is end of may/june (in the bylaw), before 31st march the member has to inform.

Rakhi Chattopadhyay: Not fair to show the names of the founding members;

Proposal passed because nobody objected. (100% approval)

- **Third Proposal presented by Ranjana Singh:** The membership fees should be paid before registration for the first event or end of June, whichever is earlier. **Proposal dropped because of the previous proposal as the idea of both the proposals is similar.**

- **Fourth Proposal by Neeraj Sukhija:** All Amendments agreed in GBM need to be recorded as an Annexure to Constitution and must be displayed in IAB Website. **Counter proposal by IAB EC 2017:** All Amendments agreed in GBM needs to be added as an Annexure to the Constitution by the NEXT Committee. **Comment by Himesh Parikh:** Voting on the Counter Proposal only if the first proposal is denied.
Neeraj Sukhija agrees that the Counter proposal is fine. Counter proposal accepted by 100% in GB.
- **Fifth Proposal by Neeraj Sukhija:** It is recommended that the Committee should have at least one Youth (18-25 years) in its team.
Neeraj Sukhija: He is not saying to amend the constitution but it is just a recommendation from his side because in 2017 the youngsters did a good job with their new ideas. It would also help the youngsters in their work environments to work with their seniors and this way it brings benefit for both youngsters and seniors. He says it is not in the constitution to have two women in the constitution but Madhu Singh said it is in the bylaw. **VOTING:** Nisheet Singh says this proposal is in terms of best practice so no voting is needed. Nobody is against bringing youth power in the committee.
- **Sixth Proposal by Neeraj Sukhija:** with Fifty Years of IAB coming in 2019 – an approval of a Grand Event for members should be done and for this event maybe a separate committee should be formed with an agreed fund allocated separately for this. People who cannot make to the event should be compensated with an equivalent amount of gift voucher. **Counter Proposal by IAB EC 2017:** For the 50th year of IAB, form a sub-committee (2+) that starts planning in 2018 for the grand event. This committee shall become an extended part of EC 2019. Grant EC 2019 an extra budget of 20K CHF for the grand event only!
Neeraj Sukhija explains: Agrees that the counter proposal is more or less the same. But does not agree to it 100%. Wants basically a cruise as a grand event for 50 years of IAB since many enjoyed it in 2016. For that planning needs to be done well ahead of time (at least a year of planning is required). One event like a cruise might not be enough especially if there are people who are seasick, for them some other event needs to be organized. So basically, two events so that most of the population can come inside.
Himesh Parikh explains the counter proposal: Counter proposal is a bit more detailed. Subcommittee of two or more as a part of EC 2019 committee but not of 2018 committee, two people are enough to start the initial work now, get sponsors, halls etc. Adequate time and manpower is needed to plan a huge event (even bigger than Gala). Budget is not an issue but getting it approved is.
Manoj Masand: Good idea to celebrate and plan in advance, does not like idea

of giving voucher, better to have a second event, half go here and half go there. 130 families are there and 20K budget is small. Maybe approve 20k for now as a budget and maybe in next GBM with a detailed planning approve for more.

Himesh Parikh: It's up to the EC to decide on how or what the grand event is. If a greater Gala or a completely separate event, if paid event or free and members exclusive?

Manju Nambiar: The grand event should be only for members. Clarifies that the proposal itself was meant for members only so it is not open if the grand event should be members exclusive or not. Yes, only for members. **Vikas Kedia:** We can go for an open event and make it a showcase event for greater Baden people around, have subsidized prices for members and for non-members a similar concept like Gala but on a much bigger scale with 1000 people. It is agreed that details of the event cannot be worked out here but we should decide if the financial competence is given to the EC or extended EC.

Krishnan Parthasarthy disagrees to put understatements of compensations, budgets and vouchers in the proposal. Just say that we shall have a grand event and somebody should plan and give an actual proposal about it in the next GBM about all the costs etc. Have a senior and junior member in the subcommittee together make a proposal. Otherwise the proposal is too open.

Manoj Masand: It might be too late to decide on the event in January next year for an event, decision on the amount should be taken now and propose maybe two events and decide it during the year. Subcommittee should be decided and give them a budget of 20K for now, it can be changed if needed in the next GBM, otherwise if a higher budget is not approved in the next GBM, people can decide if they want to come for the grand event or not.

Krishnan: Amount of 20K can be kept as a planned budget.

Nisheet Singh says that the subcommittee will be decided today along with EC 2018 and clarifies that the grand event will be a member only event. EC's responsibility to follow up with the subcommittee on the grand event.

- **Grand event with an extended committee? approved by 100% by GB.**
- **20K budget? Budget of 20k approved 100% by GB and maybe increased if deemed necessary for the event.**
- **Member only event approved by 100% by GB.**
- **Duty of the EC 2018 to follow up with the subcommittee, shouldn't come too late with the idea of the grand event.**
- **Nobody against counter proposal for the extension of members.**

- **Seventh Proposal by EC 2017:** If the EC wants to allow members of other associations (other than the ones already agreed), to have the same privilege as IAB members, GBM approval is required.

Suresh Sahgal: If someone is a member of any Indian association, they should be provided the same privileges as IAB members;

Roy Alexander: Indian Association Wettingen was formed and does not charge membership fee and anyone can walk in, they don't have any special privileges, no difference in member or non-member prices. For that kind of association, it doesn't make sense to give them the same privilege as we give to IAGZ.

Himesh Parikh: Nothing formally defined until now which Indian associations get the member privileges. With IAGZ, Bern and Basel we have had something pretty formal. It would be smart that if the EC decides to have an agreement with a particular association and provide them with member privileges, it should be approved in the GBM.

Suresh Sahgal: Indian Embassy defined 5-6 associations as Indian associations. The thing is there was never any idea of calling "state associations" as Indian associations.

Himesh: The Indian embassy itself doesn't know which are the Indian associations. Maybe earlier they defined which are the Indian associations but now it's very vague which are the Indian communities and associations. It should be our decision with whom we shall have an agreement and partnership.

Nisheet Singh: Undue associations should not take an advantage of our membership. We can list the number of partner associations and any other associations which has to be extended to this and which follow this proposal and it has to be voted in by the GBM.

Usha Parthasarthy clarifies that the grand event in 2019 will be only for IAB members. Keep the association intact and have good relations with partner associations. It will be attached to the MoM which associations are partner associations and any other associations approved by the GBM will be extended to the list.

Proposal passed (100% approval). Below is the agreed list of partner associations as of GBM 2017

1. Indian association Bern (IAB)
2. Bharatiya association Berne (BAB)
3. Indian association of greater Zurich (IAGZ)
4. Indian association of Geneve (IAG)
5. Association of friends of India Basel (AFIB)

- **Eighth Proposal by IAB EC 2017:** It's mandatory for the members to inform the age of their children. If the DOB is not in the EC database then the EC has the right to treat them as nonmembers. Any new addition also needs to be notified to the EC at the earliest possible.

Vikas Kedia explains: As an EC, it's very difficult because there are new members coming into individual families and we have no records for them. And specially when it comes to the ages when they turn from 12 to 13 or 17 to 18, people don't bother to inform us. So, the EC has no idea when the child has become an individual and should become a member. There are no records of DOB of the child in the membership list. So, its mandatory to notify the EC when you have a new addition to the family to help the EC to maintain the records properly and charge the right fees for the events.

Dileep Tare disagrees and asks how you will define yourself when you are registering your child who is 13 and registering it for below 12.

Vikas Kedia: It should be notified when the kid turns 18 and inform the EC that they need to registered as individual member.

Manju Nambiar agrees with Vikas Kedia and says there is no harm for parents to inform that their kid has turned 18 or 13. Otherwise the EC doesn't know how to treat the kid as an individual member or not.

Sanjay Nagpure says it is the duty of the EC to update the status and not necessary for the parents to inform that the child has turned 13 or 18. **Usha:** Not a matter of trust, but sometimes it slips the attention and that's why necessary to have date of birth of all the children it makes it easier. Filling up the form: no date of birth included there, if this is changed then it's easy for the EC to be updated. Committee can keep checking if the child is below or above 12 or 18.

VOTING: Yes: 48 No: 12. GB agrees to register the DOB. Process to be left to EC 2018 to go further on this and that DOBs are noted. Neeraj Sukhija suggests amending a new membership form and ask only the year of birth of the child. Request the existing member and not make it mandatory.

Nisheet Singh says the practicality should be left to EC 2018.

XI. Nomination of the Committee for the year 2018

- **President proposal Manju Nambiar by Ranjini Jaishankar, seconded by Roy, she accepts it. Nisheet Sing asks if there and any more nomitations. As there as none the GB votes and unanimously acceptes her as the new president.**
- **There after she takes time to form her committee and presents it to the GB, which unanimously confirms the new EC 2018.**

- **Secretary: Riti Mukherjee**
- **Treasurer: Ranjani Jaishankar**
- **Committee Member 1: Akila Rajendran**
- **Committee Member 2: Baiju John**
- **Committee Member 3: Raji Sriram**
- **Committee Member 4: Sonika Jhalani**

XII.Election of Auditors for the year 2018

- **Sameer Sood and Vikas Kedia approved by the GBM**

Grand Event: Pushkin Nagpure and Kirti Garg volunteered to be part of the subcommittee.

After thanking the Chairperson and the GB the GBM comes to an end and dinner is served.

Minutes of the Meeting were prepared by Chaitra Rao and reviewed by Himesh Parikh and the new EC 2018.

Himesh K. Parikh

Himesh Parikh

14 January 2018