

Minutes from MATC General Membership Meeting 11.28.07

Board Members present:

Hirak Parikh (President),
Aleric Soans (Vice-President),
Ramji Venkataramanan (Director-of-Operations),
Solveig Heinz (Treasurer),
Anjali Purkayastha (Secretary).
Bo Sun (Registration Officer),
Andrew "Drew" De Orio (Webmaster)

Members present:

Hirak P., Aleric S., Marriane C., Susana E., Bruna G., Natalia F., Barbara N., Avik B., Michael R., Eileen T., Andrew D., Heather W., Ciro S., Rahul M., Roshan J., Lisa S., Blake C., Andy C., Emine C., Jessica L., Ramji V., Gurjit M., Bo S., Bob K., Marco B., Stephen K., Solveig H., Anjali P.

Non-Members present:

Kamala N., Fabian N., Patricia G., Gabriela C., Michael S., Audra P., Patrick L., Iris Y.

Seven Board Members are present.

28 members are present in total.

Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 pm.

N.B. This General Membership Meeting had to be re-scheduled from 7 pm to 9:40 pm because the member's quorum was not met by 7:30 pm. Hirak decided to have the meeting after class when quorum was more likely to met. The new meeting time was announced during class in all three classrooms.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome and intro to the Board.
- 2) President's report on the progress of the Club.
- 3) Vice President's report on the Instruction Program and any new policies or procedures.
- 4) Treasurer's financial report.
- 5) Membership Structure.
- 6) Operations Report, Status of rooms, bookings, etc.
- 7) Present proposed Amendments to the Club, b) By-Laws and Policies, c) Policies
- 8) Status of the Workshop and the Fire & Ice Festival Plans.
- 9) Open Discussion or Questions.

- 1) **Board Members introduced themselves to the audience.**
- 2) **President's report on the progress of the Club:**

Membership has increased in over the last six months. The Board will continue to work towards increasing the Membership. HIRAK asked the audience when would be the best time for General Membership Meetings.

*Marco B. suggested that meetings be held between class and practica.

3) Vice President's report on the Instruction Program and new policies or procedures:

Over the last six months four new teachers (two of which are students) and one TA (student): Bo, Elizabeth, Jamaal, Karri and Emine. The Board will continue to encourage Club Members and Users to learn to teach and deejay.

In the future the Board would like to create a "standardized" curriculum for the Beginner's, Advanced Beginner's and Intermediate classes. This will ensure that there is continuity in teaching between the different class levels.

The Board would also like to create fora where seasoned instructors can share their experiences with less experienced instructors. Possible fora include: an online discussion forum, regular instructor's meetings and a teaching assistant program.

4) Treasurer's report:

Solveig provided the Members and Users with a copy of the Club's financial report. Solveig discussed the following items.

Revenue:

The majority of the Club's revenue is derived from Club Member and User's fees, i.e., from series passes and half-year passes.

Festivals and workshops have stand-alone budgets where the aim is to break even. There were four festivals this year, which lost a total of only \$600.

Budget and expenses:

The Club's largest expense is classroom rental fees. Other expenses include: milonga room rental fees, publicity (fliers, advertisements etc.), office supplies, NSF and miscellaneous fees (e.g. storage of the portable vinyl floor).

*Stephen K. suggested renting office space next year and use it to store the Club's portable vinyl floor, tablecloths and decorations. The Board is planning to apply for office space for 2008.

Assets:

The Club's SOAS account balance is around \$17000.

In order to ensure that the services offered by the Club are not disrupted by an unforeseen drop in revenue an operating reserve of \$14000 will be kept in the Club's SOAS account. The Club will keep a \$3000 cash reserve.

Due to the sensitive nature of the financial report, Solveig asked that all copies of the financial report be returned to her. All but one copy was returned.

5) Membership structure

Bo discussed the reasons for creating the half-year pass, i.e., that it is cheaper than buying series and milonga passes individually and easier to use since you only have to pay twice per year. However, the price of the half-year pass might be increased because the present half-year pass

fee has decreased Cub revenue. The Club would like to offer half-year and full-year passes. Bo agreed to outline a few schemes on the Club's online discussion forum so that Members and Users discuss which one they would prefer.

6) Operations report from the Director of Operations:

Rooms for festivals are booked nine months in advance. Rooms for the Club's Saturday milongas have been reserved through April 2008. The milonga schedule will be posted online as soon as possible so that Members and Users can make plans, e.g., arrange childcare. (Patrick L's suggestion).

7) Presentation of the proposed amendments, new by-laws, new policies

Not discussed due to time constraints.

8) Workshop this weekend:

The Board would like to arrange more small, intimate workshops. Members and Users are encouraged to use the discussion forum on the Club's website to discuss this issue.

Meeting adjourned 10:17 pm
