

BOMBAY SAPPERS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD ON 29AUG 2008

BOMBAY SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (BSA)
MINUTES OF TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
HELD ON 29 AUG 2008 AT RANE AUDITORIUM, BEG & CENTRE, PUNE

GENERAL

1. The Tenth Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of The Bombay Sappers was held on 29 Aug 2008 wef 1630 hrs onwards at Rane Auditorium, BEG & Centre. The Meeting was convened by Col Ashun Bahl, Secy-cum-Treasurer. The meeting was adjourned due to lack of quorum and recommended to be re-convened after 30 minutes at 1700 hrs.
2. Once the Meeting was reconvened, a total of 402 members, consisting of 55 officers, 61 JCOs and 286 Other Ranks, including retired Bombay Sappers, attended the meeting.

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

3. On calling the meeting to order, the Chairman, Lt Gen Noble Thamburaj, SM, ADC, Col Comdt, The Bombay Sappers, in his opening remarks welcomed all the BSA members to the Tenth AGM.
4. He informed the AGM about the increase of membership from a modest 400 members in the year 2000 to 34,163 in this tenth year. The corpus had also grown from Rs 3 lacs to Rs 2.09 crores during this period.
5. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Lt Gen A K Puri, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) during whose Colonelship, the BSA was founded. He also applauded the selfless service and support of Maj Gen SCN Jatar (Retd) for all the activities of BSA in the past decade. It was due to Maj Gen SCN Jatar's meticulous monitoring and valuable advice that no allegations or losses in funds were ever witnessed in the working of BSA, which was an achievement in itself. He also thanked Maj Gen S D Sohoni (Retd) and Col MM Bhushan (Retd) for their valuable contribution to the Management Committee.
6. He informed the house that a Committee comprising Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd), Maj Gen K Babayya, VSM and the Comdt, BEG & Centre was formed six months ago, in order to review the achievements of BSA and evolve a perspective plan for the future. The Committee had carried out an in-depth study of various aspects and activities of BSA and made certain recommendations as well as identified objectives and key result areas for the BSA in the coming years.
7. The Chairman opined that there was a need to have a broader BSA network to reach out to the retired Bombay Sappers throughout the country. He proposed that the activities of BSA and its mission should ensure that **'Serving BSA members help/serve/assist the Retired BSA members'**. In order to reach out to the retired BSA members, it was proposed to have ten sub-sectors of BSA; four in Maharashtra, four in Punjab and two in UP. These were to be manned by retired BSA members and have paid staff. These would serve as nerve centres for all BSA activities and maintain contact with retired Bombay Sappers in the zones earmarked. He was confident that such networking, in due course, would help to provide grants, scholarships, loans as well as in placement of needy BSA members, more effectively and efficiently.

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8. The Chairman apprised the house that a major thrust to upgrade the Gurnam Boys Hostel (GBH) in terms of infrastructure, academic performance, discipline and personality build up had been undertaken. The opportunity should be capitalised by all serving and retired Bombay Sappers whose children had the potential to utilise the excellent educational facilities available at Pune. The BSA was also planning to establish a Girls Hostel to take care of our girl children. It would be the endeavour of BSA to make the GBH and Girls Hostel as Centres of Excellence, he said.

9. The Chairman expressed his concern at the growing HIV cases in our Group. He observed that, these personnel are well looked after as long as in service, but on retiring they lose the support system. The BSA should plan to take on the humanitarian and emotional support to such HIV affected retired Bombay Sappers families.

10. The Chairman stated that there was a need to increase the fund availability in order to have some meaningful numbers and amounts of educational loans, distress grants and other welfare activities. For this, the BSA intended to go in for some commercial ventures, with limited risk factor, to enhance the earning capacity. It was estimated that the requirement was approximately 35-37 lakhs in a year, as against 16-17 lakhs that was available from the fixed deposits of the corpus fund. However, commercial ventures would be undertaken only after going into detailed analysis of each project, and only in case of a positive response from the environment on this issue. Ventures like Placement Cell, JCB hiring, battery assembling, provisioning of piped gas and CNG filling station were some commercial ventures that could be explored. Suggestions on this aspect were welcome. The BSA would also try to obtain sponsorships and donations from well placed retired Bombay Sappers in the corporate sector to quickly build up the corpus.

SECY-CUM-TREASURERS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

11. The Secy-cum-Treasurer, Col Ashun Bahl, Dy Comdt, BEG & Centre, Kirkee in his introductory remarks, welcomed all the members of Management Committee and serving and retired BSA members to the Tenth AGM of the BSA.

Agenda Points

12. The agenda points listed for the Meeting were :-

- (a) Minutes of Ninth AGM.
- (b) Balance Sheet 2007 - 2008.
- (c) Income and Expenditure statement.
- (d) Proposed Budget 2008 - 2009

13. The AGM Minutes of the Ninth AGM had been circulated to all members for confirmation. No points were raised by any member on the minutes of the Ninth AGM.

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14. The progress of Corpus of BSA was displayed to the Members by the Secy-cum-Treasurer. The details of the Corpus was as under:-

<u>Sr No</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
(a)	01 Jan 2000	3,10,144.00
(b)	01 Jan 2001	16,21,241.00
(c)	01 Jan 2002	55,69,495.00
(d)	01 Jan 2003	1,07,84,490.00
(e)	01 Jul 2004	1,56,30,109.00
(f)	01 Jan 2005	1,69,15,859.00
(g)	01 Jan 2006	1,94,58,272.00
(h)	01 Jan 2007	1,96,33,559.00
(j)	01 Jul 2007	2,05,51,869.00
(k)	31 Jul 2008	2,10,68,176.15

15. **Membership Details.** The membership details of BSA were intimated to the house. The details as on 01 Jan 2007 and 31 July 2008 were as under :-

	<u>01 Jan 2007</u>	<u>31 Jul 2008</u>
Offrs	1016	1043
JCOs	1902	2039
OR	30126	31081
Total	33044	34163

Welfare Schemes 2007 – 2008

16. **Education Scholarship.** In the year 2007-08, Rs 1,66,500/- was given to 246 children as education scholarships. The details shown were as under :-

ORs

Class	Applicati on received	Vacancy Allotted	Recomm ended by board	Scholar ship per head	Amt allotted	Amt to be disbursed	Cut of %
5	62	32	35	500	16000	17500/-	85.00
6	61	32	33	500	16000	16500/-	84.00
7	66	32	32	500	16000	16000/-	82.00
8	53	32	32	700	22400	22400/-	79.00
9	44	16	16	800	12800	12800/-	84.00
10	58	16	16	1000	16000	16000/-	84.00
11	17	16	16	1000	16000	16000/-	67.00
12	20	16	16	1000	16000	16000/-	69.00
Total	381	192	196	-	1,31,200	1,33,200	

JCOs

5	13	08	08	500	4000	4000/-	
6	19	08	08	500	4000	4000/-	
7	30	08	09	500	4000	4500/-	
8	23	08	09	700	5600	5600/-	
9	29	04	04	800	3200	3200/-	
10	36	04	04	1000	4000	4000/-	
11	11	04	04	1000	4000	4000/-	
12	20	04	04	1000	4000	4000/-	
TOTAL	181	48	50	-	32800	3,33,00/-	

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17. **Distress Grant.** For the financial year 2007– 08, Rs. 2,50,000/- lakhs was budgeted under Distress Grant scheme. Of these, Rs 1,20000/- were distributed to 30 distressed members.

18. **Sports Scholarship.** For the financial year 2007 – 2008, Rs. 40,000/-were budgeted under Sports Scholarship, Of this, Rs 35,000/- was distributed to seven members of BSA, as under :-

<u>Sr No</u>	<u>Name of Candidate</u>	<u>Parent Name</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Amount</u>
(a)	Miss Jatinder Kaur	Sub Hansa Singh	110 ER	Rs 5000
(b)	Miss Praveen Kumar	Hav Satnam singh	115 ER	Rs 5000
(c)	Mr. VS Kharayat	Hav Soban Singh Kharayat	Retd	Rs 5000
(d)	Mr.Kausar Ali	Hav Rayazuddin Khan	Offr Mess	Rs 5000
(e)	Mr. Jagdeep Singh	Sub Avtar Singh	CIW	Rs 5000
(f)	Mr. Chetan Sharma	Sub SN Sharma	TB-II	Rs 5000
(g)	Miss PK Gawali	Hav PS Gawali	Retd	Rs 5000

Passing of Balance Sheet for the Year 2007 – 08

19. The Balance sheet as on 31 Mar 2008, duly audited by the Chartered Accountant was displayed on the screen and adequate copies were placed in the house for consideration by the Members. Income & expenditure statement for the period 01 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008 and Receipt & Payment Account for the period 01 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008 was also put up to the house for consideration and discussion. These are as shown in the subsequent paragraphs.

20. Income and Expenditure Statement from 01 Apr 07 to 31 Mar 08

Income

By Interest – Education Loan	41,850.00
By Interest on Saving Account	81,317.00
By Interest on FDs	7,21,737.00
By Income of Sapper Sarai	3,11,000.00
By Duplication Card Charges	250.00
By Donations Received	11,20,000.00
By Telephone Deposit refund	2,592.00
By Refund of Education Scholarship	12,900.00
By Refund of Distress Grant	16,000.00

Total : Rs 2307646.00

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Expenditure

To Salary	36600.00
To Mementos	125251.00
To Telephone Bill	9449.00
To Gurnam Boys Hostel	1698280.00
To Office Functioning	13870.00
To Misc Expenditure	36360.95
To Membership Card	3212.00
To Maintenance of Computer	16888.00
To Distress Grant	12000.00
To Audit Fees	15000.00
To Sports Scholarship	35000.00
To Depreciation	69828.41

Total : Rs 2346239.36

21. **Balance Sheet for the Period from 01 Apr 2007 TO 31 Mar 2008.**

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Lamination Machine	3030.57	
Less : Dep 15%	454.59	2575.98
Computer	5338.27	
Less : DEP 60%	3202.96	2135.31
Furniture	1752.37	
Less : Dep 10 %	175.24	1577.13
Building	637340.72	
Less : Dep 10%	63734.07	573606.65
Printer	2048.00	
Less : Dep 60%	1228.80	819.20
Inverter	10327.50	
Less : Dep 10%	1032.75	9294.75
<u>Investment</u>		
RBI Bonds	19600000.00	
Add : FDs	1200000.00	20800000.00
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Education Loan	464750.00	
Bank Balance	6475.14	
Telephone Deposit	2000.00	473225.14

		Rs 21863234.16

Contd...6/-

<u>Liabilities</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Trust Fund Opening Balance	20522506.15	
Add : Life Membership	418960.00	
Corpus Fund	<u>20941466.15</u>	20941466.15
Excess of Income over Expenditure		
Opening Balance 2007-2008		
Less: Net Deficit	960361.36	921768.01
	<u>38593.36</u>	
		Rs 21863234.16

22. Col M K Keshwar, CO, 102 Engineer Regiment asked for details of donations received by BSA. The details of donations recd were displayed as shown below :-

(a) Shri Gaurav Taneja s/o Lt Gen KC Taneja	-	120000.00
(b) Maharashtra Cosmopolitan Education society	-	300000.00
(c) M/S Kumar Builders Consortium	-	500000.00
(d) Kumar & Co	-	200000.00
Total	-	11,20,000.00

23. Col M K Keshwar, CO, 102 Engr Regt proposed the passing of balance sheet. It was seconded by Col Amit Dhingra, CO, 113 Engr Regt.

24. The Secy-cum-Treasurer mentioned that Management Committee Meeting had decided that presentation of BSA mementos to retiring officers be discontinued. Sub Bhosale (Retd) suggested that memento to PBORs be also discontinued and the funds be utilised for welfare activities like educational loan and scholarships. The Chairman appreciated the point and a unanimous decision was taken to discontinue with presentation of all BSA mementos. The savings would be diverted for welfare activities.

25. Col M K Keshwar, CO, 102 Engr Regt pointed out that amount of education scholarship being distributed was very meager. It should be in the range of Rs 4000 to Rs 5000 per child. The Vice-Chairman intimated that the amount of scholarship depended on the budget of BSA. The amount of education scholarship could be increased as and when the financial position improved.

Contd...7/-

26. Col Vijay Jain brought out that the proposed education loan at simple interest of 3.75% should be given at compound interest as was the practice else where, at even much higher rates. It was brought out that since it was a welfare measure, the interest rates would be kept as such; however, the suggestion of compounding interest would be deliberated upon.

27. Col R S Manral, CO, 268 Eng Br Unit suggested that certain percentage of CSD profit be distributed to BSA every year by every Bombay Sapper Regt. Col Birender Singh, CO, 109 Engr Regt suggested that all major units could donate Rs 20000/- to BSA each year and all minor units could donate Rs 10000/- per year. The Chairman directed that all major units donate Rs 10000/- and all minor units donate Rs.5000/- each year to the BSA.

28. Col V P Singh, CO, 269 Engr Regt suggested that the duration for which each Regt should contribute Rs. 10,000/- to BSA should be fixed. The Chairman directed that the contribution would initially continue for five years; it could be reviewed thereafter. The contribution from Regts should be deposited in BSA account by 31 Mar every year. The same was accepted by all Commanding Officers. The Chairman thanked the Commanding Officers for their active participation. He directed that the Centre should also contribute Rs 1 lakh each year to the BSA. The Chairman also said that he would speak to senior corporate executives for donations to BSA.

29. Col N M Chandrana, CO, 111 Engr Regt, pointed out that a facility at Delhi and Chandigarh, similar to the Sapper Sarai in the Centre, should also be planned. OC 201 BD Coy proposed that he could prepare three more guest rooms in Delhi at his Company location.

30. Maj Gen Amin Naik, SM, pointed out that with the promulgation of Sixth Pay Commission, the BSA subscription could be increased. Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd) suggested that BSA subscription should be increased to Rs 1000/- of which Rs.500/- could be paid by the Jawans at the time of attestation and the balance after three years of service; for offrs, the subscription should be Rs 1500/-. Maj Gen SCN Jatar (Retd) agreed with the suggestion of Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd) and proposed that the initial subscription of Rs.500/- form part of the Corpus and the balance Rs.500/- be utilised for welfare and development activities. Sub Surve (Retd) seconded the proposal to increase the BSA subscription. Gp Sub Maj Hony Capt Gurmit Singh also agreed to the proposal. Maj Gen K Babayya, VSM suggested that the BSA subscription should be collected from Jawans at one instance only; his experience suggested that subsequent collections are an untidy and time consuming affair. Chairman directed that COs should take the opinion of all ranks about the increase in subscription in their Sainik Sammelan and intimate the same within the next two months to HQ BEG & Centre.

31. Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd) stressed the need for commercial ventures to be undertake by BSA. The Chairman asked the opinion of Maj Gen SCN Jatar (Retd) who felt that since BSA was a non profit making organisation, any commercial venture would require the BSA to forfeit all tax concessions and benefits received. Besides, as per the Charity Commissioner of Pune, the tax liability of BSA would also increase, if commercial ventures were undertaken.

32. Lt Col J P S Malhi reminded the members of a commercial venture run by the Group MT when he was doing duty of MTO, that had failed, as the Maruti Van purchased by Gp HQ suffered from lack of maintenance and was ultimately sold. He suggested that a proper study needs to be carried out before taking up any commercial venture.

Contd...8/-

33. The Chairman, in principle agreed, that commercial ventures could be undertaken by the BSA but suggested that a prior detailed study including profit and loss in each venture should be conducted. He mentioned that defence land (A1 land) should not be used for any such venture, to avoid audit and legal problems.

34. Brig S M Desai suggested that the BSA should invest in AGIF and selected mutual funds to get higher returns as compared to the present investments in RBI bonds which given only 8% interest. Col M M Bhushan (Retd) told the AGM that the RBI bonds could not be broken before maturity; the reinvestment at RBI bonds in more profitable schemes with minimum risk could be considered only later.

Proposed Budget 2008 – 2009

35. The Secretary – cum – Treasurer estimated the income for FY 2008 – 09 as Rs 17.00 lacs. The proposed budget for FY 2007 – 08 was placed in front of the house for comments, if any, and approval. The proposal put up was as under :-

Sr No	Budget Head	Actual Expenditure 2007 – 2008	Proposed Budget 2008 - 2009
(a)	Education Scheme	166500.00	164000.00
(b)	Sports Scheme	35000.00	50000.00
(c)	GBH/APS Beas	1698280.00	500000.00
(d)	Distress Grant	120000.00	250000.00
(e)	Newsletter	-	8000.00
(f)	Memento (Comradeship)	125251.00	135000.00
(g)	Salary	36600.00	25000.00
(h)	Maint of Cmptr/Imp of website	16888.00	15000.00
(j)	Audit fee	15000.00	15000.00
(k)	Telephone Bill	9449.00	9000.00
(l)	Office Functioning	13870.00	12000.00
(k)	Membership Card	3212.00	2000.00
(m)	Misc/Reserve	36360.95	15000.00
(n)	Edn loan to wards of members of Bombay Sappers	-	500000.00
	Total :	Rs 22,76,410.95	Rs 17,00,000.00

36. The house was requested to scrutinise the proposed budget and raise their views/suggestions on the budget. No points were raised by members. Since there were no other point/suggestions from members, the proposed budget was approved by the house.

Election of the Management Committee

37. All members of the existing management committee gave their willingness to continue. The house was asked if anyone had any objection to the existing members and an offer was made to the house for any one who desired to contest the election/ to suggest the name of any member to be included on the Management Committee. The house approved and recommended the present Management Committee to continue. Maj Gen (Retd) SG Pitre's name was proposed by the Chairman, to be also included in the Management Committee; the house unanimously agreed to the proposal.

Contd...9/-

38. The Management Committee for the year 2008-09 will be as under:-

Brig Sanjiv Talwar	-	Vice-Chairman, Comdt BEG (K)
Maj Gen SCN Jatar, (Retd)	-	Honorary Gen Secretary,
Col Ashun Bahl	-	Secretary-Cum-Treasurer, Dy Comdt
Maj Gen SD Sohoni (Retd)	-	Member
Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd)	-	Member
Col MM Bhushan (Retd)	-	Member
Col JS Brar	-	Member (CO Depot Bn)
Sub Maj/H'Capt VM Lavate (Retd)	-	Member
Gp Sub Maj/H' Capt Gurmit Singh	-	Asst Secretary (Gp SM)
Lt Col KA Kawlay	-	Member (OIC BSA)

Vote of Thanks

39. In the end, the house thanked the Management Committee for the excellent work done during the year, and desired that the good work continue in the coming year.

Closing Address

40. The Chairman, in his closing address, thanked all members for their presence and the excellent work done by the Management Committee members. He conveyed his best wishes and wished good health to all the members and their families.

41. There being no other point, the tenth AGM was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(R N Tiwari)
Col
Secy-Cum-Treasurer
For Vice Chairman

10002/AGM-10/BSA

Bombay Sappers Association
C/O Headquarters
Bombay Engineer Group & Centre
Kirkee, Pune-411003

Sep 2008

Distribution:-

Chairman.
Vice Chairman.
All members of the Management Committee.
All Bombay Sappers Units
Websites of BSA and the Bombay Sappers.