**Sri Sathya Sai Centre - Milton Keynes**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting, held on Sunday 16 January 2022**

**Present :**

Suresh T. Nesaratnam (STN, President), Santvana Pandey (SP, Vice-President), Anil Satram (AS, Spiritual Wing Coord.), Godfrey Mubiru (GM, Service Wing Coordinator), Seelan Moodley (SM, SSE Wing Coordinator), Neerja Gupta & Srivani Boyina (NG & SB, Joint Ladies’ Wing Coordinators), Radhika Filby (RF, Outreach Coordinator), Kesan Govender (KG, Treasurer).

Ashish Pandey, Bina Sharma, Charita Kistasamy, Jwalith Tatikonda, Pravina, Sakunthala Nesaratnam, Sanjivbhai Bowry, Shreya Gund, Sumi Sharma, Suraraj Pradhan, Vani Moodley.

**Apologies :**

Pragasen Morgan, Thavie Morgan.

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| **No.** | **Item** | **Action** |
| 1. | **Welcome**  STN welcomed everyone, and said that each of the Wing Coordinators and the Treasurer would be presenting information on what had taken place in the past year, the Innovations that had been brought about, and the plans for the coming year. There would be opportunity to ask Questions after each Presentation.  The PowerPoint Slides used in the Presentations, are at the following links:  **AGM Presentation**: [MK Sai Centre - AGM 2021-22 16JAN2022](https://srisathyasaimk.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/EaT1Pstal2hOko58q3Q4sQcBmG6A7-xv9aRDTjL1mJTSlg?e=L7Shqh)  **Financial Statement**: [Income and Expenditure Report 2021-22 16JAN2021](https://srisathyasaimk.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/EYT9aPEcV8RGuCuHakUIj2QBDmk_8EVSMqpeZAtIBI5_0A?e=XEGFH2)  A recording of the AGM is available at:  **AGM Zoom Recording**: [MK Sai Centre - AGM Recording 16Jan2022](https://srisathyasaimk.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/EWDiuddI-ghFmuKTFH9QqV4BqG9d2zddsdT4p9kJL2RAcw?e=GVv8ux) |  |
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| 2. | **Presentations**  Reports were presented in the following order :  Spiritual (AS)  Service (GM)  Sai Spiritual Education (SM)  Ladies’ (NG & SB)  Outreach (RF)  Treasurer’s (KG)  The Proceedings of the AGM can be accessed through the link given above but it is noteworthy to record that SM thanked Shreya Gund (who was the Assistant SSE Coordinator until 31 December 2021) for all the support that she’d given him. Due to work and study commitments, Shreya has had to relinquish her post.  **Questions posed :**  Bro. Pragasen Morgan sent his Apologies and some Questions to be asked at the AGM, as shown below.  For the Spiritual Wing : *“When are we likely to open the Centre in a safe way?”*  SP said that this matter had been discussed at OB Meetings, and postulated that March/April might be a safe time for In-Person Bhajans and SSE Classes to resume. SP thanked AS for carrying out the Survey of the congregation’s views on opening up. Before the appearance of Omicron, the plan had been to have face-to-face Bhajans in January but to avoid creating health and safety problems on account of the new variant, this plan had been shelved. There had been apprehension, too, from Jubilee Wood Primary School (our Bhajan venue). We’d have to follow Guidelines from the Government in deciding when to have In-Person Bhajans, and after consultation with Jubilee Wood School, would keep everyone informed as to the situation.  There had been a suggestion to have Bhajans in devotees’ houses, and this was pending. If taken up, the Bhajans could be held in homes once a month.  *“When would Bhajan singers be allowed to come together for live Bhajans, or to record Bhajans?”*  AS responded that as people were now starting to meet up more freely, we could consider recording Bhajans in people’s houses.  If the COVID situation got worse, and singers couldn’t meet in person, BandLab could be utilised to link inputs from different singers. (This had been successfully used for the Shivarathri Celebration in 2021).  [As regards singers coming together for live Bhajans, SP’s answer above applies (viz. that this may be taken up in the future)].  For the Service Wing : *“What are we doing on more sustainable Seva in our local community?”*  GM replied that in terms of sustainable Seva, we were :   * Providing food and domestic items to the Bus Shelter * Providing Marshals annually for the Midnight Moo Charity Walk * Providing food, help in gardening, and assistance with maintenance of the Japanese Buddhist Temple * Donating scarves each December to the homeless in London, through the charity CRISIS * Donating Chocolate Easter Eggs to underprivileged children in Linslade and Leighton Buzzard * Providing Ushers for events organised by InterFaith MK   For the Treasurer : *“As a Centre, over the past year, what was the percentage of International Seva by cost versus local Seva in the* UK?  KG presented data showing that of the total spend of £10514.33 in the past year, 76.28% had been on International Seva Projects (for COVID Relief in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka). UK Seva (The Breakfast Project, Donation to Region 3 for feeding of the homeless at Guru Poornima, and a Mixer Tap for the Japanese Buddhist Temple) had consumed 19.99%, and the remaining 3.73% had been used for the purchase of Hi-Vis vests with the Human Values emblem, and for Insurance for our Sai Centre activities.  AS asked if the addition of new signatories when the next OB Team took over, would be as time-consuming as had happened with the current OB Team.  KG replied that online processing of the addition of signatories had been very cumbersome, and that his hope was that by 2023, face-to-face interaction would be possible, such that the procedure could be undertaken much more easily at a local branch of the Bank. |  |
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| 3. | Questions of General Nature (i.e., not Wing-related)  There were none. |  |
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| 4. | Conclusion (SP)  SP closed the Meeting by acknowledging the Presentations given, and said that it had been an immense pleasure serving everyone in the past year. SP said that if anyone had any thoughts or suggestions, to pass them on to the Wing Coordinators. SP went on to say that Swami had given us all courage to cope with the difficult time that we were now in, and added that she was looking forward to the coming year when we could further improve ourselves, with Swami’s guidance, and the OB Team could serve everyone in the best way possible.  The meeting concluded with a short Discourse from Swami, and the Aarthi. |  |
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| 5. | Date of next AGM : 8 January 2023. |  |
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