

**MINUTES OF OBFA MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**AT 4:30 PM AT SAS RESIDENCE**

The meeting was held to discuss the following:

1. Articles of Association & Constitution of the Association
2. Members and the Executive Committee
3. Summer visit to the UK

The meeting was attended by the following:

Maqbool A Sultan (MAS) – Chairman

Shawqi A Sultan (SAS) – Secretary General

Ahmed Al Araimy - Member

Sh. Yousef Yacqoub Al Harthy – Member

Qais M Al Yousef – Member

Oliver Blake - Member

Chris Breeze – Member

Mohammed Hassan G Habib – Member

Abdulhussain Jaffer – Member

Pankaj Khimji – Member

Khalil Khonji – Member

Andrew Long – Member

Nicholas Pattison – Member

Hassan Ali Salman – Member

Paul Sheridan – Member

Saleh Taleb Zakwany – Member

MAS opened the meeting by thanking and welcoming those attending. He then moved to the first item on the Agenda. A paper entitled **“Omani Friendship Societies Bylaw”** issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) was distributed. Also the A o A of Omani German Friendship Society’s was earlier emailed to all members by SAS. This was done in order to give the members an idea of the Charter of a similar Society as OBFA. Until 2007 all societies of this ilk came under MOSAL but that year that responsibility went to MAF, so that OBFA has now to re-register under the new bylaws.

A discussion ensued and after lengthy deliberations it was agreed that OBFA will now have three (3) different type of Members; Corporate (CM), Individual (IM) and Honourary (HM). The fee for the CM will be set higher than any other members’ but this higher fee will give privileges, for example Staff from CM’s company may become members at a discounted fee. They will also be given an opportunity to sponsor an event. The fee for the IM will be less than that of the CM while the HM will not have any fee imposed upon them. It was envisaged that those will be The British Ambassador in Oman and Oman Ambassador to the UK along with a selected number of diplomats from the two Embassies. The question of the fee levied will be discussed separately.

It was also agreed that there will be a Board of 9 serving for a period of 3 years. The Board Members will be the Chairman, Secretary General and 7 to be elected from the Membership, 3 from British companies and 4 from Omani ones. SAS will write individually to members to find out if they are interested to either nominate themselves to be on the Board or elect somebody else instead. From that consensus a decision will be taken as to who would be elected to serve on the Board. They will also be asked to voice their opinion on the strategic plan for the Association. The Board once elected will then meet to discuss the various membership fees etc.

It was also agreed that the Objectives of OBFA will be promoting Economy & Trade and in the field of Education and Training and some other activities

MAS then moved to the proposed summer trip to UK. He said that as a first trip under his chairmanship he would like to put an emphasis on 3 activities and would welcome comments and views from those present.

The first was to meet with the Omani Committee at the Houses of Parliament, headed in the House of Commons by Kate Hoey MP and in the House of Lords by Lord Michael Balfe. It would be interesting to meet with them in order to find out how best OBFA could help them in their promotion of matters of interest to both the countries.

MAS also suggested that the visiting members meet with the D Group, a powerful networking organization headed by Peter O'Kane. A lunch could be arranged at their premises, at a possible affordable cost, and they would then invite a strong group of British CEOs and Industrialists to meet with the Omani delegation. The total number of invitees for that lunch normally is around 30 in total. It would be imperative that OBFA also take along with them a good speaker who could counter one that the D Group will have, so that both could present their countries' view point on economy, strategy etc.

The third would be a reception for about a hundred to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June at The Anglo-Omani Society's Head Quarters in Sackville Street. For that he had taken the liberty of speaking to both the Patrons, HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York and HH Sayyed Haithem bin Tarek Al Said and both have agreed to grace the reception with their presence.

General discussion ensued over these points pertaining to the trip and the majority agreed that it would be an excellent idea. It was vital that the Omani speaker was not only good in speaking to an august gathering but also the subject matter would be equally if not more important. MAS agreed and said he would give this a very serious thought and will come up with the name(s) of possible candidates.

MAS also emphasized that all the issues and points discussed above need to be brought to a conclusion before the end of the first week of April.

There being no other matter to discuss, the Chairman thanked those members who had attended and the meeting closed at 6:00 pm.