

**MINUTES OF OBFA MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH APRIL 2014
AT 4:30 PM AT SAS RESIDENCE**

The meeting was held to discuss the following:

1. Formation of the new Executive Board
2. Articles of Association
3. Meetings in the UK during the month of June
4. AOB

The meeting was attended by the following:

Maqbool A Sultan (MAS) – Chairman
Shawqi A Sultan (SAS) – Secretary General
Abdulhussain Jaffer – Member (Insofoam)
Abdulredha Mustafa Sultan – Member (MSE)
Ahmed Al Araimy - Member (Al Raid)
Sh. Aflah Al Rawahy – Member (National Eng. & Contrg)
Chris Breeze – Member (Shell)
David Graham – Member (Oman Sail)
Hamza Abdullah Al Asfoor – Member (Hamza Alasfoor & Assoc.)
Hani M Al Zubair – Member (Zubair Corp.)
Hussain Jawad – Member (Towell Group)
Khalil Khonji – Member (Al Khonji)
Kiren N Asher – Member (Al Ansari Group of Cos.)
Maqbool Hameed Al Saleh – Member (OHI)
Mohammed Hassan G Habib – Member (Al Mustaqbal Group)
Mukhtar Hasan – Member (Al Barij Mngt Serv)
Nicholas Pattison – Member (Pattison Consultants)
Pankaj Khimji – Member (Khimji Ramdas)
Qais M Al Yousef – Member (Al Yousef Intl.)

MAS opened the meeting by thanking and welcoming those attending. He then moved to the first item on the Agenda and asked SAS to comment. SAS said that a number had written showing interest in becoming members on the Board. The 3 British who had shown interest would serve on the Board would be Andrew Long (HSBC), Chris Breeze (Shell) and Nicholas Pattison (Pattison Consultants). As those amongst the Omanis who wanted to acceded the numbers required (4 Omanis) it was agreed generally that all those present put a secret ballot of the 4 Omanis to be elected from amongst the following:

Sh. Aflah Ar Rawahy; Ahmed Al Aرامي; Khalil Khonji; Majid Al Toqi; Pankaj Khimji; Samir Fancy; Saleh Taleb Zakwani. The vote was taken and counted and the result was that the 4 elected by majority were Ahmed Al Aرامي, Khalil Khonji, Saleh Taleb Zakwani and Pankaj Khimji. MAS welcomed them on the Board.

He then moved to the 2nd item on the agenda, the Articles of Association, where a printed copy had been distributed to the members. There was a detailed discussion and those clauses that needed to be altered were discussed in detail and briefly they were the following:

Delete name of Patron.

6.2 – Except for the 2 Ambassadors who will be Honorary Members

6.3 - Not to limit the number of members

6.4 – Corporate

6.5 - Honorary

8.1 & 8.1.3 - To be combined

8.2 – 5 years for The Board and omit The Chairman and Secretary General

8.4.6 – No Executive Committee

10.2 – Delete “President ”

10.3 – Percentage to be 51 and an additional paragraph

Additional 2 clauses on the objectives that MAS read and were agreed upon.

SAS to incorporate these changes and send them to the lawyer to be couched in legal terms. It would then be translated, circulated for final comments and then MAS will send it along with a covering letter to MFA.

MAS then moved to the programme of the June trip to the UK. It was now confirmed that the 2 Patrons, HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York and HH Sayyed Haithem bin Tarek Al Said will attend the reception to be held on the evening of the 18th of June at The HQ of the Anglo-Omani Society in London, that now has a new Chairman ex HMA to Oman Robert Alston. It was anticipated that about 70 British and 30 Omanis would be invited. MAS was requested to give a short welcoming address to the Patrons and giving a brief outline of the "new" OBFA.

On the 19th a lunch at the "D" Group HQ in London will be held for about 30, of which it was anticipated that 20 would be British and 10 Omanis. MAS read out a typical programme for such lunches and gave 3 examples (March, April and May Lunches) of the type of speakers and guests they have. He had also spoke to HE Salim Ismaili who had agreed to be the Omani Speaker for the occasion. Peter O'Kane, the Chairman of "D" Group will now be informed. The lunch will cost GBP 6,000 and MAS had hoped that it will be covered by any one or all of the big UK Corporations established in Oman (Shell, HSBC, BP, BAE etc) He requested that those interested in attending to contact SAS to register that interest as spaces will be limited and so the selection may very well be on a first come first served basis.

MAS then said that on the morning of the 18th of June we could visit the Houses of Parliament and meet with the Parliamentary Committee on Oman made up of Kate Hoey and Lord Balfe (and others).

MAS also said that he was now informed that the British Co-Chairman of OBFA has been identified as Mr. Sherard Cowper-Coles, an eminent ex Ambassador to Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, served with BAE System after retirement and is now a special adviser to the CEO of HSBC. MAS will make a request to him when he visits Oman in May that while in London those members present should meet up with him and other OBFA UK members, who although do not "officially" exist should be individuals from the Head Office of those UK companies established in Oman and members of OBFA here. Sherard will be visiting Oman between the 6th and 7th of May and MAS will try and arrange a meeting with him and if not all the members then at least the Board.

OBFA members have also been invited by both the Bristol Chamber of Commerce and The Welsh Board to visit Bristol and Cardiff on the 20th. As it would be difficult to do both it was agreed that this time a

day's visit to Bristol could be arranged. It was intended to meet the High Tech SMEs in the area. MAS (or SAS) will speak with HMA Jamie Bowden and carry this forward.

MAS said that as this is the first of OBFA summer visits under his Chairmanship it should not be overstretched. He suggested that those interested should plan to be in London on the 17th and depart on the 21st of June.

On the 4th item MAS said that he has 2 points; the fees and other members. After a detailed discussion it was agreed that as most of the members are representatives of larger corporations fees should reflect that and it was agreed that it should be set for the year at RO 500. For individuals (about 10-15%) it should be RO 250. If a member does not pay the fee within 2 months after the notice to pay, then he will be struck off the OBFA Membership.

MAS added that membership should not be restricted to 50; on the contrary it should be increased.

After being invited to add any comments, Sh. Aflah Ar Rawahy said that he would like to see the minutes made more formal so that at the next meeting minutes of the previous meeting should be approved and signed by the Chairman. A plan of action should be drawn up and followed. The suggestion was agreed.

Khalil Khonji said that the Secretary General should also act as the Deputy Chairman so that in the event of the absence of the Chairman there was a stand-by. This should be put in the AoA.

Qais Al Yousef said that those present at this meeting should be accorded the term Founder Members and this should be recorded giving full details of their companies' activity.

There being no other matter to discuss, the Chairman thanked those members who had attended and the meeting closed at 6:15 pm.