



THE GLOBAL OGB ASSOCIATION (GO)

Held on Sunday, 23 February 2025, at 7.30 pm IST
Virtual Meeting held via Zoom

PRESENT:

Tenzing Norzang	Member	Minnesota – USA	6.00 am
Alfred Khan	Treasurer/NGO Trustee	Kalimpong – India	5.30 pm
Pauline Singh	Member/NGO Trustee	Kalimpong - India	5.30 pm
Bernard Trench Lyngdoh	Member	Shillong - India	5.30 pm
Nannette Gomez	Member	Kolkata - India	5.30 pm
Jigme Tshering	Member	Kalimpong - India	5.30 pm
Arijit Mallick	Member	Sydney - Australia	10.00 pm
Dawn Van Steensel	Secretary	Sydney – Australia	10.00 pm

Apology Received :

Babita Chakraborty

Absent :

Anirban Bhattacharyya
Sushil Marda

On reaching a quorum the meeting commenced at 7.30 am IST.

As Members had prior commitments on a Sunday morning, the Agenda was adjusted to allow for Item 6 to be brought forward.

ITEM 1: Minutes

- As the 14 December 2024 meeting was postponed, the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on **20th October 2024** was endorsed at this meeting.
- An abridged version of a general discussion held with OGB Members of the Board on **14th December 2024** was tabled and noted.

ACTION

Minutes are available on the GO Website

ITEM 2A: The **MATTERS ARISING** from Previous Meeting report was tabled at this meeting.

- Issues were updated as completed and removed; WIP; and others still on hold.
- GO Chair informed the BOM in November 2024 that GO will cease repair of Cottage projects until a full Development Plan for the repair and sustainability of the Cottage system is forthcoming from the DGH Board.

ITEM 2B: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – PROPOSAL

NOTE : Report status remains unchanged since October 2024.

Issue recorded from 20 October 2024 GO Minutes, below :

“Dawn reported, she attended a meeting of the Board Finance Committee on 17 September 2024 in DGH. The Committee established the ground rules for administering the special Education Fund, for the Sponsorship Scheme.

- Currently waiting for the Bursar and School Auditor to advise that the Account has been opened.*
- To protect the future and integrity of the Education Fund, all transactions from the account will require approval from two Board members and two GO Committee representatives. Specifically, the:*



- DGH Board Chair and Vice-Chair.
- GO Chair and Treasurer.

ON HOLD – until the Education Account has been opened.

- RESOLVED:**
- The GO Committee resolved to adopt the recommendation that the GO Chair and the Treasurer would be the authorised representatives on this Account and work closely with the Board of Management*
 - In adopting this recommendation, the Committee proposed that this arrangement be implemented for an initial 3-year term, with the option to extend for further 3-year terms. It was agreed that once GO has confidence in the proper management of the Account, this arrangement could be withdrawn, and full accountability would be returned to DGH Management.*
 - To advise the BOM of the proposed Clause (b) above."*

ACTION UPDATE : Item (b) was incorporated into the Sponsorship Policy and verbally, advised to the JIRC Meeting in October 2024.

ITEM 6 : September 2025 ACCOMMODATION & DAILY TRANSFER PACKAGE - May Fair Hotel, Kalimpong

It is expected that a large number of visitors will be arriving in Kalimpong for the 125 Year Celebrations of DGH. Considering this, Arijit and Dawn proposed that GO offer a special accommodation and transfer package to prospective visitors.

Arijit has been in discussions with the May Fair Spa Resort, Kalimpong, to secure a competitive bulk booking rate for a minimum stay of 5 or 6 nights at the hotel, with a booking of at least 50 rooms. The May Fair Hotel is the premium hotel in Kalimpong, and it is anticipated, it would be a well sought after location to stay.

The Package would be available to both international guests and visitors from India and the subcontinent. The proposed tariff and package details were shared with the Members.

The Members agreed that the offer was excellent—for both the hotel and the traveling guests. Additionally, if there were any surplus, it would be directed toward a GO project for 2025.

However, Arijit and Dawn were asked to revisit the package to explore the possibility of offering a 4-night option as well.

- ACTION**
- *Arijit and Dawn to assess the offer to determine if it is feasible to include package options for 6, 5, and 4 nights, while still meeting the financial commitment to the May Fair Hotel.*
 - *Once updated, the Committee Members would be requested to give their Approval via WhatsApp Poll in support of the final Proposal.*
 - *Package to be available for release to the public in early-March 2025.*
 - *Registration will be completed on-line via the GO Website*
 - *Bernard undertook to source a 'sponsor' for the Daily Transfers during this stay, if possible.*

8.20 PM : Due to prior engagements Arijit and Bernard left the meeting.

8.25 PM : With a quorum of 6, the meeting resumed.

ITEM 4 : GO FUNDS ACCOUNTS – January 2025

4.1 The Accounts for the month ending January 2025 was tabled.

4.2 A consolidated Accounts for the period December 2019 to January 2025 was also tabled as follows :

PERIOD APRIL 2024 TO 18 JANUARY 2025			TOTAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE OVER 4 YEARS		
Description	Credit	Debit	Description	Credit	Debit
2024-2025	591,568.09		Admin	2.00	82,464.00
Opening Balance	591,568.09		GO	165,100.00	30,500.00
GO	25,100.00	10,150.00	Projects	5,361,131.66	4,262,308.00
Projects	552,543.57		A.V. Room	300,000.00	478,880.00
B.S. Arena	152,542.57		Ahava GH	500,000.00	336,530.00
Child Sponsorship	120,001.00		B.S. Arena	152,542.57	
Gymnasium	200,000.00		Bike Ride	98,000.00	5,000.00
Library Building Batch 2000-2002	80,000.00		Career Counselling 2022		2,400.00
Grand Total	1,169,211.66	10,150.00	Child Sponsorship	185,001.00	47,700.00
			Classroom	2,978,617.70	2,602,871.00
			Cottages	265,553.00	21,094.00
			Girl's Toilet		33,974.00
			Gymnasium	300,000.00	226,269.00
			Jarvie Hall		74,960.00
			Library Building Batch 2000-2002	80,000.00	
			Staff Room	80,000.00	32,630.00
			Utility Van	421,417.39	400,000.00
			Grand Total	5,526,233.66	4,375,272.00

4.3 12A REGISTRATION – STATUS AND FINANCIAL AUDIT

Pauline travelled to New Delhi and met with George and Mohan Koshi on 30th December 2024.

- On 31st December 2024, Pauline and George Koshi attended the ITC Hearing
- The Judge reviewed the documents submitted by Mr. Koshi supporting GO's application and indicated that the "rejection was not valid".
- Subsequently the Case would be returned to the IT Commissioner to conduct a more thorough review.

ACTION : The 12A Registration has been refiled with the Commissioner on 22 January 2025



ITEM 5 : BETTY SHERRIFF ARENA

Over the past three months, GO has been actively searching for a qualified engineering firm capable of constructing the Arena as originally designed. GO reached out to potential contractors in Kalimpong, Cooch Bihar, Jaigon, and Siliguri. Ultimately, GO identified a contractor in Siliguri. After conducting due diligence on the company, they were asked to review the design, conduct a site inspection, and submit a quote.

The initial quote provided exceeded GO's budget expectations.

In response, GO's architect (Penpa Namgyal) revised the design, creating a simplified yet still aesthetically appealing version. This updated design has been sent to the contractor, and GO is now awaiting a revised quote.

After an extensive discussion, the GO Members concluded that though the Betty Sherriff project was highly ambitious, it was crucial for GO to move forward with such an initiative to provide a modern facility that meets the demands of the School. Especially, in light of market competition from other progressive Schools in the Region.

Several decisions were agreed to:

- AGREED :**
- *GO committed 100% to continue with the BSA Project*
 - *To meet the final burden of the Project, it may be necessary to complete the Project in 2 Stages*
 - *Proviso - First Stage to be in place and visible by September 2025*
 - *Funds for the Second Stage be fund raised during the September 2025 Birthday and onwards.*
- ACTION**
- *To obtain a revised quotation from the Contractor and if possible, to pay a deposit before EOY March 2025.*
 - *Nannette to check with the vendors/contractors who offer similar services to her work of employment (School), to obtain comparative quotations.*
 - *Nannette undertook to approach Companies in India to seek their support for the project.*
 - *Tenzing to forward the outline of the BSA Project.*
 - *Dawn to forward GO letterhead and GO Donation Form.*
 - *Tenzing to provide an update on the project to the Principal and BOM, once the revised quotation is received.*
 - *To approach the Class of 1975 and Class of 2001 for potential collaboration with GO, in this project.*

ITEM 6 : PROJECT Updates – September 2024

Jarvie Hall. The major repairs have been completed. However, several smaller repairs remain pending .

- Benches are being refurbished. Will be completed in the 2025 Summer holidays
- Agreed for the internal masonry repairs to be undertaken and to make it safe to climb to the flagpole.
- Followed by the external painting.

Ahava Guest House – Feedback from visitors in September 2024, the upgrade has improved the internal structure and aesthetics. The external walls repair and repaint are pending.

- To reduce the water issues at Ahava, the old water tank has now been replaced with 2 large water tanks. Provided and installed by DGH Management.
- Anticipated the external painting of walls and windows will be completed by September 2025.



Crozier Club - 1st floor balcony floor and railing were completed in September 2024. GO to advise the DGH Management that GO's proposed scope of work for this project is now complete.

- GO's initial objective has been achieved, however, upgrade to the 2 toilets on the Ground Floor to be considered. WIP

Gymnasium Hall - Upgrade :

- The repair work in the Gym has been completed. There was a soft reopening of the Gym on 24 September 2024.
- **Project Closed**

Murray Cottage

- Funds for the repair of Murray Cottage was received from the McCabe Education Fund UK.
- The initial repair work including, bed frames, toilets, bathrooms were completed in early 2024.
- February 2025 - The external painting of the Walls and Window frames have now been completed.
- The project went over budget by Rs.101,000/-. GO to cover the budget difference.
- **Project closed**

Lucia King – Water Tank

- The need for a larger water tank at Lucia King was identified.
- A donation has been received from Tenzing Norzang's family in USA (GO Chair) to provide a new tank.
- GO agreed to undertake this minor project.

ACTION : • *Jigme was authorised to advise the Principal and to co-ordinate the purchase and installation as soon as possible.*

ITEM 7 : YEAR 12 COMMEMORATION - 2025

Initial preparation for the 125 Homes Birthday was discussed :

- ACTION**
- Bernard was requested to commence his investigation to procure a better-quality GO OGB Badge in time for September 2025.*
 - Pauline was advised to distribute the remaining 2024 stock of Badges, to the School Leavers who missed out in 2024. This Badge would be superseded in 2025 and needed to be used up!!*
 - Possibility of holding an informal GO Forum during the Homes Birthday period. Negotiate with the School Management.*
 - Tenzing/Pauline/Dawn to look at plan to supply lunch in the CK on 24 September 2025*

CLOSING :

In conclusion, the meeting revisited the discussions held with the OGBs in November 2024, with attendees from the USA, UK, Australia, and India. The overwhelming consensus from the group, in attendance, was to encourage increased collaboration for future OGB-led endeavours.

Matter pending further engagement.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 AM IST

Next meetings :

- GO Committee : April 2025 – Date TBA