

MINUTES - Bedford Asian Business Association (BABA)

Monday 24th February 2014

Location: The E.Y.E, Bawa House, Fenlake Road Ind. Est., Bedford MK42 0HB

Present: Jasbir Parmar – Chairman (**JP**), Eric Masse - General Secutary (**EM**), Jagtar Singh Basi (**JSB**), Balbir Chahal (**BC**), Sukhpal Gill (**SG**), Raamprasad Banguru (**RB**), Raj Chahal (**RC**) Kuldip Rupra (**KR**), Rupinder Singh Bahel (**RSB**), Suki Thiarra (**ST**)

AGENDA	Notes	Action	Deadline
Apologies	Majid Shabir Getha Sandhu		
1.0 Minutes of the last meeting	Mintues of last meeting was read.	Two a amendments. JSB email sent on blind copy (BCC) have this as a discipline for future emails Minutes approved.	RSB to email EM approved Jan minutes. EM to circulate BCC all members
2.0 Discuss actions from previous Meeting	<p>1. Fire Safty JP Fire safety those that attend learnt the value of the seminar and was a good day Bedfordshire fire service had put a lot of investment into the day; Seminar value £3K - £4K. JP was disappointed on attendance. No restaurant owners were there. SG went to all the restaurants in his area JP went in PQ. Seminar value £3K -£4K</p> <p>ST as executives we should make an effort. KR agrees but to prevent this repeating again asked we build up the training need if we are to book more events and we need to be sure we have at least 20 confirmed before we book next fire safety training. JSB there will be a similar event on licencing once we have a list then we should book an event.</p> <p>2. Websites RB provided an update. RAM 95% development done still waiting for about 60% of content – site is ready to go once RB receives info. Asks for the photos and information needed. JSB suggests 7 good pictures</p> <p>RB continues the site will log all ip address to prevent any misuse ie rubbish emails</p>	<p>2. EM and JP will support RB with photos and info. Action to trial the message sending function ASAP EM to ensure spreadsheet is sent to RB to be sent to executives</p> <p>3. EM to meet with JP, KR and ST to setup email groups</p> <p>5. By all members</p> <p>7. Jag to trial drop box with fire service. Once its work he comeback and approve</p>	<p>2. ASAP</p> <p>3. By next meeting</p> <p>5. ASAP</p> <p>7. ASAP</p> <p>8. ASAP</p>

Next Facebook development and Twitter
Ram demonstrated to new webpage and how it worked
KR is there a logo page - RB yes

The checking of each spreadsheet by executive still needs to be done by ST , KR and JP

JSB once the web is running we can link with everyone.

3. Communications

EM to meet with JP and ST

To set up five email groups

1. Executive members group
2. Corporate members group
3. Paid members

4. Other members , people who may be future members , who have attended a meeting conference , who have logged on website

JP explained how he had been challenged by BABA members on lack of communications. KR said this was positive that people had heard of BABA and were challenging us to do more.

RC each email to state reply to EM

4. Buddy system

For a future meeting we need to allocate named members of executive with each corporate and with individual members

5. Email address list

EM we still don't have all emails for members please email me with members email address. JSB need the individual/personal email addresses.

6. Newsletter

JP the Newsletter is done will be sent out once approved. RB members can also subscribe to the newsletter on the website, terms and conditions on the site.

7. Dropbox

RB suggests joining the drop box to email. JSB we need to trial this can test this with the fire service website to see how affective it is

Kuldip are we linking with the other networks.

	JP yes we are		
3.0 Chairmans report	JP I still have to do this write letters to corporate members and will make it a priority to do so. Would like some support on visits	Chair to write to corporate members. Visits by Chair and Vice Chair	ASAP
4.0 Treasure's Report	<p>£1497.15 in the BABA bank account.</p> <p>£100 to the photographers people - £100 this year and £250 last year. Has anyone seen photographs? JP we have quality photos please wait and see website, then we can decide whether the photos are worthwhile.</p> <p>JSB BABA members don't need to waste time debating the costs of such a small amount. £100 - £250 is very good for a professional photographer. We should have a small budget to give finance authority to the Chairman and General Secretary for them to make the decisions for BABA for small payments without wasting time in meetings.</p> <p>ST – we have only received 1 payment to date for renewals.</p> <p>KR and JP, SG, BAL, JAG pay renewal fee.</p> <p>JP has paid £500 to RB as a down payment for the website</p>	All agreed new finance authority Chairman can approve expenditure up to £500 vice chair and general sec can approve up to £100.	ASAP
5.0 Update on Sub Meeting	<p>RC relays meeting with RSB, MS – RC mentions that we also felt that a buddy system would get exciting members involved and help membership. Also members should offer their business services/support to other members for example RC & MS will offer free banking review to all BABA members.</p> <p>RC – BABA should never have more than two corporate members per sector. JP agrees and it has been BABAs policy from the start</p> <p>RC adds what we don't want is that corporates don't pay their fee next year because they didn't get a return.</p> <p>RC also adds we need to more direct with members. JP agrees however explains before that we need to get our house in order</p> <p>BC - when we have two organisations we should have a manageable risk. Corporates to have a referral. We have to be selective and meet them on regular bases. Adds we need members who can make decisions</p>	<p>RSB to email EM with notes of sub meeting. EM to circulate</p> <p>JP and EM to discuss plans for a corporate member's day to nurture that relationship.</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>(NOTES OF SUB MEETING SEE BELOW AFTER MINUTES)</p>

6.0 Update on seminar	Already discussed in actions in previous meetings		
7.0 Update on website	Already discussed in actions in previous meetings		
8.0 Correspondence and New Members	Bookers 4 th march having a closed meeting JP urges all corporate members to be there. JSB there is also a golf event and BABA members are invited golf at 11am 25 th March Tuesday	JP & JSB to email members	ASAP
9.0 Any other Business	<p>1. BC Jas Komal foundation Friday 14th March dinner event suggesting to buy a table. Working with a school and a Multi academy trust. Dinner held at the auction house all please support .</p> <p>JP £300 for the table. Hardeep Kolee MC. Magic Singh Plus amazing dohl players. JSB invite 2 corporate members. £100 donation BC go for 3 tables KR 1 table RC to book a table</p> <p>2. EM – link BABA on to your website March Eric is not here</p> <p>3. RC Promoted the financial health check at metro bank midsummer arcade on 3 March – need MKBM and BABA to attend metro meeting 5 mins from JAS</p> <p>4. RG - BABAs success is all about awareness</p>		
10.0 Next Seminar/ Event	AT THE EYE	31 st march 7pm	
11.0 Any other Business	<p>1. BC Jas Komal foundation Friday 14th March dinner event suggesting to buy a table. Working with a school and a Multi academy trust. Dinner held at the auction house all please support .</p> <p>JP £300 for the table. Hardeep Kolee MC. Magic Singh Plus amazing dohl players. JSB invite 2 corporate members. £100 donation BC go for 3 tables KR 1 table RC to book a table</p> <p>2. EM – link BABA on to your website March Eric is not here</p> <p>3. RC Promoted the financial health check at metro bank midsummer arcade on 3 March –</p>		

	<p>need MKBM and BABA to attend metro meeting 5 mins from JAS</p> <p>4. SG - BABAs success is all about awareness, this will make people come to us and create that attraction</p>		
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Dear Jas

Following the meeting between Myself, Majid and Rupinder yesterday please find below listed certain ways that BABA can use to improve the offering for Corporate and business members.

1. Sponsorship – There seems to be no difference between the benefits what a corporate member compared to a normal member receives even though they pay £500 and normal member pays £50.
2. We all want to open the group to all businesses, however, why should a corporate member pay £500 when potentially there could be 4 other similar businesses, i.e. there should be a cap on 2 per sector for ‘corporate members,’ who pay the premium for exclusivity. i.e. If me and Majid pay £500 each we don’t want another bank there.
3. Communication needs to be at the forefront to engage members and make them feel part of BABA – Website will be great once up and running, however, we agreed that each committee member should be responsible to interact with a minimum of 5 members to keep them updated of BABA, what’s new, new events, seminars and future events.
Corporate members also want a tangible return – i.e. I went to a BNI event last week and I received over 15 telephone enquiries from this group and I am not even a member, I just attended as a guest. (I have only received 2 telephone enquiries from BABA, and I am investing membership and time into the group) all corporate members will look at this in a lot of detail and if they don’t see tangible benefit they will not renew, which will hamper the groups growth.
4. Accountability – The accounts should be uploaded on the website, so there is transparency to all members to ensure their contributions are going to the BABA cause and helping with local charities, events and fundraising.
5. Seminar events – We should use these seminar events to promote the next upcoming event and keep a rolling list going so everyone is aware of the next event and can promote accordingly.
6. Monthly newsletter/flyers – Maybe get someone to post flyers out to local business to encourage them to join.
7. BABA should be helping businesses make money and save money, therefore when we are doing a new project (i.e. website) it should go out to tender to 3 businesses (ideally within the BABA member network) to get the best price and service.
8. Members should be providing an element of free advice to the group, i.e. myself and Majid said we will be happy to provide and a ‘free banking review’ to all members and we can sit down with a business owner and review their tariff, facilities and banking needs to see if we can give them a better deal. Rupinder also mentioned he can possibly provide discounts and deals for members to use his facilities and gym area (all BABA members should be providing some type of value add)

If we collectively address some of the points above corporate membership and normal membership will increase and BABA will benefit as a group and organisation.

Kind regards

Raj Chahal
Local Business Manager
METRO BANK