

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARJUNA AWARDEES ASSOCIATION ON 12TH DECEMBER 2011 AT OLYMPIC BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

The Secretary General, Raja Randhir Singh welcomed all the members to the General Body Meeting of Arjuna Awardees Association. The activities of Arjuna Awardee Association were discussed among other things. He applauded contribution of Shri Yashwant Singh of Alwar who have been taking up the grievances of Arjuna Awardees with the Government Departments viz. Railways and LIC. He further recalled that Shri Yashwant Singh has been doing yeoman service without expecting any name or fame except a little help from IOA Secretariat.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra Acting President, IOA, welcomed members of the Association, and briefed all that the IOA has constituted Arbitration Commission as well as Ethics Commission, having former Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts as members and at the same time IOA has decided zero tolerance towards dope incidents. He further informed the House that IOA accounts are subject to routine CAG audit and so far there have been no adverse comments against IOA. The acting President also indicated that there will be two representative, current athletes who would be deemed to be nominated to the athletes Commission as per the IOC Charter.

Mr Randhir Singh pointed out that the AAA (Arjuna Awardees Association) had been able to get concessions for limited air and rail travel. The matter of concessional travel in Shatabdi/ Rajdhani brought up by AAs is relevant and needs to be pursued. President, Mr Bishen Singh Bedi mentioned that the AAA was thought of as a body for mutual interaction thus far. He also informed the members how the Association was started by late Shri Billu Sethi in 1982 as a get-together platform for the former sportspersons and upto 1990 the Association was reasonably active in social get together and right from the beginning it was not functioning as sports body but it was a body of sports people to share each others' problems.

Mr Bishen Singh Bedi asked the house to observe 2 minutes of silence in honour of late Mr Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, an ace cricketer, an Arjuna Awardee and an office bearer of AAA. The President, requested members to give their detailed views to revamp the Arjuna Awardees Associations. He further requested members to contribute their time and energy towards the effective working of the Association.

The President AAA, Secretary, treasurer and other office bearers expressed their desire to step down, paving room for others. Both were confident that with the induction of fresh blood and with it thoughts, ideas and action, the new committee will be able to rejuvenate the AAA and make it the elite Sports body that it deserves to be.

Many veteran Arjuna Awardees expressed their concern and views viz. Shri Balbir Singh Bhatia (Weightlifting), Shri Chetan Chauhan (Cricket) Shri Bhim Singh (Athletics) Capt. R.S. Bhola (Hockey) Capt. Shri Chand Ram, (Athletics) Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (Shooting) Ms. Ashwini Nachppa (Athletics) Shri Kripa Shanker Patel (Wrestling) etc.

During the course of the day, following suggestions/views/comments were made by the member speakers regarding welfare of the sports persons of our country.

Shri Balbir Singh Bhatia and Hony. Capt. Shrichand mentioned that Shri Randhir Singh should consider his decision for stepping down as IOA Secretary General in 2012. They felt that at this juncture his able guidance and patronage is very much required to keep Olympic movement alive in India. He wanted that athlete trained under a particular coach should be sent along with the team for International competitions..

- Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore stressed the need for unity and requested former sportspersons who can constructively contribute devoting time and channelizing resources should get involved as one of the prime requirement would be to raise funds to run the association keeping the welfare of the sportspersons as its main objective. stressed person with capacity to work should don the responsibilities hence unity and communication so that unhindered flow of information should be maintained. Sponsorship is another area of importance that we need to look into.
- Shri Ashok Pandit said if the members are keen to revive this Association then wholehearted efforts are required and he felt that we can take help of Mr R K Anand to complete the formalities and to explain to the house the legal implications of such elections.
- Shri Randhir Singh, Secretary General explained to Mr. Ashok Pandit that Shri R.K. Anand is here to observe the proceedings and ballot papers are ready and if reqd. we can go for elections today. This was not agreed upon as the nominees were not clear.
- Shri Bishen Singh Bedi while deliberating on the points raised by Shri Ashok Pandit informed that it has already been informed in the beginning of the meeting by him that this body is a body of Sports persons and it is not a sports body and it was established with the objective to act as social get-together platform for former sportspersons and it never had the funds to embark on bigger activities.

- Shri Khushi Ram (Wrestling) was of the view that Arjuna Awardees or former players should be given importance by the Federation of their respective sports. He was of the opinion that Arjuna Awardees Association should raise demands for welfare of former athletes and should get treated in a dignified manner by the Federations and Government. He said former players and Arjuna Awardees should be provided a separate enclosure during National or International events. He praised Raja Randhir Singh and Shri YashwantSingh for their efforts and desired that Olympic Medal winners should be given as much honour as possible.
- Shri Bhim Singh expressed his anguish over step motherly treatment meted out to Arjuna Awardees by the Government. He informed the house that quite a number of AA's are not getting Pension.
- Smt.Rupa Saini (Women Hockey) requested the House to treat Arjuna Awardees at par with the Gallantry Award winners and medal winners and the same facilities should be considered for them even if at toll plaza they are exempted from paying entry fee.
- ShriKripa Shankar Patel (Wrestling) was against the inclusion of a Olympic bound player as representative in the monitoring Committee as his/ her concentration will be badly affected. Mr. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore also expressed similar views and supported by all.
- Chetan Chauhan pointed out the fact that many AA (Arjuna Awardees) are selling tea, medals for survival and insisted that they must be respected and follow the facilities provided by BCCI wherein a considerable amount of pension is received by Cricket players and therefore a minimum of Rs.20,000 should be given to an AA. It was also suggested that the pension should be given to the immediate kin of the AA in case of death of the athlete.

Mrs. Ashwini Nachappa raised the issue regarding the election of Arjuna Awardee Association as mentioned in the letter wherein Election was the agenda. It was suggested that since 30yrs of inception of the association, there has not been a single election and there was no requirement of conducting an election with unknown nominees and hence the process must begin afresh and among the AA present volunteers who can positively contribute time and resources were requested to give their names which was welcomed by all.

- Shri Randhir Singh said it is wrong to say that the performance of this Association is dismal as being said by some of the speakers here, the cases of Railway passes of the Arjuna Awardees and their LIC Pension

cases have been pursued by the Arjuna Awardees Association on regular basis. Airlines Tickets, Railways passes and representation of the Arjuna Awardees in the Selection Committees of National Federations, allotment of flats and plots in some states and the demand for Shatabdi Express facility is being pursued with the present Railway Minister. On earlier occasion this request had been turned down by the previous Railway Minister. Secretary General further informed that it is not the lack of activities by this Association but circulation of information was not there, all the work so far done has not happened on its own.

Keeping in view the above suggestions and views of the AA members It was unanimously decided to constitute a new Committee consisting of 28 Arjuna Awardees to oversee the affairs of the Association till such time new office bearers are elected with Raja Randhir Singh as Chief Patron and ShriYashwant Singh of Alwar as Chief Coordinator.

- It was also decided to have a core group from amongst the 28 constituted new committee members to make an amendment in the existing memorandum of Associations, Rules and Regulation of the Society as deemed fit. List attached in Annexure A
- Suggest the date and manner in which the election will be conducted of the office bearers.
- The Core Group Members would consist of ShriZafarIqbal, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Shri Chetan Chauhan, MsAshwiniNachappa, Shri Jagbir Singh and Shri Sanjeeva Singh with MrZafarIqbal as convenor.
- One of the Representative from AA would be nominated to the Athletes Welfare Commission of IOA.

Shri R.K. Anand was requested to be the Legal Advisor to the Association which was agreed upon.

It was also decided that henceforth all correspondence in connection with AAA will be done by Mr. Zafar Iqbal.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

December 26, 2011



(Randhir Singh)
Secretary General
IOA & AAA