MAUK Annual General Meeting 2026: Minutes of the Meeting

Date: Sunday, 27 September 2026
Time: 15:15
Venue: Kerala House and Online
Chair: Sreejith Sreedharan (SS)

Agenda

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Minutes of the Previous AGM
3. Annual Report 2025
4. Annual Accounts 2025
5. Director Nominations
6. Any Other Business (AOB)
7. Vote of Thanks and Closing

1. Opening and Welcome

The AGM commenced at 15:15, once the required quorum had been met. The meeting was chaired by Sreejith Sreedharan (SS), Chairperson of MAUK.

SS welcomed members attending on the floor and online.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of members of the community who had passed away during the previous year. SS also paid tribute to the late Soorya Krishnamoorthy, who had passed away the previous week and reflected on MAUK's relationship with him dating back to 1992.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated to members in advance for review.

The minutes were proposed by Sajin Jose, seconded by Vinodkumar Sukumaran and approved by the meeting.

3. Annual Report 2025

The Annual Report for 2025 had been circulated to members in advance together with the minutes of the previous AGM.

The Secretary reflected on a successful year for MAUK and thanked the Directors, volunteers and everyone who had contributed their time and support throughout 2025.

The Annual Report was proposed by Ravindran Nair (RN) and seconded by Subash Mohanan.

4. Annual Accounts 2025

SS invited the CFO, Aloysius Mathew (AM), to take members through the Annual Accounts for 2025.

AM presented the accounts and thanked Haridas Bhaskaran (HB) for his efforts in reviewing and auditing them in a timely manner. It was noted that MAUK had ended the year in a good financial position and that the auditor was satisfied with the accounts.

Jayalekha Priyan raised a query regarding expenditure relating to Women's Forum activities. AM clarified that the accounts under consideration related to the 2025 financial year. The expenditure referred to related to activities undertaken during 2026 and would therefore be reflected in the 2026 annual accounts.

5. Director Nominations

The meeting proceeded to the appointment of Directors for the forthcoming term.

The following Directors had submitted nominations for reappointment following the completion of their two-year terms: Anil Velu, Jayan Pillai, Anil Edavana, Aji Velu, Mohanadas Madhavanandan, Nishar Viswanath, Aloysius Mathew and Rohoney Dayanand.

Subash Viswanathan, whose two-year term had also concluded, had not sought reappointment and would therefore be stepping down from the Board.

Rupa Kunnathody, who had served as a co-opted Director during the previous year, had submitted a nomination for appointment as a standing Director. Nominations had also been received from Lailaj Ragunath and Soumya Shaiju for appointment as new Directors.

All nominations were confirmed. SS welcomed the newly appointed Directors to the Board and wished them well in their roles.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Kerala House

HB raised a question regarding expenditure on the renovation of Kerala House.

SS advised that the works were being undertaken to preserve and maintain Kerala House as an important cultural and community asset for future generations. He highlighted its longstanding role as a home for MAUK and for the teaching, practice and promotion of Kerala's arts, music and cultural traditions in Newham.

Reference was also made to Kerala House's recognition through the Sound Waves: Music in Newham heritage project, which documents more than 60 years of the borough's musical traditions and recognises Kerala House's contribution to Newham's cultural heritage. SS noted that the investment was therefore not simply cosmetic but formed part of MAUK's responsibility to protect and preserve a building of significant cultural and community value.

In response to HB's question regarding cost, SS confirmed that a budget of £15,000 had been set. The works included improvements to the planters, name board and decorative pillar together with mural painting.

A question was raised from the floor as to whether multiple quotations had been obtained. SS confirmed that several quotations had been considered by the Board. Spectra Construction's quotation was approximately £800 higher than the other quotations received. Having considered the scope of work and what was being offered, the Board collectively considered their proposal to be the most viable and feasible option.

Future Building Project

Subash Mohanan raised the proposed acquisition of a new building and asked what progress had been made since the matter was previously discussed.

SS advised that MAUK's activities and classes had continued to grow and that the organisation was increasingly outgrowing Kerala House, making the need for larger and more suitable premises increasingly important.

Acquiring a new building would require significant planning and substantial financial resources. MAUK did not currently have the funds required and would need the support of its members and wider community to raise the necessary funding. SS indicated that the initiative should therefore be regarded as a potential five-year project.

It was proposed that a dedicated working group or committee be established, comprising members and individuals with relevant knowledge and expertise to consider suitable options, funding requirements and the practical steps required.

Alternative funding models could also be explored, including the possibility of members contributing towards the purchase of a building through a share-based investment arrangement. Any such model would require further research and consideration.

The success of the Minibus Project was referenced as an example of what could be achieved through collective community support. The project was expected to be completed by the end of the year, following which greater focus could be placed on the new building initiative.

Elders' Club

Babu Gangadharan raised a concern regarding the availability of sufficient chairs for members attending the Thursday Elders' Club.

SS noted that the Elders' Club had been one of MAUK's flagship services since 1998. Attendance had fluctuated over the years but had increased during the past year, further highlighting the limitations of the current premises. SS confirmed that there should nevertheless be sufficient chairs for the current level of attendance.

Financial Governance and Approval of Expenditure

Following the discussion on the new building, HB asked whether MAUK had a specified financial threshold above which expenditure required AGM approval and whether any such requirement was set out in MAUK's governing documents. HB stated that he had raised the point in the hope that it could prompt further discussion among members in the future.

SS advised that MAUK had two principal governing documents: the Articles of MAUK and the Memorandum of MAUK. Amendments to the Articles required AGM approval whereas the Memorandum related more to the day-to-day operation of MAUK and provided greater flexibility for changes.

Neither document specified a financial threshold requiring AGM approval for expenditure. SS noted, however, that a significant project such as purchasing a new building could involve expenditure in excess of £1 million and MAUK did not currently hold the funds required. Such a project would therefore require substantial fundraising with the support of members and the wider community and would require consultation with members as it progressed.

SS also noted that MAUK was accountable to a number of regulatory bodies and would be subject to financial oversight and scrutiny in relation to expenditure of this scale. MAUK's largest expenditure during the previous year had been Ponnonam.

AM added that if members had concerns regarding MAUK's proceedings, including financial expenditure, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) could be called where appropriate. Members could also propose amendments to the Articles, subject to the required approval process, where changes to MAUK's governance arrangements were considered necessary.

Documenting MAUK's History

RN asked whether the history of MAUK and the wider Malayalee community in the UK had been formally documented. Drawing a comparison with the documented history of the Windrush generation, he noted that some of the earliest Malayalees had arrived in the UK from Singapore during the 1960s and that this history should be preserved for future generations.

RN also noted that he had attempted to begin documenting this history during the 1980s but the initiative had not progressed.

SS advised that MAUK had begun addressing this during the previous year as part of the programme marking the 50th anniversary of MAUK's registration. The #KeralaRoots initiative had been conceived as an oral history and heritage project to document and preserve the history of the early Malayalee community and the development of MAUK, with the intention of exploring potential support through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The project had subsequently been placed on hold due to other organisational priorities and projects. SS confirmed that MAUK intended to restart #KeralaRoots and provide members with an update at the next AGM.

7. Vote of Thanks and Closing

Aji Gangadharan, Joint Secretary, reflected on a successful year for MAUK and thanked members for their support throughout the year. He expressed his hope for their continued support in the year ahead.

SS thanked members for attending the AGM, both on the floor and online and invited those attending in person to stay for dinner and the musical evening featuring Abhinav George Shaji and Naveen Suresh.

The AGM closed at 16:13.