



TANGO SYNERGY INCORPORATED

Annual General Meeting 2012

4.30pm, 19 February 2012 at 707 Bourke St, Surry Hills, NSW

Minutes

AGENDA

1. (4.30pm) Welcome and Apologies
2. (4.35pm) Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting on 2 February 2011
3. (4.40pm) Reports:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer (including presentation of Annual Statement)
 - Other Reports: DJ co-ordinator; Special Events; MAD Tango
4. (5.30pm) Election of office bearers and committee:
 - Nominate Returning Officer
 - President
 - Vice President:
 - Secretary:
 - Treasurer:
 - 3 Ordinary Members
5. (5.45pm) Other Business:
 - Bundanoon
 - Katoomba
 - MAD Tango
 - Sydney Tango milongas
 - Sydney Tango website
 - FaceBook co-ordinator & website
 - Wednesday milongas
 - Perception of TangoSynergy
 - Approval of Purchases
 - Business Without Notice
6. (7.10pm) Close – time for Practica

1 **Welcome & Apologies**

Rachel Bond as out-going President of Tango Synergy will chair the meeting.

Present: Rachel Bond, Paul Warren, Julian Wright, Jean Weiner, Natalia Varakina, Emily-Rose Sarkova from 2011 committee; and 5 general Tango Synergy members: Frida Kotlyar, Karan Rowe, Pavel Wagner, Crismentache and Isao Morimoto

Apologies: Mel Gallagher (2011 committee); Helen Sowe (general member) .

Rachel Bond thanks the outgoing committee for the good work they have done during 2011.

2 **Acceptance of Minutes of 2011 AGM**

Rachel Bond proposes that the Minutes from the previous AGM on 2 February 2011 be accepted. Jean Weiner seconds the motion. The Minutes are tabled and accepted.

3 **Reports**

PRESIDENT:

Through 2011 Tango Synergy continued to be a visible presence in the local tango scene. Significant events during the year included:

- hosting musicality workshops with Joaquín Amenábar from Argentina and sponsoring the visit of Hernan Brizuela
- co-organising the Milonga para los Niños, which raised over \$3000 for a children's charity in Argentina
- holding 2 big weekends away: Katoomba, and Bundanoon in conjunction with TSCC
- establishing a fortnightly practica
- launching a new website and member newsletter.

And of course, we've continued to run our milonga every week almost without fail (it was only cancelled once due to venue unavailability). In May, we were sad to be told that Joe Farsaci had sold his restaurant, and the new owners would be renovating and could no longer accommodate us. We are grateful for his support over the nearly 3 years that we were there. Finding good venues is always a challenge. After a brief stint in Pyrmont, we were thrilled to find our current home at Bar Cleveland in Surry Hills – and we have Frida to thank for that.

During the year we also continued to maintain SydneyTango. The website is much used by locals and visitors alike and we are grateful for the several volunteers who keep the calendar up to date, moderate the forum, and so on. The other aspect of running SydneyTango is hosting the 5th Saturday milongas. This year we responded to community feedback by replacing the former regular band Fuego Lento with a new tango band, Tangalo, who have been well received.

In April we held an "open meeting" for members to discuss their ideas in relation to Synergy. This was a thought provoking discussion. Some of the ideas that came out of it have been implemented, including the website and newsletter, and the new practica. Other ideas are ones we simply haven't had the manpower to act on, including running a lunchtime practica in the CBD, or organising flashmobs or outdoor events. And then there are always concerns that we simply don't know how to address, such as the gender imbalance in tango.

On a personal note it has been a difficult year for me with tango. Work commitments and health challenges have meant that I can't go to milongas often. I'm conscious that the lack of visibility of Synergy's President not just at other events but even our own milongas and practicas may have affected our role in the community. Right now due to a foot injury, I can't dance tango at all, and so I'm stepping down from a prominent position in the committee. I'd like to thank everyone who has worked with me, whether on the committee, as a volunteer, a member of a sister organisation or a teacher. It's been great to be able to support the community and I plan to keep doing so, but in a minor behind-the-scenes role. And I look forward to seeing new people volunteering their time and energy to Sydney's tango scene.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Sydney Tango Milongas.

This last year the Sydney Tango milongas were again very successful, being one of the most attended milongas on the Sydney tango calendar.

Of special note, in our continuing effort to discover and support live music within the tango community and the Sydney music scene at large, we helped launch the new tango band, 'Tangalo' at one of the first Concord milongas earlier in 2011. Their debut performance was fantastic and the palpable silence of awe from the

audience was exciting to experience. Tangalo were immediately welcomed and embraced within the Sydney tango community as a whole. As a note, Tangalo will be playing again for us at our first 2012 Concord milonga on the 31st March.

As a committee we agreed to 'clash' with ourselves in late October by holding both the Sydney Tango milonga as well as the Bundanoon Bash on the same weekend. This did result in lower numbers at that particular milonga but this also was due to the need to hold the milonga in a new venue, although quite a good venue, one that was unfamiliar to the community. It was a successful night nonetheless, and all costs were covered.

Again as a committee, it was decided not to hold the final Sydney Tango milonga of the year, which happened to fall on New Years Eve, as all of the committee were either out of Sydney or involved with other events on that night.

I was approached independently from Tango Synergy Inc. at the last minute by Federico and Teresa to help with a new year's eve milonga. Although replacing the Sydney Tango milonga, this wasn't to be a representation of Sydney Tango in any way. It was a successful night but obviously the numbers were well down, and certainly not the usual 'crowd' and welcoming feeling of what we have come to expect of a regular Sydney Tango milonga.

However, I was able to take the opportunity to mention the work of the Sydney Tango volunteers and also the Sydney Tango website and remind everyone there of the great success and importance that the Sydney Tango website holds within the daily lives of the tango community, both locally and internationally.

SECRETARY:

Secretarial duties during 2011 have been as follows:

1. Keeping TS members notified of their membership status and notifying them when their membership is due for renewal.
2. Liaising with the Treasurer & e-mailing out receipts when memberships have been paid.
3. Mailing out updated membership cards.
4. Keeping the Membership List up to date.
5. Some statistics have been gleaned from this list (as at 18 Feb 2012):
 - 177 people are/have been members
 - 1 member expelled (2009)
 - 6 currently listed as ex-members
 - 6 members have moved overseas or interstate
 - 18 listed as non-paying Honorary members (teachers)
 - 36 memberships expired over 2 years ago (cf. 11 last year)
 - 33 memberships expired less than 2 years ago but more than 1 year ago (cf. 15 last year)
 - 30 memberships expired less than 1 year ago (cf. 36 last year)
 - 78 current 'financial' members (cf. 86 last year), which includes 18 new members who joined during 2011 (cf. 27 new members last year)
 - subtract the 18 Honorary members, = total of 62 current paid up members (cf. 67 last year)
 - Despite numbers of actual paid up members being only slightly less this year to last year, the total of 99 expired members is significantly more than actual paid up members. Hence large drop off rate, the significance of which TSynergy might usefully reflect upon.
6. Writing minutes of formal TSynergy meetings and sending copies to the Committee.
7. As the Public Officer for TSynergy, and in collaboration with our treasurer, Julian, we renewed TS's status as an incorporated non-profit organisation, as well as renewing our insurance cover for public liability.
8. As Secretary of TS, I negotiated with City of Sydney Council to rent the upstairs space at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, Crown St, from 7:15pm – 10:45pm on the 1st, 3rd and occasional 5th Sunday of the month for the purpose of conducting tango practice sessions. I have also been primarily responsible for the setting up and running of these practicas, including compiling 6 different music playlists. Thanks to our treasurer for the use of his sound system. However, as it now needs to be returned to him, I am currently doing research to find a suitable easily transportable similarly small sound system. Many thanks must also go to general TS member Catherine Zealand for initially setting up the use of this excellent space for tango practice back in 2010. We are indebted to her.
9. As a committee member of TS, I have made it my mission to attend as many TS milongas as possible, and when either the President or V-President is not in attendance, I have been making the welcoming talks and announcements. In the absence of both P & V-P, I also had to be the MC at our Carrington milonga in July.
10. Not in the role of TS Secretary, but on my own initiative, I instigated an activity which will hopefully bring Tango awareness to a larger audience. I started a tango music radio programme on EastSide Radio 89.7FM early in 2011. Under the "Nightshift" banner, the program was called "TangoTime" from 12:30 - 2:00am Monday nights (Tues morning) – a time slot that the station uses to trial new radio show presenters. This

programme continued for about 6 months and occasional daytime slots were also aired. Feedback was definitely positive. However, over the last several months, EastSide Radio's programming has been somewhat irregular, resulting in little airplay for tango music. I keep reminding the station manager of my desire to continue with the programme, but no further airplay has been forthcoming. I'm still hoping.

TREASURER: Financial Report 2011- 12

Date	19 February 2012	Prepared By:	Julian Wright
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Financial Status Report			
Report Summary	Major Achievements this year		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops with Joaquin Amenabar • 51 weekly milongas • Fortnightly practicas 		
	Assets (> 1 year old)		
	• Sound System	\$2100	
	• Ipod	\$200	
	• Banner	\$600	
	• Dance Floor	\$400	
	TOTAL	\$3,300	
Workshops	Total takings	\$1,891.15	
	Total outgoings	\$1,136.00	
	Profit	\$755.15	
Carrington	Total takings	\$3,305.00	
	Total outgoings	\$3,615.82	
	Loss	\$310.82	
Excludes \$1000 deposit for this event paid in 2010/11			
Bundanoon	Total takings	\$ 1,086.00	
	Total outgoings	\$ 0.00	
	Profit	\$ 1,086.00	
Split between TSCC : Profit share 2011 (Cheque received) still to be deposited by Treasurer			
Sydney Tango	Total takings	\$2,965.00	
	Total outgoings	\$1,100.00	
	Profit	\$1,865.00	
Sundries (incl. bank fees, insurance)	Total takings	\$280.13	
	Total outgoings	\$528.95	
	Loss	\$248.82	
Tango Synergy Memberships	Total takings	\$2,312.00	
	Total Outgoings	\$0.00	
	Profit	\$2,312.00	

Running costs – eg.insurance, web hosting	Total takings	\$0.00
	Total Outgoings	\$1,209.36
	Loss	\$1,209.36
Surry Hills Practicas	Total takings	\$2,200.26
	Total Outgoings	\$1,375.75
	Profit	\$824.51
BANK ACCOUNT	Current Balance as at 07 Feb 2011	\$6,031.32
	Current Balance as at 07 Feb 2012	\$10,018.98

Tango Synergy Financial Summary 2011- 2012

Sunday Practicas	Profit/Loss		824.51
Carrington *	Profit/Loss	310.82	
BASH	Profit/Loss		** 1086
Members	Profit/Loss		2312
TS Milonga	Profit/Loss		1865
Sundries	Profit/Loss	248.82	
Joaquin Workshops	Profit/Loss		755.15
Running costs eg. Web hosting, insurance	Profit/Loss	1209.36	
		1769	5756.66
	Net P/L		\$3987.66

Opening Bank balance as at 07 FEB 2011		\$6031.32
TOTAL BANK DEBITS	8965.98	
TOTAL BANK CREDITS		12953.54
Closing Bank Balance as at 16 FEB 2012		\$10018.98

* Excl 1000 deposit from 2010-11

** Cheque not banked

1086

DJ COORDINATOR:

Tango Synergy has a rotating timetable of DJs in order to bring a variety of music and styles to the tango community. Our DJs are volunteers; new DJs, experienced and otherwise, are all encouraged to step in and try their skills.

A big thank you to our regular DJs – Frida, Isao and Jean. Also many thanks to other members of the Tango community who put great effort in assembling playlists during this year – Yoshi, Emily-Rose, Manuel, Dana and Tim (Chanop Silpa-Anan) – as well as our new Synergy DJs who had never played for us before: Catrina, Pavel, Emil and Bora. We also had guest teachers Hosanna and Hernan (Argentina) DJ-ing for us. We had one Nuevo Milonga which was a great success and was enjoyed equally by “traditional” and “modern” tango lovers .

We continued with our Musicality Workshops with Frida during 2011. They were specially popular at our big milongas at Bandanoon and the Carrington (Blue Mountains). I am definitely looking forward to continuing our collaboration and developing more musicality talks and workshops in 2012 .

Last year we changed the format of our regular Wednesday Milonga by running a 45-minute Practica at the beginning of the evening. From my observation it didn't make a big difference in attendance, with not many people actually “practising” there, preferring to go to our Sunday practica instead. My suggestion therefore is to return to the usual format and run Wednesdays as regular milongas.

My goal for the next year as a DJ-coordinator is to continue to bring quality tango music to our members and invite more current and new members to try their skills as DJs and help Synergy tango grow and develop.

My other regular duties during 2011 were helping Emily-Rose running a group called MAD Tango at Sydney University as well as helping organise our Wednesday milongas at Farsaci and later Bar Cleveland.

MADTANGO:

During the course of the last year, I have felt that Synergy's Milonga and new established Practica have both grown in popularity, and I can see a definite improvement in the way people dance and interact at these events. I think Jean should really be congratulated on his efforts organising the Practica. I believe that the popularity of the Milonga is also due to its location. Bar Cleveland is relatively near the train station and it also has ample parking and I feel this makes a big difference to the attendance rate, as well as the friendly vibe which I feel has increased this year.

We also have some regular newcomers who include Vio (TangoForge), and some people from the MADTango concept eg: Ksenia, Daniel, Owen. I feel that these energetic newcomers give nice lift to the atmosphere.

My experience with Katoomba last year was my first. It was enjoyable enough, but as all members have discussed, perhaps it is time to find a new venue to hold this event. The price of tickets really need to match the experience. On the other hand, BASH was a real success. Playing there with Tangalo was a wonderful experience and we felt that the whole weekend was enjoyed by all. There was a really great turn out and the location is perfect for such an event.

I felt that MADTango classes this year were less well attended due to poor organization on MADSOC's behalf. Many times late emails or incorrect bookings led to confusion on the students' and teachers' parts. This is one of the reasons I am deciding to take a different approach to the MADTango concept this year. It will be more like a group of likeminded young tango dancers who will want to get together to improve their tango. I will have a similar arrangement with MADSOC so as to use the space at Sydney University. However due to my schedule, I will organize monthly workshops in place of weekly lessons and leave these events open to the wider public as well. I will encourage these people instead to join the group of MADTangoers in the wider tango community in practicas, lessons, milongas and workshops. In this way I hope to make the group less segregated and more part of the tango community immediately. There has also been talk from a Sydney University student, who has become tango crazed, of a Tango Society at Sydney University, which may be a great thing.

I feel that in many ways, the last few months of TS have stagnated. I think this is due to personal reasons from many of the committee members. I know this is true in my case. Looking ahead this year apart from MADTango, I feel as though we need to revitalize and redefine all our committee member's roles. So we all feel a strong sense of responsibility and specific goals to be reached.

The idea from Julian of holding a one off very large milonga in Sydney to give the community some real excitement is one I would like to see come to fruition.

I would also like to make mention that Dana Parker (now a Melbournite) is keen to look into ideas of a Tango Marathon. I think, if she was savvy to the idea of partnership between her Tango Butterfly business

and Synergy, it may be a really exciting event. Something to really market not only Nationally... maybe Internationally?

On a personal note I would also like to make mention of the successful debut of Tangalo. It is very special to me that we have the support of the wider Tango Community. I hope that we continue to grow with your encouragement.

4 Election of office bearers and committee

Rachel Bond nominated Jean Weiner for position of Returning Officer. Paul Warren seconded the nomination. Jean Weiner accepted and was appointed the Returning Officer for 2012.

Nominations for positions on the new Tango Synergy Committee were called for. Submitted was a printed list of all nominees, nominators, seconders and acceptances of nomination by nominees.

As only one person had been nominated and seconded for each role, all nominees were immediately declared elected as Committee members.

President:	Paul Warren
Vice-President:	Natalia Varakina
Secretary:	Jean Weiner
Treasurer:	Julian Wright
Ordinary Members:	Rachel Bond; Emily-Rose Sarkova; Frida Kotlyar

The new Committee was formally accepted, and Rachel suggested that all Committee Reports be posted on the Forum of ST Website, in the interests of public transparency.

5 Other business

BUNDANOON:

Rachel has received an email from Linda McFarlane (TSCCanberra) suggesting that this year BASH should be handled a little differently. She proposes that the event be run by an “off-committee joint sub-group” with which she will liaise as an advisor/consultant so that she can help them learn the ropes, rather than she taking full control. The planning system for organising BASH is already in place after several years of running the event, so the only thing is now to find suitable volunteers from both TSCC and TS. The email also mentioned that both committees were happy to limit follower attendance so as to get a better gender balance, and also to free up the space in the hall to provide more room for circulation (eg by providing a bar). Continuing to have live music and better defining the music mix was also supported.

Julian, as TS representative on the BASH committee last year, mentioned that he had very little to do in the actual organising of the event, and that TS ought to have a greater presence in the running/organising of the event if we are going to receive 50% of the profits. Crismen then reminded all present that TS member Karen Garnett, who has helped co-ordinate the event in the past, will soon be back on the tango scene and may well consider getting involved with BASH again. It was then suggested that gender balance could be regulated by leaders & followers using on-line booking forms when applying to come to BASH.

Following on from this was a general discussion about events or ideas being executed not just by TS committee members. The concept is that one or more general TS members could be delegated the responsibility of undertaking various tasks, that they would have an affiliated committee member as a back-up/liaison person who would report back to the committee, and that the process of delegation of responsibility would require more trust and candidness between members, creating greater likelihood that a project would actually be brought to fruition.

Paul then reminded all that Tango Synergy is not in the “business” of tango. We are not a school; we are not trying to make a living from tango. We are just volunteers who have come together to try and do something for the benefit of the tango community as a whole.

KATOOMBA:

It was agreed that the event at the Carrington last year was less successful than previous years; it was less well attended, resulting in less of an ‘ambience’ for those who were there. With the Carrington annually increasing its prices and providing less services, it was felt by those attending that they were getting less value for their money than in previous years, e.g., there was not even finger food last year.

So, should TS consider hiring a different venue in the Blue Mountains, or maybe go further afield, e.g., the small village of Burrawang in the Southern Highlands, as suggested by Paul? It was pointed out the proximity of Burrawang to Bundanoon, and the fact that it was such a small place that the fringe benefits of being in a large town like Katoomba just would not exist in Burrawang. Other localities were then suggested: Newcastle, Wollongong, Central Coast, or even Hunter Valley. These will have to be investigated.

Julian suggested, considering the healthy financial state of TS, we could afford to hold a special glamour tango evening in one of Sydney's more chic venues. The fact that it would undoubtedly clash with another event held by one of the Sydney tango schools is of no real concern. They would (exceptionally) cancel their regular event and TS would reimburse them the profit that they would normally make, so that they were not out of pocket.

Isao suggested that whether we go for this style of event or not, TS should nonetheless use its capital for the benefit of the tango community at large rather than letting it simply accumulate.

MADTANGO:

In addition to the report given above, Emily-Rose suggested that with MADTango's drive to diversify and broaden, so as to engage others in the younger crowd, maybe TS could offer entry discounts for MADTango members to TS events. E-R also mentioned that MADTango will have a stall in "O" week at Sydney Uni where flyers will be handed out, and that she was going to do a dance performance on Wednesday, to which other TS members were welcome. She also mentioned that Federico Mattiuzzi had been approached to give free tango lessons if Sydney Uni "Tango Society" comes into being.

Pavel expressed interest in being involved with MADTango.

SYDNEYTANGO MILONGAS:

In addition to Paul's report above, Rachel informed all that after some negotiation, the venue and four dates for Concord SydneyTango Milongas have been confirmed for 2012, these Saturdays being: 31 March; 30 June; 30 September; and 29 December. She also commented that despite SydneyTango making a very modest profit overall according to the Financial Report, the SydneyTango Milongas actually run at a loss due to hall hire, payment to the band, and the lowest entry fee (only \$15) of all Sydney milongas. This, in fact, meant that Tango Synergy is subsidising the event! Tangolo has already been booked as the band for the 4 Concord milongas.

SYDNEYTANGO WEBSITE:

Paul suggests that STWebsite should be used much more. Despite the great success and importance that the website holds within the daily lives of the tango community, both locally and internationally, it could have greater impact on the Sydney scene. However, the site needs to be updated and continued to be updated, e.g., existing photos on the site date from years ago! The website needs to be maintained, the collection of photos co-ordinated, including the establishment of a photo gallery where current and archival material was accessible. Overall, there would have to be much more on-line activity associated with both this site as well as the Tango Synergy website.

TANGO SYNERGY FACEBOOK:

Emily-Rose volunteered to be the committee member to co-ordinate a Synergy FaceBook page.

TANGO SYNERGY MILONGAS:

Bar Cleveland informed us toward the end of last that they were going to soon begin renovating the upstairs area, and that renovations would most probably start at the end of February 2012. We are nearly at the end of Feb and it does not seem likely that renovations will begin soon. According to Frida, whose friend Sophie runs BC, renovations will begin no sooner than April/May. We are still looking for a suitable alternative venue.

To combat the number of non-paying dancers at our Wed milongas, it was suggested that a small table be placed near the top of the entry stairs at 8pm, rather than on the bar, where an exercise book and pen could be placed next to the money box, with a prominent and stylish notice for people to sign their names in the book before paying. This would make it clearer to all comers, especially guests arriving for the first time, who usually don't understand the payment system until it is mentioned by the announcer, often only around 10pm. This would also help eradicate dancers leaving early without paying.

It is important that some committee members always attend TS milongas so that TS can maintain its "public face". To that end it was suggested that a roster be drawn up so that we know which committee members will be in attendance, rather than using the ad hoc system currently in place which relies on mainly one or two 'regulars'.

Isao suggests that, at announcement time during regular Wednesday milongas, it is inappropriate to continue introducing teachers by name. Reciprocation barely exists on this score as TS members are very rarely introduced

at milongas run by other groups or schools. The practice should therefore stop. However, it would still be appropriate at SydneyTango milongas at Concord, or any other major TS event.

Considering the success of the NeoTango/Alternative Tango evening last year, Natalia recommends that we repeat it again this year. Crismen immediately volunteered to be DJ for the night.

SUNDAY PRACTICA:

The fortnightly Sunday practica continues to be a success. All dates have been booked with the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre for 2012 and fees are paid monthly. As Jean will be away for several periods during the year, another committee member has to be groomed in the running of the event.

PERCEPTION OF TANGOSYNERGY:

There has been a recent comment by a member of the general tango community that TS is not living up to its credo of independence and non-affiliation with any professional tango body in its mission to create a more cohesive tango community. The person suggested that TS was paying "for professional services at [its] milongas" to a member of its own committee, that committee member therefore qualifying as a 'professional'. Was this, asked this person, one of several reasons why the TangoSynergy is losing support from general members?

In reply, Tango Synergy obviously wants to foster openness and cohesiveness in the community. TSynergy's constitution indeed clearly states that "persons who teach Argentine Tango professionally (including but not limited to the principal teachers of Argentine Tango schools) may not be elected to the Committee." The fact is, **there are no professional Tango teachers on the committee. And there never will be.** The current committee includes three professional musicians, but none of them earns a living from tango – all do it as a hobby. Two members of the committee have also voluntarily (ie: for no payment) taught introductory tango classes for University students. The purpose of this is to get new young people into tango, and it's working: having had the opportunity to get interested in tango, several of those students now attend classes and milongas with professional teachers in Sydney. We have always extended our offers of collaboration to all teachers; of course, it's always up to them whether they choose to accept it and reciprocate. Some do and some don't. There is no partisanship on our side, we welcome all teachers to work with us. In our communications we always stress that TangoSynergy is about the community of tango, not the business side – we leave that to schools/teachers. Apropos of hiring Tangalo as the band when Emily-Rose is on committee, we want to reassure the tango community that this is not something we did out of nepotism, but because it was clear from the community's responses that Tangalo was the preferred band. We are simply facilitating that desire.

APPROVED PURCHASES:

As TS has been using Julian's small sound system and Jean's iPod at our Practicas, these items should be returned to them. Jean has located an outlet which sells similar sound systems. One will be purchased imminently on TS's behalf, along with a large iPod. Current Practica playlists will be transferred to it along with several old playlists for Wednesday milongas. Frida has volunteered to construct more playlists from Jean's music library. The iPod will serve also as a backup if any music or DJ equipment problems occur at Wednesday milongas.

The portable dancefloor was sighted at Pedro's, where it was stored outdoors. The lino has become very brittle and is no longer serviceable. Paul will search for a replacement, if suitable storage can be found.

6

Close:

PAUL WARREN officially closed the AGM at 7:10 pm.