

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB,  
36 PALL MALL, LONDON SW1Y 5JN, ON 11 JUNE 2014

The President of the Society, Lord Davies, opened proceedings at 6 pm by welcoming members to the Annual General Meeting. Approximately one hundred members attended. Among apologies received were those from: Brig Robert Baddeley, Mr Richard Bartlett, Mr William Crawley, Mr & Mrs Denis Doble, Mr David Gilkes, Lady Gillett, Mr Douglas Gordon, Sir John Graham, Dr Philip Horniblow, Mr Hugh Leach, Mrs Ann Peerless, Mrs Shirin Persson, Mr David Shove, Mr Michael Thompson, Col Tom Walcot, Mr Richard Woods, Mr Antony Wynn and others.

### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARIES

The Chairman, Sir David John, gave his report and that of the Honorary Secretaries. He detailed retiring and joining members of Council (see below) and particularly thanked the retiring members Mrs Juliette Campbell, Mr Nick Pitts-Tucker and Mr John Aldridge. He dealt with membership issues, the activities and events of the Society, a new lease for the Society's premises with a reduced footprint, scholarships and awards, library and archives issues and members who had passed away during the year. He proposed and it was agreed that questions on his and the Honorary Treasurer's reports should be held over until the Honorary Treasurer's reports had been delivered. *(Since the report is to be published in the November issue of the Journal, it is not recorded here.)*

### HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Neville Green, Honorary Treasurer, presented his report. There being no questions on the Report, it was taken as approved by the members *(Similarly, his report is to be published in November and is therefore not recorded here.)*

Sir Michael Burton asked for and the meeting were given details of the reduced footprint and costings for the office's new premises. Mr Robert Arbuthnott asked what had happened to the Society's lectures at the Society of the Chemical Industry (SCI). The Chairman replied that for a very long time the auditorium at the SCI had been closed for refurbishment but that, since it had re-opened, the Society, whilst keeping it in mind as a venue, could not afford the increased hiring charges. Mr Antony Cooper suggested that the Society consider using club premises for lectures e.g. the Army and Navy Club or the Travellers Club.

There being no further questions, the meeting formally approved the Chairman's report.

### APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

It was proposed and in the absence of objection the re-appointment was agreed of Anova, Chartered Accountants, of Anova House, Wickhurst Lane, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 3LZ, as Independent Examiners for the 2014 accounts of the Society.

### RE-ELECTION AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Chairman proposed that the meeting re-elect Mr Adrian Steger, Miss Sophie Ibbotson and Mr Charles Humfrey for a second term of three years on the Council from 2014/2017. In the absence of objection the Chairman's proposal was agreed unanimously. The Chairman also proposed that after their mandatory one year off the Council following six years on the Council, Sir Robert ffolkes and Mr James McNeish be re-elected to the Council. This proposal was also agreed unanimously. Finally the Chairman proposed and the meeting unanimously agreed that the recent appointment to the Council of Dr Gerard Lyons be confirmed.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** The President asked the meeting if any member had any other business to raise.

Mr Dilip Kumar Dass presented to the Chairman and to the current Lord Denman, a picture of the latter's late father. The Chairman declared the formal part of the meeting closed and said that the second Lord Denman Memorial Lecture would now take place.

**THE LORD DENMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE.** Sir William Patey KCMG, former UK Ambassador to Afghanistan, delivered the lecture entitled:

*“The prospects for Afghanistan post NATO withdrawal”.*