

## 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 15 JUNE 2016

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 Mr Norman Cameron, Mrs Juliet Campbell, Mr Christopher Clarke, Mr Sean Collins, Mr Denis Doble, Mr Joachim Düster, Sir John Graham, Lady Ruth Hawley, Mr Jamil Husain, Mrs Merilyn Hywel-Jones, Mr Michael Kyle, Mr Shaun McPhee, Mr William Norton, Mr Andrew Sparkes, Col. Tom Walcot.

### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARIES

The Chairman, Sir David John, gave his report and that of the Honorary Secretaries. He detailed and thanked members who had resigned and retiring members of Council, particularly Sir Robert folkes Bt. and Professor Nirmala Rao. He also thanked Mr Neville Green who was standing down as Honorary Treasurer after nearly 20 years in office, but indicated that he had asked him to continue on the Council as an ex-officio member until year end to be able to use his corporate memory on the Society's financial matters. He introduced members of Council standing for election and re-election, including Mr Frank Slevin, Deputy Chairman, who it was intended should take over from him as Chairman early in 2017. He also advised that the Secretary, Mr Alan Attryde, had expressed the wish to stand down in mid-January 2017 and that plans were in hand for the appointment of his successor. The Chairman thanked Messrs Green and Attryde for all their hard work on behalf of the Society, which had allowed Council to concentrate on securing the Society's future.

He dealt with Premises (the Society having been given notice to vacate by mid-November, 2016), Membership Issues, the Library and Archives, the Activities and Events of the Society, Medals and Awards, the Mosawi Foundation, and Members who had passed away during the year, in particular Mr Hugh Leach and Major-General Michael Swindells. In his report on the Library and Archives, he mentioned that Hugh Leach's collection of books which he had left to the Society would be housed at Haileybury School and named the 'Hugh Leach Library of the RSAA'. Hugh had also donated 273 maps to the Archive collection. A Hugh Leach Memorial lecture had been established and would be held annually, the first lecture being on 20 September, 2016, followed by the President's Reception.

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. *(Similarly, his report is to be published in November and is therefore not recorded here.)*

Ms Louise Taylor raised the following points on the previous reports:

On the Financial Statement (Page 8) she asked the Treasurer why it was that voluntary income at £76,427 cost £88,528 to generate. The Treasurer referred her to Note 2 on the Statement and said that those were the figures representing the income and expenditure from our activities. She asked whether, if it was costing us more to generate the income than income received, why were we undertaking those activities. The Chairman interceded and said that the shortfall was £8732 in 2015 and £8699 in 2014. He went on to say that there was a simple solution to solve this deficit: Each lecture was costing around £480 to hold and the Council Chamber at the Royal Astronomical Society, used only for the lunches, cost £280 to hire. If we were to halve the number of lectures and not provide any lunches, the deficit would be immediately solved, but he was opposed to taking this action because the lectures were an important part of the Society's programme as were the lunches in providing a social forum in which members could meet.

Mr Dilip Dass said that he thought the sale of Society cravats, scarves, pins and badges would be a good idea. The Chairman responded that only one tie had been sold in the past year and there seemed little appetite from members for such items.

Sir Michael Burton said that he was concerned about access to the Society library once it was moved to Haileybury School. Members would not wish or be able to go out to Haileybury to visit the library. The Chairman responded that, through the office, members would be able to get access to the library books, which under arrangements agreed with the school, could be sent out to them by post.

There being no further questions, the meeting formally approved both the Chairman's and the Honorary Treasurer's reports.

#### **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 2015 accounts of the Society.

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

The Chairman proposed that the meeting re-elect Mr Sean Collins for a second term of three years on the Council from 2016/2019. In the absence of objection the Chairman's proposal was agreed unanimously.

The Chairman proposed that the meeting elect Mr Antony Wynn back on to the Council for three years from 2016/2019, Mr Wynn having stood down from the Council for the obligatory one year period after having served two three year terms. In the absence of objection the Chairman's proposal was agreed unanimously.

The Chairman proposed that the following co-opted members of the Council, retiring as per Rule 25 but standing for re-election, should be re-elected for the three year period 2016/2019: Messrs Frank Slevin, Bruce Bowers, Andrew Cartwright, Christopher Clarke, Roger Croston, Jamil Husain, Shaun McPhee, Andrew Sparkes and David Stern. In the absence of objection the Chairman's proposal was agreed unanimously.

#### **TO ELECT THE HONORARY TREASURER**

The Chairman introduced Mr Andrew Cartwright and proposed that he be elected Honorary Treasurer. In the absence of objection the Chairman's proposal was agreed unanimously.

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

Sir Harold Walker said that, as this was the Chairman's last AGM, we should mark his departure with a vote of thanks and commented that, over testing times, the Chairman had shown enormous initiative and energy. The President indicated his agreement.

**THE LORD DENMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE.** Sir Richard Dalton KCMG, former UK Ambassador to Iran, delivered the lecture entitled:

**“The Iran Nuclear Agreement One Year On”**