

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 3 JULY 2018

In the absence of the President, Lord Davies, the Chairman, Mr Frank Slevin, opened the proceedings. Approximately one hundred and forty members attended. Among apologies received were those from Lord Davies, Mr Marcus Cotton, Mr Joachim Düster, Mr & Mrs Alan Furness, Mr Michael Kyle, Col & Mrs Brian Lees, Mr Shaun McPhee, Mr & Mrs Richard Palmer, Mr & Mrs Richard Seeböhm, Mr Andrew Sparkes, Mr Kenneth Walker.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND HONORARY SECRETARIES

The Chairman, Mr Slevin, gave his report and that of the Honorary Secretaries. He detailed and thanked members who had resigned and retiring members of Council, particularly Mr Charles Humfrey, Ms Sophie Ibbotson and Mr Adrian Steger. He introduced members of Council standing for election and re-election, including Mr James McNeish and, as Honorary Secretary, Mr Bill Norton.

He dealt with Finance – the reserves standing at £656,418, the highest in the Society's history -, Membership Issues, the Activities and Events of the Society, Medals and Awards and Members who had passed away during the year, in particular Mrs Kay Beckett (a former Editor of the Journal), Lt Col Tony Fowle MC, Mrs Marilyn Hywel-Jones (Honorary Secretary 2001 – 2016), Mr John Shipman (Editor of the Journal 1995-97), Lt Col E R L (Roddy) Jones (rtd). Two other members who had passed away, the late Norman Jackson and Col Michael Wright, had left extensive libraries to the Society.

He thanked the Patron, HRH The Duke of York, for his active support and also the Secretary, Mr Alan Attyde, who would relinquish his post at the end of the month.

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 Andrew Cartwright, Honorary Treasurer, presented his report. *(Similarly, his report is to be published in November and is therefore not recorded here.)*

Mr David Tomlinson referred to the increase in the Society's reserves and suggested that, rather than increasing the reserves (which should represent 18 months running costs), these funds should be used in pursuit of the Society's educational objectives, awards and programmes rather than being transferred to reserves. He also noted that, without the legacy and sales of archive material, the underlying financial results for the year showed a loss of £30,000.

Mr Adrian Steger said that he took an opposite view to Mr Tomlinson in that funds should be transferred to reserves so that assets were available to meet any unforeseen expenditure.

Mr Dilip Dass repeated his request from the previous year 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 asked about any news of the Society library and its operation at Haileybury School. The Chairman responded that the library was due to open in September and members would be advised on arrangements for visiting the library and obtaining books in due course.

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 James McNeish for a second term of three years on the Council from 2017/2020. 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 2017/2020: Ms Vanessa Easlea, Dr David Taylor and Mr Robin Lamb. He also proposed that Mr Bill Norton should be re-elected as an Honorary Secretary. In the absence of objection the Chairman's proposals were agreed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman proposed that Sir David John KCMG should be appointed as an Honorary Vice-President of the Society. The meeting approved the appointment.

THE LORD DENMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE. Sir Jeremy Greenstock GCMG, former UK Ambassador to the United Nations, delivered the lecture entitled:

“Is this Russia’s Moment in the Middle East?”