

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 2019

The Chairman, Mr Frank Slevin, opened the proceedings. Approximately fifty members were present.

Chairman's report

The Chairman presented the Society's Financial Statements and Trustees Report for 2018. The text of the Chairman's remarks is available from the RSAA website or the Society's office.

Honorary Treasurer's report

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Andrew Cartwright, presented his report, the text of which is available from the RSAA website or the Society's office.

Questions

A member asked why the Financial Statements showed "other debtors" of £12,000. Mr Cartwright said this was a consequence of the timing of invoices around the year-end.

A member asked what the board intended to do with the high level of reserves and why subscriptions were increasing. The CEO noted that investment income was essential to funding the Society's charitable activities. Membership subscriptions covered only a third of the Society's operating costs and their purchasing power had fallen to 1998 levels before the increase. The Chairman added that without the investment income for the five years 2012-16 the Society had posted average annual losses of £30,000. That had been halted and the quality of activities for members had been improved.

A member asked about the character of the improved product. The Chairman recalled that in response to surveys of members the venues of lectures and dinners had been changed. *Asian Affairs* was now published quarterly. The archive was increasingly accessible online as were the lectures. He hoped that the new Council would help to guide the Society on what members wanted.

Appointment of Independent Examiners

It was proposed and, in the absence of objections, agreed that Prentis & Co of 115 Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1XE be reappointed as Independent Examiners for 2019.

Election of members of the Council

The Chairman proposed that Dr Carolyn Browne, Mr Will Frost, Mr David Kemmis-Betty, Mr Ravi Kumar, Dr Martin Skipper and Mr Antony Wynn be elected to the Council. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded