

Royal Society for Asian Affairs: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online on 16 September 2020

The Chairman, Mr Frank Slevin, opened the proceedings. Forty-nine members were present.

Chairman's report

The Chairman presented the Society's Financial Statements and Trustees Report for 2019. The text of the Chairman's remarks is available from 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 office.

Questions

One member raised the question of recruiting additional members. He encouraged existing members to seek to recruit new members from among their own circle of contacts. It would perhaps be best pursued post-pandemic.

One member raised concerns about the dwindling teaching of Asian languages in UK universities. Could the RSAA lend its weight to promoting more effort in this area? The Chairman noted that this raised the question of how far the Society should be a lobbying organisation. Mr Steger recalled that languages were a key element of the RSAA's annual Schools Day. Professor Frankopan commented that if the UK aspired to a global role, then Asian languages, culture, history and politics all needed more attention and more funding than they currently received. A number of other members spoke in favour of the RSAA using its influence on this issue.

Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts

It was proposed that the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019 be adopted. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

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 board

In accordance with the requirement for one third of board members to retire each year, Mr Frank Slevin and Mr Andrew Cartwright stood down from the board and were proposed for re-election. Both were elected without opposition.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded