



## **ROYAL SOCIETY FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS: MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 14/15 BELGRAVE SQUARE, LONDON AND ONLINE ON 16 JULY 2025 AT 17.30 BST**

The Chairman, Sophie Ibbotson, opened the meeting. Forty-eight members were present in-person and twenty-five online.

### **Reports of the Officers of the Society**

The Chairman and CEO (Michael Ryder) presented their reports for 2024. In the absence of the Treasurer (Andrew McKee), the Chairman presented his report. Full texts are available from the RSAA office on request.

### **Questions**

One member asked whether individuals or institutions were the primary fundraising targets. The Chairman said both were important, with particular focus on finding institutional partners for the Schools' Day and the Travel Awards.

One member asked what would become of the physical artefacts in the Society's collections. The CEO said that the maps would, in principle, all be digitised along with the collections of manuscripts and drawings. Most of the physical artefacts were in storage, but some had been loaned to members. He encouraged any members interested in borrowing items from the Society to enquire with the office.

One member asked if member recruitment had kept up with the rate of attrition. The Chairman said that membership numbers were declining and had been since the early 2000s. This was largely a result of individuals dying as members, rather than resigning.

One member asked if the partnership between the RSAA and the Foreign Office had yielded any new members. The CEO said that whilst there had been a number of joint events, there had been no effect on membership. One member asked whether Caravanserai was available in-print to members. The CEO said that the printing and postage costs were prohibitive, but that it was available online to every member.

One member asked if it was possible to view items pending digitisation. The CEO said that the materials were boxed and stored in a manner that was not conducive to viewing specific items.

### **Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts**

It was proposed and agreed that the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024 be adopted.

### **Appointment of the Independent Examiners**

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

### **Election of Trustees**

Gerald Dorey, Simon Hayes, Andrew McKee, Deepa Ramchandani, Sandeep Sandhu and Eleanor Thorp were (re)elected unopposed.

The meeting concluded at 18:00.