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**MINUTES OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC  
SOCIETY HONG KONG,  
HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 AT HONG KONG CLUB, CENTRAL.**

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The meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

**Welcome**

The President, Dr Helen Tinsley, welcomed everyone to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong. She also thanked the past President, Dr Patrick Hase, for chairing the AGM, since the Hon Secretary was out of town.

As preliminary points, the President:

- Noted her appreciation for meeting in person and without masks, after three years of AGM meetings via Zoom.
- Apologies from the Hon Secretary, Mr David McKellar (in the USA), Council member Mr Don Gasper (in the UK), and the Hon Librarian, Ms Vivian So.
- Apologies from Dr.Gillian Bickley, former Vice President, and a number of other recorded members.
- The AGM hard copy papers were been distributed, with AGM agenda and reports also available on screen.

**1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 via Zoom**

The resident Past President, Dr Patrick Hase referred to the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022. No questions on the Minutes were tendered. Receipt and confirmation of the Minutes was proposed by Mr Angus Forsyth, seconded by Ms Janet Spence, and approved by the meeting.

**2. Re-confirmation for good order of the Minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and the 61<sup>st</sup> AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021, which were held by zoom**

Dr Hase referred to the Minutes of the two Annual General Meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 respectively. No questions on these Minutes were tendered. Re-confirmation of the Minutes was proposed by Dr Kwong Chi Man, seconded by Mr Steven Tennant, and approved by the meeting.

**3. President's Report for the year 2022-2023 on the Activities of the Society and the Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund**

The President presented her Report – summarised below, the full report to be submitted separately to the AGM papers section of the RASHK website in due course.

One key issue mentioned was the question of succession planning in the roles of Activities Co-ordinator, President and Vice-President. One member suggested to absorb more young people, such as students, to address successor matters.

The President first welcomed members and thanked particularly attending Council members for the last challenging period of pandemic, namely Connie Carmichael, Roy Delbyck, Bob Bunker, Davina Lee, Tony Banham, Dr Kwong Chi Man, CM Yip and Dr Patrick Hase. She also thanked the auditor, the former part time administrator, Jace Au, and current part time administrators, Vonnie Fung and Sally Lui; and IT support from leuan Harding.

The President acknowledged members who had recently passed away and who had contributed to RASHK and its journals, including the “Celebration of the Life of Valery Margaret Garrett” at the Hong Kong Club which would be held on 16 May 2023, to pay tribute to Valery Garrett, an active member of the RAS and who served on the Council for many years as the Activities Convenor.

The number of membership remained at about 500. The accounts deficit appeared because most activities were done on Zoom over the past three years. The office in Ngau Tau Kok was mainly used as storage for journals and books: the operation of RASHK was being done by laptop, managing emails, website, WhatsApp and e-blasts. Thanks were due to Rocky Dan who contributed the office, the use of which will be review.

The President said she had found unexpected treasure in the hard copies stored in Ngau Tau Kok’s office, which brought value for the RASHK’s membership. Nearly 40 old hard copies of seminars and monographs written by clever people via their life observations. The President said she would summarize all the titles, and each will be made available once again at HK\$100 as the income for the Society. For example, there are academic records of seminars, back to the 1960s, talking about vegetation in Hong Kong, and Hakka society in Hong Kong.

Many offices continued to donated books to the Society, so the RASHK’s library is building up. A big donation of books was from a former journalist, Noel Parrott, who lived on Cheung Chau. All these will be catalogued and go into the Central Library. Robin Bridge donated us a beautiful catalogue of mainly Chinnery’s paintings. This too will end up in the shelf of RASHK in the Central Library. There is increasing utilization of RAS’s collection in the library. The Library has many hidden gems in the special collection which are there for RAS members to access. Thanks are due Roy Delbyck and Vivian Tso the Hon Librarian, who have worked on this.

The Ride Fund continues to support the HK Studies Series, which since 2003 has allowed for more than 35 titles to have been published.

Thanks are due to Tony Banham for his contribution to the Editorial Board. Journal Volume 63 is in progress.

In 2022, the Society managed 24 talks, 13 local visits, and one AGM. Some were in-person and some were held by zoom. Some of them were opened up for other RAS branches including Beijing, Shanghai and UK. There has been around a 60-70% attendance rate on Zoom events. The Society has also continued to promote “general interest” events from third parties and other RAS branches. Discussions are taking place with Peter Stuckey to reactivate site visits out of Hong Kong, the first hopefully to Vietnam (which was cancelled in 2020).

Relationship with other RAS branches were strengthened. The president had met with a lady from Georgia, Europe, who planned to set up an RAS branch there. The President passed her some journals as well.

Due to the digitalization of IRD, the charitable status of RASHK has to be reapplied and probably will be confirmed in June or July. Any big donation is suggested to be held off till the reapplication is complete.

Questions were invited. There being none, receipt of the Report was proposed by Mr Peter Stuckey, seconded by Mr Roy Delbyck, and approved by the meeting.

#### **4. Reports of the Honorary Librarian, Hon Editor, Hon Activities Co-ordinator and Hon Archivist et al (and were tabled)**

A question was raised on how to access JSTOR. RASHK members have the right to access. Each hit contributed a small amount of money to the Society. It was suggested to alert members on how to access JSTOR in a future newsletter.

Receipt of the Reports was proposed by the Angus Forsyth and seconded by Bob Bunker.

Hon Editor, Tony Banham, is now focusing on Volume 63, after finishing 291 pages of Volume 61 and 62 journals. He welcomed receiving online and offline suggestions about future articles and directions. He will boost JSTOR further in the future and later in summer this year, he will call a meeting of the Journal's local Editorial Board with International Editorial Board.

A suggestion was made to add "how to get into JSTOR" into the Journal.

Receipt of the Report was proposed by Dr Kwong Chi Man, seconded by Bob Bunker and approved by the meeting.

#### **5. Honorary Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st December 2022**

Dr Hase referred the Meeting to the Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2022. He also noted the Hon Treasurer's accompanying report.

Dr Patrick Hase referred to her report. The Hon Treasurer noted that during the Covid 19 pandemic period, almost all events were via Zoom and free of charge, which resulted in lower income and a deficit. She forecast that the deficit can be covered by revenue in the coming fiscal year and maintenance of stable membership. The financial status is in good shape.

Dr Hase raised a question about any increase of membership fee over the coming 5 years. The Hon Treasurer said this year will remain the membership fee unchanged and will consider increasing it by 20% next year.

A suggestion was raised to charge a fee on registration for Zoom activities to ensure actual participation on the event day(s). The Hon Treasurer said that Stripe, an online payment platform, will be tested and adopted probably this year to address this matter.

Receipt of the Report was proposed by Jace Au, seconded by Bob Bunker and approved by the meeting.

#### **6. Report of the Accounts of the Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund**

The Hon Treasurer reported that study of the future strategy of the Ride Fund with Chairman Colin Day was underway. Since its inauguration in 2003 and currently, when an author meets the

relevant Ride Fund criteria, a \$25,000 grant would be awarded to support publishing of his/her book. The President reported that currently a book was being published with the benefit of the Ride Fund and another book, written by Dr Kwong Chi Man, will be supported. One RASHK member, who has since left Hong Kong, has granted a generous donation to the Ride Fund. This will give the Trustees more flexibility in future.

Dr Patrick Hase added that members can donate \$25,000 to the Ride Fund for memorializing a family member who has passed away, by printing his/her name and photo on the subsidized publication.

Helen reminded members that any such donations should be made after the reconfirmation of charitable status of the Society, hopefully in June / July later this year.

Connie Carmichael highlighted one recent beneficiary was '*Grounded at Kai Tak, Chinese Aircraft Impounded in Hong Kong, 1949-1952*' by Malcolm Merry, followed up by a talk for RASHK members by the author.

Dr Kwong Chi Man reminded us that a \$2,000 grant in 2021 (p.58) was used to print maps for young scholars, and that the Ride Fund can be used for different subvention purposes other than publishing.

A question was raised whether the author who received a subvention, would give a talk. The response was that they were invited to do so, as well as donate a copy of the book for our RASHK Library collection, if possible.

Receipt of the Report was proposed by Steve Tennant, seconded by Bob Bunker and approved by the meeting.

## **7. Report of the Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch in Britain**

The Hon Secretary noted that the Report of the Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch in Britain, Paul Bolding, was tabled and would be taken as read.

## **8. Election of Officers and Members of Council for the year 2024-2025**

Dr Hase referred to item 8 on the Agenda and the list containing the names of those proposed for election to Council which had been circulated with the Notice of this AGM.

Dr Patrick Hase noted that Mr David McKellar, who has been the Hon Secretary for 20 years would welcome someone to take over from him and new blood was also needed for the Activities Committee.

Dr Hase asked if there were any nominations for Council, other than those listed in the papers which had been circulated. None arising, he then proposed to carry out the Council election en bloc and enquired if there were any objections to doing so. None been received, Angus Forsyth then proposed and Mr Peter Stuckey seconded the election to Council of those listed below. The proposal was carried unanimously and Dr Patrick Hase declared the following Council elected for the ensuing year:

*Office Bearers:*

President	Dr Helen Tinsley
Vice President	-
Hon Secretary	Mr David McKellar
Hon Treasurer	Ms Connie Carmichael
Hon Editor	Mr Tony Banham
Hon Librarian	Ms Vivian So
Hon Activities Co-ordinator	Dr Helen Tinsley
Hon Archivist	Mr Yip Chun Man
<i>Other Council Members:</i>	
<i>Website</i>	Ms Davina Lee
<i>Social media</i>	Mr Robert Bunker
	Mr Don Gasper
	Mr Roy Delbyck
	Dr Kwong Chi Man

The AGM Chairman noted that Council can co-opt additional members and invited those interested to speak with any Councillor after the meeting about doing so.

#### **9. To elect additional Trustees to the Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund for the year 2024-2025**

Dr Hase reminded the AGM that the majority of the Trustees of the Fund are ex-officio Trustees, by virtue of their position as officers of RASHKB: the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and the Immediate Past President; and that the Trustees might at any time co-opt not more than two Trustees. Further the Society was able, at any AGM, to elect not more than two Trustees. The motion therefore was to elect two additional Trustees.

Dr Kwong Chi Man and Christopher Munn were proposed by Jace Au, seconded by Davina Lee and approved by the meeting.

It was noted that Colin Day and Stephen Davies would likely be co-opted members at the next meeting of the Ride Fund.

#### **10. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2023-2024**

Dr Hase noted that he was pleased to propose Messrs YM Hui Wong & Co. be elected as Auditors for the ensuing year.

The motion was proposed by Denise Giles, seconded by Bob Bunker and approved by the meeting.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

Dr Hase asked if anyone had any other business to raise or questions.

A question was raised regarding the Society's forthcoming 65<sup>th</sup> year, Dr Patrick Hase said the Society will do something on it this year. The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting was then declared closed by the Chairman at 7:30 pm. The AGM was followed by cocktails and canapes.

Confirmed by President: ..... Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024