
**MINUTES OF THE 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH
OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, HELD ON FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2015
AT THE HONG KONG CLUB, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.**

The meeting commenced at 6:36 p.m. with a quorum of members present.

Welcome by the President

The President, Mr Michael Broom, welcomed everyone to the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

As a preliminary point, the Honorary Secretary, Mr David McKellar, noted apologies had been received from Paul Harrison, Don Gasper, Chris Young, Jenny Eagleton, Robin Bridge, Bud Carroll, John Wilson, John Berry, Edith Chan, Peter Crush, Sheilah Hamilton, Mike McCrary and James & Swan McGowan.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held on 25th April 2014

The Honorary Secretary noted that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 25th April 2014, like the other papers to be referred to this evening, had been posted to the Society's website for perusal, and the page circulated to members by email. The Hon Secretary also noted that the draft Minutes were in the bundle of papers provided for use this evening. No questions on the Minutes were tendered. Receipt and confirmation of the Minutes was proposed by Mr Stephen Davies and seconded by Mr Pat Hase. They were passed unanimously and were duly signed by the President as a correct record.

2. President's Report for the year 2014-2015 on the activities of the Society and Ride Fund

The President presented his Report (copy attached).

Receipt of the Report was proposed by Mr David McKellar and seconded by ms Stacy Gould. It was accepted unanimously.

3. Reports of the Hon Librarian, Hon Editor, Hon Activities Co-ordinator and Hon Archivist

The Honorary Secretary noted that the Reports had been posted to the society's website and were in the bundle of papers. Those officers present intimated they had nothing to add to the written Reports. The Honorary Secretary noted that the Society's Library collection had exceeded 8,000 volumes, and that over 60 Journal items per day were being viewed on HKJO.

There were no questions.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st December 2014

The Hon Secretary referred the Meeting to the Hon Treasurer who presented her Report and the Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2014 (copies of which are attached to these Minutes). Questions from the floor were invited, but none were received.

Receipt of the Report was proposed by Mr Mike Broom and seconded by Mr Patrick Hase, which proposal was accepted unanimously.

5. Report of the Accounts of the Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund

The Hon Secretary referred to the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 31st December 2014. Mr John Strickland noted that the regular income was some \$1,800 in royalties and an amount from dividends; one book had been published; there was a net loss on investments, so that net loss for the year was some \$27,000; the fund stood at \$57,000 plus the income announced that night. No questions were received.

6. Report of the Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch in Britain

The Hon Secretary referred to the Report of the Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch in Britain. The report is also attached to these Minutes.

7. Election of Officers and Members of Council for the year 2015-2016

The Hon Secretary referred to item 7 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. The Hon Secretary noted that the position of Hon Activities Co-ordinator remained vacant, but that Mrs Helen Tinsley would be proposed to act as an additional Vice President.

The Hon Secretary then proposed to carry out the election en bloc and enquired if there were any objections to doing so. None having been received, Mr Robert Nield proposed and Mr Peter Cunich seconded the election to Council of those listed. The proposal was carried unanimously and the Hon Secretary declared the following Council elected for the ensuing year:

Office Bearers:

President	Mr Michael Broom
Vice President	Dr Gillian Bickley
Vice President	Dr Helen Tinsley
Hon Secretary	Mr David McKellar
Hon Treasurer	Ms Connie Carmichael
Hon Editor	Dr Stephen Davies
Hon Librarian	Ms Edith Chan
Hon Activities Co-ordinator	<i>Vacant (it being the intention of Council to co-opt Mr Michael Broom to this office until it is filled)</i>
Hon Archivist	Ms Stacy Belcher Gould
<i>Other Council Members:</i>	Mr Don Gasper

Ms Moody Tang
Mr Maurice Chan
Ms Davina Lee

8. To elect additional Trustees to the Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund for the year 2015-2016

The Honorary Secretary 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 appoint 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. Mr David McKellar was pleased to propose Mr John Strickland and Mr John Budge be re-elected, which was seconded by Mr Robert Nield and approved unanimously.

9. Appointment of Auditors for the year 2015-2016

Ms Carmichael said that she was pleased to propose Ian Hasell & Co be re-elected as Auditors for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded by Mr SJ Chan, and was carried unanimously.

10. Amendment of the Constitution

The Honorary Secretary noted that the proposal was to amend the Constitution, a marked up copy of which had been circulated via the website, was in the bundle of papers and is attached hereto. The Honorary Secretary explained that the amendments may be considered to consist of 4 main parts: i) a change to the Society's name, ii) the deletion of paragraph 34, which had purported to confer benefits on Society members when visiting the RAS of Great Britain and Ireland, which privileged were no longer recognised in London, iii) cosmetic changes, to the layout of the Constitution and iv) improved explanation of membership categories. The Hon Secretary noted that the work had largely been undertaken by Mr Maurice Chan, and was approved by the Council to be passed. Questions from the floor were invited, but none were received. Amendment of the Constitution was proposed by Mr Robert Nield, seconded by Ms Stacy Gould and approved unanimously.

11. Increase in Fees

The Honorary Secretary referred to the Agenda, wherein proposed new subscription fees were listed, to take effect from 1st January 2016. The Honorary Secretary noted that the increases represented a 7-10% increase over two years on the previous rates. The President stated that the increase was considered prudently necessary to account for potential, future cost increases. A member enquired whether there should be a surcharge for those not paying by direct debit. The Honorary Secretary noted that such a surcharge had been instated, but was thought to be no longer necessary. Another member said that he hoped the student membership category could be promoted. The amendment (set out below) was proposed by Mr Patrick Hase, seconded by Mr SJ Chan and approved.

- a. Hong Kong resident Individual or Institutional Members - from \$700 to \$750 per annum.
- b. Hong Kong resident Joint Members - from \$1,000 to \$1,100 per annum.
- c. Life Members - from \$9,800 to \$10,500.

- d. Joint Life Members - from \$13,000 to \$15,400.
- e. Overseas Members renewing subscriptions annually - from \$420 to \$450 per annum.
- f. Overseas Life Members - from \$5,800 to \$6,300.

For information, the following subscription fees were not proposed to be changed:

- g. Hong Kong resident Student Members - \$50.
- h. Conversion from Life Membership to Joint Life Membership - the difference between the current Life Membership rate and the current Joint Life Membership rate. (*Per old rule 6/new rule 6.4 of the Constitution*).
- i. Conversion from Joint Life Membership to Life Membership - each to pay the difference between half the current Joint Life Membership rate and the full, current Life Membership rate. (*Per old rule 6/new rule 6.5 of the Constitution*).
- j. Hong Kong resident Overseas Life Members - such members subscribe at an annual rate of the difference between the current Individual Membership rate and 1/14th the current Overseas Life Membership rate. (*Per old rule 8/new rule 8.4 of the Constitution*).
- k. Conversion from Overseas Life Member to Life Member - the difference between the current Overseas Life Member rate and the current Life Member rate. (*Per old rule 8/new rule 8.4 of the Constitution*).

12. Any Other Business

The Hon Secretary asked if anyone had any other business to raise or questions.

A member asked if the name of the Journal would change. The Honorary Editor said that this was being considered.

Mr Peter Stuckey enquired regarding the membership survey. The President stated that the responses had been considered by a sub-committee of Mr Stephen Davies, Mrs Helen Tinsley and Mrs Stacy Gould; one conclusion had been that, with a response rate of under 10%, it was difficult to take many conclusions from the survey; the responses received had been interesting; and an article on the same would appear in the Newsletter in due course.

The Hon Secretary then thanked Mrs Gillian Bickley and Ms Liz Hamerton for their services to the Society and assistance to himself as Honorary Secretary, and to the HK Club for hosting the AGM, all to unanimous acclaim.

No further business being raised, the 55th Annual General Meeting was then declared closed by the Hon Secretary at 7.49pm. The AGM was followed by a cocktails at the Hong Kong Club.

Confirmed by the President: Date: 22nd April 2016
(Mr Michael Broom)