

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at KPMG,

at 6.30 p.m on Tuesday 2nd June, 2009

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th May 2008

The minutes of last year's meeting were approved.

2. Statement by the Chairman

The Society's AGM is my annual opportunity to thank all Committee members & our Asia House secretariat for the energetic performance of their responsibilities. They have achieved a great deal in the past year, as indeed they have over successive past years. We pay Asia House a fee but I never forget that all Committee work is offered on an entirely voluntary basis. It is very gratefully accepted on that basis. It would be invidious to name names but I must record here the significant contribution to the Society's advancement made through the year past and since by new, younger Committee members.

It is recognized by us all that for the Society to progress, indeed for it to survive, every endeavour must be made to reduce the high average age profile of the membership. I am pleased to report that a promising recruiting beginning was commenced in late 2008 and produced first most encouraging results this Spring. The trick now is to sustain momentum by providing more than adequate membership satisfaction.

I am pleased to report that the Society is in especially good standing with the new Malaysian cabinet; some know BMS well and have expressed keenness for even closer linkages.

I must end my Statement on a sad note and record the demise in April of the Society's UK Patron The Lord George. Lord George was to the Society what he most surely was to all with whom he had dealings, generous with his time, considerate, sympathetic and prepared whenever he could to engage in the Society's aims and objects

3. Treasurer's Report and 2008 Audited Accounts

The Treasurer submitted the approved 2008 Accounts. The Accounts were adopted, after duly being proposed and seconded and after noting the surplus of £2,986 (2007 £6,404). The society is budgeting for a small deficit in 2009. The members approved the 2008 Accounts after the Chairman had thanked Mr Robin De Morgan for his significant achievement in managing the Society's finances so successfully for the past few years.

The Treasurer concluded his remarks by tendering his resignation and proposed that Mr Peter Farrar should be appointed the Hon Treasurer with immediate effect. This appointment was warmly welcomed and was unanimously approved by all those present

4. Election of KPMG as Honorary Auditors

The Chairman asked that thanks be recorded to KPMG for their services as Honorary Auditors and proposed that they be appointed on the same basis for the financial year 2008. This was duly seconded and agreed.

5. Report by the Chairman of Education and Culture Committee

This has been an exciting yet challenging year for the E&C Committee and members have responded in full measure with enthusiasm and insight.

Five major areas were addressed during the year.

It is vital new members and in particular younger members are recruited to ensure a viable future for the British Malaysian Society. A small subcommittee met in September 2008 to address this need. The culmination of a number of intense and wide-ranging planning meetings was an Open Evening which took place on March 26 2009 with the aim of recruiting new members. In this the subcommittee was very successful in that 34 new members signed up to join the Society on the evening. However it is recognised that it is essential to maintain momentum and to involve new members in the management and delivery of Society events on the one hand and more widely in promoting further recruitment in a number of practical ways in both cases using the talents and skills available within the current membership. To this end the subcommittee has been reactivated and will meet soon to plan a new strategy.

The successful Book Project which for several years has been collecting English language books from donors in schools in this country for distribution to rural primary schools in Malaysia was relaunched at an event at Asia House in May this year. The Centre for British Teachers (CfBT) is currently responsible for distributing the books in country through the Ministry of Education and our thanks go to CfBT and to the Airfreight Company at Heathrow which kindly arranges transportation.

Members will recall that a highly successful seminar for headteachers and governors of UK independent schools was held at the National Liberal Club on 24 April 2008 to review the factors which need to be taken into account in setting up a branch of a UK independent school in Malaysia. The Duke of York chaired a Committee in 2008 which gave clear support to this kind of initiative as did our High Commissioner in Malaysia Boyd McCleary.

Since then it has become clear that there is a growing interest in providing girls only (as opposed to mixed sex) schooling in country. It was planned that a colloquium for targeted headteachers should be held in 2009 to explore this specific interest with invited specialist speakers. However the prevailing financial situation and associated uncertainty which is of course affecting the current position of schools has suggested that it would be sensible to postpone the event until 2010 when the proposal will be reviewed.

A further attempt was made during the year by Education & Culture Committee members to re-establish links between the Malaysian Student Department of the High Commission and The British Malaysian Society. It is important that Malaysian students in this country should be aware of the Society, what its aims and objectives are and what activities it offers; equally that BMS members should know about the work of the Malaysian Students Department. To this end it is hoped that some joint events can be arranged later in 2009 and in 2010 with the possibility of some of these being located at the Malaysian Students Department.

The help of The British Malaysian Society was sought in endeavouring to facilitate short-term attachments and work based placements in the other country for university and college students in Malaysian and British universities. While some progress has been made in bringing this to fruition notably by our collegiate member Thames Valley University and by a university in Kuala Lumpur there are considerable problems in the recognition of this kind of assignment in counting towards the award of an overall qualification and these difficulties remain yet to be resolved.

Finally I want to thank members of the Education & Culture Committee particularly my deputy Zehan Albakri and the members of the subcommittee to which I referred earlier and indeed others too who haven't been mentioned but whose contribution is equally valued for the continued loyal, generous and hardworking support they give to the Society in so many ways

6. Council & Committees

The Management Committee proposed adoption of the following resolutions; both resolutions (i) and (ii) were adopted:

Resolution (i) The following members of Council, it being assumed that being eligible for re-election they so offer themselves, be elected:

The Earl of Home, President
Dato' Sir Francis McWilliams, Vice President
Sir Peter Cazalet, Vice President
Sir Andrew Large, Vice President
Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Vice President
Martin BArrow
Sir John Bond
The Lord Cairns
William Cash MP
Mr Bruce Cleghorn
Nigel Evans MP
Sir Graham Fry
Sir David John
George Mallinckrodt
Sir Charles Masefield
Sir Richard Needham
The Lord Powell
The Lord Prior
Professor Datuk Sir Colin Campbell
Professor Michael Sterling
Professor Malcolm Grant
and
Dato' Neville Green

Resolution (ii) The following members of the Management Committee , including those co-opted since the last AGM, it being assumed that being eligible for re-election they so offer themselves, be elected:

Zehan Albakri-Verden
Dr. John Breakell
John Breakell Jr.
Dato' Zarir Cama
Anthony Cooper
Peter Davies
Robin De Morgan
Peter Farrar
John Goodwin

Dato' Neville Green
Haliza Hashim-Doyle
Datuk Peter Jenkins
Jerry Lai
David Lamb
Michael Thompson
Grahame Young

And, ex-officio:

British Council Malaysian Desk representative
Foreign & Commonwealth Office Malaysian Desk representative
Radziah Omar, President, Overseas Malaysian Executive Council
Datuk Peter Wentworth, Chairman British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce

It was noted that the following KL Panel members continue in office:

Ybhg Dato' Dr Munir Majid
Ybhg Dato' Lim Say Chong
Ybhg Dato' V C George
Ybhg Datuk Paddy Bowie
Ybhg Datuk Peter Jenkins
Ybhg Datuk Azzat Kamaludin
Major John Carruthers
Mr Chan Hua Eng
Ybhg Dato' Henry Barlow
YBhg Dato' Nazir Ariff
Ybhg Datuk Peter Wentworth
Ybhg Tan Sri Datuk Amar Leo Moggie
Mr Jeremy Diamond
Mr John Dixon
Mr Michael Steel
Ybhg Dato' Thomas M L Lee
Ybhg Datuk Tristan Russell
Ybhg Dato' WSW Davidson
YM Raja Datuk Arshad Tun Uda
Ybhg Tan Sri Abdullah Ahmad
Ybhg Tan Sri Dato' Seri A P Arumugam
Ybhg Tan Sri Kishu Tirathrai
Ybhg Tan Sri Wan Azmi Wan Hamzah
YA Bhg Toh Puan Dato' Seri Hj Dr Aishah Ong
YBhg Tun Mohammed Hanif bin Omar
YM Tunku Abdul Aziz Ibrahim
YM Tunku Tan Sri Ahmad Yahaya
YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran Tuanku Jaafar
Ybhg Dato' Johan Raslan
Mr Chris Syer
Mr Andrew Davison
Dr Teo Soo-Hwang
Mr Christopher Bell
Ms Ruth Yeoh Pei Cheen

Ybhg Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dr Lim Kok Wing
Ybhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Munir Majid
YM Rajah Tan Sri Dato' Seri Arshad Bin Raja Tun Uda

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Andrew Smith, Chief Economist, KPMG, and Drinks Reception.