

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held at LimKokWing University, 106 Piccadilly, London
at 6.00 p.m on Thursday 22nd April, 2010

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2 June 2009.
The minutes of last year's meeting were approved.

2. Statement by the Chairman

You will hear in some detail from our Education & Culture Committee Chairman Dr John Breakell of the high level of activity in which his team has been involved over the year past.

At the risk of stealing John's thunder ahead of his slot in today's agenda, please permit me to again, as I did last year, use the AGM as but one platform to sincerely thank especially the activists amongst our membership for their diligence, for their enthusiasm, their originality and for the efficacy they demonstrate in the performance of their many roles in maintaining, year on year, the forward movement of this 27 year old Society. All of us are volunteers. Our activists give unstintingly and at their own cost, both in money and in time terms, in the preservation and in the promotion of the strong bilateral relationship existing between Malaysia and Britain. But here I'd highlight another task ahead. We are shortly going to have to impress two new High Commissioners, one at the KL end and one at the London end of this relationship. I personally see this as a need rather than as a challenge for I think that the Society's record speaks for itself. But it needs to be done and will be undertaken, I'm sure successfully. Invidious as it always is to name names, it must surely be right and proper to publically thank especially two of our colleagues for their work and achievements over the year past. Here I am referring to E&C Chairman John Breakell and Honorary Treasurer Peter Farrar. We are much in their debt. As your Chairman I thank you all for your support, given so willingly, and for your understanding when I have had to be even more demanding than predictably I usually am.

3. Treasurer's Report and 2009 Audited Accounts

The Treasurer submitted the approved 2009 Accounts. The Accounts were adopted, after duly being proposed and seconded and after noting the deficit of £1,064 (2008 surplus £2,986). The members approved the 2009 Accounts after the Chairman had thanked Mr Peter Farrar for the time and effort he had put in as Treasurer.

The Treasurer reported that subscription income had held up well, thanks to the continued support of corporate members and the growing number of individual / joint members. The Society continued to run a strong programme of functions which overall were close to breakeven.

The main increase in expenses had been website developments, which had been an investment in the future : this has resulted in the small deficit for the year. However he pointed out that the Balance Sheet is still strong with healthy bank reserves.

In 2009 the Society had donated £3000 to three Malaysian charities, Montfort Boys Town, Selangor Cheshire Homes and Little Sisters of the Poor. In 2010 a further £3000 will be donated to Hospis Pahang, Yayasan Chow Kit for refugees/Stateless Children and Lassie Langkawi animal refuge. All the donations had been made out of the auction proceeds at the Annual Dinners.

The Treasurer thanked Corporate members and others for their support, particularly Malaysian Airlines, Tourism Malaysia, Corus Hotel, YTL Travel and LimKokWing University.

In conclusion the Treasurer paid special tribute to KPMG and Sean Collins for their audit services over many years and thanked Simon Hoy of Charles Wakeling & Co, the new auditors.

4. Election of Charles Wakeling & Co as Auditors.

The Chairman asked that thanks be recorded to Charles Wakeling & Co for their services as Auditors and proposed that they be appointed on the same basis for the financial year 2010. This was duly seconded and agreed.

5. Report by the Chairman of Education and Culture Committee

Once again this has been an exciting and challenging year for the E&C Committee and members have responded in full measure with enthusiasm.

Five major areas were addressed during the year.

Members will recall that a highly successful seminar for head teachers 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 Committee has continued to maintain its interest in this topic and will offer independent school headteachers a further opportunity to address these issues at a colloquium to be held at the National Liberal Club on 29 April. We understand that the Malaysian Government may well offer a number of scholarships to talented sixth formers to be taken up at schools in the UK and elsewhere; no format for the implementation of the scheme has been issued but the Society stands ready to assist if called upon.

A new interest has been created through a Royal Weaves Exhibition to be held in 2010 and 2011 in conjunction with the Prince's School and Asia House which will give an overview and a contemporary perspective on the textiles used in the Royal Courts of Malaysia with particular reference to the Songket of Terengganu, Kain Tenun Diraja of Pahang and Tekat embroidery of Perak. There will be workshops in Malaysia, an exhibition in London and a celebratory lunch or dinner with a fashion show.

Elsewhere a great deal of work has been done on investigating a possible trip to Borneo in 2011 for BMS members and friends.

Three courses in the teaching of the English language are being held at universities in the UK for teachers and others from Malaysia. This is a formidable exercise and involves a large number of teachers, continuing as it will for several years. The Society has made contact with one of the universities – Portsmouth – and it is hoped to meet the students and to describe the work of the Society at a joint social event at Portsmouth in the autumn this year.

The Society has begun to develop a link with the English Speaking Union both in this country and in Malaysia. More about the progress next year.

The Book Project, whereby English language books from donors in this country have been distributed to rural primary schools in Malaysia. continues to be successfully implemented. We have received enthusiastic reports from CfBT which is responsible in conjunction with the Malaysian Ministry of Education for their appropriate distribution and for the monitoring of their use in schools. Once again our thanks go to CfBT and to the Airfreight Company at Heathrow which kindly arranges transportation.

Finally I want to thank members of the Education & Culture Committee particularly my deputy Zehan Albakri for the 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:

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

and that

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

Management Committee
Zehan Albakri-Verden
Dr. John Breakell (Chairman, Education & Culture Committee)
John Breakell Jr.
Dato' Zarir Cama
Anthony Cooper (Hon Secretary)
Peter Davies
Peter Farrar (Hon Treasurer)
John Goodwin
Dato' Neville Green (Chairman)
Haliza Hashim-Doyle (Events Coordinator)
Jerry Lai
May Lam

David Lamb (Chairman, Commercial Affairs Liaison Group)

Azman Mat Ali

Roderick Noble

Rahiyah Yahya

Advisory Group

Robin De Morgan

Datuk Peter Jenkins

Datin Waveney Jenkins

Michael Thompson

Grahame Young

Lady Butterworth

Merrick Baker-Bates

And, ex-officio:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Malaysian Desk representative

Datuk Peter Wentworth, Chairman British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce

To note that the following KL Panel members continue in office:

Ybhg Tan Sri 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

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 Datuk Tristan Russell

Ybhg Dato' WSW Davidson

YM Raja Tan Sri Dato' Seri Arshad 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 Hjg Dr Aishah Ong

YA Bhg Tun Mohammed Hanif bin Omar

YM Tunku Abdul Aziz Ibrahim (Chairman)

YM Tunku Tan Sri Ahmad Yahaya

YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran Tuanku Jaafar

Ybhg Dato' Johan Raslan

Mr Chris Syer (Hon Secretary)

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
Wan Saiful Wan Jan

Roselyn Chuah (Correspondent)

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Dato Leslie Davidson, former Chairman of Unilever Plantations International, and a Drinks Reception.