

The British Malaysian Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held at Limkokwing University, 106 Piccadilly, London
at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 4 May 2011

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 April 2010.
The minutes of last year's meeting were approved.

2. Statement by the Chairman

Honorary Treasurer Peter Farrar will shortly report on the Society's financial condition through calendar year 2010 - in a word, healthy, and he will explain why, and what must be done to keep our finances as buoyant as possible. Essentially by keeping our member numbers up and satisfied with the value provided for the subscriptions they pay. But we continue to wrestle with the constant problem of refreshing membership by recruiting younger members. All the more frustrating when we learn of the ever-changing Malaysian community, many of them youthful and professional, within our M25 catchment area, surely our main market today.

Honorary Secretary Anthony Cooper retires from the position today, after more than 10 years in the post. But he will remain within our reach as he is joining the Management Committee Advisory Group so we won't be dining him out. The post will be taken by Albert Bong, a Sarawakian resident in London, in my view a timely and progressive appointment. I did the Secretary job for 8 years and have been Chairman for 11 years. Now I await a timely and progressive successor. I would also like to record our thanks to Haliza Hashim-Doyle, who is standing down after many years as our Events Co-ordinator, and to John Breakell Jr who is retiring from the Management Committee. At the same time we welcome Eamonn Staunton who has recently joined the Management Committee.

Colleagues will shortly record the Society's achievements in 2010 but I must put on the record now my own appreciation of the originality, the determination and the success of our Malaysian lady Committee members in the fruition next month of their Royal Weaves project, so effectively proving how the Royal Households of Terengganu, Pahang and Perak in Malaysia can work together with HRH The Prince of Wales School of Traditional Arts in London.

Finally, a word about our host today. Our secretariat having been very successfully relocated in the City of London we are equally grateful to Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing for so generously granting the Society the use of these his Piccadilly campus premises as the venue for the Society's quarterly Committee meetings and today, for its AGM and President's Reception.

3. Treasurer's Report and 2010 Audited Accounts

The Treasurer submitted the audited 2010 Accounts. The Accounts were adopted, after duly being proposed and seconded and after noting a small surplus of £47 (2009 deficit £1,064) and a strong balance sheet with ample cash reserves. The members approved the 2010 Accounts after the Chairman had thanked Peter Farrar for the time and effort he had put in as Treasurer.

The Treasurer reported that individual subscriptions had held up well, though a number of corporate members have not renewed. He thanked those corporate members who have continued to support us well and reported that we continue to attract new members although overall numbers are falling as some long-standing members become inactive.

The Society continued to run a strong programme of functions and achieved our objective of being close to break-even overall.

The reduction in expenses has been achieved by changing our administration arrangements (from 1 October 2010) which will be of greater benefit in full year 2011. It also reflects the heavy investment in 2009 in the redesign and development of the website which is now working well and attracting new members. The Paypal facility is well used and seems popular. The reduction in administration costs has allowed us to do more to develop the Society, investing in the events programme and more networking to raise our profile and rejuvenate the membership.

In 2010 we were able to donate out of 2009 dinner auction proceeds £3,000 to Malaysian charities, Hospis Pahang, Chow Kit refugees/stateless children and Lassie Langkawi animal refuge. In 2011 we are able to donate £4,500 out of the 2010 auction proceeds and that will be to Badan Warisan, to the Association of Chin Refugees' school and for sponsorship of a UK student to go to Malaysia as an English Speaking Assistant.

The Treasurer thanked the many organisations that have supported our events with sponsorship or provision of meeting facilities, including in particular Malaysia Airlines, Tourism Malaysia, Corus Hotels, LimKokWing University and Awana restaurant. It is also appropriate to mention our main event in 2011, the forthcoming Royal Weaves exhibition next month, and to thank Maybank, HSBC, Matrade, Malaysia Airlines and Air Asia for their generous support. Lastly, I would thank Simon Hoy of Charles Wakeling & Co who are our 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 2011, with the Management Committee being authorised to fix their remuneration. This was duly seconded and agreed.

5. Report by the Chairman of Education and Culture Committee

The work of the Education & Culture Committee continues strongly and with enthusiasm. The Royal Weaves project to which reference has been made elsewhere comes to a climax in June with a series of related events. Independent schools which are interested in working internationally are being offered membership of a Forum which will focus on the challenges accompanying this endeavour. Schools will also receive a regular newsletter on the same topic.

Brighton Education in Malaysia has asked for our help in recruiting English Speaking Assistants for short term appointments to work in Malaysian schools to improve the understanding of written and spoken English, an activity which might appeal to gap year students. The Book Project, which collects reading books in English for use in Malaysian rural schools, happily continues with the assistance of the Brighton Education Group.

The Society has been asked to help BMCC by providing contacts for a group of Malaysian civil servants engaged in a week long JPA management orientation course in UK beginning at the end of May and we have been approached for assistance by a charity working for the urban poor in Malaysia.

6. Council & Committees

The Management Committee proposed adoption of the following two resolutions, both of which were adopted:

Resolution (i):

That 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
William Cash MP
Bruce Cleghorn
Sir Graham Fry
Professor Malcolm Grant
Professor David Greenaway
Sir David John
George Mallinckrodt
Sir Richard Needham
The Lord Powell
The Lord Prior
and
Dato' Neville Green

Resolution (ii):

That 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

Dato' Neville Green (Chairman)
Albert Bong (Hon Secretary)
Peter Farrar (Hon Treasurer)
Dr. John Breakell (Chairman, Education & Culture Committee)
David Lamb (Chairman, Commercial Affairs Liaison Group)
Zehan Albakri-Verden
Datuk Zarir Cama
Peter Davies
John Goodwin
Jerry Lai
Roderick Noble
Eamonn Staunton
Rahiyah Yahya

Advisory Group

Merrick Baker-Bates
Dato' Anthony Cooper
Robin De Morgan
Datuk Peter Jenkins
Michael Thompson
Grahame Young

And, ex-officio:

Chairman of the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce: Jon Addis

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

YM Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim (Chairman)
Mr Chris Syer (Hon Secretary)
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' Seri Nazir Ariff
Ybhg Tan Sri Datuk Amar Leo Moggie
Ybhg Dato' Jeremy Diamond
Mr John Dixon
Ybhg Datuk 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 Tan Sri Ahmad Yahaya
YAM Tunku Tan Sri Imran Tuanku Jaafar
YM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Muhriz
Ybhg Dato' Johan Raslan
Ms Ruth Yeoh Pei Cheen
Mr Andrew Davison
Mr Patrick Chen
Dr Teo Soo-Hwang
Mr Christopher Bell
Ybhg Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dr Lim Kok Wing
Wan Saiful Wan Jan

Dato' Richard Curtis
Mr Jonathan Addis (ex officio)
Ms Roselyn Chuah (Correspondent)

7. Any other business
There was no other business.

The AGM was followed by a reception hosted by the President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart.