



## **The British Malaysian Society**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at The Inner Temple, London EC4Y 7HL at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 18 June 2013**

#### **1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 June 2012.**

The minutes of last year's meeting were approved.

#### **2. Statement by the Chairman**

The Chairman, Dato' Zed Cama, thanked his predecessor, Dato' Neville Green for his contributions to the Society having served over 12 years in the post. Having taken the reins at the end of 2012 the Chairman notes that his first priority was to maintain and grow the Society's membership, stating that the Society's members are at the heart of all that we do.

The Society's membership continues to regenerate, with 25% of members having joined in the last 3 years, most of them young Malaysian professionals and students living in London. In response to the changing audience, the Management Committee has carried out a strategic review of how the Society should evolve to best serve its members and continue to regenerate its membership. To better understand what our members want, a survey was launched in January 2013. The main observations arising from the survey are that our members are increasingly looking towards Malaysia's future, with a strong interest in current affairs and political changes that could shape Malaysia. There was also endorsement of the Society's focus on promoting the bilateral relationship through educational and cultural activities.

The Society continues to organise many social events such as the Chinese New Year lunch, Eid lunch and Christmas reception, which remain popular with members. In addition, 2013 marked the 13th General Elections in Malaysia. The Society hosted several talks that were well attended by our members, discussing the General Elections and Malaysia's political landscape, featuring speakers such as Datuk Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood, Wan Saiful and Dr Tessa Houghton.

The Chairman notes that the bilateral relationship continues to grow from strength to strength. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations saw the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge making an official state visit to Malaysia in Sept 2012. Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Najib Razak, also paid a visit to the UK, hosting an event at the O2 Arena that drew large crowds of Malaysians who are currently residing in the UK.

The Chairman thanked the Honorary Secretary, the Treasurer and the E&C Committee for

the outstanding work they had undertaken over the past year. Finally, the Chairman thanked Patrick Maddams for so generously granting the Society the use of the Parliament Chamber at the Inner Temple, as the venue for the Society's AGM and President's Reception.

### **3. Treasurer's Report and 2011 Audited Accounts**

The Treasurer submitted the audited 2012 Accounts. The Accounts were adopted, after duly being proposed and seconded. The Chairman thanked Peter Farrar for the time and effort he had put in as Treasurer.

Overall individual and joint subscriptions have held up well, and our thanks to all members who have continued to support us well. There has however been quite a large drop in corporate renewals which is of concern for our future funding. Having said that, the Society managed a small surplus in 2012 and we have good reserves which allow us to fund a strong programme of events. The Society continues to attract new members, many through our website in which we will continue to invest to keep members informed and as a marketing tool.

Our expenses remain low as we can now do most of our business online which is quicker, more reliable and cheaper. We also benefit from the generosity of members and friends providing meeting facilities for us, in particular Lim Kok Wing University and the Inner Temple.

The Treasurer thanked the Society's event organisers, Zehan, Azimah and Christine, without whom we would not be able to deliver our programme of events. Finally, the Treasurer thanked Simon Hoy of Anova, our auditors.

### **4. Election of Anova as Auditors.**

The Chairman proposed that Anova be appointed as Auditors for the financial year 2013, which was duly seconded and agreed.

### **5. Report by the Chairman of Education and Culture Committee**

The Chairman provided an update on the activities of the Education & Culture Committee on behalf of Education & Culture Committee Chairman, Dr John Breakell.

The Book Project has gone well with 1000 English books distributed to rural primary schools in Malaysia through the offices of Chris Bell. The Society also supported a number of cultural exhibitions & events such as the World Eco Fabric and Textile Art exhibition held at SOAS and the closing event of the Asia House Literary Festival. We are also promoting the forthcoming Malay Silver exhibition at the V&A museum, featuring a collection that includes royal regalia from Perak.

The Society seeks to play an active role in supporting Malaysian students in the UK. When the UK Border Agency withdrew the right of some British universities to sponsor student visas for non-EU students, the Society was active in advocating for Malaysian students who were affected by this action.

We continue to seek suitable candidates whom the Society will sponsor for a two year

Master's degree at the Prince's School of Traditional Arts with the funds raised during the Royal Weaves Exhibition. We are also planning to organise a student's careers evening in conjunction with Lim Kok Wing University later this year, which we hope will attract Malaysian students currently studying at various universities across London.

Finally, on behalf of Dr John Breakell, the Chairman thanked Zehan Albakri, Azimah Heus, Christine Loh and Peter Farrar for their hard work in putting together a varied and exciting events programme for our members over the past year.

## **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:

The Earl of Home, Patron  
Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Patron  
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  
Professor David Greenaway  
Sir Richard Needham  
The Lord Powell  
The Lord Prior  
Professor Dato' Sir Colin Campbell  
Professor Sir Michael Sterling  
Professor Sir Malcolm Grant  
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

Zehan Albakri-Verden

Albert Bong (Hon Sec)  
Dr. John Breakell (Chairman, Education & Culture Committee)  
Dato' Zarir Cama (Chairman)  
Peter Davies  
Peter Farrar (Hon Treasurer)  
John Goodwin  
Dato' Neville Green  
Jerry Lai  
David Lamb (Chairman, Commercial Affairs Liaison Group)  
Rahiyah Yahya  
Martin Barrow  
Azimah Heus

Management Committee Advisory Group

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

Education & Cultural Committee

Dr. John Breakell (Chairman)  
Zehan Albakri-Verden  
Mariann Baker (Hon Secretary)  
Albert Bong  
Peter Farrar  
Dato' Neville Green  
Anthony Millard  
John Mountford  
Elizabeth St Clair George  
Lesley Pullen

Education & Cultural Committee Advisory Group

Lady Doris Butterworth  
Cliff Condell  
Dato' Anthony Cooper  
Robin De Morgan  
Datin Waveney Jenkins

And, ex-officio:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Malaysian Desk representative  
Dato' Larry Gan, Chairman British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce

**7. Any other business**

There was no other business.

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