



The British Malaysian Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at the Travellers Club, 106 Pall Mall, London at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 9 June 2015

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24 June 2014.

The minutes of last year's meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's report

The Chairman, Anthony Cooper, welcomed all those attending and particularly the new and younger members and was pleased to see that one of our Patrons, the Earl of Home, was attending. He thanked Dato' Zed Cama for his contribution to the BMS as Chairman during a period when he streamlined the organisation of the Society. 2014 had been an eventful year during which the BMS had held five talks including one on palm oil and one on stateless children in Malaysia. A joint event with Imperial College attracted many students as did the students evening at the Malaysian High Commission organised by Haliza Hashim-Doyle. Five networking events were also held, the most notable being the Annual Dinner at the Inner Temple.

The Chairman highlighted the vibrant membership with a number of new members. The attraction of the BMS has been assisted by the high quality of the Quarterly Newsletter produced by Revi Pillai.

The Chairman thanked all the retiring Vice Presidents and Council members for their support over many years and welcomed the two new Vice Presidents – Sir David Greenaway and Lord Powell. He further paid tribute to the President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, for continuing to make a significant contribution to the Society.

The Chairman referred to the closer ties that had been established with the Malaysian High Commission and especially the High Commissioner, Dato' Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, who had agreed to host a number of events in the current year.

The Chairman concluded by thanking members of the Executive Committee, the Deputy Chair, Zehan Albakri-Verden, the Secretary, Albert Bong, and the Treasurer, Peter Farrar, who had ensured that the Society's finances continued to be kept in a healthy state.

3. Treasurer's Report and 2014 Audited Accounts

2014 saw a continuation of the slow reduction in subscription income and the number of members, with some corporate members not renewing but only a small decline in individual membership. The Treasurer thanked all members who have continued to support us and in 2015 so far we have seen a surge in new members, mainly through our website.

He then noted that this year we have revised our subscription rates for corporate membership with the result that our finances are now in good shape. We have now decided to revise with effect from 1 July 2015 membership rates for individuals, the first increase in many years, to reflect the increased events programme, the increasing cost of securing suitable venues and refreshments and the fact that we do not charge separately for most of our events. The new rates were outlined and details are on our website.

The Treasurer went on to express our appreciation of the voluntary work of the Executive Committee and assistance from some of our corporate members. Our expenses remain low and we now do virtually all 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 the Malaysian High Commission, the Inner Temple and clubs such as the Travellers Club where we can hold events economically through our members' links.

The investment in upgrading our website at the beginning of 2014 has proved a good move as we are attracting more members, and enquiries from third parties, thus raising our profile.

In summary, we have contained the deficit to a modest amount, our balance sheet is strong and we are attracting new members at a steady rate.

4. Election of Anova as Auditors.

The Treasurer proposed that Anova be appointed as Auditors for the financial year 2015, which was duly seconded and agreed.

5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

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

Resolution (i):

That the following be elected as Vice Presidents:

Sir David Greenaway
The Lord Powell

Resolution (ii):

That the following members of the Executive Committee, including those co-opted since the last AGM, it being assumed that being eligible for re-election they so offer themselves, be elected:

Dato' Anthony Cooper (Chairman)
Zehan Albakri-Verden (Deputy Chair)
Albert Bong (Hon Secretary)
Peter Farrar (Hon Treasurer)
Martin Barrow
Dr John Breakell
Jason Brooke
Dato' Zarir Cama
Dato' Neville Green
Haliza Hashim-Doyle
Azimah Heus
Lai Mei Sim
Dato' Seri Johan Raslan
Michael Thompson
Rahiyah Yahya

6. Any other business

There was no other business.

The President, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, closed the AGM and invited members to remain for his reception which followed immediately.