

## **MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **THE BHUTAN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**10 SEPTEMBER 2009, NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB, LONDON**

1. Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, President, opened the meeting at 6.17 pm, welcoming members and noting that there are some new faces involved with the work of the Society, continuing to make up a strong team. Observing that the meeting would address official Society business rather than Bhutanese affairs, he handed over to the Chairman of the Society, Mr Michael Rutland.
2. Michael Rutland presented his report covering 2008 and 2009, summarising the activities in this period as follows:  
10 lectures, 4 newsletters, 2 dinners, 1 student lunch, 2 student garden parties, 1 book event and 2 other events and offered to provide further details.  
He reported that the Society was very active and now had 423 members. He summarised the current committee, see below, and offered to respond to questions. There being none, his report was accepted.
3. Robin Lee gave his report as Treasurer referring to the accounts for the years 2007 and 2008 circulated with the Notice of the Meeting and making the following points:
  - subscriptions were higher in 2008 principally thanks to receipts from a new life-member; otherwise subscriptions are expected to be in the range £4,000 to £4,500;
  - the annual dinner comes close to breaking even;
  - newsletter expenses vary with the number issues; costs in 2009 should be about £2,000;
  - lecture expenses relate to room hire; fees have not been paid to speakers;
  - exceptional costs related to a visit by Bhutanese scouts in 2007, to a notice congratulating the new King and to a present to Lord Wilson when he stepped down as President of the Society;
  - the Society has made an interest free loan to the Bhutan Society Trust Fund; this now totals £10,000 and allows the charity to earn more, though investment in Charifund units, than would be earned by the Society on a bank deposit;
  - through accumulated modest surpluses, the Society had funds

of some £18,000 at the end of 2008 and remains very solvent. Members had no questions and approved a resolution to adopt the accounts, proposed by Mr Peter Li and seconded by Baronness Friesen, nem com.

4. The Chairman reminded the meeting that, at the annual dinner in 2008, Lord Wilson had proposed that Sir Simon succeed him as President. The meeting noted this appointment.
5. The Chairman proposed that the members of the Society support a vote of thanks to The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn for his services to the Society as its first President. This vote of thanks, proposed by Mr Peter Li and seconded by Mr Norman Freund, was passed, nem com.
6. The Chairman referred to the proposal that he should succeed Sir Simon as Chairman, announced at the last Society dinner. The meeting noted this appointment.
7. The Chairman reviewed his nominations for office holders of the Society as follows:
  - vice chairman and programme secretary – Mr John Davey
  - secretary and dinner secretary – Mr Andrew Sutton
  - treasurer – Mr Robin Lee
  - membership secretary – Mrs Elizabeth Lee
  - newsletter editor – Mrs Sylvia Robert-SargeantThe meeting noted these appointments.
8. Nominations having been received from members for Baroness Dorothea von Friesen and Mr Bodo Hornberger to serve as members of the Committee, the Chairman put resolutions for their election to the meeting. Both resolutions were carried, nem com. Having previously been co-opted, they will continue to contribute as events organiser and webmaster respectively.
9. Members raised no other business and the President closed the meeting at 6.34 pm.

**ANDREW SUTTON**  
**SECRETARY**  
**BHUTAN SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**