



The Royal Hong Kong Police Association

MINUTES OF THE 84th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 AUGUST 2022 AT 1000 BST (GMT +1) ON ZOOM

DIGITALLY PRESENT: Messrs K H Lomas (President), A T Hornsby (Vice President & Welfare Officer), A J D Stevenson-Hamilton (Chairman), B W Jones (Secretary), G P E Guest (Treasurer), P E Halliday (Newsletter Editor), K Braithwaite, J W Hazelden, S J Monaghan, M J C Waters, B Griffin and Miss I Kieran. Messrs B W Munford (Australasia), M B Dowie (Hong Kong) and Mr S Clements (Malaysia & Singapore) plus four Members.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all who had logged on to this rearranged AGM on Zoom. It had been necessitated by the rail strike in the UK on 30 July, the original date of the AGM and Chinese Lunch in London.

1. Apologies

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from Messrs J F Merriott (Vice President), J S Prisk, S Roberts, K Edlin (New Zealand), R I Tyzzer (North America) and R Younge.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday 18 September 2021 having been previously circulated to all members were taken as read. As no member signified their opposition the Minutes were adopted.

The Chairman said he would sign them at the next committee meeting in September.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Book sales

Mr Lomas said the book sales had fallen considerably. Blacksmiths had reported a couple of weeks before that between January and June 29 copies had been sold. £33.65 had been remitted to the Association. The Treasurer confirmed the money had been received.

(b) Second Book

Mr Halliday said this project was coming along fine with around 47 articles which varied in length from short ones to those which would occupy a whole chapter. He said that, as he had received a number colour photographs as part of some articles, would the Association sanction their inclusion in the book? It was felt that it would be more appropriate to consider this matter at the next committee meeting in September.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report (copy attached) together with those of the Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer had been posted on the Association website some three weeks prior to the Meeting. He mentioned his addendum to his report regarding the problems with Crown Agents Bank (CAB). It is not known how many of our pensioners have either not received the Declaration of Entitlement forms or have not submitted them. We will not know until CAB informs Treasury in Hong Kong. We have offered to assist once the names are known.

There were no questions from the participants and on the proposal of Mr R A Steele, seconded by Mr J W Hazelden, the Report was adopted and agreed nem con.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report (copy attached). The Secretary said that since the report was written the total membership of the Association had increased by one, from 1039 to 1040. Mr Steele enquired as to whether the Secretary was able to explain why he was receiving Association emails but his wife is not. Mr Jones said he was not. He said he had looked at all Mrs Steele's details on the website and nothing appeared to be amiss. He said he found this very frustrating as there are a number of other members in a similar position. It is intended to look into the upgrading of the website in the near future in the

hope of tackling this and other problems with the site. The Chairman added that the upgrading of the website was to be an major project for the future. There were no further questions from the participants and on the proposal of Mr J W Hazleden, seconded by Mr K Braithwaite, the Report was adopted and agreed nem con.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mr Guest referred to the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March 2022 (copy attached). He said that as Lloyds Bank was now offering fixed deposits at 2% (since increased to 2.1%) so he had transferred £32,200 to such an account. This amount is made up of £30,000 of the Association's money and the £2,200, the Welfare Account held on behalf the HKP Welfare Branch. He added that he was keeping an eye on interest rates and should they increase he would move further sums across.

There were no questions from the participants and on the proposal of Mr M J C Waters, seconded by Miss I Kieran, the Report was adopted and agreed nem con.

7. Welfare Officer's Report

(Copy attached) Mr Hornsby said he had nothing to add to his Report. He did however update the meeting on the situation vis a vis problems with CAB and the fact that the Hong Kong Treasury were now fully aware of the situation. He said that his contact at the Treasury had been taken over by the officer's boss indicating the seriousness of the situation.

There were no questions from the participants and on the proposal of Mr J C S McDouall, seconded by Mr B W Munford, the Report was adopted and agreed nem con.

8. Membership Affairs

The secretary said the only matter under this heading was the list of members reported to have died between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022. On this occasion the number is 17 as opposed to 24 last year -

Mr L C Knox	Life	2 June 2021
Mr E J K Francis	Life	2 June 2021
Mrs S J Dunncliffe	Associate	16 June 2021
Mr R L G Dibbs	Life	19 June 2021
Mr M J Smith	Life	20 June 2021
Mr D N Lorimer	Life	31 August 2021
Mrs M Scobell	Associate	31 August 2021
Mr N Trape	Life	7 October 2021

Mr S Hawgood	Life	3 November 2021
Mr S E Dirkin	Life	? November 2021
Mr D J Docherty	Life	9 December 2021
Mr J W Walton	Life	6 January 2022
Mr C P O Birch	Life	9 January 2022
Mrs M Whant	Associate	20 January 2022
Mrs L MacKenzie	Life	21 February 2022
Mr M Taylor	Life	26 February 2022
Mr HUI Chiu-yin	Life	5 March 2022
Mrs G Broomfield	Life	24 March 2022

9. Subscriptions

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Committee considered that the existing joining fee of £50 should remain.

10. Election of Committee Members

At this point, Mr K H Lomas as President assumed the Chair, saying that as all the Committee had agreed to serve another year and there being no other nominations he proposed the Committee be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Mr E Mackay and agreed nem con. Those elected for 2022/23 are as follows -

Chairman	Mr A J D Stevenson-Hamilton
Secretary	Mr B W Jones
Treasurer	Mr G P E Guest
Welfare Officer	Mr A T Hornsby
Newsletter Editor	Mr P E Halliday
Archivist	Mr J P Cartwright
England and Wales	Mr K Braithwaite
	Mr J W Hazelden
	Mr S J Monaghan
	Mr J S Prisk
	Mr S Roberts
	Mr M J C Waters
Scotland	Miss Isobel Kieran
Ireland	Mr B Griffin
Hong Kong	Mr M B Dowie
Australasia	Mr B W Munford
New Zealand	Mr K Edlin
North America	Mr R I Tyzzer

Mr Stevenson-Hamilton then resumed the Chair and thanked all for continuing to serve on the committee for another year.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Mr Halliday said that the next Newsletter, Number 136 would appear on 1 December this year. He mentioned that no one had commented on the fact that Newsletter Number 135 a facsimile of the Association shield had replaced the RHKP badge on the front page. In response to a question from Mr Steele Mr Halliday said the number of printed copies of the Newsletter were in the region of 40. The Chairman thanked the Newsletter editor for taking on the printing and mailing of the 'hard' copies, adding that by doing so, he was saving the Association a fair amount in expenditure.

(b) Mr Hazelden said that he and Chris Emmett had been attending remembrance services in their part of Yorkshire. This year he said they would attending one on 13 November probably at Bedale. He would circulate details to those on the Northern Chapter name list.

(b) Mr Griffin said a lunch has been arranged for 9 September in Belfast. Anyone in the area at the time would be most welcome.

(c) A Chinese lunch has been arranged in Manchester on 22 October 2022

(d) A committee meeting will be held in London on 24 September 2022 providing the rail unions do not call another strike.

(e) Mr Dowie said that arranging social events in Hong Kong was still a problems despite some relaxation of the covid rules. He said he was hoping to arrange meetings with HKP Welfare Branch and the Treasury in due course.

(f) The numbers attending the Annual visit to our memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 28 August 2022 was poor. The Chairman said that numbers would be better if combined with a weekend reunion in nearby Lichfield.

A J D Stevenson-Hamilton
Chairman

Post Meeting Note: The usual 'In Memoriam' was not observed on this occasion as it was felt it was not appropriate in the circumstances. A list of

those members whose deaths had been notified to the Association during the period 1 April 2021 and 31 October 2022 appear under item 8 above.

Chairman's Annual Report 2021-2022

President, Vice Presidents, members, ladies and gentlemen, Eleven months have elapsed since the last A.G.M. and we have all probably experienced a series of events for the first time in our life and hopefully not to be repeated.

The world has attempted to address the coronavirus in various forms and with varying degrees of success, the Western world probably more successfully than most due to better medical and financial resources.

In the East some countries such as China, Australia and New Zealand adopted a "Zero Infection policy" which in the two latter countries was destined to fail. How China has managed to prevail is debateable and with what economic consequences - look at Shanghai for example?

Your chairman has had the opportunity to witness both sides of the coin having in Hong Kong earlier this year and ended up being stranded for nearly 4 months due to lockdown and severe international flight restrictions; twenty-one days quarantine on arrival is not to be recommended, especially the food. Sadly, in Hong Kong the pandemic took hold in March with infections up to 30,000 and deaths at one stage reaching over 250 a day, the latter mainly due to older people not being vaccinated. Not surprisingly the local administration has come in for severe criticism from the Chinese authorities, justifiably in my opinion, for a lack of leadership, contingency and resources planning. A major lockdown and mass vaccination exercise were planned combined with mass quarantining in camps. The lockdown became more and more unlikely due to the impracticalities of a territory wide imposition. Quarantine camps were brought into operation rather belatedly especially as infections have dropped significantly in later months. As of July the hotel quarantine period is down to one week and there are indications of a further easing towards the end of the year.

Politically recent changes for Hong Kong are profound as the territory is now subject to Mainland experts giving advice and policy direction. Most surprisingly is that a "Zero Infection Policy" has not been enforced on the territory local circumstances having been taken into consideration, especially cramped housing conditions. It is not my function to dwell on the past administration's incompetence but essentially this is what the situation boils down to.

It is not surprising that the Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, stepped down; not at all popular with HK residents for her performance both in the recent covid outbreak and during the disturbances the preceding year. At the time of this delayed A.G.M. John Lee has already been in post for over a month; not a political heavyweight by any means but his election does illustrate the high

regard the Hong Kong Police are held in.

Mail to and from Hong Kong has been a major issue. As of mid-June there were still very few long distance international flights out of Hong Kong due to ongoing quarantine restrictions which for aircrews are a nightmare unless the aircraft in question makes a quick turnaround. More recent policy decisions have helped ease the situation

Closer to home the Ukraine is another example of human inability to resolve opposing political strategies and problems. Yet another tragedy in the making which is a sad indictment on society with the distinct possibility that things could get much worse before they get better.

Turning to our membership, despite an extensive vaccination programme in U.K. it appears a sizeable number of members have caught covid albeit with minor symptoms and even two or three times. Hong Kong is the other way round probably due more drastic restrictions excepting for the elderly, which through an inability of the HK Administration to get them vaccinated and traditional Chinese beliefs, has resulted in death rates being for a time amongst the highest in the world.

On the home front because of the lockdown, regular Zoom committee meetings were held, the last being in January of this year which also made inclusion of overseas members possible. The suggestion from a couple of committee members is that in future we try to alternate meetings in London with Zoom meetings; this may well be tried in winter and will allow for some element of overseas participation. From a financial perspective travelling costs would be reduced which may not be a bad thing in the current financial climate (not to mention rail strikes).

Turning to social events I will also cover events post the normal reporting period ending in March and leading up to this zoom A.G.M. A Chinese New Year lunch was held in London in February with a good attendance and apparently good food. To coincide with the Platinum Jubilee Celebration for H.M. the Queen, the committee held a cocktail party at the Army and Navy Club on 10th June with a celebratory Chinese lunch the following day. Turnout for both events was good with a good time had by all. We were also honoured with the presence of Lord and Lady Wilson and Lord Sharpe.

In consequence the A.G.M. was put back to July but because of the national rail strike here we are today. Our annual memorial ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum is scheduled for 28th August to co-inside with Liberation Day in Hong Kong.

Members may like to avail themselves of the opportunity to a join a social

Zoom meeting held on the last Saturday of each month thus enabling participation world- wide, international time zones permitting.

Mention must be made of a “The Second Book” which Peter Halliday is co-ordinating the collection of material for. The content will be more general in nature and should make for an interesting read. More contributions would be welcome. A big thank you must also go to him for streamlining the distribution of the newsletter.

Finally, my thanks must go to our erstwhile Secretary and Treasurer for their continued unstinted contributions, to Keith Lomas for standing in during my absence in Hong Kong and to Alan Hornsby for covering the welfare side.

Keep safe.

Angus Stevenson-Hamilton
Chairman

Addendum: Though not falling within the period of my annual report mention must be made of the problems retirees receiving pensions through Crown Agents Bank (CAB) have experienced in receiving forms P.60 and Declarations of Entitlement (D of E). In sum CAB failed to distribute these forms on time due to their own mismanagement. Representations were made to them too little avail. This prompted your chairman writing formal letters of complaint to Hong Kong Treasury and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Overseas Development Office. I am pleased to report Treasury quickly took up the issue with CAB asking for a full report, delaying the final submission of D of Es to August and also agreeing to review the attestation criteria in response to our complaint over certain categories refusing to attest to our signatures.

SECRETARY’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

Mr President, Vice Presidents and Members

In accordance with Rule 10 (iii) it is my pleasure to report on the workings of the Association during the 2021/22.

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions we did manage to hold the Annual General Meeting at Lichfield on 18 September 2021. As a first, we held the meeting also on Zoom, which enabled five members not physically present to take part. It was a bit of a Heath-Robinson affair but it worked. The remainder of the committee meetings during the year were held via Zoom and were considered a useful means of allowing our overseas representatives to take part. Unfortunately the timings were such that our North America representative was unable to join as it was in the middle of the night in the New World. The

numbers joining the 'Last Saturday of the Month' Zoom meetings have decreased considerably over the year. However the stalwarts who religiously continue to take part are happy to carry on regardless.

Peter Halliday in Hong Kong has kindly taken over the printing and mailing of the abridged hard copies of the Newsletters. This appears to be working fine and I am most appreciative of Peter's help in this direction and my being able to remove this task from my job description. I will continue to print and mail other correspondence such as flyers for lunches, notices of AGM etc.

I make no apology for constantly exhorting members in my Newsletter column to log on to the website and update their Profile and tick the box regarding how they wish to be listed on the Member List, many have still not complied. This is evident from the fact that the Member List available on the website is still far from complete.

While looking for something else in my garage I found eight RHKP shields which I advertised by email. They were snapped up almost immediately and a straw poll showed there was still a market for such items. I therefore ordered a new batch which were slightly different in that the RHKP Badge was on a white background and the scroll beneath read 'Royal Hong Kong Police Association'. The cost of the new shields are £35 which is quite a markup from the former items at £15. However, I have not ordered any since I became Secretary in 2007. The new shields arrived in February and after advertising the fact 31 of the 50 ordered were sold in a very short time.

After last year's recruitment bonanza things have returned to normal with just 10 new members joining. Apart from one, all joined using the facility to join and pay the joining fee online. There were 16 deaths and no resignations. The names of those who have died and joined appear in the committee minutes and Newsletters and, in the case of the former, by emails sent out shortly after the event.

At year's end the total membership stood at 1,039, comprising 910 Life and 129 Associate Members, a loss of one over the previous year.

As mentioned above, the 83rd Annual General Meeting was held at the George Hotel, Lichfield on 18 September 2021 during the Autumn Reunion Weekend with 26 members and guests resident. The following day the annual visit to the memorial at the nearby National Memorial Arboretum took place. A short service of remembrance and wreath laying took place. It is intended that this be an annual event to take place on the Sunday nearest to the 31 August, Liberation Day in Hong Kong.

During the year your Committee met on Zoom on three occasions, 19 June and

28 August 2021 and 15 January 2022. The Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee did not meet.

Two Chinese lunches were held at the Imperial China Restaurant in London on 13 November 2021 and 5 February 2022, the latter to welcome the Year of the Tiger. The numbers attending were 50 and 38 respectively.

Finally, I would like to thank the President, Chairman, Treasurer, Welfare Officer and the rest of the Committee for their support and assistance of over the year.

**B W Jones
Secretary**

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

Mr President, Vice-Presidents and Members

In accordance with Rule 12(ii) I submit the Welfare Report for the past year.

Welfare/General

The period under review has generally been very quiet in terms of welfare issues coming to hand. It is considered that most members have concentrated on dealing with the effects on daily living caused by Covid-19 and meeting government requirements designed to counter the effects of the pandemic. The forecast is that as the overall restrictions upon civil society diminish then the volume of requirements upon the welfare structure will gradually increase over time to something like the levels experienced in more 'normal' times. It can be taken as read that there will be welfare issues brought to light caused directly or indirectly by the impact of Covid-19 on our societies.

During the period at hand welfare expenditure amounted to £755.20. This sum was almost entirely directed towards charitable donations in memory of deceased members and the provision of flowers for our ladies experiencing difficulties of one variety or another. This latter expenditure brings morale consequences way beyond the sums expended and represents good value for our money.

Alan T Hornsby
Welfare Officer



The Royal Hong Kong Police Association

Income & Expenditure Account - Year Ended 31 March 2022

<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Life Membership Subscriptions		£ 490.70 [footnote 1]
Donations		£ 267.21
HKP Annual Subvention		£ 4,884.74 [footnote 2]
HKP Supplementary Grant		£ 2,776.36 [footnote 3]
Bank Account Interest		£ 7.77
Raffle Proceeds		£ -
Members' Contributions Towards Postage		£ 262.84 [footnote 4]
Sales of Association Memorabilia		£ 1,776.00 [footnote 4]
Functions		£ 7,846.00 [footnote 5]
Blacksmith Publishers		£ 655.45 [footnote 6]
Miscellaneous		£ -
		<u>£ 18,967.07</u>
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	£ 82.75	
Postage/Telecomms	£ 434.15	[footnote 4]
Committee Travel & Expenses	£ -	
Wreaths & Welfare Donations	£ 932.63	[footnote 7]
Purchases of Association Memorabilia	£ 2,555.40	[footnote 8]
HMRC - Tax	£ -	
Functions	£ 8,630.60	[footnote 5]
Website Upgrade, Licences & Servicing	£ 263.37	
Accountancy	£ 600.00	
Miscellaneous	£ -	
	<u>£ 13,498.90</u>	
Surplus/Deficit	£ 5,468.17	
<u>HKP WELFARE RELIEF FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Balance b/f (31/03/2020)		£ 2,244.22
Bank Interest		£ 0.24
		<u>Total £ 2,244.46</u>
Disbursements	£ -	
	<u>£ -</u>	
Balance c/f to 2022/23	£ 2,244.46	
<u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022</u>		
<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>		
Balance b/f (01/04/21)	£ 76,447.84	
Surplus for 2021/22	£ 5,467.93	
Balance c/f to 2022/23	£ 81,915.77	
<u>BANK ACCOUNT DEPOSITS</u>		
<u>RHKPA</u>		
Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c	£ 1,707.83	
Lloyds Bank Savings (General) a/c	£ 80,002.64	
Lloyds Bank Current a/c (No. 2)	£ 205.30	
	<u>Total £ 81,915.77</u>	
<u>HKP WELFARE RELIEF FUND</u>		
Lloyds Bank Savings a/c	Total £ 2,244.46	
Total Value of Cash Assets on 31 March 2022	£ 84,160.23	
HMRC Tax Credit	£ 242.92	


 (G.P.E. Guist)
 Hon Treasurer

14.04.2022
 (Date)

Income & Expenditure Account - Year Ended 31 March 2022 (cont.)

Accountant's Certificate

The accounts of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2022 on Pages 1 of this report are in accordance with the books and records as presented to me. I confirm that the bank balances shown above agree with the bank statements provided.



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email: basit@ahmadyork.co.uk

21/4/2022
(Date)

Notes on RHKPA 2020/21 Income & Expenditure Accounts

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|--------|---|
| Note 1 | Subscriptions from ten new members |
| Note 2 | The GBP equivalent of HK \$52,782.00 |
| Note 3 | The GBP equivalent of HK \$30,000 |
| Note 4 | Mostly attributable to two major sales projects |
| Note 5 | Four functions - AGM, Commemoration Ceremony, and two lunches |
| Note 6 | Book sales |
| Note 7 | Five wreaths and 13 Welfare disbursements |
| Note 8 | Purchases of ties (50) and plaques (50) |