



The Royal Hong Kong Police Association

MINUTES OF THE 85th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 15 JULY 2023 AT THE IMPERIAL CHINA RESTAURANT, LONDON

PRESENT: Messrs K H Lomas (President), A J D Stevenson-Hamilton (Chairman), B W Jones (Secretary), G P E Guest (Treasurer), K Braithwaite, B C Griffin, J W Hazelden, J S Prisk, S J Monaghan, S Roberts and Miss I Kieran (Committee Members) plus 4 Members.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking all those present for attending the Annual General Meeting. He reminded attendees that only Life Members were entitled to vote.

1. Apologies

The Secretary reported that apologies/good wishes had been received from 17 Members. (List attached).

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting, held on Monday 22 August 2022 on Zoom having been previously circulated to all Members were taken as read. The Minutes were proposed for adoption by Mr B Griffin, seconded by Mr G P E Guest and carried unanimously. The Minutes were formally signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairman said he would leave any such matters until later when he delivered his report

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report (copy attached) having been posted on the Website for the members' information. (Copies of the Treasurer's and Secretary's report have similarly been posted). He said he just wanted to mention a few matters. The hotel in Lichfield let us down badly and we were not able to hold the AGM in May. The annual memorial service at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) went ahead on Sunday 28 May 2023 but the turnout was rather poor. The next AGM will be held in May in Lichfield and will be followed by the annual memorial service at the NMA. We now hold a short memorial service at the Lisbon Maru Memorial which is close by ours. Problems are still being experienced with the Crown Agents Bank (CAB) who each year seem to be able to lose an inordinate number of completed annual declarations. Mike Dowie has been keeping Treasury informed of our troubles in the hope that they may adopt the system used by pensioners whose pensions are paid direct into a Hong Kong bank. Unfortunately there has been no move in this direction despite the fact that they have been informed that doctors, dentists, lawyers and bank officials will no longer countersign the declarations. There are those who will, but at a price. The recent book event held at the East India Club, attended by Lord and Lady Wilson was a most successful evening. The cocktail party the night before was attended by 37 members and guests, again including Lord and Lady Wilson and Lord Sharpe.

On the proposal of Mr J S Prisk, seconded by Miss I Kieran, the report was adopted and carried unanimously.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary said his Report (copy attached) spoke for itself and he had nothing to add. On the proposal of Mr J Hazelden, seconded by Mr P B Dyson, the Report was adopted and carried unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the audited Revenue Account for the year ended 31st March 2023 is attached. Mr Guest said he had nothing to add other than to mention that a greater part of the Association's money was now on a fixed deposit as interest rates were rising. There were no questions from the floor, so on the proposal of Mr S J Monaghan, seconded by Mr E J Stevenson the report was adopted and carried unanimously.

Mr Guest then went on to present his paper on increasing travelling expenses. (copy attached) The Rules of the Association required that this matter be sanctioned at an AGM. As the travelling expenses were last raised in 2012 they needed looking at again in view of the annual rises in rail fares and latterly, inflation gathering pace. After a short discussion it was proposed by Mr E Crowter, seconded by Mr K

Braithwaite that the travelling expenses be increased by the amounts set out in the Treasurer's paper. The proposal was carried unanimously.

7. Welfare Officer's Report

The Chairman said that as the Association did not have a Welfare Officer the committee were urgently seeking to fill the post. In the meantime welfare matters were being devolved to the area representatives. Mr Stevenson-Hamilton said he had dealt with some of the more pressing matters in his annual report. He advised members to make wills and those with property outwith their country of residence have them also made locally. Mr Jones stressed the importance of members keeping their Valedictory Letters safe. A recent case where the daughter of a deceased member was having difficulty in proving to the Home Office that she was born in Hong Kong whilst her father was serving in the RHKP. Her birth certificate merely stated her father's rank but not which force he was serving in! This was sorted out through PHQ but had she access to her father's valedictory letter the problem would have been sorted immediately. The importance of this document cannot be over emphasised as PHQ can now only confirm service in the HKP/RHKP/HKP with dates of joining, leaving and rank.

(Post Meeting Note: Stuart McDouall has volunteered to undertake the post of Welfare Officer.)

8. Membership Affairs

The Secretary said the only matter under this heading was the list of members whose deaths occurred or were reported between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. The Chairman said that he did not intend to read out the list as it had been circulated to all present, and was as follows -

Mr CC Wood	Life	30 May 2022
Mrs V Wilkinson	Associate	7 June 2022
Mr P J Clarke	Life	16 June 2022
Mr C Nikolic	Life	? June 2022
Mr A W Stewart	Life	14 July 2022
Mr R L McCormack	Life	12 August 2022
Mr D A Brook	Life	30 August 2022
Mr J F Merriott	Life	13 September 2022
Miss M E Taylor	Life	3 October 2022
Mr P F Leeds	Life	11 October 2022
Mr D Tolliday-Wright	Life	15 October 2022
Mrs J Humphreys	Associate	16 October 2022

Mr K A McMullin	Life	15 November 2022
Mr H N Blakey	Life	1 December 2022
Mr E F Taylor	Life	8 December 2022
Mr M J Harris	Life	17 December 2022
Mrs R Bolton	Associate	1 January 2023
Mr B T Wigley	Life	21 January 2023
Mrs M Clough	Associate	24 January 2023
Mr B Eley	Life	31 January 2023
Mrs J Moor	Life	28 February 2023
Mrs M Bell	Associate	17 March 2023

9. Agenda Items

(a) Subscriptions

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

(b) Amendment to the rules of the Association re Japan

Proposal to amend Section 4(iii) of the Rules of the Association - OFFICERS.

Section 4 Officers, sub section (iii) The Committee shall comprise:

After “.....members of New Zealand” add a new line -

“One member representing the interests of resident members of Japan”

Mr S J Monaghan proposed and Mr G P E Guest seconded, that the amendment be adopted. It was carried unanimously. The Japan representative will be Mr Simon Childs

10. Election of Committee Members

At this point, Mr K H Lomas (Vice 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 Crowter and carried unanimously. The Committee elected for 2023/24 is as follows -

Chairman	Mr A J D Stevenson-Hamilton
Secretary	Mr B W Jones
Treasurer	Mr G P E Guest
Welfare Officer	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Mr P E Halliday
Archivist	Mr J P Cartwright
England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Mr K Braithwaite

Scotland
Ireland
Hong Kong
Australasia
New Zealand
North America
Malaysia & Singapore
Japan

Mr J W Hazelden
Mr S J Monaghan
Mr J S Prisk
Mr S Roberts
Mr M J C Waters
Miss I Kieran
Mr B Griffin
Mr M B Dowie
Mr B W Munford
Mr K Edlin
Mr R I Tyzzer
Mr S J Chambers
Mr S Childs

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) WEBSITE

Mr Monaghan briefed the meeting on the planned upgrading of the website. It will be a gradual process aimed at simplifying and updating the site and bringing the hosting onshore. In the longer term there will be archival facilities which will enable members to submit items and for the whole to be accessed by the membership.

(b) DIARY

The Chairman said Simon Roberts had been asking that the Association set out a schedule of events for the forthcoming year. Mr Stevenson-Hamilton then read out his planned dates for various events during the coming year. (Post Meeting Note: These dates/events have since been circulated to the Committee.

12. IN MEMORIAM

THE CHAIRMAN CALLED ON ALL PRESENT TO BE UPSTANDING AND MAINTAIN ONE MINUTES SILENCE IN MEMORY OF ALL RANKS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE, POLICE RESERVE AND SPECIAL CONSTABULARY, WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN TWO WORLD WARS AND IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR DUTIES IN PEACETIME, AND OF ALL PAST ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1223.

A J D Stevenson-Hamilton
Chairman

Chairman's Annual Report 2022-2023

President, Vice Presidents, members, ladies and gentlemen,
Another eventful year but for all the wrong reasons. Continued political and economic turmoil in the United Kingdom and the covid lockdown in Hong Kong being enforced until late last year; Australia and Canada apparently facing covid reality a lot earlier. The Ukrainian War grinds on into its second year and an extremely destructive earthquake hits Turkey and Syria in February.

The good news I guess is that the United Kingdom has stable leadership at last whilst the new Hong Kong Chief Executive does at least have a strategy for getting the territory back to normal after over 4 years of a combination of public disorder and covid related issues. With regard to China, matters were not helped by a very serious lockdown eventually leading to public demonstrations and a major downturn in the economy which eventually woke up the Chinese leadership. The speed with which China has attempted to resume normality has caught the rest of the world by surprise.

Enough said on that score as my remit is the Association and related issues. On the recruitment side we have managed to hold our own with a current membership of 1,045 all thanks to Simon Monaghan actively recruiting younger members despite the steady attrition rate due to old age and poor health.

In June last year a cocktail party was held at the Army and Navy Club, London to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. The guests of honour were Lord and Lady Wilson. The following day a Chinese lunch was held at the Imperial Chinese Restaurant; both events were reasonably well attended.

The committee has endeavoured to meet on a regular basis despite covid concerns and the advent of very high inflation leading to country-wide industrial action including rail strikes. This resulted in the A.G.M. scheduled to be held in London having to be held using Zoom on 30th July. Although not ideal the formalities as required by the constitution were complied with and annual reports tabled.

The following month the annual memorial ceremony was held at the National Memorial Arboretum. Turnout was poor due to the proximity of date to the August Bank holiday. Nevertheless, the presence of a resident padre and bugler made for a moving ceremony followed by an impromptu ceremony at the nearby

newly erected "Lisbon Maru Memorial" where over 800 P.O.W.s tragically drowned including two serving police officers.

Sadly, last September saw the death of the longest reigning monarch in the history of the U.K., although given her age her demise had to be accepted as inevitable. As expected, events leading up to the State funeral were dignified and ceremonial parades impressive. The Association relayed condolences through the official online website, Lord Andrew Sharpe on behalf of the R.H.K.P. in the House of Lords and by letter from the Chairman to the Palace. A touching letter was subsequently received from the Private Secretary's Office in acknowledgement to the Chairman's letter.

This brings me onto the sorry saga of pensions last year and the total failure by Crown Agents Bank (C.A.B.) to properly administer the annual declaration of entitlement forms causing a lot of unnecessary anguish to pensioners with several having their pension payments suspended. It appears C.A.B. outsourced the printing and issuing of forms with no subsequent supervision. There were numerous instances of C.A.B being less than honest with the truth when challenged and not taking proper ownership of the problem.

The Association had no alternative but to write to Treasury Dept. in Hong Kong highlighting the issue and requesting their intercession with C.A.B. There was no point going through the Police Welfare Branch as they do not handle pensions and having no dealings with C.A.B. The issue was finally resolved, and Treasury thanked us for alerting them. We have tried to arrange face to face meetings here in Hong Kong with Treasury but with little success.

The other issue with the declarations of entitlement is over the criteria for who can witness signatures. Many doctors, lawyers and banks in U.K., for example, are now unwilling and we have requested the criteria be updated to be more user friendly.

With regard to the working of the committee a key concern is the state of the current website. Your committee is looking at a substantial upgrade as the secretary is experiencing ongoing issues as are some members with trying to get online. It is also hoped to set up a proper archive link to enable members to download old photographs and documents of interest. Consultants are currently examining our concerns.

Turning to welfare; it with regret that I advise that Al Hornsby has had to step down from his temporary welfare role due to ongoing health concerns. We thank him most sincerely for services rendered. Our major concern is finding a replacement, ideally someone younger who can benefit from building up the

necessary experience over a few years. A volunteer would be most welcome. In the meantime we will rely on the regional and country representatives. Mike Dowie and Peter Halliday play a critical role in liaising with the authorities at the Hong Kong end.

Now to Association events and issues for this year; a Zoom committee meeting was held on 14th January so as to involve overseas members. Another was held on 22nd April in London where annual reports from key committee members were be tabled for the A.G.M. scheduled for Saturday, 27th May in Lichfield. Unfortunately when contacted the hotel claimed to have a priority booking for a wedding that booked the hotel for the whole weekend. Apparently the events' organiser we had been liaising with resigned with the in evitable consequences.

On the social side sadly the Chinese New Year lunch scheduled for 3rd February in London this year had to be cancelled yet again due to industrial action by railway unions. Fortunately the book promotion event the evening before at the East India Club involving some association members still went ahead with a reasonable turnout. Lord and Lady Wilson kindly attended. The Northern Chapter is planning a lunch for 11th May.

The annual memorial ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum was still planned to take place as scheduled on Sunday, 28th May. Because of the Lichfield problem it was determined to hold the A.G.M. in London and combine it with the annual summer lunch on 15th July. This will of course be dependent on the rail strike situation.

Turning to Hong Kong your President and Chairmen were both in the territory at the end of last year and had the opportunity to meet with representatives of P.H.Q. and Welfare Branch. A cocktail reception was held for members at the P.S.R.C. on 17th February. A total of 40 people including guests attended and stayed well beyond the scheduled closing time; a number suggested that more frequent functions should be held which the Chairman has asked Mike Dowie to co-ordinate.

Your President was kindly hosted to lunch by Personnel Wing and met with key personnel. The Chairman also had an opportunity to meet up with the current Commissioner, Raymond Siu, and attend an Old Comrades' dinner. One of our committee members, Simon Roberts kindly presented a cheque for H.K.\$10,000, being the proceeds of his book, to a representative of Welfare Branch at which your Chairman and Mike Dowie were privileged to be present.

The Australian contingent have been active with regular functions being held in Queensland. Have to say they all look healthy and suntanned compared with the Northern hemisphere.

In conclusion my thanks must go once again to our key committee members Barry Jones and Paul Guest for their unstinted contributions in ensuring the smooth operation of the Association, to Peter Halliday for looking after newsletter affairs with his usual diligence and to other overseas representatives including Mike Dowie with some welfare related issues and Ben Munford and Ian Tyzzer for looking after Australian and Canadian interests.

Angus Stevenson-Hamilton
Chairman

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

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 2022/23.

After having got over the problems associated with Covid-19 we thought that 2022-23 would be plain sailing. How wrong we were, there was more trouble ahead when Mick Lynch and members of the RMT rail union hove into view. Our AGM for 2021-22 was due to take place on Saturday 30 July 2022 at the Imperial China Restaurant before the Summer Chinese Lunch. This had to be cancelled as a rail strike was called on this date. The AGM had to be rearranged via Zoom as strikes were being called at short notice. It went ahead on Monday 22 August 2022. The annual service at the RHKP Memorial was held on Sunday 28 August attracting a small turnout. This was followed by a buffet lunch at the National Memorial Arboretum.

The Chinese Lunch arranged for 22 October in Manchester also had to be cancelled for lack of interest. However, nine members and guests, some of whom had booked hotels in the city did meet at the restaurant and had an excellent meal.

Mick Lynch was not finished yet. The Chinese New Year Lunch set down for Saturday 4 February 2023 had to be cancelled at short notice because of another rail strike.

The 'Last Saturday of the Month' Zoom meetings continue. The numbers joining varies from month to month but it is still considered to be a worthwhile undertaking. To try to include more members, particularly those in the Americas, Peter Halliday hosts a similar event on a Sunday morning commencing at 0700 Hong Kong time. Reminders and logging on links for these Zoom meetings are sent out to the membership by email in advance.

During the period of this report 24 new members joined, most of whom took advantage of the ability to join and pay their subscription online. There were 23 deaths and no resignations. The names of those who died and joined appear in committee meeting minutes and Newsletters, and in the case of the former, by email shortly after the event. At year's end the total membership stood at 1045, comprising 911 Life and 134 associate members, an increase of six over the previous year.

During the year your committee met on three occasions, 23 April and 23 September 2022 and by zoom on 14 January 2023.

In the period covered by this report we did manage to hold two events. A cocktail party at the Army and Navy club, London to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen on 10 June 2022. The guests of Honour were Lord and Lady Wilson. The following day a Chinese Lunch was held at the Imperial Chinese Restaurant. Both events were reasonably well attended.

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

B W Jones
Secretary



The Royal Hong Kong Police Association

Income & Expenditure Account - Year Ended 31 March 2023

<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Life Membership Subscriptions		£ 1,124.20 [footnote 1]
Donations		£ 451.00 [footnote 2]
HKP Annual Subvention		£ 6,607.29 [footnote 3]
Bank Account Interest		£ 99.67
Raffle Proceeds		£ -
Sales of Association Memorabilia		£ 145.00 [footnote 4]
Members' Contributions Towards Postage		£ 9.00 [- ditto -]
Functions		£ 4,740.00 [footnote 5]
Blacksmith Publishers		£ 33.65 [footnote 6]
Miscellaneous		£ 63.00
		<u>£ 13,272.81</u>
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	£ 65.77	
Postage/Telecomms	£ 277.70	
Committee Travel & Expenses	£ 675.90	
Wreaths & Welfare Donations	£ 747.18	[footnote 7]
Purchases of Books and Memorabilia	£ 144.36	[footnote 8]
HMRC - Tax	£ -	
Functions	£ 6,852.36	[footnote 9]
Technology - Upgrades, Licences & Servicing Fees	£ 209.99	
Accountancy	£ 600.00	
Miscellaneous	£ -	
	<u>Total £ 9,573.26</u>	
Surplus/Deficit	£ 3,699.55	
<u>HKP WELFARE RELIEF FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Balance b/f (31/03/2022)		£ 2,244.46
Bank Interest		£ 0.14
		<u>Total £ 2,244.60</u>
Transferred to Fixed Deposit	£ 2,200.00	[footnote 10]
	<u>Total £ 44.60</u>	
Balance c/f to 2023/24	£ 44.60	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

GENERAL ACCOUNT

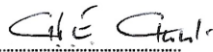
Balance b/f (01/04/22)	£ 84,115.77
Surplus for 2022/23	<u>£ 3,699.55</u>
Balance c/f to 2023/24	£ 87,815.32

Income & Expenditure Account - Year Ended 31 March 2023 (cont.)BANK ACCOUNT DEPOSITSRHKPA

Lloyds Bank Treasurer's a/c	£	1,654.50
Lloyds Bank Current a/c (No. 2)	£	363.15
Lloyds Bank Savings (General) a/c	£	23,597.67
Lloyds Bank Fixed Deposits	£	62,200.00
Total	£	87,815.32

HKP WELFARE RELIEF FUND

Lloyds Bank Savings a/c	Total	£	44.60
Total Value of Cash Assets on 31 March 2023		£	87,859.92
HMRC Tax Credit		£	242.92



(G.P.E. Guest)

Hon Treasurer

21.04.23

(Date)

Accountant's Certificate

The accounts of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023 on Pages 1 & 2 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.



Basit Ahmed, FCCA

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Stanyards Farm,

Chertsey Road,

Chobham,

Surrey, GU24 8JE.

email: basit@ahmadyork.co.uk

21.04.23

(Date)

- Note 1 Subscriptions from 23 new members
- Note 2 Twelve donations ranging from £1.00 to £100.00
- Note 3 The GBP equivalent of HK\$56,380.00
- Note 4 Plaques (3) and Books (4)
- Note 5 Five functions - Jubilee Cocktail Party & Reunion weekend; NMA Ceremony; HK Reception and two cancelled reunions
- Note 6 Royalties from further book sales
- Note 7 Four wreaths, eight Welfare disbursements and one reimbursement of welfare related travel expenses
- Note 8 Purchase of 20 books for stock and sale in the UK
- Note 9 Includes refunds totalling £1,433.00 for cancelled functions, and a HK\$3,000.00 contribution to a HK Reception
- Note 10 Combined with £30,000 of Association funds for placing on 1 yr Fixed Deposit

Annual General Meeting on 15 July 2023
Discussion Paper on Committee Expenses

Rule 4 (v) of the Rules of the Association provides:-

“Officers of the Association (i.e. the President, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Committee) will be paid nominal expenses when attending meetings on a scale as approved by the Committee and endorsed at the next following Annual General Meeting.”

The scale of nominal expenses payable to members of the Committee is based on the distances travelled by them when attending meetings. This was last considered by the AGM in 2012, at which time the scale was endorsed as follows:-

<u>Distance Travelled</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Under 100 miles	Up to £20.00
101 to 200 miles	Up to £45.00
201 to 300 miles	Up to £130.00
Over 300 miles	Up to £200.00

Since then, annual increases in the cost of rail travel, combined with rising inflation generally, have resulted in members of the Committee finding themselves increasingly “out of pocket” when attending meetings. Consequently, at a meeting of the Committee on 22 April 2023, it was resolved to recommend the following revised scale of expenses to the Annual General Meeting on 15 July 2023 for discussion and endorsement:-

<u>Distance Travelled</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Under 100 miles	Up to £25.00
101 to 200 miles	Up to £60.00
201 to 300 miles	Up to £150.00
Over 300 miles	Up to £250.00

Apologies/Good wishes

R A Steele	Mrs J Steele	G A Stanley	B W Munford
A M Gregan	A T Hornsby	M J C Waters	R Younge
N D Howcroft	R J Tudor	T Cord	R L J Macdonald
M B Dowie	R I Tyzzer	M B Dowie	K Edlin
S J Clements			

