

**BRITISH MALAYSIAN SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Monday 30 June 2025 4:45 to 6:00 pm
Mayfair Hotel, Stratton Street, London W1J 8LT

Attendees:

- Mei Sim Lai (MSL), Prof. Kanes Raja (KR), Martin Barrow (MB), Nick Dutton (ND), David Stringer Lamarre (DSL), Dr Hiu Man Chan (HMC), Andrew Counihan (AC), John Jack Choi (JJC), Stephanie Cheong, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Lady Moody-Stuart, Agnes Xavier-Phillips, Dr Nicholas Wilkinson, JR May, Sue O'Connell, Tom Reynolds, Peter Lim, Larry Brotherton, Kan Koo, Stephen Kinder, Alan Lomas, Winnie Seow, Henry Tillman, Brigit Lomas, Kannan Sivanathan, Elsa Caleb, Chi Li Denman, Carlson Ko, Valeries Wai, Ivan Lim, Ruth Rollitt

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- Apologies: Champa Gurnani, Steven Perian, Gavin Wilkins, Chris Seo, Lady Doris Butterworth, Wendy Yap

2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30 June 2025

- Minutes were proposed for approval by Martin Barrow and seconded by JR May and approved by members present.

3. Any matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda

- None

4. Chairperson's report

- The Chairperson provided a summary of the key activities of the BMS over the preceding 12 months, noting particular highlights including:
 - Inaugural BMS UK-Malaysia film festival
 - Re-activation of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Malaysia
 - Engagement with the UK's Trade Envoy to Malaysia, George Freeman MP
 - Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to the UK
 - Further development of BMS' relationships with London-based universities, particularly those with significant numbers of Malaysian students

5. Treasurer's Report

- On behalf of the Treasurer, MSL presented the highlights from the Treasurer's report and BMS accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024, noting:
 - Increase in the total number of BMS members from 229 to 299
 - Growth in the end of year BMS bank balance from c.£73k (31 December 2023) to c.£84k (31 December 2024)
- The Society's accounts were proposed for approval by Sue O'Connell and seconded by Nick Dutton and approved by members present.

6. Re-election of the Independent Examiner, Joe Lee of Leftley Rowe

- The re-election of the independent examiner was proposed by Prof. Kanes Raja and seconded by Nick Dutton and approved by members present.

7. Sub-group updates

a. Membership sub-group (Nick Dutton)

- ND provided a brief update on key highlights from his sub-group including:
 - Increase in the total membership from 229 to 299, largely driven by student members
 - The need for support from members to further develop and maintain the BMS website
 - The ongoing effort to develop a privacy policy and members code of conduct
 - A call to the membership for support to engage and grow the BMS membership base

b. Travel and tourism sub-group (Martin Barrow)

- MB provided a brief update on key highlights from his sub-group including:
 - Malaysian and UK tourism sectors have rebounded well out of COVID
 - Ongoing efforts with key UK stakeholders on simplifying visa requirements for Malaysian visitors to the UK

c. Education sub-group (Kanes Raja)

- KR supported by JJC provided a brief update on key highlights from his sub-group including:
 - Support to TalentCorp and their MyHeart programme
 - Inner Temple event celebrating 40 years of Legal and Other Educational Links between the UK and Malaysia
 - Student mentorship programme – 31 mentor/mentee relationships
 - Support for BMS student members to attend BMS events

d. International trade sub-group (David Stringer-Lamarre)

- DSL provided a brief update on key highlights from his sub-group including:
 - Trade delegation to Malaysia
 - Joint BMS/BMCC event - Fostering Leadership - Holistic Innovation and Smart Development
 - Event - Soft Power v Hard Power: Co-opt or Coerce?
 - BMS International Trade sub-group - Panel Discussion at Guildhall on UK/Malaysian trade opportunities resulting from Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN
 - Update from HE Ajay Sharma on UK/Malaysia relations

e. Culture sub-group (Hiu Man Chan)

- HMC provided a brief update on key highlights from her sub-group including:
 - Second UK-Malaysia film festival
 - BMS efforts to support the Nine Arts festival in Negeri Sembilan

f. Marketing, website, PR and communications sub-group (Stephanie Cheong)

- Updates provided on BMS social media interactions in terms of members, locations and professions were presented

8. Election of the Executive Committee (ExCo) for 2025/26

- On behalf of the ExCo and BMS members, MSL expressed her gratitude to Chloe Yap and Kamaruddin Baharin who are standing down from the ExCo
- The following ExCo members were proposed for re-election to the ExCo:
 - Mei Sim Lai OBE DL (Chairperson)
 - Wendy Yap (Hon Treasurer)
 - Andrew Counihan (Hon Secretary)
 - Nick Dutton
 - Stephanie Cheong

- Martin Barrow CBE
- Robin Stevens
- David Stringer-Lamarre
- Dr Hiu Man Chan
- Steven Perian KC
- Gavin Wilkins
- Professor Kanes Rajah
- Champa Gurnani
- Dr William Wong
- John Ching Jack Choi

Proposer - Sue O'Connell

Seconder - Sir Mark Moody-Stuart

The members present approved of the re-election of the above listed members to the ExCo.

- The following new appointments to the ExCo were proposed:

- Agnes Xavier–Phillips JP DL
- Tharmanantha Balu
- JR May

Proposer - Professor Kanes Rajah

Seconder - John Ching Jack Choi

The members present approved the new appointments of the above listed members to the ExCo.

- The following approved ExCo members were each approved as BMS deputy chairpersons:

- Professor Kanes Rajah
- David Stringer-Lamarre

Proposer – Martin Barrow

Seconder – Sir Mark Moody-Stuart

The members present approved the appointments of the above listed members as deputy chairpersons.

9. Any other urgent business

- Sir Mark Moody-Stuart noted a vote of thanks to the MSL and the ExCo