

**MINUTES OF THE 66th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ANGLO-AUSTRIAN  
SOCIETY (AAS) HELD VIA ZOOM AT 4pm ON 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025**

The following Trustees of the Society took part in the Meeting:

Dame Janet Ritterman (Chairman); Jane Avery (Trustee, Enquiries); Headley Beeson (Trustee, Treasurer); Rob Hopkins (Trustee, Editor); Brigitte Kreuger (Trustee, IT Services); Patricia Langley (Trustee, Legal Affairs); Judy Raumann (Trustee, Membership); Felicitas Starr-Egger (Trustee, Grants); Alex Withnall (Trustee, Social Media); Professor Michael Worton (Trustee, Board Secretary).

In attendance: Alan Radford (Independent Examiner)

Also attending were: Sue Bourne, Diana Deavin, Mary Helen Dewar, Howard Dobbs, Bruce Granger, Patrick Kyd-Rebenburg, Daria Myerscough, Tony Mills, Lisbeth Owens, Philip Owens, Helen Ramsden, Susan Slowman, Margaret Stone, Sir Mathew Thorne, Ingrid Todd, Felix Wagner, Ulrike Wright

**1 Minutes**

The minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting were approved with one small amendment, on the proposal of Tony Mills, seconded by Margaret Stone.

**2 Report of the Board of Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022**

The Chairman prefaced consideration of the Annual Report by highlighting the following for 2024:

- the Society marked its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, most notably with a concert and reception at the Austrian Embassy, and also with other events throughout the year;
- 2 new Trustees were appointed: Jane Avery (Enquiries) and Judy Raumann (Membership);
- the Society increased the funds allocated to the Otto Harpner small grants programme;
- the Society's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary was also celebrated by a major redesign of the website.
- all Newsletters from 2019 onwards are now accessible on the website.

She reminded the meeting that, given that the AAS became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2022, the Trustees alone are responsible both for the financial management of the accounts and for approving them annually (or otherwise). The Trustees had approved the 2024 Financial Statements at its Board meeting on 7 May 2025.

However, the Chairman and Trustees consider it important to share the accounts with the subscribing members for information and discussion. She asked Alan Radford, the AAS's Independent Examiner, (AR) to present the accounts.

AR pointed to the small net deficit on income for the year of £1,819, compared with a net surplus of £1,506 last year. On the other hand, the Society's total funds had risen to £632,275 (an increase of 6.7%), due to an increase of £47,869 in the Society's investments. The Society is thus in a very healthy financial state. AR also confirmed that, having completed his examination of the accounts, he could confirm that they conform to the

requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and that he had come across no other matters to which attention should be drawn.

He did, however, comment on the Society's financial position in relation to the increased grant spending in 2024, pointing out that The Charity Commission stresses that charities should not hoard money but should spend it, quickly and efficiently, while remaining financially sustainable. He confirmed that the Society's Trustees had been giving active consideration to this requirement in the past year, and that by increasing expenditure on grants, the Trustees showed that they were aware of this expectation and were acting accordingly, while also carefully monitoring the level of reserves that the Society maintains.

The meeting expressed its gratitude to AR for the clarity of his report and the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Trustees for all the invaluable work that he does throughout the year.

### **3 Board of Trustees**

The meeting noted the membership of the Board of Trustees as at 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025:

Dame Janet Ritterman, DBE	Chairman (2024-2026)
Jane Avery	Trustee, Enquiries (2024-2027)
Robert Hopkins	Treasurer (2024-2027)
Patricia Langley	Trustee: Legal Affairs (2022-2026)
Judy Raumann	Trustee: Membership (2024-2027)
Felicitas Starr-Egger	Trustee: Grants (2025-2028)
Alexandra Withnall	Trustee: Social Media (2025-2028)
Professor Michael Worton. CBE	Board Secretary (2024-2027)

The meeting noted the retirement of two long-serving Trustees - Headley Beeson as the Society's Treasurer and Brigitte Kreuger, who had initiated and overseen various aspects of the Society's IT activities and had played a key part in the development of the Chiltern Stammtisch. The Chairman paid tribute to each for their contributions and on behalf of the Society and its members welcomed the fact that they wished to stay close to the work of the AAS.

The meeting also noted the appointment during the 2024 Financial Year of Jane Avery as Trustee, Enquiries and Judy Raumann as Trustee, Membership and the renewal for a further three-year term of office (2025-2028) of Felicitas Starr-Egger as Trustee, Grants.

### **4 Any other business**

There was no other business, and the Chairman closed the formal part of the agenda by thanking all of the organisers of the regional Stammtisch groups and also her fellow Trustees for all that they were doing for the Society.

### **5 Presentations by Grant-holders**

The Chairman welcomed two of the Society's recent grant-holders – Daria Myerscough and Felix Wagner. Daria received an Otto Harpner grant during 2024 to support a visit to Vienna to commence the fieldwork for her doctorate, which is focussing on legacy attitudes to the remaining Second World War anti-aircraft flak towers in Vienna, Berlin and Hamburg. Her interesting illustrated presentation identified alternative approaches being taken to the incorporation of these landmarks into the urban fabric of the modern city and the challenges which this presents.

Felix Wagner, who has held the Society's Angela Krosik Doctoral Award for the past four years, described his experience in Oxford, where he has been pursuing his doctoral studies at the University's EPSRC Centre for Health Data Science. Felix described some of the highlights of his academic experience, mentioned his future ambitions, and referred to the opportunities which these years, and the support provided by the Society's Angela Krosik Doctoral Award, had given him for personal development as well.

To conclude the meeting, the Chairman shared a short video recording by the Rupnik Piano Trio. This trio, studying at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg, is the Austrian chamber music group which has been selected to take in the Society's 2025 Chamber Music Exchange in November. Their expressive performance of Elgar's *Salut d'Amour* – a composition by a British composer, performed by an Austrian-based chamber music ensemble – brought the afternoon to a suitably Anglo-Austrian close.

The AGM concluded at 5.19pm.