**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF**

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES**

**Held at The University of Manchester**

**9 September 2022, 3.30pm**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair: Dr Christopher Hood (President)

Dr Jennifer Coates (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Ian Rapley (Honorary Treasurer)

Dr Hannah Osborne (Chief Editor of *Japan Forum*)

Dr Mara Patessio (Executive Secretary)

Dr Victoria Young

Dr Robert Aspinall (Chair of The Japan Chapter)

Professor Peter Kornicki (President Elect)

**21 BAJS members in attendance including Council Members.**

1. **MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM:**

Minutes from the previous AGM held via Zoom were accepted as a true record.

1. **MATTERS ARISING:**

None not discussed below

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

3.1 We start with a moment of silence for the people we have lost in the past years.

3.2 The BAJS Council would like to thank The University of Manchester, and in particular Dr. Peter Cave, for the excellent conference they have organised for us.

3.3 This is my last AGM. If you are interested, I discuss my term as President in my blog.

3.4 We have started discussing a new scheme for early career researchers and those just finishing their PhD. The final details, including its name, are still to be confirmed, but it will be named after Glenn Hook. We have decided to name it after Glenn because, when President of BAJS, he negotiated a contract with Taylor and Francis for the publication of *Japan Forum* that provided BAJS with royalties that we now use to fund most of the work we do.

1. **OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

4.1 Peter Kornicki was confirmed is the new President following the election earlier in the year.

4.2 By show of hands it was agreed that Chris Hayes would remain on Council as the ERC Coordinator.

4.3 Robert Aspinall’s time as the Director of the BAJS Japan Chapter has come to an end. Sam Bamkin has agreed to take over the role: there were no other candidates and this was agreed by a show of hands.

**5. HONORARY SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

The current Membership’s composition is as follows

Full Tier 1, 42

Full Tier 2, 26

Full Tier 3, 46

Honorary, 35

None 8

Student/unwaged 122

Total: 279

**6. HONORARY TREASURER’S REPORT**

6.1 I have signed the accounts for 2021. There was a net inflow asset of £13,000. That figure has to be understood in terms of the years 2020 and 2021 because in 2020 we paid three lots of John Crump Studentships whereas in 2021 we paid only one (one was paid in December 2020 instead of January 2021). In 2019, we made £5000 in student travel grants, so given we have been unable to make any of these over the 2 years of pandemic, the net inflow of £13,000 makes rough sense.

6.2 The new T&F contract is now in place, so this year we have the last payment of the old contract and the first of the new. The contract shifts more of our royalties to the end of the period, so this year we should record a roughly £25,000 dip in income. It’s not a concern, as it’s purely a timing issue, but it’s worth noting that the next set of accounts will record a net cash outflow. This will be offset by a greater amount owed to us in outstanding royalties. Looking at the current state of our finances, I think we’re roughly £20,000 lower than we were this time last year so vs. the £25,000 dip in income, it looks like we have spent about £5000 less than last year.

1. **JAPAN FORUM**

7.1 Laurence Green’s time as Managing Editor has come to an end. Alana Stone, who is doing a PhD in Literature and is based at UEA, has taken over.

7.2 The winner of the 2021 Ian Nish Prize is Warren Stanislaw for the article “From Cool Japan to Cold Japan: Grime Cyborgs in Black Britain”. The editorial team was deeply impressed with the clarity of argument, depth of research and innovation in the article.

7.3 Laurence Goodchild, Japan Forum’s Primary editorial contact at T&F, also said a few words. The journal is in very good health. One of the main indicators is the number of downloads of the journal contents to expand the readership. In 2021 this number increased from 65,000 to 79,000, and this comes on the back of several prior years of similar rises in download numbers. Furthermore, according to some of the metrics used in the field, *Japan Forum* is ahead of *Japanese Studies*, *Monumenta Nipponica*, and *The Journal of Japanese Studies* in terms of citations. Finally, we hope to see an increase in submissions in the coming year.

**8. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

8.1 The 2022 JF/BAJS Postgraduate Workshop, organised with our partners the Japan Foundation and The University of East Anglia, was a success. We want to thank Professor Simon Kaner, Oliver Moxham, and Olivia Butler for hosting it and helping make it a success.

8.2 The 2023 JF/BAJS Postgraduate Workshop will be organised in London; more information about it will be sent out in October.

8.3 The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation has also asked BAJS to help them organise a one-day conference for their alumni in November 2023. More information about this will also be sent out shortly.

8.4 We have received a good number of applications for John Crump studentships during the past year and almost all the funding requested was granted.

8.5 Finally, it is a great pleasure to be able to fund students again to present at national and international conferences. We are not at pre-Covid levels yet but hopefully we will be soon.

**9. JAPAN CHAPTER – DR ROBERT ASPINALL’S REPORT**

9.1 Philip Seaton was the first Director of the Japan Chapter. He organised events for BAJS members in Japan, especially funding students to attend those events. My last event as Director of the JC will be in December, at Kyoto University, with the Anthropology of Japan in Japan.

* 1. The new director is Sam Bamkin. I will help him during the first months of the transition.

**10. BAJS PODCAST**

We launched the BAJS Podcasts a year ago with Oliver Moxham. Those ended in March 2022, and now Anna Vittinghoff and Laurence Constance, the new presenters, will tell us something about what they wish to achieve with the new Podcasts. ‘We want to slightly change things. Rather than people discussing mostly their work, we would like to focus our attention on Ph.D. students, PGRs and ECRs. They can discuss their research and also their human experience. How do you get through a Ph.D. if you have to pay bills. Challenges that might be encountered. Diverse range of voices and experiences. If you have any ideas of topics that you want to discuss with us please approach us. It’s a very safe space.’

**11. IVAN MORRIS PRIZE**

The Joint First Prize goes to (Note: these were not announced at the AGM itself as the winners had not yet been informed, but it was agreed that the details would be included in the minutes):

Tsun Kiu Leung (Manchester) with ‘The non-violent struggle for Taiwanese autonomy, 1914-1937’. The judge writes that the piece is an ‘original and interesting insights into the nature of Taiwan’s colonial experience compared to that of Korea through the lens of non-violent protest. Well researched and argued’.

Mina Ghosh, (Oxford) with ‘My Neighbour the Animalien: Constructing Japanese National Cultural Identity from Invasive Alien Animal Species Discourse in the 21st Century’. The judge writes that this is a ‘very sophisticated and well researched and argued piece. Sharp analysis of TV and newspaper presentation of alien invasive species as a tool to gain insight into the Japanese sense of self-identity’.

**12. JFEC**

A document will be circulated to the entire membership to provide more details about the Funding Guidelines for the JFEC grants. We would like to thank Helen Parker for coming to the AGM and talking to our members about this.

**13. CONFERENCES:**

August 2023 - EAJS, Ghent

June 2024 - JEASC at UCLan

September 2025 – BAJS Conference