ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

REPORT OF THE CHAIR
AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR 2003 - 2004
REPORT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2003-2004

1. INTRODUCTION

The Branch has continued to play a full and active part in the affairs of the Association. The Executive Committee has continued to improve communication and services to Members to try to encourage more involvement and participation. In the past year the Committee has taken the following action:

a. Publication of a booklet which Members can distribute when visiting other CPA countries;

b. Arranged an informal social evening in December 2003;

c. Held two luncheon presentations for delegates to report back to other Members about Conferences, seminars etc which they have recently attended, and a luncheon to enable Members to meet the new Regional Secretary, Andrew Tuggey;

d. The Committee has made every effort to comply with Rule 10(a) of the Branch Rules which states that “the Executive Committee shall be required to maintain a programme with the object of affording each ordinary member of the branch the opportunity to participate in at least one conference, seminar, study tour or other parliamentary visit during the life of that House of Keys”. In the period since the 2001 General Election to the end of March 2004, a total of 27 delegate places at CPA Conferences, Seminars and Parliamentary visits have been filled by 19 Members, which includes 6 members who have attended 2 or 3 events. However, during the same period 13 Members have not applied to attend any of the events offered to Members;
e. The Committee has decided that, for the convenience of Members, from the financial year 2004-2005, the finances of the Association will be administered by the Clerk of Tynwald’s office, and subscriptions will in future be dealt with by Dominie Smith, in the Administration Office;

f. A sound archive is being built up and various items on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which are to be broadcast in the future will be able to draw on material from this source.

2. CONFERENCES

2.1 34th Regional Conference : UK : June 2003
A Report on this Conference will be published separately.

2.2 Wilton Park Conference : June 2003
A Report on this Conference will be published separately.

2.3 23rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries : Bangladesh : October 2003
A Report on this Conference will be published separately.

2.4 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference : Bangladesh : October 2003
A Report on this Conference will be published separately.

3. SEMINARS

The Branch applied for places on the following Seminars but was not successful -

15th Parliamentary Seminar: 10-15 May 2003 – Cook Islands

3rd Canadian Parliamentary Seminar: Ottawa: 23–29 November 2003

However, the Branch has been allocated a place on the
16th Parliamentary Seminar to be held in Malaysia in May 2004.

4. VISITS

4.1 PARLIAMENTARY VISITS

No parliamentary visits took place during the last year, but details about forthcoming visits are detailed in section 7 below.

4.2 VISITORS TO THE BRANCH

4.2.1 The Tynwald Ceremony

The following Commonwealth parliamentarians were official guests to the Tynwald Ceremony —

(1) The Rt Hon Jack McConnell MSP  
*First Minister of Scotland*

(2) Dr Alexandra Stein  
*Assistant Private Secretary to the First Minister*

(3) Sir Michael Davies KCB  
*The Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords*

(4) Mr Nick Hawkins MP

(5) Mr Andrew Rosindell MP

4.2.2 Other Visitors

During the past year the Branch has been pleased to welcome and entertain the following visitors -

(1) Andrew Tuggey, Regional Secretary

Andrew Tuggey took over from Andrew Pearson as Regional Secretary and Secretary of the UK Branch in January 2004. Mr Tuggey visited the Isle of Man in February 2004.

(2) Brian Jenkins MP

Brian Jenkins, Labour MP for Tamworth, was guest speaker at the Commonwealth Day Dinner and spent two days on the Island. His programme included visits to the Energy from Waste plant, the IRIS project, the new hospital and the International Business School. Mr Jenkins spent two years on the Island in the early 1980s and
taught at the College of Further Education. He was impressed at the progress made in the Island over the last twenty years.

5. YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE LEGISLATURE

5.1 School Visits

Because sittings are currently being held in temporary chambers, it is not possible to accommodate large parties of school children. However, it is intended to encourage more frequent school visits, including secondary schools, when the refurbishment programme is completed in 2005, when improved visit facilities will be available.

5.2 Junior Tynwald Court, 21st July 2003

With the active co-operation of the Department of Education, the Branch arranged a sitting of a Junior Tynwald Court comprised of Members from the Island’s secondary schools. The meeting began in the Tynwald Chambers at 9.30 am on Monday, 21st July 2003. Students from the Island’s five secondary schools participated, each school team consisting of five students from Year 12 (sixth form). Additional students from each school were invited to attend in the Public Gallery as spectators.

It was decided that the programme format be changed this year, commencing in the morning and concluding with lunch. The programme was therefore as follows:

9.30 to 10.15 Presentation
10.15 to 10.30 Coffee
10.30 to 11.30 Questions
11.30 to 12 noon Motions
12 noon to 1.00 pm Buffet lunch and informal discussion

The revised programme worked well and gave the students an opportunity to discuss the event over lunch. Mr Watterson assisted some students to record interviews with the participants, and selections from these interviews and from the proceedings in the Tynwald Chamber were broadcast on Manx Radio.

The Appendix to this report contains a list of participants and a copy
6. COMMONWEALTH DAY

Commonwealth Day 2003 was marked by the customary celebratory dinner which was held at the Castle Mona Hotel, Douglas, at which Mr Brian Jenkins, Labour MP for Tamworth, was the Guest Speaker. Musical entertainment was provided by Marlene Hendy and Dylis Sowery.

7. THE FUTURE

7.1 2004-2005

The coming year promises to be a very busy one and includes -

(1) the delegates who attended the 36th Conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region held in the Falkland Islands from 14th to 21st February 2004 have just returned. A presentation to members is to be arranged shortly and their written report will be included in the 2004-2005 Annual Report

(2) UK Parliamentary Visit from 5th to 21st May, with the Isle of Man Branch hosting the delegates from 13th to 15th May.

(3) 16th Parliamentary Seminar to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 16th to 23rd May 2004

(4) a Junior Tynwald to be held in July 2004 (date to be confirmed).

(5) 24th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries and the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be held in Canada from 30th August to 9th September 2004.

(6) Study Tours

Westminster

The Branch regularly organises study tours to Westminster for newly-elected Members. However, several Members have expressed an interest in further study tours to Westminster designed for longer-serving Members, which would include
more in-depth consideration of matters such as parliamentary procedures, committees, scrutiny etc. The UK Branch has agreed in principle that such visits could be organised, so the Executive Committee intends to progress this matter shortly.

**Other legislatures**

The Executive Committee hopes to organise additional study tours to other adjacent legislatures and further details will be sent to Members shortly.

### 7.2 2006

The Isle of Man will, for the first time, host the mid-year meeting of the International Executive committee. The meeting is provisionally scheduled for the beginning of May 2006 and further details will be circulated to members in due course.

Mrs H Hannan MHK  
Chair of the Executive Committee  
March 2004
1. Questions

2. National Insurance

A Member of Ballakermeen High School (Miss Maria Price) to move -

That this Junior Tynwald believes that persons whose lifestyle endangers their health, such as smokers, drug users, obese persons, heavy drinkers etc, should pay higher National Insurance contributions to cover the costs of their health care.

3. Road Safety

A Member of Castle Rushen High School (Mr Andrew Cowley) to move -

That this Junior Tynwald should meet its responsibilities for road safety on the Isle of Man by -

(a) imposing an all-Island maximum speed limit of 60 mph on those roads where no speed restrictions currently exist; and

(b) introducing speed cameras to enforce speed limits on roads throughout the Island.
FOR ORAL ANSWER

(Questions not reached before 11.30 am will receive a written answer)

1. The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Miss Eleanor Quayle) to ask the Chief Minister -

   What would you consider to be the ideal population for the Isle of Man and when is this population likely to be achieved? (CR)

2. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mr John Kissack) to ask the Chief Minister -

   What steps is your Government taking to deal with the under representation of women in Manx politics? (BHS)

3. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Miss Beth McKenzie) to ask the Chief Minister -

   Should the Legislative Council be reformed? (RGS)
4. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Miss Amy Jolly) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

What are your Departments future plans for aiding first-time buyers to purchase residential property? (StN)

5. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Jonathan Dewar) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

How can your Department justify the recent dramatic increase in waste disposal fees for residents on the Island? (QEII)

6. The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Mark Whitfield) to ask the Minister for Transport -

Do you consider that the present concentration of office accommodation in Douglas is a major contributory factor to the traffic congestion and pollution from motor vehicles in the Douglas area? (CR)

7. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Miss Laura Bowman) to ask the Minister for Transport -

What steps has your Department taken to ensure that travel operators take full account of the needs of the Manx people in running services to and from the Island? (BHS)

8. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr John Dean) to ask the Chief Minister -

What is being done to counteract the possible rise of the British National Party? (RGS)

9. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Miss Aimee Kermeen) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Would you agree that the smaller the quantity of waste incinerated at the new “Energy from Waste” plant, the less the impact on the environment? (StN)

10. The Hon Member for Michael (Miss Sarah Edwards) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

Do you believe that the new Emergency Doctor Service is the right way forward for provision of emergency health care for residents on all parts of the Island? (QEII)
11. The Hon Member for Rushen (Miss Clare Weaver) to ask the Minister for Education -

Would you agree that schools pupils are over examined with external exams at age 7, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 18 years. Are there any plans for the Island to discontinue SATs? (CR)

12. The Hon Member of the Legislative Council (Miss Kathrine Noble) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Would you agree that in the interests of the environment and therefore the future of us all, new houses on the Island should be built to the highest standards of energy efficiency and be powered by renewable energy? (BHS)

13. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Miss Danielle Hill) to ask the Minister for Transport -

Would you please tell us what the future of the Ramsey Pier will be? (RGS)

14. The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Daniel Johnson) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs (Mr Gill) -

What is your Department doing to reduce crime and vandalism on the Island? (StN)

15. The Hon Member for Middle (Miss Claire Browne) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

What provisions will be made for access to the New Nobles Hospital during periods when the TT track is closed? (QEII)
PRESIDENT OF TYNWALD
THE HON N Q CRINGLE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Andrew COWLEY
John DEAN
Jonathan DEWAR
Lauren GALLAGHER
Kathrine NOBLE
Charlotte PATTISON

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Mrs M CULLEN

HOUSE OF KEYS
ACTING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS
Mr Q B GILL MHK

RAMSEY
Danielle HILL
Beth McKENZIE

AYRE
Andrew SHAW

MICHAEL
Sarah EDWARDS

PEEL
Sarah VAUKINS

GARFF
Grace DAVIES

GLENFABA
Susannah CALLOW

MIDDLE
Claire BROWN

ONCHAN
Claire FRANKLIN
Daniel JOHNSON
Liam WARDLE

DOUGLAS NORTH
Simon HOLTHAM
Amy JOLLY

DOUGLAS SOUTH
Maria PRICE
Michael REYNOLDS

DOUGLAS EAST
Aimee KERMEEN
John KISSACK

DOUGLAS WEST
Laura BOWMAN
Gavin CARTER

CASTLETOWN
Mairie LOCKWOOD

MALEW AND SANTON
Eleanor QUAYLE

RUSHEN
Christopher WALSH
Clare WEAVER
Mark WHITFIELD
THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2004

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Notes: (1) As at the 29th February 2004, subscriptions in arrears amounted to £26.50 and subscriptions paid in advance amounted to £39.50. Associate subscriptions written out of the accounts amounted to £4.50.

(2) Bank interest and Deposit Account balanced to 31/12/03 (no further deposits since)

I have audited the above receipts and payments account in accordance with approved auditing standards and in my opinion it is an accurate and true statement of the affairs of the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at 29th February 2004.

Treasury
1st March 2004

Honorary Auditor
Mr K C McGreal, CPFA; MAPSA

Honorary Treasurer
Mr P M Shimmin CPFA