



ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR 2005 - 2006



ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

REPORT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2005-2006

1. INTRODUCTION

The Branch has continued to play a full and active part in the affairs of the Association, and in the past year the Committee has taken the following action:

- a. Three luncheon presentations for delegates to report back to other Members about Conferences, seminars etc which they have recently attended.
- b. 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 2006, a total of 37 delegate places at CPA Conferences, Seminars and Parliamentary visits have been filled by 19 Members, which includes 6 members who have attended 3 or 4 events. However, during the same period 11 Members have not applied to attend any of the events offered to Members.

2. CONFERENCES

2.1 36th Regional Conference : Jersey : 12-16 June 2005

Mrs H Hannan MHK, Mr D Cannan MHK, Mrs A Craine MHK and Mr M Quayle MHK attended this Conference and a presentation to Members was held on 13th July 2005. A written report is available from the Assistant Secretary on request.

2.2 25th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries : Fiji : 2-4 September 2005

Mr Q B Gill MHK and Mr E J Lowey MLC (who was the reserve candidate, as Mr Gawne had withdrawn) attended this Conference and a presentation to Members was held on 22nd November 2005.

Members will be aware that in response to the paper submitted by this Branch in 2005, a Report on the future structure of this Conference was sent from the CPA Secretariat to all Branches for comment, and the Isle of Man response (which had previously been circulated to all Members of Tynwald for comment) has now been submitted to the CPA Secretariat. That response is set out in Appendix 1.

2.3 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference : Fiji : 4-10 September 2005

Mr Q B Gill MHK and Mr E J Lowey MLC (who was the reserve candidate, as Mr Gawne had withdrawn) attended this Conference and a presentation to Members was held on 22nd November 2005.

3. SEMINARS

17th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar: South Africa: 22-28 May 2005

18th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar: Turks & Caicos Islands: 28 May to 3 June 2006

Canadian Parliamentary Seminar: 20-26 November 2005

Applications were made in respect of the above seminars but were unsuccessful.

**55th Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure
Westminster: 6-17 March 2006**

The Branch received an invitation to send a delegate to this Seminar, which will be attended by Mr E G Lowey MLC.

4. VISITS

4.1 PARLIAMENTARY VISITS

4.1.1 Parliamentary Visit: Dublin 3- 7 May 2005

The following delegation led by Mr President visited Dublin -

Mrs C M Christian MLC

Mrs P M Crowe MLC

Mr P A Gawne MHK

Mr Q B Gill MHK

Mr G M Quayle MHK

Mr W E Teare MHK

A presentation to Members was held on 13th July 2005 and the programme for the visit is set out in Appendix 2. A written report is available from the Assistant Secretary.

4.2 VISITORS TO THE BRANCH

4.2.1 The Tynwald Ceremony

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

(a) IRELAND

Deputy P Cary TD, *Co-Chairperson of British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body*

Dr R O'Hanlon TD, *Chairman of Dáil Éireann*

(b) GUERNSEY

Mr L C Morgan, *Chief Minister*

(c) SCOTLAND

Mr M Tosh MSP

(d) UNITED KINGDOM

Mr A Rosindell MP

5. YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE LEGISLATURE

5.1 School Visits

Because sittings were being held in temporary chambers, it was not possible to accommodate large parties of school children. However, some Members have arranged school visits to the precincts and it is intended to encourage more frequent school visits, including secondary schools, when the refurbishment programme is completed later this year, when it is intended that improved visiting facilities and the assistance of the Tynwald Education and Information Officer will be available. The CPA will continue to pay the travel expenses for school visits.

5.2 Junior Tynwald, 25th July 2005

With the active co-operation of the Department of Education, the Branch arranged a sitting of a Junior Tynwald Court comprised of students from the Island's secondary schools. The meeting began in the Tynwald Chambers at 9.30 am on Monday, 25th July 2005. Students from five of the Island's secondary schools participated. Each school team consisted of students from Year 12 (sixth form). Additional students from each school were invited to attend in the Public Gallery as spectators.

Mr Watterson again 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. In addition Isle of Man Newspapers assisted some of the students to prepare a report on the event which was published in the local press.

Appendix 3 to this report contains a list of participants and a copy of the Order Paper and Question Paper.

5.3 Youth Parliament, Brisbane, April 2005

The Isle of Man was awarded two places (the maximum allowed per branch) at this event, which was attended by Beth Espey and Melissa Warrilow. They were very active participants in all the sessions, and they both found the event very stimulating and informative. A presentation to members was held on 22nd June 2005.

5.4 Commonwealth Day

This year's Commonwealth Day celebrations are to be held in Sydney, as Her Majesty The Queen will be in Australia to open the Commonwealth Games later that week in Melbourne. Branches were therefore invited to nominate two young persons who would be in Australia at that time to attend the celebrations. It was hoped that two young persons who would be in Australia with the Island's Commonwealth Games Team could be nominated. In the event it was not possible for the team organisers to identify anyone who would be free to attend, because of the intensive training schedules leading up to the games.

6. COMMONWEALTH DAY DINNER

Commonwealth Day 2005 was marked by the customary celebratory dinner which was held at the The Max Restaurant, Onchan, Douglas, at which Elizabeth Smith OBE, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, was the Guest Speaker.

Musical entertainment was very ably provided by King Chiaullee.

The 2006 dinner is to be held at the Sefton Hotel, on Monday 13th March, when the guest speaker will be Mr Andrew Rosindell MP.

7. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

The Branch became entitled under the rota system to appoint a Regional Representative for the period from 2005 to 2008 and Mrs Christian was appointed by the Executive Committee to this post.

However, although it has been the practice in the past for the Branch Executive Committee to make this appointment, the Committee recognised that this procedure is not covered in the Branch rules. An amendment to the rules has therefore been placed on the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting which would regularise the procedure and also give all Members the opportunity to ballot on the nominees in future.

8. THE FUTURE

8.1 Conferences

- (1) 37th Regional Conference to be held in Malta from 23 to 28 April 2006

The delegates will be Mrs Craine, Mrs Crowe, Mrs Hannan and Mr Quayle.

- (2) 26th Small Countries Conference and the 52nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be held in Nigeria from 1st to 10th September 2006.

8.2 Junior Tynwald

Junior Tynwald is to be held on the morning of Wednesday 19th July 2006

8.3 Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting

Invitations have been issued to Members of the International Executive Committee to attend the mid-term meeting, which is to be held for the first time in the Isle of Man, from 3rd to 6th May 2006. The meetings are to take place in the Villa Marina, with delegates being accommodated at the Sefton Hotel. The programme will be sent to Branch Members shortly and, although the meetings are held in private, Members will be invited to attend the functions. It is hoped that as many Members as possible will take the opportunity to participate and meet the delegates who are attending this event.

Mrs H Hannan MHK
Chair of the Executive Committee
March 2006

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Isle of Man Branch

Submission in response to the Background Paper on the Small Countries Conference

1. Role and Purpose of the Conference etc

The Isle of Man Branch maintains its opinion that a more formal reporting-back procedure is desirable, as suggested in our original submission (copy attached). We also feel that, in order to maximise the benefits from the Conference, guidelines on procedure should be circulated to all member branches in advance of the conference. At the beginning of the conference, the format for the conference should be clarified and delegates again advised of the procedural guidelines. We believe that, rather than submitting resolutions, it would be preferable for the Report to identify issues which require a formal response.

We are in favour of open discussion, especially at those sessions in which organisations such as the World Bank, WTO, IMF participate. It is essential that delegates have the opportunity for meaningful discussion with those organisations, rather than merely listen to a presentation. We are also in favour of delegates being given the opportunity to ask questions of the Secretary-General.

We would welcome the attendance of at least one member of the Executive Committee at the final session of the Small Countries Conference, when the Report to Plenary Conference is being finalised. This would assist members of the Executive Committee in understanding the background to the Conference Report and to appreciate the issues in more depth than could be contained in the Report.

2. CPA Support etc

The Isle of Man Branch is generally satisfied with the information on the website, providing it is regularly updated. We are in favour of the suggested additional Small Countries Events, but have reservations about whether the demand on Members' time would allow for participation in an additional event.

3. Conference format etc

a. Time and Place of Meetings

We believe that the Small Countries Conference should be held immediately prior to the Plenary Conference, as at present. The benefits of the present arrangement are -

- i. it is more cost-effective and time-effective for delegates to travel to a combined conference rather than two separate events;
- ii. it is easier to organise a reporting-back procedure to the Plenary Conference if it follows immediately after; and

- iii. there are more opportunities to meet with members of the Executive Committee, if their meeting is taking place at about the same time.

We noted that in section 1 on page 5 of the Background Paper it states "Small Countries delegates wishing to press Executive Committee Members to implement project for their group have many other opportunities to do so during the plenary conference period."

However, our delegates on previous conferences have not always found this to be the case. The Executive Committee is often accommodated in a separate hotel from the rest of the delegates, and at dinners and lunches the Executive Committee members often sit together. We would welcome any measures which would increase opportunities for delegates to meet and have informal discussions with Executive Committee members, and believe that such measures would also assist Committee Members to appreciate the issues which are currently of concern to delegates. For example, at some functions each Executive Committee member could host a table.

b. Format of Sessions

Our delegates appreciated that there were some benefits to the introduction of workshop sessions, but the final reporting-back session often duplicates discussions which have already taken place. If a more formal report is to be produced, there may be problems in finalising a submission on an item which was considered only by a workshop group, as several of the delegates would not have had the opportunity to hear the discussions on which the submission is based. We consider therefore that the return to plenary sessions may be desirable in order to prepare a Report to which all the delegates have had the opportunity to contribute.

However, the format of future Conference sessions will also be affected by the decision on whether to increase the membership, as plenary sessions of a much larger group would reduce the opportunities for delegates to contribute.

We therefore would not favour a rigid format being introduced at this stage, but would welcome the opportunity to try different models in conjunction with the development of the reporting-back procedure until a satisfactory format is achieved.

c. Population Qualification

We have considered all the pros and cons of increasing the membership of the Small Countries Conference and suggest that increasing the population limit to one million would legitimise the membership of those countries already in the group, but whose populations now exceed the current limit. It would also increase the membership by a further 3 branches - Cyprus, Fiji Islands and Guyana. We believe that the Conference could absorb those three extra members without it affecting its character.

d. Name of Conference

We have considered the suggestions for a change of name included in the Background Paper together with some suggestions of our own, but have concluded that it would be preferable to retain the current name which, although not strictly accurate, is known and accepted throughout the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

DUBLIN VISIT TUESDAY 3RD MAY - SATURDAY 7TH MAY 2005

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 3rd May, 2005

- 17.25 **Depart Ronaldsway for Dublin.**
- 17.55 **Arrival at Dublin International Airport.**
Transfer to the Berkeley Court Hotel.
- Informal Dinner at the hotel.

Wednesday, 4th May, 2005

- 10.15 Depart hotel.
- 10.30 Tour of Leinster House.
- 11.30 Courtesy call on Senator Rory Kiely, Cathaoirleach.
- 12.00 Meeting with Ms Kathleen Lynch, T.D., Labour Party, Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House.
- 12.30 Courtesy call on Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, T.D., Ceann Comhairle.
- 13.00 Lunch hosted by Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources at Iveagh House.
- 14.30 Attend sitting of Dáil Éireann.
- 15.00 Attend sitting of Seanad Éireann.
- 15.30 Meeting with Ms Liz O'Donnell, T.D., Progressive Democrats, Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House.
- Free Time*
- 18.45 Depart hotel.
- 19.00 Dinner hosted by Dr. Rory O'Hanlon, T.D., Ceann Comhairle, Private Dining Room, Leinster House.

Thursday, 5th May, 2005

- 09.00 Depart hotel.
- 09.15 Meeting with Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D., Leader of Fine Gael, Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House.
- 9.45 Visit the "James Joyce and Ulysses Exhibition" at the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street
- 10.30 Meeting with Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D., Chairman, Committee of Public Accounts, Interview Room, Main Hall, Leinster House.
- 11.45 Attend meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts, Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000.
- 13.00 Lunch at the Guinness Storehouse followed by a tour of the Storehouse.
- 16.00 Meeting with Mr. Michael Ahern, T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for Trade and Commerce at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Kildare Street.
- Return to hotel.
- 19.15 Depart hotel.
- 19.30 Dinner hosted by Mr. Pat Carey, T.D., Co-Chair, British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body at The Mansion House Restaurant, Dawson Street.

Friday, 6th May, 2005

- 10.00 Depart Hotel.
- 10.30 Visit to Scoil An Duinnínigh, Feltirm Road, Swords, Co. Dublin.
- 12.00 Travel to Brú na Bóinne.
- 13.00 Lunch at Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, Donore, Co. Meath.
- 14.30 Visit to Newgrange Monument World Heritage site.
- 19.15 Depart hotel.
- 20.00 Traditional Irish evening at Johnnie Fox's Pub, Glencullen.

Saturday, 7th May, 2005

- 07.30 Depart for Dublin Airport

Appendix 3

JUNIOR TYNWALD 2005

PRESIDENT OF TYNWALD

THE HON N Q CRINGLE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Marc SALTWELL
Adam HUSSEY
Sarah PUGH
Clare CHRISTIAN
Fenella HOLMES
Charlotte LAST

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Mrs M CULLEN

HOUSE OF KEYS

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS

THE HON J A BROWN SHK

RAMSEY

David CLEGG
James ROBINSON

AYRE

Kellie KEENAN
Georgia HUNT

MICHAEL

Matthew BURTON

PEEL

Laura DAVENPORT

GARFF

Laura WADE

GLENFABA

Adam PATTERSON

MIDDLE

Nicholas HAYS

ONCHAN

Mark EMERY
Samuel HAMER
Cecilia MOFFATT

DOUGLAS NORTH

Peter CORLETT

DOUGLAS SOUTH

Hannah FRANCIS
Laurel KELLY

DOUGLAS EAST

Andrew JONES
Charlotte MOON

DOUGLAS WEST

Alaa ABDALLAH
Oscar HJALMAS

CASTLETOWN

Gail LOGAN

MALEW AND SANTON

Rachel GREEN

RUSHEN

Gabriella LEADBETTER
Rachel CRELLIN
Duncan MILLER

JUNIOR TYNWALD

Tinvaal Saa



ORDER PAPER

Claare Obbyr

DOUGLAS
MONDAY 25TH JULY 2005
at 10.30 am

1. Questions

2. Student Grants

A Member of St Ninians High School (Miss Charlotte Last) to move –

That this Junior Tynwald believes that, because of the limited funding available for student grants and because there are certain occupations on the Island for which there are insufficient qualified Manx workers, preference should be given to -

- (a) students undertaking courses leading to those qualifications; and
- (b) students intending to return to work on the Island immediately following completion of their course.

3. Vehicle Pollution

A Member of Castle Rushen High School (Miss Gail Logan) to move -

That this Junior Tynwald believes that, because of the effect on the environment from emissions from vehicles, there should be a substantial increase on the cost of car parking, vehicle licences and petrol to encourage greater use of public transport.

We have deliberately divided the first motion into two parts so that a further motion can be made to vote on the two propositions separately.

**JUNIOR TYNWALD
Tinvaal Saa**



**QUESTION PAPER
Pabyr Feyshtyn**

DOUGLAS
25th July 2005
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

1. The Hon Member for Garff (Miss Laura Wade) to ask the Minister for Education -

The Isle of Man has such a complex and fascinating culture that many people especially the Island's youth know very little about, do you think that this culture is important and if so do you not believe that this history and culture should be incorporated in our education system? (RGS)

2. The Hon Member for Glenfaba (Mr Adam Patterson) to ask the Minister for the Treasury -

How do you answer the recent press allegations that the cost of supporting the debts incurred by the MEA will cause a cut in government education spending? (QE2)

3. The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mr Andrew Jones) to ask the Chairman of the Office of Fair Trading -

On the Isle of Man, is the existence of monopoly companies, such as Manx Telecom, the Steam Packet Company and the MEA, coupled with an absence of formal regulation, good for consumers? (StN)

4. The Hon Member for Rushen (Miss Gabrielle Leadbeater) to ask the Minister for Education -

What is the Department's policy for awarding maintenance grants and tuition fees for higher Education from September 2006? (CRHS)

5. The Hon Member for Douglas South, (Miss Hannah Francis) to ask the Minister to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Why is the Manx Government not doing more to encourage recycling on the Island? (BHS)

6. The Hon Member for Ayre (Miss Kellie Keenan) to ask the Chief Minister)

The Isle of Man has a unique relationship with the EU what do you see as the Isle of Man's future course with regards to membership of the EU? (RGS)

7. The Hon Member for Peel (Miss Laura Davenport) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

What further measures does government plan to take in order to curb the illegal use of mobile phones whilst driving? (QE2)

8. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Peter Corlett) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs -

If ID cards were to be introduced into the UK, would the Isle of Man follow this lead and, if so, how would they benefit or disadvantage Manx residents? (StN)

9. The Hon Member for Castletown (Miss Gail Logan) to ask the Minister for Education -

What percentage of Manx graduates return to the Island to work within four years of graduation?(CRHS)

10. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Miss Alaa Abdalla) to ask the Chief Minister -

Does the Chief Minister agree that the Government should be doing much more to stem the flow of drugs into the Island? (BHS)

11. The Hon Member of the Legislative Council (Mr Marc Saltwell) to ask the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Security –

How is it that pensioners are expected to live on the same amount of pension income as last year when the cost of living has increased by means of rates and other expenditure? (RGS)

12. The Hon Member for Michael (Mr Matthew Burton) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security -

Do you have any plans to impose further bans on smoking in public places? (QE2)

- 13.** The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Mark Emery) to ask the Minister of the Department of Local Government and the Environment -

Are there any plans to expand First Time buyer subsidiaries for residents who have lived on the Isle of Man for more than five years? If so, what are these plans, and if not, why is the scheme not being expanded?(StN)

- 14.** The Hon Member for Rushen (Miss Rachel Crellin) to ask the Chairman of the Euthanasia Committee -

How long do you estimate it will be before the select committee's report on Euthanasia is finalised and ready to be acted upon by Tynwald? (CRHS)

- 15.** The Hon Member of the Legislative Council (Mr Adam Hussey) (to ask the Minister for Transport -

Does the Minister not agree that since the Isle of Man is the road racing capital of the world better care should be taken of its roads? (BHS)

THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 2006

RECEIPTS

	£	£
Balance b/f 1 st March 2005		5,750.03
Subscriptions Collected	342.50	
Bank Interest	28.41	<u>370.91</u>
		<u>6,120.94</u>

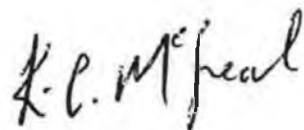
PAYMENTS

	£	£
Balances at 28 th February 2006:-		
Deposit Account	5,192.94	
Current Account	898.00	
Cash in Hand	30.00	
		<u>6,120.94</u>

Notes:

- 1) As at the 28th February 2006, subscriptions in arrears amounted to £29.00 and subscriptions paid in advance amounted to £2.50. Associate subscriptions written out of the accounts amounted to £0.50.

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 28th February 2006.



Treasury
6th March 2006

Honorary Auditor
Mr K C McGreal, CPFA; MAPSA



Honorary Treasurer
Mr P M Shimmin CPFA