Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Report of the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee for the year March 2007 to February 2008

Introduction

1. The aims of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association are to promote knowledge of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy. It does this among other things by arranging Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, and other conferences, seminars, meetings and study groups; and by promoting visits between Members of the Branches of the Association.

2. The Isle of Man Branch has had another successful year of activities in support of these aims, both overseas and here in the Isle of Man.

Off-Island activities

3. In March 2007 the Isle of Man was represented at the CPA Headquarters Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster by Andrew Jones (Onchan and University of Exeter) and Mairi Lockwood (Colby and Oxford Brookes University).

4. In April 2007 a group of newly-elected Members (Messrs Corkish, Cregeen, Crookall, Quirk and Watterson), accompanied by Mr Braidwood, went on an informative introductory visit to Westminster. The visit was organised by the UK Branch and included meetings with with Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff as well as with relevant UK Government Departments (the then Department of Constitutional Affairs and HM Treasury).
5. In May 2007 Mrs Crowe, Mr Quayle, Mr Gawne and Mr Crookall attended the annual British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Belfast. I also attended in my capacity as Regional Representative on the Association’s International Executive Committee.

6. I attended the mid-year meeting of the International Executive Committee in Cyprus.

7. In September 2007 Mrs Craine and Mr Corkish attended the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (the “plenary conference”) in New Delhi, India, together with the annual Small Countries Conference and Conference of Women Parliamentarians. Again I was there in my Regional Representative role. The theme of the New Delhi event was “Delivering Democracy and Sustainable Development” and Mrs Craine chaired a session in the Small Countries Conference on “Parliamentary Initiatives on Managing the Effects of Globalization on Small Countries”. Incidentally, despite some uncertainty before they travelled, the delegation agreed afterwards that the standard “souvenir pack” now made available by the Tynwald Library was more than adequate for the purposes of this conference.

8. In late October and early November 2007 Mr Watterson and I attended a very valuable seminar on Parliamentary practice and procedure hosted by the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The visit provided an opportunity to share thoughts with a cross section of Commonwealth countries from Canada to Cayman on topics such as standing orders to financial scrutiny of the executive.

9. In December 2007 the following six Members visited the Scottish Parliament: Messrs Speaker, Cregeen, Crookall, Gawne, Quirk and Turner. The Scottish Parliament laid on a highly informative programme of visits and meetings with Parliamentarians and also with officials of the Scottish Government. Matters of mutual interest discussed included general legislative matters such as committee procedure and scrutiny of secondary legislation, and also matters related to the current Select Committee investigation on the Steam Packet Company. The delegation were welcomed
to First Minister’s Question Time by the Presiding Officer, Alex Fergusson MSP and they heard the First Minister, Alex Salmond, commenting that “the Isle of Man Parliament has some very impressive financial powers that this Parliament might well envy.”.

10. At the time of writing plans are well underway for Isle of Man participation in the Westminster Commonwealth Day Observance in March 2008 and the next regional conference in Gibraltar in May 2008.

11. The Executive Committee is required under the Branch Rules to maintain a programme with the object of affording each ordinary Member of the Branch an opportunity to participate in at least one conference, seminar, study tour or other Parliamentary visit during the life of each House of Keys. As will be clear from the above there is no shortage of such opportunities. However, at the time of writing the number of individual Members who have taken them up is only 13. I would encourage other Members to look out for opportunities when they arise.

On-Island activities

12. The Branch Commonwealth Day Dinner was held on 10 March 2007 in the Mount Murray Hotel. The speaker was John Wilkinson, former Conservative Member of Parliament for Bradford West and Ruislip-Northwood, who now lives in the Isle of Man.

13. Official guests at the 2007 Tynwald ceremony included three distinguished Commonwealth Parliamentarians:

- Lord Paul of Marylebone, leading businessman and active member of the House of Lords;
- Alex Fergusson MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and a near neighbour, representing the constituency of Dumfries and Galloway; and
• David McLarty MLA, Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, who addressed the Tynwald Banquet on behalf of the guests.

14. Later in July 2007 the annual sitting of Junior Tynwald took place. The list of participants, Order Paper and Question Paper from this event are attached to this report. The participants were from Year 12 (“lower sixth”) in all five of the Department of Education’s secondary schools.

15. Visits to the Legislative Buildings for younger school pupils took place throughout the year. These were given fresh impetus by the Education and Information Officer, Paul Ormond-Smith, who had taken up post in October 2006.

16. In November 2007 the Branch Executive Committee was pleased to welcome the Chief Minister of Norfolk Island, Andre Nobbs, to one of its meetings as part of his short visit to the Island. Norfolk Island has historic links with the Isle of Man and Mr Nobbs was a most appreciative guest.

**Officers of the Branch**

17. In October 2007 Mrs Marilyn Cullen retired as Branch Assistant Secretary. Marilyn had been an invaluable asset to the Branch over many years. I am sure the AGM will wish to record its appreciation to her and its best wishes for the future.

Clare Christian MLC
February 2008
PRESIDENT OF TYNWALD
THE HON N Q CRINGLE MLC

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Mr Ted ARNOLD
Mr David CAIN
Mr Adam CORLETT
Miss Karen CURPHEY
Miss Kirsty EMERY
Mr David FORREST
Miss Anna QUAYLE
Miss Anna PUGH
Mr Leo WASLEY

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Mrs M CULLEN

HOUSE OF KEYS

ACTING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS
Mr Grant CAIRNEY

RAMSEY
Miss Pippa BELL
Miss Sian HOWES

AYRE
Mr Jonathan KNOWLES

MICHAEL
Miss Phillipa BRIDGE

PEEL
Mr Michael STRINGER

GARFF
Mr Graeme OSBORNE

GLENFABA
Mr Stephen BAXTER

MIDDLE
Miss Gabriella CORLETT

ONCHAN
Mr Callum WILSON

DOUGLAS NORTH
Mr James QUAYLE
Miss Bethan THOMAS

DOUGLAS SOUTH
Mr Jon CONROY
Miss Rachel FITZPATRICK

DOUGLAS EAST
Mr Andrew GREAVES
Mr Jonathan TALAVERA

DOUGLAS WEST
Mr Ben JONES
Miss Amelia O’SHEA

CASTLETOWN
Miss Sam CHAPPELL

MALEW AND SANTON
Miss Kayleigh COOLE

RUSHEN
Miss Alison CORKILL
Mr Richard CRELLIN
Miss Gemma SUTTON
(1) The Hon Member for Peel (Mr Michael Stringer) to ask the Chief Minister –

What steps are Tynwald taking to ensure that we meet the internationally proposed targets for percentage giving for overseas aid? (QEII)

(2) The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr Jon Conroy) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –

Would you agree that the actions taken by the Isle of Man Government to prevent drug use among the young have proved ineffective? (BHS)

(3) The Hon Member for Malew and Santon (Miss Kayleigh Coole) to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry –

Do you agree that the national asset of Knockaloe Farm is currently under-utilised? (CRHS)
The Hon Member for the Council Mr Leo Wasley to ask the Minister for Transport -
With increasing concerns about the environmental impact on flying, coupled with the uncompetitive prices for taking the boat, is it now time to nationalise the Steam Packet Company? (SNHS)

The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Graeme Osborne) to ask the Minister for Transport -
Can you explain the reasons for the manner of operation of the Department of Transport Roadworks division -
(1) why it takes so long to attempt to repair a section of road; and
(2) why the Department set up road works all too often, re-surfacing the entire road then digging up the drain afterwards, leaving opportunity for potholes to form, and then the road consequently being less smooth than before the work was undertaken, with patchwork-like surfaces? (RGS)

The Hon Member for Middle (Miss Gabriella Corlett) to ask the Chief Minister –
Has the Government a clear strategy to maintain the quality of life in the Island, with regard to development? (QEII)

The Hon Member for Douglas West (Miss Amelia O’Shea) to ask the Minister for Transport –
Would you agree that the one-way system in operation on the Mountain Road during the TT festival was a success in reducing accidents? (BHS)

The Hon Member for Rushen (Mr Richard Crellin) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs –
What is the current re-offending rate for people released from prison? (CRHS)

The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Callum Wilson) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry –
As host to many lucrative on-line gambling websites, is the Isle of Man in danger of being perceived as putting the pursuit of profits before moral integrity? (SNHS)
(10) The Hon Member for Ramsey (Miss Pippa Bell) to ask the Minister for Tourism & Leisure –

Following the event of the Centenary TT festival this year -

(1) how does the Government view the future of the TT; and

(2) does the Government aim to maintain the atmosphere of this year, or make alteration to the organisation of the festival in order to ‘calm it down’ after the centenary celebrations? (RGS)

(11) The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Stephen Baxter) to ask the Minister for Education –

As the University situation is of obvious concern to students studying for AS and A2 –

(1) can you outline policy in this area for the next four years; and

(2) is there a cap on fees that will prohibit students attending universities and courses where the fees are higher? (QEII)

(12) The Hon Member for Douglas South (Miss Rachel Fitzpatrick) to ask the Minister for Education –

Would you agree that the Isle of Man Government is not doing enough to prevent unwanted pregnancies among young girls? (BHS)

(13) The Hon Member for Castletown (Miss Sam Chappell) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –

Do you agree that the government has failed to provide adequate facilities for the homeless? (CRHS)

(14) The Hon Member of the Legislative Council (Mr David Cain) to ask the Minister for Tourism & Leisure –

Does the Isle of Man have a serious commitment to encouraging young people in the arts and entertainment, as the closure of further facilities for the young people (The Venue, The Machine) tends to suggest otherwise? (SNHS)
The Hon Member for Ayre (Mr Jonathan Knowles) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –

(1) How does the Government feel about the introduction of the full Island-wide public smoking ban, such as legislative bans imposed in Scotland, Ireland, and now England; and

(2) for what reason was the 2006-passed Island ban not legislated as a full ban, as our situation now appears anachronistic compared to our neighbours around the Irish Sea? (RGS)

The Hon Member of the Legislative Council Miss Anna Quayle to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security –

Why is the Isle of Man one of the last places in the British Isles to implement a non-smoking policy for enclosed public places? (CRHS)
1. Questions

2. Full-Time Education until Eighteen

   A Member of Queen Elizabeth II High School (Mr Adam Corlett) to move –

   That this Junior Tynwald is of the opinion that, in order to prepare for working life in a modern economy, all young people in the Isle of Man should be required by law to remain in full-time education or training until the age of eighteen.

3. Global Effects of Climate Change

   A Member of Castle Rushen High School (Mr Richard Crellin) to move -

   That this Junior Tynwald is of the opinion that in order to combat the devastating global effects of climate change, the Isle of Man Government should take steps to ensure that the balance of all its activities is carbon neutral by 2017.
## THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2008

<table>
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<th>RECEIPTS</th>
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**Total**

6,861.20

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6,861.20

**Notes:**

1) As at the 29th February 2008, subscriptions in arrears amounted to £12.50 and subscriptions paid in advance amounted to £73.00.

I have audited the above receipts and payments account in accordance with approved auditing standards and in my opinion, subject to the comment below, it is an accurate and true statement of the affairs of the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at 29th February 2008.

1. It is not possible for us to verify the full movement on the account (i.e. completeness of payments and receipts) during the year due to the original bank statements covering the period under consideration not being retained. However the movement on the account appears to be in line with previous years and the net position is not affected.

**Treasury**

3rd March 2008

Honorary Auditor

Mr C Randall, Bsc (Econ) FCCA

Honorary Treasurer

Mr P M Shimmin CPFA