



ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2009 - 2010



ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

Report of the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee for the year March 2009 to February 2010

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 Island.

Off-Island activities in 2009/10

3. The annual CPA Headquarters Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster to mark Commonwealth Day took place on the 9th March 2009. The Isle of Man was represented by Graeme Osborne (from Ramsey, studying politics at York) and Richard Crellin (from Port Erin, studying government at the London School of Economics). Following their attendance both delegates presented a short report, and answered questions, about their day during a meeting of the Branch. At the invitation of the President of Tynwald both students also acted as presiding officer at this year's Junior Tynwald sitting.
4. The 40th Conference of the British Islands & Mediterranean Region of the CPA was held in Guernsey in June 2009. Parliamentarians representing 16 Parliaments of the Commonwealth from the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region, Canada, India and Jamaica met to explore the characteristics of the global financial system, the reasons for its collapse and the impact of the crisis on the global economy. The Isle of Man representatives were Mr David Cretney, Mr David Quirk, Mr Juan Watterson, Mr George Waft and the Clerk of Tynwald, Mr Roger Phillips. The conference recognized the need for Commonwealth legislatures to determine principles and priorities to hold their respective executives to account on the challenges of determining new rules for financial frameworks.

5. At the end of September 2009 Mr Tim Crookall, Mr Bill Malarkey and Mr Roger Phillips, Clerk of Tynwald attended the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and Small Branches Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania. They attended plenary sessions specifically targeted at small nations including: Policy Responses to the Global Financial Crisis in Small Economies; Utilizing Committees in Small Parliaments; Machinery of Government in Small States: Issues and Challenges; and The Vulnerability of Small States: What Technical and Practical Advice Can the Commonwealth Offer? In addition the delegates were able to participate in a number of workshop sessions including: The Role of Parliament in Shaping Information Society; The Commonwealth and Youth – How to Engage Future Generations in Representative Democracy; and Role of Commonwealth Parliaments in Combating Terrorism and Climate Change: Are Policy Solutions Working?

On-Island activities in 2009/10

6. In March 2008 Kate Hoey MP joined us for our Commonwealth Day dinner. After dinner she spoke warmly about the Isle of Man, making particular mention of the success of the National Sports Centre.

7. In February 2009 the CPA Branch Executive Committee hosted a lunch for Mrs Claudette Anderson-Prior, Clerk of Councils and Public Relations Officer in the Legislature of the Falkland Islands during her week-long study visit to the Isle of Man. Mrs Anderson shared her experiences of her work in the Falkland Islands. We are looking forward to building on our connection with the Falkland Islands when we host a visit from members of their Public Accounts Committee in March 2010.

8. In April 2009 Senator Alan Ferguson, Deputy President of the Senate and Liberal Senator for South Australia, visited and gave a talk to the CPA Isle of Man Branch about his political experience at the highest levels of government in Australia.

9. In May 2009 another Australian guest Leonie Short, Senior Lecturer in Oral Health at Griffith University, Queensland and member of the Queensland Manx Society visited the Branch. Ms Short, an active member of the Labour Party and former Member of the Australian House of Representatives, gave a most interesting presentation including information relating to both her political experiences and her career in Oral Health.

10. On Tynwald Day 2009 we were pleased to welcome among the official guests Dr William Shija, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as well as the following distinguished Commonwealth parliamentarians:

- Mr David McClarty MLA, Deputy Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly and long-time friend of the Isle of Man;
- Mr Alasdair Morgan MSP, a Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament;
- Mr Andrew Rosindell MP who works in support of the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. He holds the position of Chairman of the United Kingdom – Isle of Man (British-Manx) All Party Parliamentary Group.
- The Archbishop of York, the Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Primate of England and Metropolitan, a member of the House of Lords and a Privy Councillor.

11. In July 2009, senior school students once again took part in the annual Junior Tynwald. Students from five secondary schools took the opportunity to take the place of MHKs and MLCs in Question Time putting their own questions to a number of our current Ministers. This was followed by debate on the impact of the financial crisis on the job market in the Isle of Man and the opportunities which exist to establish a unique and independent education system in the Isle of Man. Students prepared their own proposals for these motions and responded to the questions from their peers. The list of participants, Order Paper and Question Paper from this event are attached to this report. This year, for the first time, two Junior Tynwald alumni currently studying at UK universities played the part of the President of Tynwald. In another innovation, proceedings were recorded and short film encapsulating the events of the day was prepared for use in participating schools.

12. In October 2009 Mr Graham Cregeen attended a parliamentary seminar in Ottawa, Canada. Topics discussed included “Dealing with the competition: have the media taken over the representational job of parliamentarians?”; “Parliamentary committees: what works and what doesn’t”, and “Engaging citizens: resources and tools”.

Forward look

13. This year’s annual conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region is to be held in the Isle of Man from 10th to 14th May 2010. This conference was last held in the Isle of Man in 2000. We have been planning on the basis of around 60 visiting delegates.

14. As part of the preparations for the conference, the Branch Executive Committee has decided to produce a new DVD to give to the visiting delegates at this conference. The DVD will also be able to be used in future by Members of Tynwald attending conferences and other events off the Island, where we will be

able to give copies of it to parliamentarians and others. The Manx Heritage Foundation have kindly provided the services of Charles Guard free of charge as producer of the DVD. Some additional costs have been incurred during production and these are to be met from the Branch's own funds.

15. The British Islands and Mediterranean Region, at its Annual General Meeting in Guernsey in June 2009, considered a critique submitted by the Wales Branch of the finance and governance arrangements of the CPA as a whole, and a response paper from Mr Watterson. The Region decided to set up a Working Group to take forward the ideas in the paper and Mr Juan Watterson was appointed as a member of this Group. The Working Group has noted that parliamentary expenditure and governance of parliamentary institutions have come under intense scrutiny in recent months, resulting in a diminution of public confidence in both parliamentarians and the institutions in which they serve. In that context, the Working Group has taken the view that the establishment of a new Governance and Audit Committee is necessary in order to help the CPA to maintain exemplary governance and financial management arrangements. Their proposals are due to be submitted to the Association's International Executive Committee shortly.

16. The Secretary General has invited all Branches to undergo a "self-assessment" using a Commonwealth standard developed by Members and parliamentary officials which is specifically designed to help Parliaments function as effectively as possible. Your Branch Executive Committee has established a panel of members and lay people to undertake this assessment. The panel will begin its work shortly.

17. The year 2011 sees the centenary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and we look forward to playing our part in commemorating that anniversary. We have discussed with the IoM Post Office the possibility of a Commonwealth-wide stamp issue, and we have put them in touch with the CPA Headquarters Secretariat.

Mrs Clare Christian MLC
March 2010

JUNIOR TYNWALD 2009
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDENT OF TYNWALD

THE HON N Q CRINGLE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr George AYRES
Miss Susie BRUNSWICK
Miss Johanna DOWNING-GREEN
Miss Amy DUNCAN
Miss Melissa GERRARD
Miss Sarah HARDING
Miss Sophie LACE

DEPUTY CLERK OF TYNWALD

Mr J KING

HOUSE OF KEYS

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS

The Hon SC RODAN SHK

RAMSEY

Mr James MCGOUGH
Miss Maggie PENTCHEVA

AYRE

Mr Matthew CHEESEMAN

MICHAEL

Miss Sarah BOUGOURD

PEEL

Mr Charlie DOYLE

GARFF

Mr Charlie FREEMAN

GLENFABA

Miss Katie CALLIN

MIDDLE

Mr Simon LYNCH

ONCHAN

Miss Rebecca FERRAN
Miss Ashleigh MCMASTER
Mr Adam TERRIS

DOUGLAS NORTH

Miss Melissa BRYAN
Miss Zoe SCHOFIELD

DOUGLAS SOUTH

Miss Charlotte BRAIDE
Miss Stephanie LOWEY

DOUGLAS EAST

Mr Daniel HENDERSON
Mr Philip MOORE

DOUGLAS WEST

Miss Robyn SAYERS
Mr Simon QUAYLE

CASTLETOWN

Miss Alice KELLY

MALEW AND SANTON

Miss Yasmin METCALFE

RUSHEN

Miss Phillipa DAVIES
Mr Jonathan POOLEY
Mr Callum WRIGHT

CLERK OF TYNWALD

Mr R PHILLIPS

JUNIOR TYNWALD

Tinvaal Saa



ORDER PAPER

Claare Obbyr

DOUGLAS
MONDAY 20TH JULY 2009
at 10.30 am

1. Questions

(See separate Question Paper)

2. Financial crisis -

A representative of Castle Rushen High School to move -

That Junior Tynwald notes the impact of the financial crisis on the job market in the Isle of Man and calls on the Isle of Man Government to commit to greater intervention in the Isle of Man economy.

3. Education system -

A representative of Ballakermeen High School to move -

That Junior Tynwald calls on the Isle of Man Government to establish a unique and truly independent Manx education system.

JUNIOR TYNWALD

Tinvaal Saa



QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
20th July 2009
at 10.30 am

FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

- (1) The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mr Daniel Henderson) to ask the Chief Minister –

What measures are being taken by the Government to maintain racial harmony on the Isle of Man? (BHS)

- (2) The Hon Member for Peel (Mr Charlie Doyle) to ask the Chief Minister –

Given the recent publicity given to the Facebook group the “Isle of Man KKK”, whether he believes that racism is a problem on the Island, especially amongst the young people? (QEII)

- (3) The Hon Member for Garff (Mr Charlie Freeman) to ask the Chief Minister –

Whether the Government plans to make Government more transparent and accountable to the people through an unrestricted Freedom of Information Act? (RGS)

- (4) The Hon Member for Douglas East (Mr Philip Moore) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Leisure –

Noting that in recent years there has been much investment in building on the Isle of Man from the Government itself and from local and international business, as is evident in the numbers of new blocks of apartments and offices we see all around the Island, where the investment is in buildings and facilities for young people? (SNHS)

- (5) The Hon Member for Rushen (Miss Philipa Davies) to ask the Minister for the Treasury –

How MHKs can justify a £6,178 tax-free expenses allowance on top of their salary? (CRHS)

- (6) The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr Simon Quayle) to ask the Minister for Trade and Industry –

If the Government has considered introducing the minimum wage for all students in post-sixteen education? (BHS)

- (7) The Hon Member for Middle (Mr Simon Lynch) to ask the Minister for Home Affairs –

(a) Whether he is aware that, judging by the recent survey by the BBC's 'The One Show', there is a lack of responsibility concerning alcohol amongst some of the youth on the Island;

(b) whether he thinks that this problem is just as much the fault of the parents; and

(c) if so, what action the Government is taking to educate the parents of youngpeople to prevent this problem becoming more prevalent in the future? (QEII)

- (8) The Hon Member for Ramsey (Mr James McGough) to ask the Chief Minister –

Whether the Government believes that cultural diversity strengthens or weakens the Isle of Man? (RGS)

(9) The Hon Member for Douglas North (Miss Zoe Schofield) to ask the Minister for Education–

(a) Whether she would acknowledge that the newly published Children's Plan appears to cover many areas and concerns that have been subject to reports, initiatives and investment in the past, with very few noticeable resulting effects; and

(b) why the outcome of this new plan should be any different? (SNHS)

(10) The Hon Member for the Council (Miss Melissa Gerrard) to ask the Minister for Education–

What plans the Department of Education has to rebuild secondary schools on the island? (CRHS)

(11) The Hon Member for Glenfaba (Miss Katie Callin) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

Given that there has been roadside recycling in Douglas and Onchan for quite some time and that this has proven successful, why it has taken the Government so long to implement it on the rest of the Island, and when the rest of the Island can expect to be included in this scheme? (QEII)

(12) The Hon Member for the Council (Miss Johanna Downing-Green) to ask the Minister for Local Government and the Environment -

If he would agree that it would be beneficial to the Isle of Man if all new buildings were to be built from environmentally friendly materials? (BHS)

(13) The Hon Member for the Council (Miss Susie Brunswick) to ask the Chief Minister -

Why the Isle of Man does not apply for membership of the EU? (QEII)

(14) The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Adam Terris) to ask the Minister for Education -

(a) Whether she accepts that there appears to be very little provision for young people who are talented in playing and performing popular music to develop their skills further; and

(b) whether she has any suggestions as to how this situation could be rectified? (SNHS)

(15) The Hon Member for Castletown (Miss Alice Kelly) to ask the Minister for Health –

What the top three priorities are when considering the Island's youngsters? (CRHS)

(16) The Hon Member for the Council (Miss Amy Duncan) to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Whether he sees the current 'Countryside Care' scheme being accepted by the Manx farmers and growers? (QEII)

THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 2010

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT		
Receipts	£	£
Subscriptions Collected	341	
Dinner Deposits Collected	1,150	
Bank Interest	5	
Total Receipts		<u>1,496</u>
Payments		
Speaker's expenses	110	
Annual Dinner	945	
Total Payments		<u>1,055</u>
Excess of receipts over payments		<u>441</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNDS		
	£	£
Balance b/f 1 st March 2009		7,203
Excess of receipts over payments		441
Balance c/f 28 th February 2010		<u>7,644</u>
 Deposit Account	5,300	
Current Account	2,344	
Balance c/f 28 th February 2010		<u>7,644</u>

Notes:

- 1) As at the 28th February 2010, subscriptions in arrears amounted to £10.50 and subscriptions paid in advance amounted to £127.00.

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 28th February 2010.



Treasury
2nd March 2010

Honorary Auditor
Mr C Randall, Bsc (Econ) FCCA



Honorary Treasurer
Mr P M Shimmin CPFA

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Accounts Year Ended 28 February 2010

Withdrawals of £1,054.38 were made from the Current Account during the accounting period. Invoice copies were obtained and verified against expenditure.

No interest was credited to the Current Account during the accounting period

£340.50 in respect of current membership and £1,150 in respect of dinner deposits totalling £1,475 was credited to the Current Account during the accounting period

The monies banked were agreed to the member subscription ledger.

Receipt book entries were verified against those details shown in the member subscription ledger. Receipts were found to run in consecutive order with no missing numbers or entries.

As at 28th February 2010, the carry forward balance of the Current Account was £2,328.62

£5.34 in interest was credited to the Deposit Account during the accounting period

As at 28th February 2010, the carry forward balance of the Deposit Account was £5,300.44

Matters Arising

An original bank statement was provided for the Instant Access account and a copy provided for the Business Current account in lieu of the original bank statement. This was acceptable.

Conclusion

It is concluded from the audit work undertaken that the Receipts and Payments accounts are a true and fair account of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's affairs during the financial year ended 28th February 2010.

Recommendations

The association might consider transferring their deposit funds to an account with a higher interest return.

The association might consider delaying the Annual General Meeting to allow more time to prepare and audit the annual accounts should any queries arise.

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March 2010

Price: £2.00