



ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 2010 TO DECEMBER 2010



Isle of Man Branch

Report of the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee for the period March 2010 to December 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. With effect from 1st January 2011 the Isle of Man Branch's reporting year has changed to a calendar year basis. The Branch's year had previously run from March to February. This report and accounts therefore cover a slightly shorter period than usual, namely the 10 months from March 2010 to December 2010 inclusive.
3. During this period the Isle of Man Branch has had another successful year of activities in support of the CPA aims, both overseas and here in the Island. The highlight was of course our hosting of the annual conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region.

41st British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference

4. In May 2010 the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association hosted the 41st British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference, welcoming over 50 delegates from Alderney, Cyprus, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, St Helena, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Westminster.
5. The theme of the conference was Technology and Democracy and we were delighted to welcome a number of distinguished speakers. Dave Coplin, National Technology Officer from Microsoft UK, presented the first plenary, 'Possibilities'. He looked at how technology could become integral to democracy exploring changes already occurring, the principles of open government, the use of data and how to place citizens at the centre of governments' activities.
6. The two speakers at the second plenary were Christopher Graham, UK Information Commissioner and Iain McDonald the Isle of Man Data Protection Supervisor. They outlined the issues in respect of 'Rights'. The

main themes covered were freedom of information, data protection and identity management and privacy.

7. The final plenary was entitled 'Challenges' and Tony Collins a freelance journalist working with Computer Weekly magazine shared his thought on why IT projects go wrong. He cited a number of examples and then highlighted some of the reasons he felt contributed to the failures.
8. The full summary of proceedings for the conference has been published on the Internet and can be found at the following location:

http://extranet.tynwald.org.im/CPA/BIMR2010/Presentations/BIMR_May2010_SummaryofProceedings.pdf

9. In addition to the business sessions at the conference venue, the Villa Marina, delegates were also given a tour of the Legislative Buildings in Douglas including a demonstration of the Island's unique parliamentary Voice Recognition system. During their stay delegates also experienced some of our local culture attending an evening of Manx entertainment in the Villa Marina Arcade followed by hospitality provided by members of the Isle of Man Branch of the CPA. All delegates, spouses and members of the Isle of Man Branch of the CPA were invited to the Presiding Officers' dinner on the final evening of the conference. On the final day there was an optional tour of sites in the North and West of the Island before delegates returned home.

Other on-Island activities in 2010

10. In March 2010 the Commonwealth Day dinner was held at Milntown and the guest speaker was the Rt Hon Joyce Quin.
11. Also in March 2010, members of the Falkland Island Public Accounts Committee visited the Isle of Man. Mr Stuart Wallace and Mr Mike Forrest, community representatives and businessman along with the Honourable Sharon Halford, Member of the Legislative Assembly met with members of our Public Accounts Committee as well as Isle of Man Government representatives with whom they discussed the Auditor General Bill. A lunch was hosted by the Isle of Man Branch of the CPA during which the visitors updated members on Falkland issues.
12. On Tynwald Day, Monday 5th July 2010, official Tynwald guests from Commonwealth parliaments included:
 - from Australia, Ms Sonia Hornery, JP, MP;
 - from the Falkland Islands, Mr Keith Biles, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;
 - from Jersey, Mr Michael Birt, QC, Bailiff;
 - from Scotland, Mr Alex Fergusson MSP, Presiding Officer; and

- from the United Kingdom the Rt Hon. Lord Cope of Berkeley, the Rt Hon Baroness Joyce Quin and Baroness Harris of Richmond.

13. At the Tynwald banquet Baroness Quin and her sister presented a watercolour of Rushen Abbey dating from the 1830s, with a strong link to William Wordsworth, to the President of Tynwald Noel Cringle OBE MLC. Baroness Quin explained that their great great-grandfather Thomas Cookson, who moved to the Isle of Man in the 1820's, and his family were close friends of the poet. On a trip to the Isle of Man in 1833 Wordsworth dedicated a sonnet to Thomas Cookson which is signed and attached to the back of the painting, the artist of which is unknown.
14. On 19th July 2010 senior school students took part in the annual Junior Tynwald sitting. Around 40 students from five secondary schools, some acting as 'politicians' and others as representatives of the local media, were welcomed and shown around the Legislative Buildings by the President of Tynwald, Noel Cringle OBE MLC who outlined the tricameral composition of the Manx parliament.
15. The formal proceedings began with Question time which was a particularly lively session with a number of well thought out supplementary questions being put to real Members of Tynwald. Following questions two motions were put before the Court; the first moved by a representative from Ramsey Grammar School:

'That this Junior Tynwald is of the opinion that, in the interests of democracy and good government, the Legislative Council must be directly elected';

the second by a student from St Ninian's High School:

'That this Junior Tynwald believes that the Department of Education and Children should only pay for the university tuition fees of those students who will contribute to the Manx economy within five years of graduating.'

Both motions failed to carry.

16. During the course of the year, due to the sponsorship of the Isle of Man branch of the CPA, who fund travel costs, a number of local primary schools took the opportunity to visit us, some taking part in a mock sitting of the House of Keys. Here they were able to take part in a debate and vote, using the electronic system, on issues including whether the Isle of Man should have a national football team.

Off-Island activities in 2010

17. The annual CPA Headquarters Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster to mark Commonwealth Day took place on the 8th March 2010. The Isle of Man was represented by David Harrison (from Douglas currently

studying History and Politics at Newcastle) and Mairi Lockwood (from Colby currently studying International Relations and French Studies at Oxford Brookes University). Following their attendance both delegates submitted a short report about their day to the CPA, Isle of Man branch.

18. At the end of September 2010 Mr Phillip Gawne MHK, Mr Juan Watterson MHK and Mr Roger Phillips, Clerk of Tynwald attended the 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being hosted in Nairobi by the Parliament of Kenya. The theme of the conference was *Parliament and Development in the 21st Century: Thus Far and Beyond*. Both Members gave presentations to other delegates drawing on their considerable individual expertise. Mr Watterson spoke about strengthening financial oversight in small parliaments which led to an invitation from the World Bank Institute (WBI) to contribute to an academic study in this area with the CPA. Mr Gawne spoke about sustainable development combining a global overview with local examples and personal experience. The discussion highlighted climate change as one of the most important issues facing us in the 21st century despite which it had been observed that very few parliaments had formed environment committees.

Forward look

19. I reported last year on work underway to review the finance and governance arrangements of the CPA as a whole. Following the CPA conference in Nairobi in September 2010, a Working Group was established to take this initiative forward. The Isle of Man Branch has continued to take a close interest in this process. In late 2010, at the end of the period covered by this report, we circulated our views on a number of proposals which had been issued by the Secretary General, Dr William Shija. In January 2011 we sent two delegates (Mrs Christian and Mrs Craine) to a meeting in Westminster at which the British Islands and Mediterranean Region discussed its position in relation to the proposals generated by the Working Group.
20. In 2011 the CPA celebrates its centenary. The plenary conference is being held in London in July, earlier in the year than usual, and as a result no British Islands and Mediterranean Region conference is being held. Here in the Isle of Man we are planning to mark the centenary by arranging a Commonwealth exhibition in the Legislative Buildings. I look forward to reporting further on this in next year's annual report.

Mrs Clare Christian MLC
March 2011

**THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st March to 31st December 2010**

<u>Receipts & Payments Account</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Opening Balance		7,644
<i>Receipts</i>		
Subscriptions Collected	316	
Bank Interest	3	
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>319</u>	
<i>Payments</i>		
Commonwealth Day Dinner Guests costs (Cost £1,100, CPA members contribution £1,026)	74	
DVD produced by Manx Heritage Foundation for distribution at the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region Conference	5,000	
<i>Total Payments</i>	<u>5,074</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		(4,755)
Closing Balance		<u><u>2,889</u></u>

<u>Cash at Bank</u>	<u>£</u>
Deposit Account	2,303
Current Account	586
Closing Balance	<u><u>2,889</u></u>

<u>Subscriptions analysis</u>	<u>£</u>
Prepaid subscriptions brought forward	(127)
Prepaid subscriptions donated	4
Subscriptions due	282
Prepaid subscriptions carried forward	157
Subscriptions collected	<u><u>316</u></u>

I have audited the receipts and payments account for the period from 1 March to 31 December 2010 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 31st December 2010



Honorary Treasurer
Mr P M Shimmin CPFA
February 2011



Honorary Auditor
Mr C Randall FCCA

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March 2011

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