REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN
AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2011 TO DECEMBER 2011
Isle of Man Branch

Report of the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee for the period January 2011 to December 2011

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. In 2011 the CPA celebrated its centenary. In the Isle of Man it was of course General Election year. In July 2011 my predecessor, the Hon Clare Christian MLC, was elected as President of Tynwald and therefore ex officio a Joint President of the CPA’s Isle of Man Branch. I became chairman of the Branch Executive Committee in November 2011.

3. The year 2011 was a busy year for the legislature. In parallel with the formal business of Committees and debates, the ongoing work of the legislature in the overall field of engagement continued unabated, and CPA activities continued to be a major element of this work.

Farewells

4. In a year of many farewells there were a number of departures of particular significance from a CPA point of view.

5. The Hon Noel Quayle Cringle OBE, President of Tynwald, retired in July 2011. At the conclusion of Mr Cringle’s last sitting of Tynwald Court in June 2011 Mr Speaker Rodan said:

   Many is the Commonwealth Parliamentary function, international presiding officers’ conference, official ceremony or formal opening of a neighbouring parliamentary assembly where people at home can have had absolute confidence that the Isle of Man was being well represented by your presence. The friendships you have forged with other leading parliamentary and senior figures have been of great value to this nation.

6. Hon Tony Brown MHK retired from the Keys in August 2011 and ceased serving as Chief Minister when his successor was appointed in October 2011. Speaking in
Tynwald Court later the same month the President of Tynwald, the Hon Clare Christian MLC, said:

*His focus on Castletown did not inhibit him from embracing with vigour the challenges posed in national and international politics, where he represented the Island with confidence and skill... He did espouse the values of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in particular and recognised its contribution in providing an education for Members and a professional development avenue, which I think many Members have gained advantage from.*

7. Quintin Gill, a Rushen MHK from 2001 to 2011 was a keen CPA member, and member of the Executive Committee 2006-2011. He also attended conferences in the UK in 2003, the Falklands in 2004 and Fiji in 2005.

8. Anne Craine, a Ramsey MHK from 2003 to 2011, was an active member of the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, attending plenary conferences in Canada in 2004 and in India in 2007.

9. Martyn Quayle, MHK for Middle from 2001 to 2011 was an active member of the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, attending the Conferences of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region in the Falklands in 2004 and Jersey in 2005.

10. Hazel Hannan, MHK for Peel from 1986 to 2006, retired as the representative for Associate Members on the Branch Executive Committee after five years in that role and an extensive and active involvement during her parliamentary career.

**On-Island activities in 2011**

11. We marked Commonwealth Day in March 2011 by a hosting a dinner for at which Sir Peter Bottomley, MP for Worthing West, was guest speaker. Sir Peter, who had been awarded his knighthood in the 2011 New Year Honours List, said he was delighted and honoured to have been invited to the Island to share in the Commonwealth Day celebrations. The veteran MP went on to say the Isle of Man was an important part of the Commonwealth, recognised for its unique traditions and seen by many as the birthplace of parliamentary democracy. The self-funded event was held at the Sefton Hotel with entertainment provided by the senior guitar ensemble from the Department of Education and Children’s music service.

12. In April 2011 Tynwald hosted a week-long study visit by officers from the Parliament of Kenya to observe the Manx parliamentary system which proved very valuable according to delegation leader Clement Nyandiere. Mr Nyandiere, director - information and research and his fellow officers Paul Onyango, principal finance officer, Samwel Njuguna, principal research officer and delegation secretary, Harun Okal, Serjeant at Arms and John Mutega, clerk assistant were in the Island on a visit funded by the Parliament of Kenya to study the operation and structure of Tynwald. The ways in which the House of Keys and the Legislative Council work together were of particular interest because the Kenyan parliament was preparing to become
bi-cameral in 2012 after 47 years of uni-cameralism. The visit followed successful relationship building during by the delegation to the 2010 CPA Plenary Conference in Kenya.

13. At Tynwald Day in **July 2011** the parliaments of neighbouring jurisdictions were represented by Mrs Elaine Smith MSP (Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament) and Dr Elaine Murray MSP, Mr David Melding AM (Deputy Presiding Officer of the Welsh Assembly), Mr William Hay MLA (Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly), Sir Geoffrey Rowland (Bailiff of Guernsey), Mr Albert Poggio (UK political representative of the Government of Gibraltar) and Mr Sean Barratt TD (Ceann Comhairle of Dáil Éireann). Our Scandinavian connection was represented by Mr Dag Terje Andersen, President of the Norwegian Storting.

14. The guest who had travelled the furthest was Hon Robin Adams JP MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. At the traditional Tynwald Banquet in the Royal Hall, she signed a cultural agreement with the President of Tynwald in recognition of the historic links between Norfolk Island and the Isle of Man.

15. In **November 2011** we welcomed Tristan da Cunha Chief Islander Mr Ian Lavarello, who was en route to London to attend the Overseas Territories Consultative Conference and was accompanied by the territory’s UK representative Chris Bates. They toured the Legislative Buildings and attended two Tynwald sittings during part of a five-day visit arranged at the request of the Administrator of Tristan da Cunha, Mr Sean Burns, to provide the Chief Islander with an insight into the Manx legislative system. In return we were delighted by a colourful presentation on life in Tristan da Cunha.

16. With the support of the CPA Isle of Man Branch, Tynwald continued to welcome visiting groups from primary schools in the Isle of Man. Visiting schoolchildren of primary age are normally given the opportunity to “act out” a sitting of the House of Keys based on a prepared script originally developed by Quintin Gill.

17. At secondary level each of the five state schools in the Isle of Man is invited to participate each year in an unscripted sitting in the Tynwald Chamber, known as Junior Tynwald. This year’s sitting, on 18th **July 2011**, was presided over by newly-elected President of Tynwald, the Hon Clare Christian MLC as one of her first duties.

**Off-Island activities in 2011**

18. We continued to maintain and develop our links with young people from the Isle of Man currently studying at UK universities. In **March 2011** Laura Jackson from Greeba and Emma Kiver from Peel, both studying at Queen Mary College, University of London joined other young men and women nominated by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association branches throughout the Commonwealth at a Westminster Commonwealth Day Observance based on the theme Women as Agents of Change.
19. In **August 2011** Mr Alex Downie MLC and Mr Eddie Lowey MLC attended the 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was held in London to mark the 100th anniversary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Madam President also attended in her capacity as a member of the CPA Working Party. Topics discussed at the Small Countries Conference included Commonwealth initiatives in handling immigration issues; and countering threats to the stability of small democracies: piracy, drug trafficking, terrorism (the latter session being chaired by Mr Downie). Useful contacts made, not least at a dinner on the theme of “Uniting the Commonwealth through Sport” at which the Isle of Man was mentioned in the wake of Mark Cavendish’s success at the 2011 Tour de France.

20. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association celebrated its centenary in 2011, having been founded as the Empire Parliamentary Association in July 1911. To mark the occasion the Isle of Man Branch of the CPA presented an exhibition on the theme of Manx people in the Commonwealth incorporating work by children from Ashley Hill School. The exhibition was displayed at the Isle of Man Airport in **September 2011**, thereby contributing to the experience of young people visiting the Isle of Man from around the Commonwealth for the Commonwealth Youth Games 2011.

21. Also in **September 2011** Graeme Osborn from Ramsey and Richard Crellin from Port Erin, students at the University of York and the London School of Economics respectively, attended the Centennial CPA Youth Parliament at Westminster. Both participated fully in this four-day-long event which culminated in a debate on the floor of the House of Lords Chamber. Graeme achieved the distinction of being elected Prime Minister of the fictitious “Commonwealthland” for the duration of the event.

**Conclusion**

22. At a time of such severe pressure on public finances it would be wrong to conclude a report such as this without some comment as to the costs and benefits of CPA activities. I am firmly of the view that the small proportion of the “Legislature” vote which is spent on CPA work is money well spent. (We continue to account separately for the money collected through your subscriptions and these are the accounts which accompany this report.)

23. It is also important to note that the CPA presents one of few opportunities for training for elected members. Whilst each member brings their own skill set to Tynwald, it is reassuring to note that the CPA offers a range of courses to assist members in fulfilling their parliamentary duties.

24. Although the Isle of Man is not a sovereign state, we do have our own international identity. Tynwald is very much a part of this and the CPA Isle of Man Branch can make a practical contribution to building the Island’s international reputation through inter-parliamentary activities both within the Island and overseas. Maintaining links between Tynwald and the legislatures of the surrounding
jurisdictions in particular is an important part of ensuring that the voice of the Isle of Man is heard by opinion formers and policy makers throughout the British Isles.

25. Meanwhile it is an essential function of any legislature to be open and transparent. Our work in explaining the work of Tynwald to the young and to the wider community in the Island contributes to the good governance of the Island as a whole, and enables our unique parliamentary heritage to be appreciated by all.

26. It is my aim as your Chairman to optimise the value we obtain from these opportunities and I look forward to doing so in the future.

Hon Juan Watterson MHK
March 2012
THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st March to 31st December 2011

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**Cash at Bank**

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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.

P.M. Shimmin
Honorary Treasurer
Mr P M Shimmin CPFA
February 2012

C. Randall
Honorary Auditor
Mr C Randall FCCA

17/12/12