



Isle of Man Branch

Report of the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee for the period January 2015 to December 2015

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. On 9th September 2015 Her Majesty The Queen became our longest serving Lord of Man when the length of Her reign overtook that of Queen Victoria. Madam President wrote to Her Majesty congratulating her on the occasion and assuring her of the deep affection and respect in which she is held in the Island.
3. The year 2015 also saw the first in a series of important anniversaries in the Island's constitutional history. In October an article by Mr Speaker examining 150 years of electoral reform in the Isle of Man appeared in the *Parliamentarian* magazine. In his article Mr Speaker alerts readers to 'two significant milestones' in the history of Tynwald. The Revestment Act of 1765 he describes as a low point in the story of the Isle of Man's development as an autonomous nation and the House of Keys Election Act of 1866 as the moment where the Island took its first steps towards being a truly representative parliamentary democracy.

On-Island activities in 2015

4. In January CPA assistant director of programmes Arlene Bussette and Washington DC-based WBI senior governance specialist Mitchell O'Brien attended a programme arranged by the Clerk of Tynwald's Office which provided them with opportunities to gain an insight into the work of Tynwald's Public Accounts Committee and meet Tynwald Members and senior officers.
5. In March the annual Commonwealth Day Dinner was held in the Isle of Man College. The guest speaker was Meenakshi Dhar from the CPA Headquarters Secretariat.
6. In July at Tynwald Day, the honoured guests this year included the following fellow parliamentarians from neighbouring CPA branches:
 - Mr Sammy Douglas MBE MLA, Member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly
 - Mrs Sandy Mewies AM, Member of the National Assembly for Wales

- The Rt Hon the Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, President of the Supreme Court
 - The Lord Sewel CBE, Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker, House of Lords
 - The Rt Hon the Lord Shutt of Greetland OBE FCA, Deputy Chairman of the UK-Isle of Man All-Party Parliamentary Group
 - Mrs Elaine Smith, Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament
7. Later in July the annual sitting of Junior Tynwald took place. Organised by the Branch in association with the Department of Education and Children the sitting saw Year 12 students from the Island's five state secondary schools assume the roles of Members of the House of Keys and the Legislative Council to debate matters of concern. The Outstanding Participant Award went to Bradley Layton (Ramsey Grammar School).
 8. In August we collaborated with the CPA Headquarters Secretariat in the organisation of a Small Branches Committee Workshop, with participants from Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands, Guernsey, Jersey, Maldives, Northern Territory, Northwest Territories, Prince Edward Island, the Seychelles and Tasmania as well as from the Isle of Man itself. This workshop built on the Small Branches Conference but allowed us to focus in more depth on the particular issue of committee work.
 9. In September we welcomed Hon Shirley Osborne, Speaker, and Mrs Judith Baker, Clerk, from the Legislative Assembly of Montserrat as part of a week-long programme organised by the British Islands and Mediterranean Region which also included time at Westminster. We were glad to be able to work with our regional secretariat and to be able to arrange a balanced and co-ordinated overall programme which included both Westminster and the Isle of Man.
 10. In December we hosted a study visit by a nine-strong delegation from the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) of the Parliament of Kenya, headed by the Hon Justin Muturi, Speaker of Kenya's National Assembly. The visit built on links first forged in 2010 by Mr Gawne and me at the 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Nairobi.

Off-Island activities in 2015

11. In March Laura Green, 22, from Port St Mary and Clare Harris, 18, from Colby, joined around 1000 other young people at the celebrations, which were held in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth. The proceedings provided opportunities for the pair to witness discussions on the Commonwealth and the CPA by UK and visiting parliamentarians, participate in the Observance Day service in Westminster Abbey, and attend a reception at Marlborough House, headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat.
12. In May Mr Cannan, Mr Crookall, Mr Thomas and I attended the 45th British Isles and Mediterranean Regional (BIMR) conference in Limassol, Cyprus. The conference took for its general title 'Parliaments in the Face of Contemporary Challenges' and identified two main themes: 'Parliaments and Unemployment' and 'Parliaments and Accountability'. The latter

theme saw Mr Thomas act as rapporteur for a workshop examining parliamentarians' professional ethics responsibilities and Mr Cannan as rapporteur for a workshop that considered the pros and cons of broadcasting parliamentary business.

13. In June Mr Speaker served as Head of Mission to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR) Election Observation Mission to the British Virgin Islands. The purpose was to oversee the territory's general election on 8th June. Mr Speaker led a team of six observers. From the CPA Caribbean and Americas Region Hon Ruth D Blackman MP (Turks and Caicos Islands) and Dr Winston Green MP (Jamaica) served as observers. Election analysts were Matthew Salik from the UK and Ellen Shustik from Canada and the mission was supported by election coordinator Rachael Atkins from the CPA UK.
14. The 61st Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which was to have taken place in Islamabad in October, was cancelled.
15. In November 26-year-old Andrew Newton attended the 7th Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Darwin, Australia. Mr Newton, who lives in Braddan and is an advocate with Appleby (Isle of Man) LLC, joined more than 50 other young people from the Commonwealth participating in the event.

Conclusion

16. I remain firmly of the view that the small proportion of the "Legislature" vote which is spent on CPA work is money well spent.
17. It is important to note that the CPA presents one of few opportunities for training for elected members. Since becoming Chairman of the BEC in 2011, I have been keen to focus the Branch's spending on the education of members, as well as the traditional activities of Regional and Plenary Conferences. I am a strong believer in providing training and equipping people for the task that lies ahead. I believe that the CPA has stepped up in this respect and is well placed to continue in this role after the next General Election.
18. 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 developing contacts across our main trading partners and raising the Island's profile on the international stage. 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.
19. 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.

20. It remains my aim as your Chairman to optimise the value we obtain from these opportunities and I shall continue to do so in the future.

Hon Juan Watterson MHK

March 2016

**THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st January to 31 December 2015**

<u>Receipts & Payments Account</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Opening Bank Balance		3,813
<i>Receipts</i>		
Subscriptions Collected	130	
Bank Interest	2	
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>132</u>	
<i>Payments</i>		
Payments made during accounting period	0	
<i>Total Payments</i>	<u>0</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		132
Closing Bank Balances		<u>3,945</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2015

<u>Cash at Bank</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Deposit Account		2,315
Current Account		1,630
Total Assets		<u>3,945</u>

<u>Subscriptions analysis</u>	<u>£</u>
Prepaid subscriptions brought forward	(469)
Subscriptions due	285
Subscriptions collected	(130)
Prepaid subscriptions carried forward	<u>(314)</u>

I have audited the receipts and payments account for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015 and in my opinion it is an accurate statement of the Membership Accounts for the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at 31 December 2015


Honorary Treasurer
Mrs J Corkish


Honorary Auditor
Mr S Hind FCCA