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. During 2018 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.

Farewells
3. 2018 saw the departure of three long-standing, active CPA members of the Isle of Man Branch:

   • Mr David Anderson attended two Commonwealth Parliamentary Association study visits: London in 2002 and Dublin in 2014.

   • Mr Michael Coleman represented the Isle of Man at the regional conference in Cardiff in 2014 and acted as Head of Mission looking at public financial oversight for a Public Accounts Committee Workshop with the Montserrat Legislative Assembly in November 2017.

   • Mr Geoff Corkish MBE represented the Isle of Man at the plenary conference in India in 2007 and attended study visits to Westminster in 2007 and 2008, and Edinburgh in 2013.

On-Island activities in 2018
4. We marked Commonwealth Day in March by holding the annual Commonwealth Day Dinner at Douglas Golf Club. The guest speaker was Mr Edward Ouko, Auditor General of the Republic of Kenya and we were pleased to hear some of his experiences during the evening. Mr Ouko travelled to the Isle of Man following a meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) Council in London, which he sits on with me. Whilst in the Island, Mr Ouko also took the opportunity to tour the Legislative Buildings and meet the Tynwald Public Accounts Committee. The session with the Public Accounts Committee gave a
detailed insight into the methods and working practices of the Auditor-General’s Office which have transformed financial scrutiny in that country.

5. In April, Tynwald hosted a study visit from The Hon Kezia Purick MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, Australia and Ms Marianne Conaty, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. This follows an initial meeting at CPC in Kenya and later engagement at CPC 2018 in Bangladesh. Their two-day programme gave an overview of Tynwald’s parliamentary and committee proceedings, inter-parliamentary relations, community engagement and the production of Hansard.

6. In May we were delighted to welcome and host Mr Jon Davies, Chief Executive and Secretary of CPA UK and BIMR, on his first visit to the Isle of Man. As much as possible was crammed into the one-day programme which left Mr Davies with a better understanding of the Isle of Man and its institutions, and even more aware of the many ways in which BIMR Branches can keep working together.

7. In July at Tynwald Day, the honoured guests this year included the following fellow parliamentarians from neighbouring CPA branches:

   - Linda Fabiani MSP - Member of the Scottish Parliament for East Kilbride
   - The Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP - Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Chairman of Ways and Means, MP for Chorley
   - The Right Honourable Lord Keen of Elie QC, Ministry of Justice Spokesperson for the Lords, HM Advocate General for Scotland
   - The Right Honourable Lord Reed, Justice of the UK Supreme Court, Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council

8. On 16th July the annual sitting of Junior Tynwald took place, which I presided over in the absence of the President of Tynwald. Organised by the Branch in association with the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, 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 Miss Kerenza Baker (Ramsey Grammar School).

9. In September, a part of an exposure visit to the UK, I was pleased we meet with Dax Richards, Financial Secretary of the Government of St Helena. Mr Richards was accompanied by Rachael Atkins and Lydia Buchanan from CPA UK which was hosting the visit as part of the UK Overseas Territories Project. The programme was intended to be a broad familiarisation visit for good practice in financial management, covering a wide range of topics; one of the priorities was to facilitate some discussions and learning from other small-island jurisdictions.

10. Also in September, the Isle of Man had the honour of hosting the second Public Accounts Committee Network Event for those involved in the scrutiny of public sector finances. The event was attended by approximately 40 delegates and brought
together Public Accounts Committee Chairs, Members and Clerks, and representatives from Auditors-General Offices, CPA UK and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The parliaments of the UK, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Ukraine and Malta were represented at the event. The theme of the event was ‘Making an Impact’ and the delegates attended a variety of sessions including ‘How do the remit and powers of the PAC affect its impact?’. One of the final sessions in the one-day programme was a presentation by CPA UK giving an update on its Commonwealth PAC Programmes.

11. With the support of the CPA Isle of Man Branch, Tynwald continued to welcome visiting groups from primary schools in the Isle of Man throughout 2018.

**Off-Island activities in 2018**

12. The 9th Commonwealth Youth Parliament was due to be hosted by the British Virgin Islands in November 2017 but was unfortunately postponed because of hurricane damage. The Youth Parliament was rescheduled and held in Jersey in February 2018. Mr Carlos Phillips from the External Relations Division of the Cabinet Office represented the Isle of Man and found it to be an excellent opportunity.

13. Alex Eaton and Annie Lennon were selected by the Isle of Man Branch Executive Committee to attend the Youth Observance of Commonwealth Day at Westminster in March 2018. The conference theme was ‘Towards a Common Future’.

14. In April 2018 Mrs Ann Corlett MHK attended the Commonwealth Women’s Forum in London. The forum theme was ‘An Empowered Future for Women and Girls’ and covered topics such as domestic violence, climate change, gender equality and reproductive health rights.

15. As Steering Committee Member, Mrs Corlett then went on to attend the British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference; she was accompanied on this visit by Ms Julie Edge MHK. The theme of the conference was ‘Women in Parliament: Past, Present and Future’. Mrs Corlett attended the workshop session ‘How well are parliaments supporting women?’ and Ms Edge attended the workshop session ‘Social media’.

16. In June, I represented the Isle of Man at the 43rd Annual Regional Conference of the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic region of the CPA hosted by the Cayman Islands Branch of the CPA. I was kindly invited by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands, Dr Hon McKeeva Bush OBE JP, to attend the conference to speak on population growth in developing countries.

17. There was no regional conference arranged for 2018 so in June Dr Alex Allinson MHK and Mr Bill Shimmins MHK attended the BIMR AGM in London. Mr Shimmins was the speaker for the session ‘Youth Participation in Political Processes’. The next regional conference will be the 48th BIMR conference and is to be held in Guernsey in May 2019.
18. In October, Mrs Daphne Caine MHK enrolled on the CPA Fundamentals Programme on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure for Small Branches 2018 run by the McGill University. Mrs Caine visited Montreal, Canada to participate in the capacity-strengthening programme for newly-elected Parliamentarians to cover the module ‘Contemporary Issues in Parliamentary Governance’; the remaining modules are to be completed back on-Island.

19. In November, Mr Rob Callister MHK participated in the CPA UK induction programme for newly elected members of the States of Jersey. Organised by CPA UK, the programme followed Jersey’s General Election in May and focused on priority-area topics such as expectations and responsibilities of parliamentarians, how to make an impact in the Chamber, scrutiny and oversight, the role of committees, codes of conduct and ethics, and international outreach.

20. Continuing the busy month of November, Mrs Kate Lord-Brennan MLC was selected by CPA UK to represent the Isle of Man Branch in attending the 67th Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments. The annual Westminster Seminar is CPA UK’s flagship capacity-building programme. Members and Clerks selected from Commonwealth legislatures participated in a five-day programme to explore parliamentary democracy, practice and procedure from a comparative Commonwealth perspective. The programme highlights current best practice and how parliaments adapt to changing domestic and global political environments, from a comparative perspective.

21. November also saw the launch of an updated ‘CPA Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures’ at an event in London held by the CPA and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). The Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures aims to support the delivery of effective parliaments against the background of the changing landscape in which democracies operate. As Chairman of the Isle of Man Branch, I contributed to the event as a guest speaker via video link from the Legislative Buildings. This gave me the opportunity to outline Tynwald’s many parliamentary strengthening initiatives following self-assessment against CPA benchmarks.

22. I was also pleased to be asked to support a Westminster Foundation for Democracy event working with the Parliament of Armenia, working with the staff of the parliaments and staff of the Parliamentary Budget Offices of Armenia and Georgia.

23. There was no plenary conference held in 2018. The next plenary conference will be the 64th conference and is to be held in Uganda in September 2019.

Conclusion

24. I continue to maintain the view that the small proportion of the ‘Legislature’ vote which is spent on CPA membership continues to be money well spent. In 2018 the annual membership fee paid by the Isle of Man Branch to the CPA was £22,572 while the overall ‘Legislature’ vote for 2018/19 was £4,790,000.
25. Tynwald continues to be recognised as a centre of good practice for study visits in the areas of parliamentary practice, research, Hansard services, and public financial oversight.

26. One of the keys to our success is the continuing education and training of Tynwald Members. Opportunities afforded to us through our Branch membership of the CPA continued to show benefits this year and I would like to thank our members for their enthusiasm and readiness to partake in opportunities to represent the Isle of Man.

27. As there was no regional or plenary conference held in 2018, the CPA Executive Committee agreed that the unused budget would be most usefully deployed on organising study visits for Tynwald Members to neighbouring parliaments. These visits have been scheduled for early 2019.

28. The political engagement of Tynwald Members with schools continues to be a priority of the CPA Isle of Branch and we hope to increase political visibility by working with Members and schools; a Continuing Professional Development session on ‘Engagement with Schools’ has been arranged for Tynwald Members in early 2019 at the request of the Branch Executive Committee.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. 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.

The Hon. Juan Watterson SHK
March 2019
THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st January to 31st December 2018

Receipts & Payments Account for 1 January to 31 December 2018

Opening Balance at CPA Account as at 1 January 2018 3,341

Receipts
Subscriptions Received 110
(Less) Subscriptions paid directly into the General Charges Account (110)
Subscriptions Retained Nil

Payments
Payments made during accounting period Nil

Net of Receipts and Payments

Closing Balance at CPA Account as at 31 December 2018 3,341

I have examined the receipts and payments account for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018. Following examination of the documents provided it is, in my opinion, an accurate statement of the account of the Isle of Man Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as at 31 December 2018.

Honorary Treasurer
Mrs J Corkish

Honorary Examiner
Mr S Hind FCCA

Note

CPA Account relates to account number 10734503 'CPA – Isle of Man Branch' held at the Isle of Man Bank

General Charges Account relates to account number 12638773 'Isle of Man Government General Charges No 2 Account' held at the Isle of Man Bank