



Isle of Man Branch

Report of the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee for the period January 2019 to December 2019

Introduction

1. The aim of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is 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 2019 the Isle of Man Branch has had another year of fruitful action supporting the aims of the CPA, both overseas and here in the Island.
3. This year also saw the centenary of two of the most consequential legislative reforms in Manx history, namely the House of Keys Election Act and the Isle of Man Constitutional Act. The former enfranchised nearly all Manx adults; the latter reforming our Legislative Council. Branch Members participated in commemorating and promoting the public memory of these most important of parliamentary reforms.

On-Island activities in 2019

4. In March the annual Commonwealth Day Dinner was held at Douglas Golf Club. I was delighted to welcome as our guest speaker Deputy Montford Tadier, Member of the States of Jersey, having had the pleasure of meeting him for the first time at a CPA conference in Bangladesh. Deputy Tadier said of his visit: 'The visit was very special for me, as it was my first time in your lovely island and we were shown a warm welcome by your Speaker, President and parliament. It was also good to catch up with MHKs and clerks whom I had already met in Jersey and on conferences, as well as to meet new colleagues and make new friends.'
5. Tynwald Members engaging with schools continues to be an Isle of Man Branch priority. In March we welcomed Joel Smith, School Improvement Adviser, and Jo Callister, Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture to present a Continuing Professional Development session on 'Engagement with Schools'. The session covered what is in the school curriculum with regard to politics, how Tynwald Members can best engage with schools and what resources and support are available.

6. In April Tynwald was delighted to host The Hon. Leona Roberts MLA, a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, for a two-day study visit. Mrs Roberts' programme included meetings with Members and officers of Tynwald, Government officials and the Mayor of Douglas, along with a tour of the Energy from Waste plant, which was particularly relevant to her responsibility as lead for Environment and Public Protection.
7. On 5th July at Tynwald Day, the honoured guests included the following parliamentarians from CPA Branches:
 - Dr Hon. W. McKeeva Bush OBE JP Hon. MSc MLA: Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands.
 - The Rt Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP: MP for Orkney and Shetland.
 - Linda Fabiani MSP: Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Member for East Kilbride.
 - The Rt Hon. Dame Eleanor Laing MP: Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means, MP for Epping Forest.
 - Andrew Rosindell MP: MP for Romford, Co-Chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, Chairman of the UK-Isle of Man (Manx) All Party Parliamentary Group.
8. On 15th 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 to them. The Outstanding Participant Award went to Miss Chloe Sloane (Castle Rushen High School).
9. In September the Isle of Man had the pleasure of hosting the inaugural Crown Dependencies Network Meeting. Delegates from Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man attended the three-day conference which aimed to enable parliamentarians to build networks across the Crown Dependencies; share information about, and debate, common issues and problems; and, enable individual parliamentarians to meet with politicians and officials in other jurisdictions on matters of political interest to them.
10. October saw Tynwald welcome a delegation from the Committee of Powers and Privileges of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya to complete a study visit. The three-day programme focused on parliamentary privilege mechanisms and best practice, and provided an opportunity for the delegates to observe a sitting of the House of Keys and of the Legislative Council. Head of the delegation, the Hon. Peter M. Mwathi, said: 'We chose to come to Tynwald to learn about parliamentary privilege best practice, enforcement mechanisms and challenges

because we recognise this is an area where we need to do better. [...] We have been very warmly welcomed in the Isle of Man and our study visit to Tynwald has been extremely productive. We hope this will help to set us on a new cultural path for our country.'

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 2019.

Off-Island activities in 2019

12. In January the first of two successful study visits for Members of Tynwald took place, to Jersey. Hon. Geoffrey Boot MHK headed the delegation and the other Members were Miss Tanya August-Hanson MLC, Mrs Clare Barber MHK, Mrs Daphne Caine MHK, Mrs Ann Corlett MHK, Mr Tim Crookall MLC, Mrs Kate Lord-Brennan MLC, Mr Martyn Perkins MHK, Mrs Jane Poole-Wilson MLC and Mrs Kerry Sharpe MLC. Both study visits gave the participants the opportunity to examine the procedures and practices of the two Parliaments, focusing on legislation, committee work, youth engagement, and other topics of interest to individual participants.
13. The Deputy Clerk of Tynwald, Dr Jonathan King, was selected to provide clerking support to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Cayman Islands in January; the two-week attachment was part of CPA UK's Overseas Territories Project. The Project provides technical assistance, training and mentoring to audit officials, PAC members and clerks across the territories to support and encourage effective public financial management.
14. The second study visit took place in March, to the Scottish Parliament. Mr President headed the delegation and the other Members were Miss Tanya August-Hanson MLC, Hon. Geoffrey Boot MHK, Mr Rob Callister MHK, Mrs Kerry Sharpe MLC and Mr Bill Shimmins MHK.
15. In March Amber Young and Thomas O'Connor attended the Youth Observance of Commonwealth Day at Westminster, having been selected by the Isle of Man Branch's Executive Committee. The conference theme was 'A Connected Commonwealth'.
16. In April I was selected to take part in a CPA UK workshop on Standing Orders in Banjul, The Gambia. The aim of the programme was to support members and clerks of the National Assembly engaged in the process of renewing the Standing Orders following an extensive review.
17. In May the CPA's 48th British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Conference in Guernsey was attended by Mr Martyn Perkins MHK (delegation leader) and Mr Rob Callister MHK. The theme of the conference was 'Fake News and Digital Disinformation: the challenges for parliamentarians and democracy'. Mr Perkins facilitated the workshop 'Impact of Media Freedom/The Importance of Quality Journalism'. The next regional conference will be the 49th BIMR conference and is to be held in Malta in spring 2020.

18. In June the Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee, Mrs Joann Corkish, was selected to participate in the Falkland Islands PAC Workshop which was facilitated by CPA UK and part of the UK Overseas Territories Project. Mrs Corkish was part of a small delegation that travelled to the Falkland Islands to facilitate a three-day workshop designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of the Falkland Islands PAC members and clerk.
19. Later in June Mr President attended the Scottish Parliament's 20th Anniversary celebrations in Edinburgh. The event was part of a year-long programme to mark 20 years since the creation of the Scottish Parliament, designed to showcase the positive impact the Scottish Parliament has had on those living in Scotland.
20. In July Mr Martyn Perkins MHK attended the CPA BIMR Election Observation Training for Members held at Westminster. The two-day programme was attended by 28 parliamentarians from across the Region and explored the history and international standards of election observation, as well as offering practical insights and advice to participants considering applying to join election observation missions.
21. In September the 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was hosted by the CPA Uganda Branch in Kampala, Uganda, where Tynwald was represented by Dr Alex Allinson MHK and me. Many parliamentarians and parliamentary clerks from across the Commonwealth attended the conference which took as its theme: 'Adaption, engagement and evolution of Parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth'. The next plenary conference is to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in January 2021.
22. As Steering Committee Member, Mrs Ann Corlett MHK attended the 6th Regional Conference of the BIMR Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians which was held in Jersey in September. The theme of the conference was 'The next 100 years'. Mrs Corlett attended the workshop session 'How well are parliaments supporting women?'.
23. During the summer, Miss Tanya August-Hanson MLC and Mrs Kate Lord-Brennan MLC embarked on the CPA Fundamentals Programme on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure for Small Branches 2019 which is a capacity-strengthening programme for newly-elected Parliamentarians run by McGill University. In October, Miss August-Hanson and Mrs Lord-Brennan visited the university in Montreal, Canada for the residential component of the course to cover the module 'Contemporary Issues in Parliamentary Governance'. The remaining modules are to be completed on-Island using online learning resources and materials.
24. Following his Election Observation Training in July, Mr Martyn Perkins MHK was selected to take part in an Election Observer Mission in Montserrat in November.
25. In November the Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee, Mrs Joann Corkish, and I attend the third PAC Network Event in Edinburgh.

26. Also in November Mr Tim Baker MHK was offered a place at the 68th Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments. The five-day event is held annually and is CPA UK's flagship capacity-building programme for parliamentarians and appointed procedural/committee clerks from across the Commonwealth.

Conclusion

27. 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 2019 the annual membership fee paid by the Isle of Man Branch to the CPA was £22,572 while the overall 'Legislature' vote for 2019-20 was £4,916,000. This is not done unthinkingly, and the Branch has kept CPA Membership under review as the constitutional changes have meant increases in costs to attend conferences.
28. Members of the Branch have continued to use and appreciate the opportunities afforded by the CPA for training and education, and the insights they have gathered from these activities. I thank those Tynwald Members who participated in them for their commitment to the values of the CPA and to improving the capacity of our parliament.
29. Our Branch continues to show our commitment to education, in particular promoting knowledge of our system of government among young people, who will inherit our unique and (as our centennial commemorations remind us) hard-won democratic constitution.
30. We continued trading insights with, celebrating the traditions of and forging deeper connections with fellow parliamentarians from other jurisdictions. The catalogue of activities in which our Members participated in this year attests to our commitment to working in partnership with members of our fellow Branches. I believe the CPA Branch continues to have an important role in promoting the Island's international profile and in helping us learn through and cooperate with other jurisdictions.
31. Our parliament continues to be a model for others regarding its procedures, research facilities, Hansard services etc., as the various study visits which have occurred this year show. I hope that many more visits of this sort will occur in the future.
32. 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

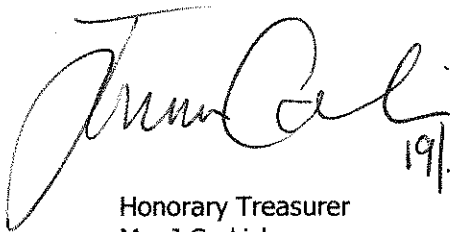
The Hon. Juan Watterson SHK
March 2020

THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st January to 31st December 2019

Receipts & Payments Account for 1 January to 31 December 2019

Opening Balance at CPA Account as at 1 January 2019	3,341
<u>Receipts</u>	
Subscriptions Received	120
(Less) Subscriptions paid directly into the General Charges Account	(120)
Subscriptions Retained	-
<u>Payments</u>	
Payments made during accounting period	188
Net of Receipts and Payments	<u>3,153</u>
Closing Balance at CPA Account as at 31 December 2019	<u>3,153</u>

I have examined the receipts and payments account for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019. 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 2019.


19/3/20
Honorary Treasurer
Mrs J Corkish


17.03.2020
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