



Isle of Man Branch

Report of the Chair of the Branch Executive Committee for the period January 2022 to December 2022

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. This year has seen an increase in on- and off-island engagement, a near return to the pre-Covid 'normality' we were once used to. My Report once again contains a section on activities hosted virtually, albeit noticeably shorter!

On-Island activities in 2022

3. For the first time, two separate Junior Tynwalds were held this year: the first in January and a second in July. They were the first to be held since the pandemic, the January event being targeted at the year group which would ordinarily have come in July 2021. Sixth formers from across the Island's state schools participated in their own formal Tynwald sitting. Junior Tynwald provides an excellent opportunity for development, not just by the students, but Tynwald Members who get the opportunity to answer questions; great experience in preparation for a Ministerial career or Chair of a Statutory Board.
4. Questions, submitted by the students, were asked of, and answered by, actual Ministers and Department members. In January three motions were tabled and debated: the first on the Government's response to the COVID pandemic, the second regarding action on disabled access in public service buildings and a final one on the management of infrastructure projects. Thomas Curphey of Castle Rushen High School was given the Outstanding Participant Award. In July there were two motions for debate: the first was on dying with dignity and the second was on incentivising younger generations to feel they have a place and a future in the Island. The Outstanding Participant Award on this occasion went to another Castle Rushen High School student, Mr Luke Ennett.
5. We were honoured to host the 51st CPA BIMR (British Islands and Mediterranean Region) Conference in the Isle of Man in March 2022. Tynwald was represented at

the Conference by Ann Corlett MHK, Peter Greenhill MLC, Sarah Maltby MHK and Chris Thomas MHK. The conference attracted some 50 parliamentarians and officers from across the region to examine the theme of *'Impactful scrutiny'*. There were a range of activities in the Conference programme including the annual general meeting, breakout sessions on various topics and round table discussions. Delegates also toured various sites in the Island, including Government House, the Old House of Keys, the Manx Museum and the Steam Railway. I am grateful to those Members who supported the conference and spoke on how the Manx system works.

6. Due to timing, the annual Commonwealth Day Dinner was incorporated into the formal BIMR Conference Dinner held on 24th March 2022. I was delighted that Hon. Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, Acting Chair of the CPA International Executive Committee, agreed to be the guest speaker at the Dinner.
7. In May, Tynwald was honoured to welcome Lord Pickles who was on a visit to the Island organised by the IOMG Cabinet Office. The President of Tynwald, The Hon, Laurence Skelly MLC, was delighted to take Lord Pickles on a tour of Legislative Buildings.
8. May 2022 also saw a return of Tynwald receiving a study visit from another Commonwealth Parliament. We were pleased to host a 15-member delegation from the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan as part of a scoping visit for its capacity building initiative which also included visits to the Scottish Parliament and Westminster. The two-day study programme focused on parliamentary procedure with an emphasis on good governance and good practice in the legislative process. We hope that this will be the first of more capacity building study visits from parliamentarians from the provincial assemblies of Pakistan.
9. In June 2022 we were pleased to host a visit by a delegation from the Turks & Caicos House of Assembly for a week-long bespoke bilateral study visit. The visit programme covered topics including committee scrutiny and the questioning of witnesses, Public Accounts Committees, the legislative process, resolutions and motions, reports and recommendations, and governance. The visit also included a meeting with the Mayor of Douglas, sessions by the Isle of Man Government's Cabinet Office and Attorney General's Chambers, and a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor, His Excellency, Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer KCB DSO MBE.
10. Later in June I was delighted to welcome Speaker Cooper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Canada, to the Island. The Speaker's programme was based around parliamentary procedure, the Tynwald Committee process, educational programming, and he also observed both a public evidence hearing and a House of Keys sitting.
11. On 5th July at Tynwald Day, the honoured guests included the Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Chairman of Ways and Means, and Member of the Privy Council.

12. With the support of the CPA Isle of Man Branch, Tynwald continued to welcome visiting groups from primary schools throughout 2022.

Off-Island activities in 2022

13. In June, Tynwald's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Clerk, Joann Corkish, was invited via CPA UK to assist the PAC of the Anguilla House of Assembly with preparing a report about its recent inquiry into the Anguilla Tourist Board, by providing practical support to the Chair, Members and Clerk of the Committee. The two-week Clerk attachment was a very positive experience for Joann who also took away some useful information on how Anguilla's parliamentary sessions are recorded and streamed, how to use the media to promote committee work and some thoughts about how to manage evidence heavy inquiries.
14. Claire Christian MHK was selected as a short-term observer for the CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the Jersey General Election in June 2022. The Mission, which came following significant amendments to Jersey's electoral system, comprised of nine observers from across the Commonwealth.
15. August 2022 saw the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The theme of the Conference was *'Inclusive, accessible, accountable and strong Parliaments: the cornerstone of democracy and essential for development'* and it was attended by Rob Callister MHK and Peter Greenhill MLC, accompanied by Deputy Clerk of Tynwald, Joann Corkish. I also attended the Conference in my capacity of Regional Representative (BIMR) on the Steering Committee of the CPA Small Branches Network.
16. In October 2022, Ann Corlett MHK attended the 9th BIMR Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference in Gibraltar. Building on ongoing engagement, the Conference explored how to share good practice between women parliamentarians in the Region including sessions on protection from online harm and how parliaments can do more to attract and retain women parliamentarians.
17. At the start of November, a delegation of newly elected Tynwald Members embarked on a study visit to Westminster which provided an opportunity to share parliamentary knowledge and good practice, with a particular focus on scrutiny. As delegation lead, I was joined by Claire Christian MHK, Tim Glover MHK, Peter Greenhill MLC, Michelle Haywood MHK, Tim Johnston MHK, Sarah Maltby MHK, Stuart Peters MHK, Kerry Sharpe MLC and John Wannenburgh MHK. The three-day programme was organised by CPA UK and included a tour of the Palace of Westminster, presentations by Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, observing Prime Minister's Questions, a constituency visit to Epping Forest and a meeting with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP.
18. The 11th Commonwealth Youth Parliament was held in November 2022. The three-day mock parliament was organised by the CPA and hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Tynwald was represented by Luke Ennett, a former Castle Rushen High School student and recipient of the Outstanding Participant

award at the July 2022 sitting of Junior Tynwald. Luke was among 52 other young people aged between 18 and 29 from 33 Commonwealth jurisdictions.

19. In November, the Clerk of Tynwald, Jonathan King, was able to take the opportunity to embark on a study visit to Westminster whilst on route to another conference. The two-day programme was put together by the House of Commons' Interparliamentary Relations Office and included meetings with John Benger, the Clerk of the House, and CPA UK's Chief Executive, Jon Davies. He was also able to meet with officers from the Interparliamentary Relations Office, the National Audit Office, and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards Office.
20. The Crown Dependencies Parliamentary Network was established in the Isle of Man in 2019 under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. It brings together parliamentarians from the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey to share experiences and to discuss matters of common concern. At the end of November, I led a delegation of eight Members to Guernsey for a two-day visit; I was joined by Claire Christian MHK, Paul Craine MLC, Peter Greenhill MLC, Michelle Haywood MHK, Tim Johnston MHK, Sarah Maltby MHK and Kerry Sharpe MLC, accompanied by the Clerk of Tynwald, Jonathan King. It was an extremely useful opportunity to make contact with colleagues in the Channel Islands and look at areas of mutual support and joint working. The sessions included discussions on *'The Housing Crisis in the Crown Dependencies'* and *'General Elections in Small Jurisdictions'*. The visit also included a trip to Guernsey's Waste Transfer Station.
21. Associate Member Martyn Perkins also took the opportunity to strengthen relations with the Northern Territories of Australia, by visiting their parliament during a private visit. It is very welcome that our Associate Members fly the flag for the Island.
22. During the year the Branch had Tynwald representation on four CPA Branch networks:
 - I represent the BIMR on the Steering group of the CPA Small Branches Network, having completed a year as Vice-Chair. I am also currently Vice Chair of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees;
 - Mrs Ann Corlett MHK sits on the BIMR Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee;
 - Mrs Kerry Sharpe MLC acts as the Tynwald representative for the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities (CPwD) network;
 - Former President, Mr Steve Rodan sits on the CPA Alumni Advisory Group.

Virtual activities in 2022

23. Early in the year, Rob Mercer MLC, along with two other Members, attended an online CPA Committee Evidence Workshop. The Workshop involved a simulation of an inquiry session on a COP26 theme.
24. In March 2022, Mr Mercer went on to attend an online CPA Report Writing Workshop.
25. In April, the Clerk of Tynwald, Jonathan King, was invited to present at the virtual 2022 Australasian Study of Parliament Group Conference hosted by the Parliament of Victoria. Dr King presented a session titled *'Interaction between data protection legislation and parliamentary privilege in the Isle of Man'*.
26. In July 2022, Ann Corlett MHK attended a virtual CPA Election Observation Training course for the British Isles & Mediterranean Region. Participation in the course, or similar prior training or experience, is required before Members are able to join future CPA BIMR Election Observation Missions in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
27. In August, I presented a virtual session titled *'Utilising PAC Networks'* for the CAPAC (Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees) Conference which was hosted by the People's Majils (parliament) of the Maldives.
28. I have also had the opportunity to do a scrutiny "double act" with the Deputy Clerk, Joann Corkish, to the PAC of St Helena on the functioning of our Public Accounts Committee.
29. The CPA has continued to expand its range of online learning products to include Public Accounts Committees, scrutiny and the work of presiding officers. I have been honoured to contribute to these courses in various ways, perhaps most dauntingly in video form.

Conclusion

30. The education and training of Tynwald Members remains a key priority and thanks to our Branch membership we are afforded many opportunities by the CPA to develop and build our capacity. I am pleased that our Branch continues to support the CPA Regional and Plenary conferences and thank our Members for their keenness to represent Tynwald in other jurisdictions.
31. 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 2022 the annual membership fee paid by the Isle of Man Branch to the CPA was £23,946 while the overall 'Legislature' vote for 2022-23 was £4,752,000. It is essential that any

legislature be open and transparent and for this reason the costs relating to any travel undertaken by Members are published on the Tynwald website.¹

32. The audited statement of accounts for the separate bank account of the IOM Branch of the CPA can be found attached to this report at Appendix 2. This bank account formerly held subscriptions paid to the Branch by Members and associate members. Following a decision by the Branch in December 2015 subscriptions are now paid into the Clerk of Tynwald's Office. The funds in the separate bank account have been exhausted and the account has been closed.
33. 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
Chair of the CPA Branch Executive Committee
March 2023

¹ <https://www.tynwald.org.im/remuneration-and-allowances>

**THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st January to 31st December 2022**

Receipts & Payments Account for 1 January to 31 December 2022

Opening Balance at CPA Account as at 1 January 2022	443.62
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Receipts

0.00

Payments

Payments made during accounting period	(443.62)
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Net of Receipts and Payments	(443.62)
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Closing Balance at CPA Account as at 31 December 2020 (Account closed:14/06/2022)	<u>0.00</u>
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I have examined the receipts and payments account for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022. 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 2022



Honorary Treasurer
Mrs J Corkish



Honorary Examiner
Ms S Hydrie

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

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

'CPA - Isle of Man Branch' Bank Account Number 10734503 (the CPA Account)

Accounts Year Ended 31 December 2022

Bank Account Activity

1. As at 31 December 2021, the carry forward balance of the CPA Account also was £443.62.
2. No interest was shown to be credited to the CPA Account during the accounting period.
3. 1 cheque was drawn on the CPA Account during the accounting period transferring to the IOMG General Charges Account to offset costs for a CPA dinner, this reduced the account balance to £0.
4. No subscriptions were paid into the CPA Account
5. The account was closed on the 14 June 2022.

Receipt of Payments

6. No Payments were received in this period.

Conclusion

From the examination of banking records undertaken the Receipts and Payments account is a true and fair account of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's activity during the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Recommendations

With the account closed there are no recommendations.

Richard Kermode, Audit Advisory Division