



ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR
AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

FOR THE YEAR 2002 - 2003



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ISLE OF MAN BRANCH

REPORT OF THE CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2002-2003

1. INTRODUCTION

The Branch has continued to play a full and active part in the affairs of the Association. The Executive Committee has taken the action to ascertain what Members want from the CPA and to try to encourage more involvement and participation, as follows -

- a. A questionnaire was sent to all Members in 2002 and the report of the results and recommendations was issued in December 2002.
- b. A notice board has been set up in the Members' Room and the Tynwald Website now includes a section on the CPA.
- c. Twice-yearly newsletters are to be issued and the first was sent out in December 2002.
- d. A Publishing Sub-Committee has been set up and is preparing brief booklets which Members can distribute when visiting other CPA countries. The Sub-Committee is also considering methods of increasing awareness of the CPA in schools.
- e. Work has commenced on building up an audio library so that radio programmes can be broadcast to promote awareness and encourage Chamber visits.
- f. Luncheon presentations to members are now arranged for delegates to recent Conferences, Seminars etc to report back to other Members. As a consequence of this new procedure, brief written reports of Conferences etc are included in this Annual Report and the large Annual Conferences Report has not been issued this year. The feedback we have received is that very few Members used to read the Annual Conferences Report and very much prefer to attend the verbal presentations, where they have the opportunity to have discussions with the delegates.
- g. The Committee has made every effort to comply with Rule 10(a) of the Branch Rules which states that "the Executive Committee shall be required to maintain a programme with the object of affording each ordinary member of the branch the opportunity to participate in at least

one conference, seminar, study tour or other parliamentary visit during the life of that House of Keys". In the period from the 2001 General Election to the end of 2002, 15 Members attended CPA Conferences, Seminars and Parliamentary visits, and only one of those Members has attended 2 events.

2. CONFERENCES

2.1 33rd Regional Conference : Wales : 8th to 12th April 2002

The 33rd Conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region took place in Cardiff from 8th to 12th April 2002. Hrs H Hannan MHK (leader of the delegation), Hon C M Christian MLC, Mr P Karran MHK and Mr G H Waft MLC were the delegates and Mrs M Cullen, Assistant Secretary of the Branch, attended as Secretary of the delegation. Other delegations represented the parliaments of Alderney, Cyprus, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, Malta, Northern Ireland, Scotland, St Helena, the United Kingdom and Wales.

The topics discussed were -

- (1) Public Participation in the Democratic Process
- (2) The Impact of the Euro
- (3) Managing Waste to Protect the Environment
- (4) Tourism as a Sector of the Economy

The verbatim report has been published and is available from the Assistant Secretary.

The Regional Meeting which took place at this Conference was chaired by Hon Mario Galea MP, the Senior Regional Representative on the Executive. Also on the panel for that meeting were the other Regional Representatives Cheryl Gillan (UK) and Richard Cockwell (Falklands), Regional Representative and the Secretary to the Region, Andrew Pearson.

The minutes of the meeting held in Canberra on 10th September 2001 were approved and, under matters arising, the Isle of Man delegation raised the issue of the item which had been adjourned from that meeting regarding the representation in the British Island and Mediterranean Region on the Executive. The Regional Representatives put forward their thoughts about why the matter had not been placed on this agenda. However, the meeting queried Standing Orders and how it had been decided that this issue would not appear on the agenda. It transpired that there are no Standing Orders or Constitution for the Region.

Scotland suggested setting up a working party to look at a possible Constitution or Standing Orders and also representation on the Executive. The following proposal was put forward by Scotland: "To set up a working party to look at whether the Region has a need for a separate Constitution and Standing Orders,

to draft that Constitution and Standing Orders if needed, and to review in the process the issue of regional representation”. With overwhelming agreement for that motion and as the discussion had gone on rather a long time it was decided to adjourn the meeting until the following morning.

However, when the meeting had been reconvened the motion put forward in written form was: “To set up a working party to look at whether the Region has a need for a separate constitution and Standing Orders”. There was obvious consternation at this being placed before us. Scotland even suggested a walk out. However, Keith Raffan of Scotland was extremely forceful, as it was he that had proposed the motion the night before and he had dictated it in very slow and deliberate terms so that the people taking the motion down would have the whole of the motion before them in very simple terms. Keith saw that the motion was redrafted properly and so the meeting continued, with the membership on the working party agreed as follows: Wales, UK, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Mann, Guernsey and Cyprus. Wales were extremely pleased with the outcome and even mentioned the outcome in the final comments, seeing it as a major step forward, that this issue had at last been recognised and would in fact be looked at.

The Branch Executive Committee agreed that Mrs Hannan would be the Isle of Man representative and the Report of the Working Party is shortly to be finalised and will be considered at the 2003 Regional conference.

Further details on the Conference and copies of the verbatim report are available from the Assistant Secretary.

2.2 22nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries : Walvis Bay, Namibia : 4th to 7th September 2002

The Isle of Man was represented at this Conference by Mr E G Lowey MLC and Mr L R Singer MHK. Mrs H Hannan MHK attended as observer and Mrs M Cullen, Assistant Secretary of the Branch, attended as Secretary of the delegation.

The topics discussed were -

Plenary Session:

Empowering Small Commonwealth Countries to Preserve their Sovereignty

Workshops:

The Place of Small Countries in the International Trading System

Sustainable Management of Marine Resources in Small States

Parliamentary Systems in Small States: What works?

Mr Lowey was chosen as the delegate to report back on behalf of the Small Countries Conference to the Plenary Conference.

A presentation to Members on this Conferences was held on 12th November 2002. Reports on the discussions are in *The Parliamentarian*, 2003/ Issue One and further details on the Conference are available from the Assistant Secretary.

2.3 48th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference : Windhoek : 8th to 14th September 2002

The Isle of Man was represented at this Conference by Mr E G Lowey MLC and Mr L R Singer MHK. Mrs H Hannan MHK attended as observer and Mrs M Cullen, Assistant Secretary of the Branch, attended as Secretary of the delegation

The topics discussed were -

Plenary Session:

The Role of Democracy in Promoting Regional and Global Security

Workshops:

Parliaments and Policies to Reduce Poverty and Enhance Human Security

Combating Terrorism: The Role of Parliaments

Policies to Prevent the Spread of HIV/ AIDS: Successes and Failures

Defending Democratic Principles to Preserve Social Stability

The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Conflict Resolution

The Digital Divide and the Threat of Cyber-Terrorism: Challenges and Solutions
(Mrs Cullen was appointed Secretary for this Workshop)

In addition, Mrs Hannan attended a meeting of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and Mrs Cullen attended workshops on parliamentary administration organised by the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table.

Mrs Hannan was also one of four delegates who stood for Chair of the Executive Committee. The successful candidate was Bob Speller of Canada.

A presentation to Members on this Conferences was held on 12th November 2002. Reports on the discussions are in *The Parliamentarian*, 2003/ Issue One and further details on the Conference are available from the Assistant Secretary.

2.4 Wilton Park Conference : 10th to 14th June 2002

This Conference was attended by The Hon Tony Brown SHA and the theme of the Conference was "Enhancing Good Governance by Curbing Corruption".

Mr Brown reports

"I had the pleasure of being selected to attend the Wilton Park Conference, a conference that is held annually to enable parliamentarians from all over the Commonwealth to come together to discuss in detail matters of importance to them and the Commonwealth countries.

The manor house, Wiston House, where the conference was held, is a former historical stately home now owned by the Commonwealth and Foreign Office of the United Kingdom Government and is set in its own grounds Wilton Park, being some miles from the nearest village.

The conference was well attended by Parliaments from throughout the Commonwealth and the usual friendships developed as the conference progressed.

The subject for the Conference was: **“Enhancing Good Governance by Curbing Corruption”**

The main guest speaker was **His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo**, the President of Nigeria, and he attended the conference on Wednesday 12th June. However there was a delay in starting the session that morning as there was a very important world event being broadcast on television; the event was one of the football World Cup heats and the game on this occasion was between Nigeria and England. I think it is fair to say that all the delegates were pleased that his Excellency wished to see the outcome of this important game.

However after the game had finished, the conference got underway and His Excellency was given a very warm welcome and he gave a wonderful speech about how his country was fighting against corruption and the benefits that was bringing to his country and people. His Excellency gave an opportunity for members to ask questions and he was very forthright in responding.

The importance of the changes that have taken place in Nigeria since May 1999 are immense and the return to providing a democratic system of Parliament and Government in Nigeria, after the country has experienced up until May 1999 the full, unmerciful brunt of totalitarian rule, enabling the country to rediscover essential liberties and freedom of expression of opinion – something we here on the Island take for granted – is greatly welcomed in Nigeria. However, it is still going through a fragile period and much has to be done, but there is great hope throughout the country.

Other speakers were **Jeremy Pope** who leads the London office of Transparency International Secretariat; **Rick Stapenhurst** from the World Bank Institute, **The Hon. Denis Marshall** who is the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; **Professor Antony King** who is a journalist and broadcaster and is in the Department of Government at the University of Essex; **John Williams** a member of the Canadian House of Commons who has a distinguished career first being elected in 1993 and is the Chairman of that Parliament's Public Accounts Committee; **Patricia J. Gordon-Pamplin** is the Shadow Minister for Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety in Hamilton, Bermuda and is also Account Executive for Liberty International; **George Moody Stuart** was involved in the formation of Transparency International and was Chairman of the UK national chapter from its start in 1993 until 2000, when he became a member of its international Advisory Council. **Philip Mawer** was appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in March 2002 and in his role is responsible for overseeing the keeping of the Register of Members' Interests; **Inderjit** is a former member of the Indian Parliament and has been a journalist for over 50 years; **Dr Rosamund Thomas** is Director of Centre for

Business and Public Sector Ethics in Cambridge and is an expert in Public Administration/ Public Policy/ Comparative Government; **Olav KjØrven** is State Secretary for International Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; **Phil Mason** is the anti-corruption co-ordinator at the Department for International Development, the department responsible for the UK government's development assistance programme; **Gemma Aiolfi** is a barrister by training and is currently employed by the OECD to support the Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions; **Dianne Stafford** who was appointed to the position of Director of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in January 2000.

The presentation speeches were very interesting and thought-provoking and generated much interest. Delegates were very active in their contributions to the subjects and the contributions were well thought out and demonstrated that there is serious concern regarding corruption, that in many countries is very serious and results in many citizens of the Commonwealth suffering, due to the corrupt practices of either Governments and/ or businesses.

There were discussion groups with delegates meeting in small groups to discuss issues in more depth and these were very interesting and in some cases very active. I also had the opportunity to chair the last session, which was an enjoyable experience.

My own impression of attending the conference is that it was very informative and gave a beneficial insight into problems, which are challenging many democracies within the Commonwealth. Being able to discuss such matters with Parliamentary colleagues to hear of their problems in their country and to have the opportunity to hear experienced professional contributors who deal with or have dealt first hand with such problems that face democracy, was most interesting and invaluable and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend."

3. SEMINARS

3.1 14th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar : Andhra Pradesh 20th to 27st October 2002

Mr D Delaney MLC attended this Seminar which was attended by seventy-one delegates representing India, Africa, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Australia, UK, Canada, British Virgin Islands and the Cook Islands.

Mr Delaney reports -

"The Conference was opened by the Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri Manohar Joshi who emphasised the importance of the Conference in debating the following subjects:

1. Ensuring Executive accountability to Parliament - Role of Parliamentary Committees.
2. Role of Presiding Officers in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament and management of the time of the House.

3. Ethical standards for Legislators inside and outside the House.
4. Relations between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.
5. Parliamentary control over the Budget, etc.

Each of the sessions were held, debated and all ran overtime. Most of the information at these sessions was both interesting and informative, I found the debates stimulating. The diversity of Parliamentary differences in practice was quite profound and certainly in the field of modern technology in communications showed a wide gap in the different regions ability to adapt to change.

I was requested to Chair the final session 'The Role of the CPA' which was presented by the new Secretary General of the CPA, Denis Marshall QSO.

Your Committee will be aware, Denis was only appointed in January this year and this was his first time as a presenter at a Seminar. I am pleased to report that the Seminar was deemed to be a success by all the delegates present.

On behalf of this Branch, and myself, I have already written my thanks and appreciation to the Secretary of the CPA Branch of Andhra Pradesh, Shri K Tuljanand Singh (copy enclosed).

A number of our friends in the CPA send their regards.

Mr Nick Taylor, Canadian Parliament sends his regards to Mr E Lowey.

Mr Robati Pupuke, Speaker of the Cook Islands, sends his best wishes to Sir Charles Kerruish, who he considers a personal friend.

The Speaker of the West Bengal Parliament, Shri Hasim Abdul Halim, remembers with fondness his trip to the Isle of Man in 1984.

I thank the Branch for placing their confidence in me, in choosing me to represent our Island in India, particularly given my recent medical problems. I hope my presence at this Seminar may assist the Island at future gatherings.

I would also like to record my appreciation for the way my short visit was organised by our staff, in the person of Mrs Gill Whiteside. The flights itinerary went like clockwork and all the information supplied to me, particularly the background of Hyderabad by the library, was of great assistance."

A presentation to Members on this Seminar was held on 12th November 2002. Further details on the Seminar are available from the Assistant Secretary.

3.2 2nd CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar : Ottawa, Canada 3rd-9th November 2002

Hon P M Crowe MHK attended this Seminar, which was attended by delegates attended from Antigua, Australia, Canada, England, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, St Christopher & Nevis, Scotland, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Wales and Zambia

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary General, Denis Marshall QSO, also attended, and Members of the Canadian CPA attended for various topics.

Mrs Crowe reports -

"On Sunday 3rd November, after a very long journey for most delegates, we registered and attended a welcoming reception hosted by Ms S Bulte MP, Chair of the Canadian CPA.

Monday 4th November, saw us start work in earnest. Mr Bob Speller, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA, and the Hon Denis Marshall, Secretary General of the CPA spoke and opened up discussion on the role of the CPA. After a short coffee break, we listened to an overview of the role and operation of the Canadian Parliament from Ms Audrey O'Brien, Deputy Clerk of the House of Commons. It was an excellent lecture followed by interesting questions: my conclusion was - no role for Private Members' Bills in the Canadian Parliament.

We had a light working lunch and in the afternoon we received an overview of the political scene with Members of the Canadian Political Parties, and we met for the first time the formidable Madame Tremblay, an outspoken Member of the Bloc Quebecois. At 4.30 pm we had a short bus tour of the city, and in the evening we attended a reception and dinner given by the Speaker of the House of Commons in his rooms.

Tuesday 5th November saw the first of the thick snow with temperatures of -12°. I was chairing the Morning Session: a very heated debate - recruiting women in the political process. I had three MPs on the panel and I had to remind them that we were not there to listen to party politics. My Indian colleague, Santosh, gave a wonderful overview of their system with 30% women's representation enforced. We declined our coffee break to continue our discussions. Prior to lunch we were once again made aware of the 'Power of the Party'. It seemed to be that MPs were elected by the people, but once in Parliament served only 'The Party'.

After a very quick lunch this was confirmed for me when we attended Members' Question Time, which was a farce; misbehaviour that would not be tolerated by our Speaker, no real questions, no answers, all 'on the hoof' yelling and - even more disconcerting - clapping continuously.

We were in the House for what was to be the 'most controversial political decision in years'. A Select Committee had previously reported to the House that they felt that the Chairman of Standing Committees should be elected by ballot – not as at present appointed by the Prime Minister – the report was ignored (like it would seem so many are in this Parliament), so the opposition put forward a motion. The overwhelming Liberal party membership of the House showed some signs of dissent and they were to vote to elect the Chairman.

The House stands to vote and it was obvious from our vantage point in the gallery, that the Prime Minister and his Cabinet sat alone as the House rose almost as one in signifying a yes vote, ignoring the usual 3 line whip. Carolyn

Parish MP, whose office we were to visit later, who voted for the motion with the opposition, was scathing about the degree of Liberal Party control.

Wednesday was once again intensive discussion all day. In the evening we had a reception and keynote address from Hugh Segal, President of the Institute for Research on Public Policy. We chose to trudge through the snow back to the Hotel controlling the desire of the Australian delegates who wanted to organise a snowball fight!.

Thursday 7th was once again most interesting and the main topic was 'Has the media taken over the representational role of Parliamentarians' and the statement that the media's job was to scrutinise Government would have brought a 2 hour lecture from the President of our Parliament, as I did not hesitate to tell them. I must say I was amazed by the lack of scrutiny of Government, which was confirmed at the afternoon session, by John Williams MP, one of the two remaining Conservatives, who at the last election went from 301 Members in the house to two, in one fell swoop.

John Williams is the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and I could hardly believe the Canadian system of public accountability, or more correctly, the lack of public accountability. The Public Accounts Committee can report to Parliament on a matter of concern instigated by the Auditor General, and the Government have 5 months to reply – and then the response only has to be that they will look into the matter. Mr Williams has already been in contact with me by e-mail, with a view to joining a Global group looking at corruption.

On Friday we had a talk by an authority of Lobbyists and then had our own choice of debate – I felt we should have chosen one topic. Crispin spoke emotionally on the subject of Aids and I felt we were rather rushed through the debate trying to cover too many topics; Gordon Prentice's (Lab MP UK) input on Private Members' Bills, paled into insignificance when we listened to Crispin's heart-rending account of children with no parents - a generation of Zambians are dying of Aids.

Nothing was planned for our last evening, so I booked a table at the revolving restaurant and we all had a really excellent evening with some very serious discussion which carried on until the small hours.

I would like to thank the Isle of Man Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for offering me this opportunity which, although intensive (our study papers were 2 inches thick), was most interesting and thought-provoking – every delegate could, when asked, recite my mantra that the Isle of Man has the oldest continuous Parliament in the world. I felt so proud of our Parliament and heritage when I listened to the Canadian system and other systems around the world. As I suggested to the seminar, we may well be a small Parliament but I felt that others, no matter how large, could learn from us."

A presentation to Members on this Seminar was held on 19th February 2003 and a fuller version of Mrs Crowe's Report is available from the Assistant Secretary.

4. VISITS

4.1 Westminster Visit : 4th to 6th December 2002

A delegation consisting of The Hon Noel Cringle President of Tynwald (leader of the party), Mr David Anderson MHK, Mr Andrew Douglas MHK, Mr Adrian Earnshaw MHK, Mr Quinton Gill MHK and Mr Martyn Quayle MHK, accompanied by Mr Phil Lo Bao, as secretary of the delegation, visited Westminster on the 4th and 5th December 2002.

The programme for the visit was prepared by officers of the United Kingdom Branch of the Association. The primary purpose of the visit was to enable newer members to study and gain some understanding of the British parliamentary system and to make potentially useful contacts.

The delegates report -

"The delegation had several very useful and informative discussion meetings:

On the first morning of the visit the delegation met Mr Robert Wilson (Principal Clerk Select Committees) who gave a brief introduction to the Commons system of select committees. He reminded the delegates that in the words of Robin Cook MO (Leader of the House) "good scrutiny equals good government". The talk was followed by a brief visit to the Defence Select Committee which was in session, and to a Standing Committee room although the actual committee was not in session.

On the Thursday morning the delegation met with Ms Rosie Winterton MP who as Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Office has responsibility for links between the UK Government and the Isle of Man. About 45 minutes were spent with the Minister and a discussion on a variety of issues involving both jurisdictions took place.

Later the same morning a discussion was held with Ms Jacqy Sharpe (Clerk of the Overseas Office) and then with Mr Frank Cranmer (Clerk of the Bills). Ms Sharpe briefed the delegates about the establishment and use of the parallel chamber in Westminster Hall and also about the current situation with regard to House of Lords reform.. Mr Cranmer explained to the delegation the various forms of devolution operating within the United Kingdom and discussed some likely future developments with regard to devolution.

In the afternoon of the second day a discussion took place between the delegation and Mr George Cubie (Clerk of the Committees) and Ms Helen Irwin (Clerk of the Table Office) on the subject of parliamentary reform.

The delegation had the opportunity to attend Question Time in both Houses. On the first afternoon we were able to attend Question Time in the Commons. Peter Hain, Secretary of State for Wales, was fielding questions before the arrival of the Prime Minister. The prime Minister was effective in answering questions asked of him. His large majority certainly seems to visibly weaken the opposition.. It was very noticeable that as soon as Prime Minister's Question Time had finished, the Chamber rapidly emptied, with only a handful remaining to continue business.

On the second afternoon the group attended Question Time in the Lords and noticed the very different atmosphere which contrasted sharply with the previous day. It was noticed that order was maintained by their Lordships themselves and the atmosphere was much less highly charged although not without moments of humour. Our visit to the Lords Question Time was followed by tea in the Lords Tea Room hosted by Professor Lord McColl of Dulwich. Also attending this tea were Lord Corbin and Baroness Strange.

Apart from attending Question Time in both Houses, the delegation was given a thorough tour of both chambers. The Lords was visited first on the Thursday morning with our guide being Lord Quirk one of the crossbench Lords and of course a Manxman, and at the Commons our guide was the Conservative MP Mr Andrew Rosindell. Following our visit to the Commons chamber, the delegation was entertained to lunch in the Commons Churchill Room.

The delegation was very pleased to visit the offices of the Liberal Democrat MP Mr Paul Keetch, which was located in Portcullis House. The contrast between his office accommodation, as a back bencher, and those of Members of Tynwald was very great indeed. We were then entertained briefly by Mr Keetch on the House of Commons terrace.

Mr Keetch is a member of the Westminster Cider Group, and Mr Gill was invited to become an honorary member. Any Member wishing to join Mr Gill as an honorary member of the Westminster Cider Group should speak to him.

The Thursday morning also saw a most interesting visit to the inside of Big Ben Clock Tower. Although it was quite a climb the view from the top was excellent and it was quite an experience to stand next to the bells as they rang out the mid-day chimes.

On the Wednesday afternoon after attending Prime Ministers Question Time, the delegation had a very informative meeting with several key officers of the CPA. We were very pleased to meet Hon Denis Marshall QSO, the Secretary-General of the CPA who was joined by Mr Andrew Imlach (Director of Information Services). The work of the CPA was explained to the group and a general discussion then took place regarding some of the current issues being faced by the Association.

Apart from this formal session there were several opportunities over coffee, lunch and dinner to discuss matters informally with various members of the CPA UK branch.

The programme arranged by the host branch included a number of social events at which it was possible to discuss matters in a relaxed and informal way -

- (a) a reception for Associate Members of the CPA UK Branch on Wednesday evening;
- (b) a dinner in the Cinnamon Club Indian Restaurant on the Wednesday evening hosted by Tom Cox MP, and
- (c) a buffet lunch on the Thursday where we were pleased to meet a number of people who have been hosted by our Branch.

The official programme was rounded off by a trip to the theatre to see the very amusing play entitled “The Play What I Wrote”.

We are most grateful to the Branch for making it possible for us to undertake this valuable study visit and to the United Kingdom Branch for its excellent arrangements. Our particular thanks go to Miss Helen Haywood the UK Branch Administrator for making the arrangements and shepherding us to the right place at the right time.

There is no doubt that it was extremely interesting and educational visit and all the members of the delegation felt much better informed about the work of the Westminster parliament by the end of the visit.

Finally the delegation would like to express sincere thanks to the UK Branch of the CPA for its extremely generous gesture in providing the hotel accommodation for our visit."

A presentation to Members on this Visit was held on 19th February 2003. A fuller report of the Visit is available from the Assistant Secretary.

4.2 VISITS TO THE BRANCH

4.2.1 The Tynwald Ceremony

The following Commonwealth parliamentarians were official guests to the Tynwald Ceremony —

- (1) Lord Alderdice, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly
- (2) The Rt Hon Sir David Steel KBE MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament
- (3) Sir Richard Dales, His Excellency the British Ambassador to Norway
- (4) Lord Shutt of Greetland, United Kingdom
- (5) Mr John Griffiths AM, Wales

4.2.2 Other Visitors

During the past year the Branch has been pleased to welcome and entertain other Parliamentarians from Commonwealth countries.

- (1) Faroese Finance Committee
- (2) Namibian High Commissioner

5. YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE LEGISLATURE

5.1 School Visits

The Branch has continued to encourage visits to the Legislative Building by parties of school children by offering to meet the cost of transport. Under such sponsorship the visits took place during the year from Ashley Hill School and Ballaugh School.

5.2 Junior Tynwald Court, 15th July 2002

With the active co-operation of the Department of Education, the Branch arranged a sitting of a Junior Tynwald Court comprised of Members from the Island's secondary schools. The meeting began in the Tynwald Chambers at noon on Monday, 15th July 2002. Students from the Island's five secondary schools participated, each school team consisting of five students from Year 12 (sixth form). An additional eight students from each school were invited to attend in the Public Gallery as spectators.

The programme for the afternoon was as follows:

12.00 noon Students arrive at the Keys Lobby to be met by Members of Tynwald, followed by a brief tour of the Chambers and a briefing on the procedure for the debate in the Tynwald Chamber.

1.00 pm A sandwich lunch in the Millennium Conference Room.

1.45 pm Question Time

2.30 pm Commencement of the sitting of Tynwald Court to debate

"That this Junior Tynwald believes that the Isle of Man should meet the United Nations recommended level of 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product being allocated to overseas and even though this will leave less money for local spending on such things as education, health, sport and transport" and

"That this Junior Tynwald believes that voting should be made compulsory in Manx general elections".

3.00 pm Conclusion of the debate

Appendix 1 to this report contains a list of participants, a copy of the Order Paper and a copy of the Question Paper.

6. COMMONWEALTH DAY

Commonwealth Day 2002 was marked by the customary celebratory dinner which was held at the Chesterhouse Hotel, Douglas, at which Sir Miles Walker CBE LLDB(hc) was the Guest Speaker. Musical entertainment was provided by John and Karen Elliott.

7. THE FUTURE

The coming year promises to be a very busy one and includes -

- (1) **Commonwealth Day** is to be celebrated on Monday 10th March 2003 with a dinner at the Empress Hotel, Douglas. Two undergraduates from the Island were nominated by the Department of Education to participate in the Commonwealth Day Observance celebrations.
- (2) the 34th **Conference of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region** to be held in London and Cambridge from 15th to 20^h June 2003;
- (3) the 23nd **Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries** and the 48th **Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference** to be held in Bangladesh from 3rd to 13th October 2003.
- (4) a **Junior Tynwald** to be held on 21st July 2003 (to be confirmed).
- (5) your Executive will continue the policy of **Study Tours**, extending the programme to include the regional legislatures of the United Kingdom, and promote the attendance of Members at Seminars and Conferences

Mrs H Hannan MHK
Chair of the Executive Committee
March 2003

APPENDIX 1

JUNIOR TYNWALD

PARTICIPANTS JULY 2002

ACTING PRESIDENT OF TYNWALD

The Hon J A BROWN SHK

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Joanna FLINT
Katie KERMODE
Richard POWER
Daley WATSON

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Mrs M CULLEN

HOUSE OF KEYS

ACTING SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF KEYS

Mr D GELLING MHK

RAMSEY

Alicia CAIN
Sarah KINRADE

AYRE

Isabel CORLETT

MICHAEL

Felicity CROWE

PEEL

Kim BAKER

GARFF

Vicky QUAYLE

GLENFABA

Sam SHIPSTONE

MIDDLE

Amy GELLING

ONCHAN

Ryan KINRADE
Garry MANLEY

DOUGLAS NORTH

Steven HANNAH
Sam McCAULEY

DOUGLAS SOUTH

John DAWSON
Julia ERSKINE

DOUGLAS EAST

Kristina WHEELER

DOUGLAS WEST

John McCANN

CASTLETOWN

David BLACKMAN

MALEW AND SANTON

Rachel JAMES

RUSHEN

Kirsty BARTLEY
Anna POTTS
Thomas JACKSON

JUNIOR TYNWALD

Tinvaal Saa



ORDER PAPER

Claare Obbyr

DOUGLAS
MONDAY 15TH JULY 2002
at 1.45 pm

1. Questions

2. Overseas Aid

A Member of Queen Elizabeth II High School to move -

That this Junior Tynwald believes that the Isle of Man should meet the United Nations recommended level of 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product being allocated to overseas and even though this will leave less money for local spending on such things as education, health, sport and transport.

3. General Elections

A Member of St Ninian's High School to move -

That this Junior Tynwald believes that voting should be made compulsory in Manx general elections.

JUNIOR TYNWALD

Tinvaal Saa



DRAFT

QUESTION PAPER

Pabyr Feyshtyn

DOUGLAS
15th July 2002
at 1.45 pm

FOR ORAL ANSWER

(Questions not reached before 2.30 pm will receive a written answer)

1. The Hon Member for Michael (Miss Felicity Crowe) to ask a Member for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Mr P Karran MHK) -

Does your Department propose to ignore the declining farming industry in the Isle of Man because of the Treaty of Accession, or, will it do as many other countries have, and adopt policies which protect their own industry, rather than letting foreign producers gain the upper hand? (QEII)

2. The Hon Member for Rushen (Miss Kirsty Bartley) to ask the Minister for Education (Hon S C Rodan MHK) -

Would you agree that the promotion of Manx culture is important and should have a prominent position in the Manx National Curriculum? (Castle Rushen)

3. The Hon Member for Douglas South (Miss Julia Erskine) to ask the Chief Minister (Hon R K Corkill MHK) -

Would you agree that it is now time to activate the Residency Act and restrict immigration? (Ballakermeen)

4. The Hon Member for Ayre (Miss Isabel Corlett) to ask the Minister for Education (Hon S C Rodan MHK) -

What is the present state of recruitment level of teachers for the academic year 2002-2003? (Ramsey Grammar)

5. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Mr Steven Hannah) to ask the Minister for Education (Hon S C Rodan MHK) -

What steps has your Government taken to ensure that affordable housing is available for teachers on this Island? (St Ninians)

6. The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Richard Power) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security (Hon C M Christian MLC) -

In the light of the tragic deaths this February, what measures are being taken to improve the safety of children in care? (QEII)

7. The Hon Member for Rushen (Miss Anna Potts) to ask a Member of the Department of Local Government and the Environment (Mr Q B Gill MHK) -

What action is the Government taking to put more pressure on the UK Government to close Sellafield? (Castle Rushen)

8. The Hon Member for Douglas West (Mr John McCann) to ask a Member of the Treasury (Mr D J Gelling MHK) -

What action has been taken to prevent terrorists from using the Isle of Man as an offshore bank? (Ballakermeen)

9. The Hon Member for Ramsey (Miss Alicia Cain) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security (Hon C M Christian MLC) -

How does the Government intend to respond to the 1% increase in National Insurance contributions across Britain and therefore directly affecting Isle of Man workers? (Ramsey Grammar)

10. The Hon Member for Douglas North (Miss Sam McCauley) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security (Hon C M Christian MLC) -

What action has been taken to ensure the improvement of morale amongst staff working in Noble's Hospital? (St Ninians)

- 11.** The Hon Member of the Council (Mr Daley Watson) to ask a Member of the Department of Local Government and the Environment (Mr Q B Gill MHK) -

You have made your policies about encouraging young students to return to the Island after further education quite clear. However, the Island's housing issue is becoming a definite barrier to returning students. How do you propose to rectify this problem? (QEII)

- 12.** The Hon Member for Castletown (Mr David Blackman) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security (Hon C M Christian MLC) -

Do you agree that there are insufficient General Practitioners on the Island to provide a satisfactory service? (Castle Rushen)

- 13.** The Hon Member for Douglas South (Mr John Dawson) to ask the Minister for Health and Social Security (Hon C M Christian MLC) -

What action has been taken to cut down on underage smoking and drinking? (Ballakermeen)

- 14.** The Hon Member for Garff (Miss Vicky Quayle) to ask a Member of the Treasury (Mr D J Gelling MHK) -

If Britain/ UK adopts the Euro in the near future, will the Isle of Man electorate be offered the opportunity to vote in a referendum? (Ramsey Grammar)

- 15.** The Hon Member for Onchan (Mr Garry Manley) to ask a Member of the Department of Transport (Mrs H Hannan MHK) -

What does your Government propose to do to reduce the increasingly appalling traffic congestion every weekday in the approaches to the Douglas area? (St Ninians)

**THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 2003**

RECEIPTS

	£	£
Balance b/f 1 st March 2002		4,945.83
Subscriptions Collected	140.00	
Bank Interest	36.93	<u>176.93</u>
		<u>5,122.76</u>

PAYMENTS

	£	£
Balances at 28 th February 2003:		
Deposit Account	5,112.76	
Cash in hand	10.00	
Current Account	0.00	
		<u>5,122.76</u>

Notes: (1) As at the 28th February 2003, subscriptions in arrears amounted to £57.50 and subscriptions paid in advance amounted to £12.00. There was one subscription written out of the accounts amounting to £5.00.

I have audited the above receipts and payments account in accordance with approved auditing standards 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 28th February 2003.



Treasury
1st March 2003

Honorary Auditor
Mr K C McGreal, CPFA; MAPSA



Honorary Treasurer
Mr P M Shimmin CPFA