



Isle of Man Branch

Report of the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee for the period January 2013 to December 2013

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.

On-Island activities in 2013

2. In March the Annual Commonwealth Day Dinner was held for the first time in the Barrool Suite, Legislative Buildings. Entertainment was provided by Otto, a male vocal ensemble from Ballakermeen High School. The guest speaker was Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and Chairman of Ways and Means, Rt. Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP (Chorley).
3. In his address Mr Hoyle said: 'I am delighted to have been invited, in my capacity of Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, to address the Commonwealth Day dinner held by the CPA Executive Committee of the Isle of Man. The event is an important opportunity to reaffirm the shared democratic values of the Commonwealth and to acknowledge the good work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, an organisation with which I am proud to have had a long involvement. As a Member of Parliament from the North West of England I have long acknowledged the importance of building links between the North West region and the Isle of Man, and it is therefore a particular pleasure to mark this occasion in Douglas.'
4. In March the Deputy Speaker and Clerk from the Turks and Caicos Islands visited on a study programme following the good governance seminar led by Mr Speaker in the territory some months earlier. In the same month we welcomed Iris Green, head of the Tristan da Cunha post office and philatelic bureau.
5. In July at Tynwald Day, the honoured guests this year included the following fellow parliamentarians from neighbouring CPA branches:
 - Dr Alasdair Allan MSP Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages, Scotland;
 - Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer, Welsh Assembly;
 - Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, Minister of State for Trade and Investment, United Kingdom;

- Senator Ian Le Marquand - Deputy Chief Minister, States of Jersey;
- John Scott MSP, Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament;
- Jim Wells MLA, Deputy Chair of the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland.

6. 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 ranging from the funding of university fees to bus provision for young people, alcohol misuse to sustainable energy sources.

Off-Island activities in 2013

7. In February Mr Tony Wild MLC and I attended the 43rd British Isles and Mediterranean Region Conference in the Falkland Islands, the theme of which was 'Self-determination and its role in self-governance and devolution'.
8. In March Katie Danes from Port St Mary and Faye Devlin from Onchan attended the annual Commonwealth Day proceedings in London, the theme for which was 'Opportunity through Enterprise'. The programme included discussions on the Commonwealth and the CPA attended by visiting and UK parliamentarians, followed by attendance at the Observance Day service in Westminster Abbey at which Her Majesty the Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, was present.
9. In March Mr Alfred Cannan MHK, Mr Geoff Corkish MLC, Mr Howard Quayle MHK, Mr Richard Ronan MHK, Mr Leonard Singer MHK, Mr Laurence Skelly MHK together with Mr Speaker went to Edinburgh, for a two day study visit to learn more about the Scottish parliamentary system.
10. In June Mr Howard Quayle MHK attended a PAC Workshop at Westminster.
11. In July Hon Tim Crookall MHK travelled to St Helena to participate in a post-election seminar jointly organised by the FCO and the CPA. The seminar team also comprised parliamentarians from the UK, Wales and Guernsey. The aim was to strengthen and promote good governance in St Helena through providing a framework for newly elected Councillors to work from.
12. In August to September Mr Alex Downie MLC and Mr Leonard Singer MHK attended the 59th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. At the Small Branches Conference sessions Mr Downie spoke about 'Ensuring Technical and Legislative Capacity for Ethical Tax-raising in Small States' while Mr Singer spoke on 'Self-determination, self-sufficiency and self-governance'.

Conclusion

13. I remain firmly of the view that the small proportion of the "Legislature" vote which is spent on CPA work is money well spent. (We continue to account separately for the money collected through your subscriptions and these are the accounts which accompany this report.)

14. It is also 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 I am glad that we have recently begun participating in an e-mentoring scheme with other jurisdictions.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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 2014

THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st January to 31 December 2013

<u>Receipts & Payments Account</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Opening Bank Balances		4,039
<i>Receipts</i>		
Subscriptions Collected	236	
Bank Interest	3	
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>239</u>	
<i>Payments</i>		
Payments made during accounting period	<u>434</u>	
<i>Total Payments</i>	<u>434</u>	
Excess of payments over receipts		195
Closing Bank Balances		<u>3,844</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2013

<u>Cash at Bank</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Deposit Account		2,311
Current Account	1,383	
Cash due (owed by COT Office)	150	
Current Account total after cash due		<u>1,533</u>
Total Assets		<u>3844</u>

<u>Subscriptions analysis</u>	<u>£</u>
Prepaid subscriptions brought forward	(735)
Prepaid subscriptions donated	0
Subscriptions due	297
Prepaid subscriptions carried forward	<u>674</u>
Subscriptions collected	<u>236</u>

I have audited the receipts and payments account for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 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 31 December 2013

E. M. Lambden

Honorary Treasurer
Marie Lambden ACIS



Honorary Auditor
Mr C Randall FCCA