



Isle of Man Branch

Report of the Chair of the Branch Executive Committee for the period January 2021 to December 2021

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. 2021 was General Election year in the Isle of Man and saw the retirement of The Hon. Steve Rodan OBE as President of Tynwald. The Hon. Laurence Skelly MLC was elected as President of Tynwald and therefore *ex officio* a Joint President of the CPA's Isle of Man Branch. I was honoured to be unanimously re-elected as Speaker, and as such Branch Joint President. Hon. Alfred Cannan MHK was elected as Chief Minister and therefore *ex officio* Branch Vice President.
3. Miss Tanya August-Hanson MLC, Mr Rob Callister MHK, Mrs Ann Corlett MHK, Mr Tim Crookall MHK and Mrs Sarah Maltby MHK (Ordinary Members) and Mr Steve Rodan OBE (Associate Member) were proposed, seconded and elected to the Branch Executive Committee. I am honoured to have been re-elected as Chair.
4. With another unusual year behind us, my Report once again contains a section on activities hosted virtually, as well as the usual sections dividing activities between those that occur on-Island and those that occur off-Island.

Farewells

5. The 2021 General Election saw the departure of many CPA members:
 - The Hon. Steve Rodan OBE was a Joint Branch President from 2006 until his retirement in 2021. Mr Rodan was a very active member of the Branch, hosting visitors from all over the Commonwealth and representing Tynwald on numerous occasions in study visits, regional and plenary conferences. He also acted as an Election Observer in the British Virgin Islands in 2015 and the Head of Mission in the Election Observation Mission in the Cayman Islands in 2017.

- Mr Tim Baker attended the Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments in London in 2019 and the Small Branches Sustainable and Economic Development Workshop in Malta in 2020.
- Mr Geoffrey Boot represented Tynwald at the regional conference in Gibraltar in 2017 and attended study visits to Jersey and the Scottish Parliament in 2019.
- Mr Graham Cregeen attended study visits to Westminster and the Scottish Parliament in 2007. He also represented Tynwald at the CPA Canadian Parliamentary Seminar held in Ottawa in 2009, a Public Accounts Committee Workshop held in London in 2012 and attended a study visit to Westminster in 2017.
- Mr Ray Harmer attended a study visit to Westminster in 2017 and represented Tynwald at the virtual regional conference in Malta in 2020.
- Mr Ralph Peake attended a study visit to Westminster in 2017.
- Mr Martyn Perkins was an active member of the Branch; he attended study visits to Westminster (2017) and Jersey (2019) and was a host for the inaugural Crown Dependencies Network meeting held in the Isle of Man in September 2019. He embarked on the CPA Fundamentals Study Programme on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure held by the McGill University in Montreal, Canada in 2017, and attended CPA British Islands & Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Election Observance Training at Westminster in 2019. He also represented Tynwald at the regional conference in Guernsey in 2019 and at the virtual regional conference in Malta in 2020, and took part in an election observation mission in Montserrat in 2019.
- Mr Chris Robertshaw attended a study visit to Westminster in 2012.
- Mr Bill Shimmins was a member of the Branch Executive Committee and attended study visits at Westminster (2017) and the Scottish Parliament (2019). He represented Tynwald at the regional conference in Gibraltar in 2017 and attended the Small Branches Sustainable and Economic Development Workshop in Malta in 2020.

On-Island activities in 2021

6. Due to the pandemic, we marked Commonwealth Day belatedly in May by holding the annual Commonwealth Day Dinner at Douglas Golf Club with over 50 guests attending, including His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Richard Gozney and Lady Gozney. I was delighted to welcome the President of Tynwald, The Hon. Steve Rodan OBE MLC, as guest speaker, who shared his wealth of parliamentary experience in a speech titled 'When Flares were in Fashion - a Political Journey'.
7. Last year I had the privilege of chairing a panel whose other members were Professor Peter Edge, Mrs Clare Christian (former President), Mr Ray Harmer MHK

and Mr Lawrie Hooper MHK tasked with a self-assessment against CPA Benchmarks. The panel's report was presented to the Branch Executive Committee and it agreed that it should be laid before Tynwald with a covering report from the Committee. The Report on a Benchmarks Self-Assessment 2020-21¹ was laid before Tynwald in June 2021.

8. On 5th July at Tynwald Day, the honoured guests included the following parliamentarians from CPA Branches:

- The Rt Hon The Lord Stephens of Creevyloagh, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom
- Rt Hon Nigel Evans MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means
- Mr David Morris MP, Member of Parliament for Morecambe and Lunesdale and Vice-Chair UK-IOM All-Party Parliamentary Group
- Colonel The Rt Hon Bob Stewart DSO MP, Member of Parliament for Beckenham

We were also delighted to welcome CPA Deputy Secretary General, Mr Jarvis Matiya as an official guest.

9. In a change from Tynwald Members and officers contributing to election observation missions throughout the Commonwealth, this year it was our turn to be observed! The CPA BIMR were formally invited to send a mission to observe the General Election being held in the Isle of Man on 23rd September 2021. This was the first time a Manx election had been observed by the CPA. A team of international observers visited the Island to observe preparations for the election and to attend polling stations and count venues across the Island's 12 constituencies on polling day. They also gathered evidence from a range of key stakeholders, including deputy returning officers, candidates, voters and election officials.

The final report of the election observation mission can be found here: <https://www.uk-cpa.org/media/4422/final-report-cpa-bimr-election-observation-mission-to-isle-of-man-2021.pdf>.

A breakdown of the cost of the election observation mission to the Isle of Man can be found attached to this report at Appendix 1.

10. With the support of the CPA Isle of Man Branch, Tynwald continued to welcome visiting groups from primary schools throughout 2021.

¹ <https://www.tynwald.org.im/business/opqp/sittings/20182021/2021-PP-0138.pdf>

Off-Island activities in 2021

11. The 50th BIMR conference was held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in September 2021; the first in-person conference attended by Tynwald representatives outside of the Isle of Man in quite a long time! Mr Peter Greenhill MLC attended the conference along with Clerk of Tynwald, Roger Phillips. The theme of the conference was 'Post-Pandemic Parliaments', exploring how countries and legislatures are recovering from the pandemic.
12. Also in September a post-election seminar was held in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The seminar aimed to cover a range of topics such as the role of a parliamentarian, opportunities and challenges of being a newly elected MP, and the legislative process. The seminar was attended by the Deputy Head of the Chamber and Information Service, Francisca Gale, who sat on the panel for a number of sessions to give the Isle of Man perspective.
13. In November 2021, in my capacity of Vice-Chair of the CPA Small Branches Network, I participated in the GLOBE COP26 Legislators Summit held in Edinburgh. The Summit was part of the broader COP26 agenda, convening legislators from around the world to discuss climate change and parliamentary action. I had the honour of addressing the plenary to raise the issue of how small branches face special challenges when it comes to climate change, decarbonising energy and protecting biodiversity. As well as reporting back to colleagues in Tynwald, on my return I contributed to an article² in *The Parliamentarian*, the journal of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which goes to all Parliamentarians in each of the 180+ branches of the CPA.
14. 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. In November, seven Members travelled to Jersey to attend Island-focused sessions such as 'Small Islands, Population and Skills' and 'Island Health Care Models'. The Isle of Man was represented by Mr Rob Callister MHK, Mrs Claire Christian MHK, Mrs Ann Corlett MHK, Mr Tim Glover MHK, Mr Peter Greenhill MLC, Mr Tim Johnston MHK and Mr Andrew Smith MHK. The Clerk of Tynwald, Jonathan King, was also present.
15. During the year the Branch was asked to consider Tynwald representation on three CPA Branch networks; the Branch Executive Committee agreed to the following:
 - I represent the BIMR on the Steering group of the CPA Small Branches Network;

² *The Parliamentarian*, 2021 | Volume 102 | Issue 4, page 396:

<https://www.cpahq.org/media/kaydyvnp/parl2021iss4finalsinglereduced.pdf>

- 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.

Virtual activities in 2021

16. In February 2021, Mrs Ann Corlett MHK attended the virtual BIMR CWP Conference, with Mr Rob Mercer MLC in attendance as an observer. This year's theme was 'Prioritising Women's Representation and Promoting Gender Sensitive Parliaments' and the conference provided the opportunity for parliamentarians from across the region to discuss these issues with experts and peers.
17. Also in February, I participated in a three-day online workshop organised by CPA UK for Members and clerks from the Parliament of Sierra Leone. The workshop aimed to explore effective approaches to legislative scrutiny, the implementation of Standing Orders and to give participants the opportunity to share best practice. I presented a session titled 'Interpreting and Upholding Standing Orders – The Role of Presiding Officers'.
18. In March 2021, Deputy Clerk of Tynwald, Jonathan King, presented at the CPA UK / ParlAmericas Working Group on the theme 'Maximising Resources to Modernise Parliament'. The aim of the working group was to explore how parliaments can prioritise the use of ICT tools to achieve the highest impact in terms of strengthening legislative work.
19. Also in March, CPA UK invited parliamentarians to participate in the first virtual Commonwealth Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change. The programme's aim was to engage parliamentarians across the Commonwealth in discussion on holding governments to account, setting ambitious climate commitments, and complying with international agreements. Tynwald was represented by Hon. Geoffrey Boot MHK, Mrs Daphne Caine MHK, Miss Tanya August-Hanson MLC, Mr Martyn Perkins MHK and Mrs Jane Poole-Wilson MLC.
20. In July 2021, CPA UK ran a virtual training programme for clerks and parliamentary staff in Lesotho, a small Commonwealth country that is entirely surrounded by South Africa. Deputy Clerk of Tynwald, Jonathan King, presented a session on the drafting of committee reports jointly with an officer from the House of Commons.
21. CPA UK delivered a virtual Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Workshop in the Turks and Caicos Islands in July, and Tynwald PAC Clerk, Joann Corkish, was invited to present a session on 'Preparing for a Committee Hearing' and also to speak at the committee exercise session which explored techniques of scrutiny by simulating an evidence session.
22. In August 2021, the CPA Headquarters Secretariat organised a virtual post-election seminar for Members of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands. Jonathan King was

invited to serve as member of the CPA Resource Team for the Seminar and jointly presented a session on 'Writing Reports and Achieving Impact' with Dr Mark Egan, Greffier of the States Assembly, Jersey.

23. In October 2021, CPA UK held a virtual Election Observation course for the British Islands & Mediterranean Region; participation in this course, or similar prior training or experience, is required before Members can join CPA BIMR Election Observation Missions in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies – in the same way that a CPA-appointed group observed our own General Election in September. The online course was attended by myself, Mr Rob Mercer MLC and Mr Andrew Smith MHK.
24. Also in October 2021, CPA UK held a virtual Public Accounts Committee Inquiry Workshop for Chairs, members and clerks of PACs to explore best practices in financial scrutiny, including a Committee Inquiry Exercise designed to put effective questioning skills into practice and to discuss responses to shared challenges faced by PACs. Tynwald's PAC Clerk, Joann Corkish, was asked by CPA UK to speak at the session focused on 'Holding Government to Account'.
25. Throughout 2021, Mr Rob Callister MHK continued to represent Tynwald on the CPA BIMR working group on COVID-19, leading on the topic of 'Borders: Residence, travel and tourism'. This was a thematic response to the pandemic, sharing information on handling the pandemic and mitigating its impact across society being undertaken by a number of branches in the BIMR Region. The final report³ of the working group was circulated ahead of the BIMR AGM held in Belfast in September 2021 and noted at the meeting.
26. In the lead up to the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (due to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in August 2021 but later rescheduled to August 2022) CPA HQ hosted a series of virtual workshops and webinars to which Members were invited to participate. The workshops covered topics such as 'National Action Towards Climate Change', 'Disability Representation' and 'Social Media: a curse or a blessing'.

Conclusion

27. Unfortunately, 2020 was not an exceptional year and we are now beginning to live with a new 'normal'. But where 2020 was a year of finding our way in continuing our parliamentary activities (in very unusual circumstances!), in 2021, the hosting of activities virtually became a convenient and cost-effective way to meet with colleagues across the Commonwealth. I still believe though that it lacks the personal touch and networking opportunities afforded by physical attendance, along with the sharing of ideas and best practise that happens in the margins at conferences and I look forward to travel links becoming stronger and more convenient again in the

³ <https://www.uk-cpa.org/media/4258/bimr-covid-report-20-21.pdf>

future so we can welcome our counterparts from around the Commonwealth to the Island once again.

28. I am delighted that the new Members of the House of Keys elected in September have embraced the option of being a member of the CPA and many have enthusiastically put themselves forward for virtual seminars and networking opportunities. I look forward to working with them all in the future by encouraging them to progress by using the large CPA network to develop their parliamentary career and improve the capacity of our parliament.
29. 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 2021 the annual membership fee paid by the Isle of Man Branch to the CPA was £23,946 while the overall 'Legislature' vote for 2021-22 was £4,954,052.
30. 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, which funds the lion's share of Branch activities. When the funds in the separate bank account have been exhausted, the account will be closed.
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
Chair of the CPA Branch Executive Committee

March 2022

CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission to the Isle of Man General Election 2021

Breakdown of costs

Flights	£ 3,769.80
Accommodation	£ 10,195.72
Meals	£ 2,338.53
Trains & taxis	£ 1,960.87
General costs	£ 197.23
Analyst fees	£ 12,250.00
Total	£ 30,712.15

**THE ISLE OF MAN BRANCH OF THE
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD
1st January to 31st December 2021**

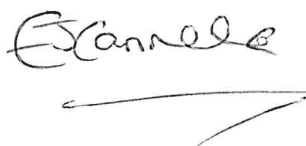
Receipts & Payments Account for 1 January to 31 December 2021

Opening Balance at CPA Account as at 1 January 2021	3,103.46
<u>Receipts</u>	0.00
<u>Payments</u>	
Payments made during accounting period	(2,659.84.00)
Net of Receipts and Payments	(2,659.84.00)
Closing Balance at CPA Account as at 31 December 2021	<u>443.62</u>

I have examined the receipts and payments account for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021. 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 2021



Honorary Treasurer
Mrs J Corkish



Honorary Examiner
Emma Cannell CIA

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