

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF GUYANA ASSOCIATION (UK)

(Registered Charity No 801250)

**(UNADOPTED) MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH POST-INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2015
AT THE GUYANA HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON**

1 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Present

Non-Executive Officers

President Derek G Hugh in the chair.

Vice-President Henry O Edwards

Management Committee

S Mark D Dalgety – Chairman Mrs E Claire Carballo

C Ian C Wishart – Hon. Secretary John Jones-Alleyne

Praveen D Hanoman – Hon. Treasurer Bruce M Nóbrega

Co-opted members: Drs Christopher J Chunnillall and Peter D Fraser.

Other Attendees

Members Eva Dalgety-Spencer and Phil(ip) N MacInnes.

1.2 Apologies for Absence

J Mark Adamson, Committee members David R Blackman, Nigel B A Caleb and Rod(eric) A Westmaas, H Frederick Weston, and Vice-President Ivor E Ying.

1.3 President's Introductory Remarks/Valete

President welcomed those present, with special reference to first-timers. He announced that Life Member **Hamley Case** would be the new High Commissioner [pending UK acceptance] and that outgoing High Commissioner **Laleshwar Singh** had accepted the Committee's conferment of Honorary Life Membership. He then asked the meeting to stand and observe a minute's silence for those former students known to have died since the previous AGM. The names were read out by Ian Wishart.

2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH POST-INAUGURAL AGM HELD ON 22.11.14

Noting that the minutes had been previously circulated, President asked if there were any corrections or omissions; there being none, he then called for a motion for their adoption. This was proposed by Peter Fraser, seconded by Praveen Hanoman and carried *nem. con.*

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 ADOPTION OF TRUSTEES' REPORT AND THE ACCOUNTS

Treasurer (Praveen) noted that copies of the Independent Examiner's Report, the Trustees' Report and the Accounts and Notes thereon had previously been circulated by email, and hard copies were before the meeting. He briefly ran through the Trustees' Report and Accounts, observing that there had been a reduction in income from: membership subscriptions, there

having been no summer barbecue, and a substantial loss on the Carnival Fête. Cancellation of the barbecue was due to the indisposition of Mark Adamson, the link with the church at which the event was normally held, whilst poor publicity contributed to the loss on the latter event. However donations were up slightly. It was planned to hold both the summer barbecue and Carnival Fête in 2016, with greater emphasis being placed on publicity for the latter. It is also hoped to raise funds through the sponsorship website being managed by Eva Dalgety-Spencer.

Donations to the school were £339 for 'colours' ties, and £1555 for the purchase and installation of an air conditioning unit for each of the school's two sick bays. There was a net reduction of £1086 in bank balances.

President asked how the reduction in subscriptions could be compensated for, bearing in mind the large number of life members. Secretary (Ian) replied that life membership payments had made a substantial contribution to funds over the years. Chasing up ordinary members for subscriptions was an onerous task, and he wondered whether many of the present life members would still be paying annual subscriptions had life membership not been available.

There being no further questions on the Trustees' Report and Accounts, President called for a motion for their adoption. This was proposed by Henry Edwards, seconded by Eva Dalgety-Spencer, and carried *nem. con.*

President thanked Praveen for his work as Treasurer.

5 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR 2015–16

Carl Warren had expressed his willingness to remain as Independent Examiner. The motion for his appointment was then proposed by Claire Carballo, seconded by Bruce Nóbrega and carried *nem. con.* President asked that Carl be thanked for his work.

6 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

6.1 Management Committee Chairman's Overview for 2014–15

Mark Dalgety guided the meeting through his 'Overview', copies of which were before the meeting.

In the past considerable income had been generated by our traditional events, but this was no longer the case, and other fund-raising options needed to be looked at. The sponsorship website was one such initiative – he invited Committee members to contribute to the website – but he had considered other ideas such as attracting more 'Friend' members and having different grades of membership, with different subscription levels.

There was an on-going initiative to fund the (return) airfare for a physics teacher for the school, which John would speak about. Also, he had participated in a conference at QC organised by the New York Association whose theme was 'Empowering and Inspiring Youth for the Future' to which students from other schools had also been invited. He had conducted mentoring sessions.

The structure of the Management Committee needed to be looked at. He proposed the appointment of a PR officer, IT officer and Promotion officer. This would need to be discussed by the Committee.

Mark concluded by thanking the Committee for their support during the year.

Referring to an item in the Overview, Chris Chunnillall asked why it had been decided not to fund the purchase of school ties as had been done in the past. Mark replied that the ties had been sold to pupils by QCOSA who had accumulated sufficient funds to pay for further ties.

President asked whether Mark's suggestion to appoint PR and IT officers would mean that the Committee would have to be enlarged. It was explained that the posts could be filled by co-option.

6.2 Sponsorship Website

Eva Dalgety-Spencer introduced her on-line marketing company, Dalgety Marketing Solutions, which had been engaged by the Committee to manage the Sponsorship Website. The aim of the website was to reach a wide audience and encourage on-line contributions through PayPal. Regular monthly payments could be set up. Donors need to be shown the benefits accruing from their contributions which could be encouraged by bringing back memories of their school days. A list of school activities should be obtained for display on the website. She would try to obtain the administration rights of the Facebook account set up by Rod Westmaas.

A discussion then ensued. Chris Chunnillall asked whether the website could be used to launch initiatives. Eva replied in the affirmative. The site could be used to pay for tickets for events. Phil MacInnes suggested that a calendar be produced using notable photographs from the past and offered for sale. This suggestion met with general approval.

Responding to Claire Carballo, Eva said that photographs of the polo shirts could be placed on, and purchases made through, the website.

President thanked Mark and Eva for their presentations.

6.3 Recruitment of Physics Teacher

John Jones-Alleyne said there was a definite need for a qualified physics teacher at QC. The subject was now being taught by biology and chemistry teachers 'by the book'. The original plan was to recruit a physics graduate who would be paid by the University of Guyana to set up a programme for re-introducing a first degree physics course at UG, and also teach physics to QC (and other schools') students at CSEC and CAPE levels for a school year. The students would be bussed to UG, which had suitable lab facilities not now available at QC. It had been thought that UG would provide accommodation, but this was not now the case. The Committee had agreed to pay the return UK-Guyana air fare for the successful candidate. It had been hoped that the appointee would start last September, but in view of the delay, it was decided to defer commencement to September 2016. A very suitable candidate had been found who was now in Chile. John was unsure whether he would agree to defer his appointment to September 2016, and he did not want to lose him. He felt that there was still benefit to engage the candidate for two terms if he could commence in January. Setting up a physics programme at UG would provide graduates who might go on to teach the subject, which would be of a benefit to QC. With regard to accommodation, ICQC Executive Secretary Alfred Granger had suggested that ICQC might be able to fund it.

Peter Fraser commented that ca. 80% of UG graduates leave the country, one of the highest levels of attrition in the world.

7 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

Derek Hugh vacated the chair in place of Management Committee Chairman Mark Dalgety who announced that the Committee had proposed that Derek be re-elected; nominations could also be made from the floor. There being none, Derek was duly declared President and resumed the chair.

8 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

President announced that the Management Committee proposed that the existing Vice-Presidents be re-appointed, viz:

Dr Neville O Linton
John O V Rafferty, MBE
Brigadier **David A Man**
Sir **Shridath S Ramphal**, GCMG, OE OM(Jam), OCC
M Trevor Phillips, OBE
Henry O Edwards
Ivor E Ying
J R Gary Ramprashad
C Ian C Wishart.
and **J Mark Adamson**

The above were re-appointed by acclamation. Ian Wishart then said he wished to propose **F Hamley Case** as a Vice-President and had emailed him requesting his acceptance. Hamley had replied that his ambassadorial appointment was still subject to UK approval, but once appointed he would consider the VP offer. Ian then proposed that Hamley be appointed a Vice-President dependent on his acceptance. This was seconded by John Jones-Alleyne and carried *nem. con.*

9 ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President announced that seven persons were to be elected, and called for nominations, explaining that Mark and Ian were ineligible to stand under the three-year rule. These were [candidate (proposer, seconder)]:

Praveen Hanoman (Claire Carballo, Christopher Chunnillall)
John Jones-Alleyne (Mark Dalgety, Bruce Nóbrega)
Christopher Chunnillall (Mark Dalgety, Praveen Hanoman)
Claire Carballo (Derek Hugh, John Jones-Alleyne)
Bruce Nóbrega (Praveen Hanoman, John Jones-Alleyne)
Eva Dalgety-Spencer (Derek Hugh, Claire Carballo)
David Blackman (Mark Dalgety, who confirmed that David was willing to stand, Claire Carballo).

There being no other nominations, President then declared the above duly elected.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Qcoga website Responding to a question from Ian, Chris said that the website had been hacked and taken down. He would check what had been retrieved by the service provider.

Proposed Jazz Festival Responding to a question from Chris, Mark said that a group of alumni were proposing to hold an annual jazz festival in Guyana similar to that held in St Lucia. ICQC would provide part of the initial funding, but other sponsors would be sought. The main beneficiary of the profits from the event would be the proposed Centre of Excellence at QC.

Students' Conference Referring to his Overview (Minute 6.1 above), Mark offered members a few copies of a booklet containing details of the programme and speakers.

Fund-raising Dinner Ian announced that tickets and flyers were available for the Dinner to be held on 31st January 2016 at the Bunga Raya Restaurant, Thornton Heath.

11 CLOSURE

President thanked the Acting High Commissioner for the use of the premises for our meetings. The meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the first and third verses of *Carmen Collegii Reginae*.

Prepared by _____ Hon. Sec.
(C I C Wishart)

Adopted _____ President
(D G Hugh)

Date _____