

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF GUYANA ASSOCIATION (UK)
(Registered Charity No 801250)

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO
THE 22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 19th NOVEMBER 2010
FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2009 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

1 Officers of the Association for the year 2009-10

Non-executive.— *President:* Dr Neville Linton. *Vice-Presidents:* John Rafferty, MBE (immediate past President), Lloyd Bascom, Brigadier David Man, Clive Lloyd, CBE, Sir Shridath Ramphal, GCMG, OE (etc.), Trevor Phillips, OBE, Henry Edwards, Derek Hugh, Ivor Ying, Gary Ramprashad.

Management Committee (the executive).— *Chairman:* Christopher J Chunnillall, *Hon. Secretary:* C Ian C Wishart, *Hon. Treasurer:* Praveen D Hanoman; E Claire Carballo, S Mark D Dalgety, Bruce M Nóbrega, Leila D Persaud; co-opted members: J Mark Adamson, Peter D Fraser, John Jones-Alleyne, Roderick Westmaas.

The elected members of the Management Committee are the Trustees of the Charity. Peter D Fraser was also appointed a Trustee at the first committee meeting. Peter D Fraser and Neville Linton are our ICQC representatives. Eight committee meetings were held in the year.

2 Membership

At the time of writing, there are 113 paid-up members (including 88 life members) and three honorary members (including two life members).

3 Fundraising

The Annual Dinner returned to the reopened New Loon Fung in November 2009. Profits were £550, and about 70 people attended (attendance and profits were both below previous figures at the New Loon Fung). This year the committee has arranged for the Annual Lunch to be held at the Bunga Raya Restaurant in Thornton Heath. This yielded a profit of £790 in 2008.

The 2010 Summer Reunion was held at the usual venue in July. Profits of £531 were above that of 2009 (£434) but were still low compared to the years where our profit exceeded £1000. The performance of the foodstalls was particularly low this year, but offset by the lower catering costs. Patrons provided feedback that they preferred the catering provided by Juanita Hector, and next year's committee should take note.

Once again the Carnival Fête had to be cancelled (our joint venture with the BHSA on the Sunday of the Notting Hill Carnival weekend). The pricing of the Lola Jones Hall had changed and was therefore unlikely to guarantee us any profit. Attempts to find an alternative venue were unsuccessful.

Two new events were organised this year. The first was a Sunday Brunch, which was held at the Bedford Pub in Balham, and timed to coincide with similar events by other alumni associations. This was the idea of Rod Westmaas, and most of the organisation was due to him. Some of the catering does need to be fine-tuned, but the event was a successful fundraiser with about 90 people attending, and a profit of £1210. The outgoing committee recommend that we seek to repeat the event next year.

At the suggestion of Mark Dalgety, we had considered holding a Cultural Evening. A similar suggestion also came from St Rose's. We looked into holding this event with St. Rose's, Bishops and (the recently established) St Stanislaus associations. In the event, we were not able to put this together this year.

However, Rod Westmaas and Leila Persaud suggested a more compact evening, and they organised 'A Celebration of Guyanese Art, Music and Literature' at the Kensington Town Hall. *This event fell on the first day of the new financial reporting year, so is not covered in the Treasurer's report – but a modest profit of ~ £250 is anticipated. All who attended would agree that it was a most enjoyable event, and the outgoing committee feel that there is scope to hold two such events annually. Such events also mesh with our focus on educational needs. Thanks to all who gave freely of their time and talent.*

Other sources of income were membership subscriptions, donations, Gift Aid reimbursements from Inland Revenue, and sales of Norman Cameron's history of QC (copies of which are still available for purchase).

4 Disbursements

£2,420 was spent of purchasing and shipping school ties to QCOSA. The monies earned from selling these ties are retained and spent by QCOSA.

£9,375 was spent on providing 100 sets of desk-chair combinations for the third form (see photo below).

We are still awaiting the identification of a concrete item for the Masonic donation.

The family and friends of the late Bob Batchelor have provided £450 for art class provision in his memory – we are engaging with the school to identify what would be most appropriate.

An order worth £1287 for purchasing another 585 ties for the school has been placed with Franklin Ishmael.

After 30 September 2010:

£460 has been used to provide French and Spanish language materials for the school. The majority of this funding is a donation by Mrs Susan Matheson in memory of her husband, and former Association Member, Dr James ('Jimmy') Matheson.

5 Financial position

As a result of the reduced income, and disbursements made to the school through QCOSA, approximate current assets (all liquid) are £5,600 compared with £14,600 last year.

6 Communications

Two Newsletters were published, in December and May; excellently edited by Ian Wishart and published by Chris Chunnillall. Our website (www.qcoga.org.uk) gives information about future events, as well as holding archival information, and our Facebook group {'QUEEN'S COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF GUYANA (UK)'} has 64 "friends".

7 ICQC

Teleconferences are organised at regular intervals. We co-operated where we could and reserved our position when our charitable status prevented our agreeing to proposals. The school, the Board of Governors, and ICQC have been more successful this year in identifying needs (see section 4). Following Peter Fraser's suggestion, the future immediate focus of ICQC will be on sports provision. We have also offered our support to a proposal, put together and mainly funded by the Toronto Association, to provide and instal a computer network in the school.

This year's annual business meeting was held in New York (we were not represented), and we have agreed to host next year's meeting in London, on the weekend of 8 October 2011.

8 Acknowledgments

Our thanks to H.E. the High Commissioner for allowing us to use these premises for our meetings; and to the High Commission staff, especially Carl Browne, for their assistance; to the committee members who have worked enthusiastically throughout the year; to the committee and members of the Bishops Association for their support of our hoped-for joint ventures; and to all members and friends who continue to support our Association and its various activities.

Christopher J Chunnillall
Chairman
19 Nov 2010



“We visited QC on September 9 and took these photos of the furniture the UK chapter kindly provided to the school. These were taken while a third-form French class was in session”

— Sharon Kreuter, QCOSA.
(only one photo is reproduced here)