

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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO
THE 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 19th NOVEMBER 2011
FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2010 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2011**

1 Officers of the Association for the year 2010-11

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

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

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

2 Membership

There were 109 paid-up members (including 85 life members) and three honorary members (including two life members).

3 Fundraising

Rod Westmaas and Leila Persaud organised 'A Celebration of Guyanese Art, Music and Literature' at the Kensington Library on 1 October 2010. There were 70-odd attendees and a profit of £249 was realised. It was a most enjoyable event, and such an event meshes with our focus on educational needs. We thank all who gave freely of their time and talent.

After one year at the reopened New Loon Fung in 2009, the Annual Dinner reverted to the Bunga Raya Restaurant in Thornton Heath. The profit was £566 (73 attendees, £15 per head) compared with a profit of £549 (70 attendees, £25 per head) in 2009.

The Sunday Brunch at the Bedford Pub in Balham realised a profit of £891 (94 attendees), compared to £1210 (90 attendees) in 2009. The reduced profit was due to Beverley Headley providing most of the catering.

The 2011 Summer Reunion realised a profit of £646 (129 attendees). This was better than 2010 and 2009 when profits of £531 and £434 were realised, but was still low compared to the years where our profit exceeded £1000. The catering was provided by Juanita Hector, following feedback from 2010.

The most significant of our events this year was the return of the Carnival Fête (our joint venture with the BHSA on the Sunday of the Notting Hill Carnival weekend). This was held at Club Jasmins in Tooting. Our half share of the profit was £101 (164 attendees). The low profit was in part due to the fact that we did not run the bar. However, feedback was positive, and we should now look to maintain this event in the calendar. One of the first priorities for the new committee is to find such a venue. Our thanks to DJs Tafawa and Mr Marlon who ran an enjoyable evening.

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

In view of the economic conditions, any price rises were minimised. The Association has a varied programme of events which, with continued nurturing, can continue to raise funds for education at the school.

4 Other events

The following events were held outside the reporting period:

Fri 7 October – reception for ICQC delegates (50 attendees) (£30 loss);

Sat 8 October – outing to Stone in Staffordshire (4 participants) (£30 profit);

Sat 8 October – The 2nd Annual Celebration of Guyanese Art, Music and Literature (70-odd attendees) (£315 profit);

Sun 9 October – ICQC Business Meeting (at cost – no profit).

5 Disbursements

£1,625 to supply and ship 718 ties to the school;

£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;

£415 for art class provision in memory of the late Bob Batchelor– donated by his friends and family;

£622 for UPS batteries for the computer room;

£1,500 towards the cost of the library air-conditioning unit;

We are still awaiting a concrete item for the Masonic donation (the PA system for the auditorium is the latest item to be identified for this purpose).

Total disbursements - £4,622. (£11,795 in 2010 – 3rd form furniture, ties).

6 Financial position

Approximate current assets (all liquid) are £4,330 compared with £5,600 last year.

7 Communications

Two Newsletters, edited by Ian Wishart, were published in December and June. Our website (www.qcoga.org.uk) gives information about future events, as well as holding archival information.

8 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. We supported the effort, organised and mainly funded by the Toronto Association, to provide and install a computer network in the school. This year's annual business meeting was held in London (see item 4), and it has been agreed that we host the 2013 meeting, to coincide with our 25th anniversary. The future immediate focus of ICQC was to be on sports provision, but feedback indicates that support for the Special Needs Programme is also an important requirement. Peter Fraser has submitted, on our behalf, a proposal to ICQC aimed at helping and encouraging QCOSA to improve its fundraising activities. Christopher Chunnilall is the ICQC President for 2011-2012.

9 Other

The Association received a Hansib Community Award, as recognition of our donating over £120,000 worth of books, ties, equipment and furniture to QC since our founding in 1988. Rod Westmaas also received an award for his fundraising for QC as a member of Alumni Associations in the USA and UK.

10 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 and members of the Bishops Association for their support of our joint ventures; and to all members and friends who continue to support our Association and its various activities. My personal thanks to all the committee members who have worked enthusiastically throughout the year.

Christopher J Chunnilall

19 Nov 2011