

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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO  
THE 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2011 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**1 Committee meetings**

Eight committee meetings were held in the year.

**2 Membership**

Our membership stood at 102 paid-up members and three honorary members as of 30 Sep 2012.

**3 ICQC ABM**

The following events were held on the weekend of the ICQC Annual Business Meeting:

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration of Guyanese Art, Music and Literature (£296 profit);

Sun 9 October – ICQC Business Meeting (at cost).

**4 QC and ICQC Matters**

This year's annual ICQC business meeting was held in London, and it has been agreed that we host the 2013 meeting, to coincide with our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (reported at 2011 AGM).

The UK Association is fully committed to the principle of co-ordinating inputs from the alumni associations/chapters for projects to advance education at QC, and ICQC has found a natural role in carrying out this co-ordination.

The current focus of ICQC is on support for the Special Awardees Programme and sports provision (discussed at last year's ABM). In addition to support for these initiatives, we will continue to fund by ourselves any deserving need that our resources allow.

Our Association provided G\$293k (£1000) towards the Special Awardees Programme. Toronto and South Florida provided G\$300k and G\$200k respectively. QCOSA contributed G\$380k (from sales of ties and pins). Expenditure on 10 students (mainly lunch, textbooks, transport) in the 2011-2012 School Year was G\$876k. The Fund (held by QCOSA) had a balance of G\$ 1.3M at the end of Sep 2012. This augurs well for the current school year. QCOSA has committed to improving their fund-raising, but remains short of active members.

A recent newspaper report has (Stabroek News, 2 Oct) reported that the Ministry of Education had pledged G\$3M for a new pavilion, and that other parties had donated another G\$5.5M (including G\$1M from the New York Chapter). Another G\$5.5M is required to fully fund the construction. No details on arrangements for maintaining the ground are available. We await an update on this situation.

The 2012 ABM was held in Toronto in August, and your Chairman semi-participated using Skype. The ABM discussed a proposal from the Toronto Chapter to enhance and streamline academic assistance in all areas, with particular emphasis on physics. This was triggered by a report written by Clarence Trotz on the state of physics teaching at QC, and in sixth forms in general in Georgetown.

Eden Gajraj (Toronto) is the ICQC President for 2012-2013.

**5 Disbursements**

£1,000 to the Special Awardees Scheme (co-ordinated through ICQC).

There is a proposal to encourage/ enable individuals to directly sponsor needs at the school, and we will seek your views on this.

[£2,062 was spent if purchasing and shipping 910 school ties in Oct 2012].

## **6 Fundraising**

The '2nd Celebration of Guyanese Art, Music and Literature', organised by Rod Westmaas and Leila Persaud, was held at Kensington Library on 8 October 2011. A profit of £296 was realised. A new dimension was 'Bourda Market Lime', which took place after the stage presentations. We thank all who gave freely of their time and talent. This is now a regular event in our calendar.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Bunga Raya Restaurant in Thornton Heath. The profit was £401 compared with £666 in 2011.

The Sunday Brunch at the Bedford Pub in Balham realised a profit of £578 compared to £891 in 2011.

The 2011 Summer Reunion realised a profit of £376 compared to £646 in 2011. Ticket sales were affected by the packed season of summer events in London.

The Carnival Fête (our joint venture with the BHSA) gave us a half share of the loss of £118 (half share of profit in 2010 was £101). It was felt that special circumstances (competing events, post-Olympics holidays) affected this year's event and we have already booked DJs for next year. Advertising to the public is one area which we intend to improve.

Our single most significant source of income was the Appeal to Life members which raised £1,825 during the year. We offer our sincere thanks to the donors.

The net income from these activities, and the ICQC ABM (see Item 3) was ~ £3,500.

[In the current 2012-2013 year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cultural Evening made a profit of ~£550, and further donations have been received from Life Members].

## **7 Financial position**

Approximate current assets (all liquid) are £6,870 compared with £4,330 last year.

## **8 Communications**

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

## **9 QCOGA(UK) Constitution**

It has been the Association's practice to provide assistance to needy QC students – e.g. by supporting QCOSA's special needs programme – even though this was not specifically included as part of our charitable object. The additional wording, approved by The Charity Commission, regularises the position. (Changes to the charitable object cannot be made without the approval of The Charity Commission.)

## **10 Other**

Plans are afoot to hold a joint 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner-dance with the BHSA Association on the same weekend as the ICQC ABM (see item 4). Provisional dates are: Friday 11 October (evening) - 4th Annual Cultural Evening plus ICQC Reception; Saturday 12 October (evening) - QC & BHS 25th Anniversary Dinner-Dance; Sunday 13 October (late morning & afternoon) - ICQC ABM.

## **11 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, and to our President for his advice and help.

*Christopher J Chunnillall*

10 November 2012