

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF GUYANA ASSOCIATION (UK)

(Registered Charity No 801250)

**(UNADOPTED) MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY-SIXTH POST-INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2014
AT THE GUYANA HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON**

1 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Present

Non-Executive Officers

President Dr Neville O Linton, in the chair.

Vice-Presidents Henry O Edwards, Derek G Hugh and Ivor E Ying.

Management Committee

S Mark D Dalgety – Chairman David R Blackman

C Ian C Wishart – Hon. Secretary Mrs E Claire Carballo

Praveen D Hanoman – Hon. Treasurer

Co-opted members: Mr J Mark Adamson, Dr Christopher J Chunnillall and
Dr Peter D Fraser.

Other Attendees

Six members and three guests as listed in the appended attendance sheet.

1.2 Apologies for Absence

Esmond N Fernandes, Colin G McWatt, Joseph Le Roi-Smith, Bruce M Nóbrega and Gerald A St Hill.

1.3 President's Introductory Remarks/Valete

President welcomed those present, with special reference to first-timers and guests. 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 Mark Adamson.

2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH POST-INAUGURAL AGM HELD ON 23.11.13

Noting that the minutes had been previously circulated, President called for a motion that they be taken as read. This was proposed by Fred Weston, seconded by Peter Fraser, and carried *nem.con.*

There being no amendments to the minutes, President then called for a motion for their adoption. This was proposed by Peter Fraser, seconded by Claire Carballo, and carried *nem.con.*

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 ADOPTION OF TRUSTEES' REPORT AND THE ACCOUNTS

Treasurer noted that copies of the Independent Examiner's Report, the Trustees' Report and the Accounts and Notes thereon were before the meeting. He briefly ran through the Trustees' Report and Accounts, observing that the increase, over the previous year, in profits from fund-raising events had been due to the 25th anniversary dinner-dance (a "one-off" event jointly with Bishops' High School Alumni Association), a reduction in the costs of catering and music for the Family Barbecue and improved publicity for the Carnival Fête (held this year without the participation of Bishops'). The only donation made to the school this year had been £795 worth of ties to be sold by QCOSA for the benefit of the school and students. The ties were Association (silk) ties, and not school ties as erroneously stated in the Trustees' Report.

In reply to a question from Khatijah Shakur, Treasurer explained that the word "sponsorship" in the name of the new website referred to projects for the benefit of the school, within the terms of our charitable object.

President praised the Management Committee for their fund-raising work.

There being no further questions on the Trustees' Report and Accounts, President called for a motion for their adoption. This was proposed by Nigel Caleb, seconded by Andrew Terrill, and carried *nem. con.*

(The Reports and Accounts have been uploaded on our main website, www.qcoga.org.uk.)

5 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR 2014–15

Carl Warren had expressed his willingness to remain as Independent Examiner. The motion for his appointment was then proposed by Peter Fraser, seconded by Henry Edwards and carried *nem. con.*

6 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mark Dalgety guided the meeting through his report, copies of which had been distributed.

- ◆ Three members had attended the recent reunion in Guyana.
- ◆ Of the overseas alumni associations, ours was, cumulatively, the biggest donor to QC.
- ◆ There was a need to attract more members and raise more funds.
- ◆ ICQC co-ordinated the joint efforts for projects that were beyond the capabilities of a single alumni association.
- ◆ A new group, Women of Queen's College, had been formed in Guyana.
- ◆ We should collect information on the expertise of individual members of the Association, and assess where such expertise could be used for the benefit of the school.
- ◆ Bishop Austin's grave had been refurbished, the cost of which was borne by Dalgety Teas (Mark's company).
- ◆ The new sponsorship website aims to attract donations from alumni (and others) worldwide. However we need someone with the necessary expertise to "market" the website, perhaps on a commission basis.

In answer to a question from Ivor Ying, Mark said that the website was complementary to existing methods of raising funds.

Derek Hugh complimented Mark on his report and asked whether there was an action plan in place. In reply, Mark cited the suggestion to use the promised donation from the (UK) Guyana Lodge to fund the installation of an air conditioning unit in the school's sick bay. Ian Wishart

added that the proposal had been formally put to the Lodge. Derek (a member of the Lodge) thought that there was a good chance of its acceptance.

Mark then referred to a meeting that representatives from the alumni associations, QC Principal, and the chairs of the Board of Governors (BoG) and the Parents–Teachers Association had had with the Minister of Education and the Chief Education Officer (both of whom happened to be QC alumni), the minutes of which were distributed by Chris Chunnillall.

On the matter of lab equipment, the Minister had confirmed that provision was the Ministry’s responsibility. Ian Wishart said there had been a list of requirements submitted to the alumni associations some time ago, and he was still awaiting a response from the school regarding the selection of specific items from the Philip Harris catalogue on their website. Mark suggested that this be held in abeyance for the time being; the science teacher was leaving the school. Claire Carballo later remarked that she had doubts that the Ministry would meet their obligations as they had not done so for Bishops’ High School.

Christopher Chunnillall then drew attention to some of the other matters discussed at the meeting.

- ◆ Teachers’ salaries, payments of which were sometimes months in arrears.
- ◆ A suggestion, passed on by Mark, that QC seniors use the lab facilities at the University of Guyana. The Minister countered that other schools would then want to do the same. She touched on the possibility of consolidating science teaching between the schools.
- ◆ Funding for the grounds and pavilion.
- ◆ Funding of the Social Worker (currently by the New York Association).
- ◆ Proliferation of extra lessons.
- ◆ Employing retired teachers from the diaspora.

A discussion on the last two topics then ensued. Mark explained that it was alleged that certain teachers were holding back parts of their subject’s syllabus so that they could cover those parts in private lessons. Teachers relied on private lessons to supplement their somewhat meagre salaries. Both the Minister and the BoG chair (Conrad Plummer) were receptive to the idea of retired teachers returning to teach at QC in return for free accommodation and living expenses.

Ian Wishart observed that a QC student had once again topped the region at CSEC, having sat 20 subjects. He wondered how the school, with its teacher shortage, had managed to teach 20 subjects, and noted that the school will receive the CSEC School of the Year Award for 2014.

Christopher Chunnillall suggested that perhaps there should be a limit to the number of subjects, including core subjects, that a student could sit. John Jones-Alleyne added there would need to be regional agreement on this. He also suggested that first year university students here in the UK be encouraged to take a year off to teach at QC.

Derek McWatt wondered whether our concerns were of relevance.

Thanking Mark for his report, President recommended that the new Committee pursue the matters discussed.

(The Chairman’s Report has been uploaded on the website.)

7 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

President announced he was unable to continue in the post, and that the Management Committee proposes that Derek Hugh be appointed; nominations could also be made from the floor. There being none, Derek was duly declared President. Neville thanked the members for according him the honour of the presidency over the years, and observed that Derek had been a

staunch supporter of the Association for many years. Derek then assumed the chair. He thanked members for their confidence in him, and paid tribute to Neville's efforts over the period of his presidency.

8 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

President announced that the Management Committee proposed that **Neville Linton** be appointed and the following be re-appointed Vice-Presidents:

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

Derek G Hugh

Ivor E Ying

J R Gary Ramprashad

C Ian C Wishart.

The above were re-appointed by acclamation. Ivor Ying then proposed that **Mark Adamson** be appointed a Vice-President. This was seconded by Mark Dalgety and approved *nem. con.* Mark thanked the meeting for the honour.

9 ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President announced that seven persons were to be elected, and called for nominations. These were [candidate (proposer, seconder)]:

Mark Dalgety (Christopher Chunnillall, John Jones-Alleyne)

Khatijah Shakur (Mark Dalgety, Neville Linton)

Ian Wishart (Derek Hugh, Claire Carballo)

Nigel Caleb (Mark Dalgety, Chris Chunnillall)

Claire Carballo (Derek Hugh, Mark Dalgety)

John Jones-Alleyne (Mark Dalgety, Fred Weston)

David Blackman (Mark Dalgety, Mark Adamson)

Peter Fraser then proposed that nominations be closed. This was seconded by Mark Adamson and carried *nem. con.* President then declared the above duly elected.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ian Wishart said he was attempting to find out what was happening regarding the provision of "colours" ties requested by the BoG; he had been unable to make contact with the supplier.

[Post-meeting note: supplier was in India; ties are being delivered.]

President (Derek Hugh) asked what was happening regarding the proposal, made some years ago, to finance refurbishment of the school ground by renting it to a club. Mark Dalgety replied that ICQC was looking at the proposal. President said someone should "take the bull by the horns".

Ian Wishart announced that tickets were available for the Annual Dinner on 30th December at the Bunga Raya Restaurant, Thornton Heath.

11 CLOSURE

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

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

Adopted _____ President
(D G Hugh)

Date _____

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Officers of the Association

Twelve Non-Executive and Executive Officers as listed in the Minutes.

Members and Guests

Nigel B A Caleb

Joan Plummer (guest)

Conrad Franklin (alumnus, non-member)

Miss B Khatijah H Shakur

John Jones-Alleyne

Andrew C Terrill

Derek A McWatt

H Frederick Weston

Rosemary McWatt (guest)