

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

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH POST-INAUGURAL ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2008
AT THE GUYANA HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON**

1 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Present

Non-Executive Officers

Dr Neville O Linton – President (in the chair)
Henry O Edwards and Ivor E Ying – Vice-Presidents.

Management Committee

Dr P D Fraser	–	Chairman	Dr Christopher J Chunnillall
Mrs E Claire Carballo	–	Hon. Secretary	Bruce M Nóbrega
Praveen D Hanoman	–	Hon. Treasurer	Roderick A Westmaas

Co-opted members: J Mark Adamson and C Ian C Wishart.

Other Attendees

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

1.2 Apologies for Absence

Brigadier David A Man, Dr Franklyn K S Jacobs, Derek G Hugh, S Mark D Dalgety, Ms Leila D Persaud, Mrs Jillian A Lilico, Malcolm E Gibbs.

1.3 President's Introductory Remarks/Valete

The President welcomed all present.

He then asked the meeting to stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of those old students and members of staff known to have passed away since the previous AGM. The names were read out by Mark Adamson.

**2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH POST-INAUGURAL
AGM HELD ON 9.11.07**

The minutes of the last AGM having been previously circulated, the President asked for a motion that they be taken as read. This was proposed by Ian Wishart, seconded by Ivor Ying and carried *nem.con.* The President then asked whether there were any corrections/additions; there were two corrections:

Item 7.3 – *Comments and discussions* – fourth paragraph should read – Chris Chunnillall enquired whether there could be any short-term improvements in teachers, but the President *said* this was not possible as the case was the *low* salaries paid, but there has been an improvement in training.

Item 8 – *Guest Speaker on The Ramphal Centre for Commonwealth Policy Studies* – should read – The President invited Mrs (and not Ms) Patsy Robinson.

There being no other corrections/additions, he invited a motion for the adoption. This was proposed by Ian Wishart, seconded by Henry Edwards and carried *nem.con*.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 Presentation

MC Chairman presented his report, copies of which were before the meeting, and summarised the key points:

- Four additional members, Ian Wishart, Jillian Lilico, Mark Dalgety and Mark Adamson, had been co-opted to the Committee.
- There are 108 paid-up members, including 86 Life Members, plus 3 Honorary members of whom two are Life Members.
- Two of the three fund-raising events were held; the Annual Dinner had to be cancelled due to the delay in re-opening of the restaurant; we have decided to try Bunga Raya this year. Summer Reunion profits went up compared with 2007. The Joint Carnival Fête suffered from a number of problems which resulted in a reduced profit, but it was an enjoyable event. The Spring Event made a small profit; members were invited to make suggestions for more entertaining films or other events in the future
- Due to reduced income and disbursements our current liquid assets are down compared to last year.
- Disbursements of £2500 and £809.20 were made to the ICQC-coordinated computer upgrade for the school and £128 to the Scout Troop.
- Two *Newsletters* were published.
- Thanks were extended to the High Commissioner for the use of the premises for our meetings/functions, to Carl Browne for his untiring assistance, to the Committee and members of the BHS Association for their enthusiastic support of our joint ventures and to the President, the Committee and those members and other supporters whose efforts contributed to the continued success of the Association.

4.2 Discussion/Comments

Ian Wishart said that another *Newsletter* should be out shortly.

Ted Murray ask if the Carnival Fête could start earlier, say 8pm. This will be discussed by the Carnival Fête Sub-committee.

Ivor Ying enquired why there had been an overall loss for the Joint Dinner and Dance. It was explained that this was due to fewer tickets being sold than the minimum number of covers we were contracted to pay for.

Peter McLean enquired why everything had to make a profit; he was reminded that the Association being a Registered Charity was supposed to raise funds.

Ian Wishart informed the meeting that it is QCA's turn to hold the ICQC meeting next year.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS

5.1 Presentation

The President invited the Treasurer to present the Statement of Accounts and the Trustees' Report for the year-ended 30.09.08, copies of which were before the meeting.

Treasurer reported that the Independent Examiner was happy with the accounts. The Trustees' Report highlighted all the key issues. The membership figures had risen. Fund-raising events' takings were significantly less than the previous year's. The Joint Carnival Fête showed a loss due to the time factor – BHS is to pay the Association £368, being our share of the profit. The total profit was £920. We made an income on the sale Noel Bacchus's book *Guyana Farewell*. Postage costs had fallen due to fewer events being held. We have made a contribution of £3309 towards computers for QC.

There being no questions or comments, the President invited a proposal for the adoption of the Treasurer's report and accounts. This was moved by Rod Westmaas, seconded by Chris Chunnillall and carried *nem.con.*

6 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER 2008-09

As Carl Warren is willing to continue as Independent Examiner, Bruce Nóbrega proposed his appointment which was seconded by Gary Ramprashad and carried *nem.con.*

7. REPORT ON THE ICQC MEETING IN MIRAMAR, FLORIDA ON 11.10.08

7.1 Presentation

The President asked Ian Wishart to give his report, which had been endorsed by Rod Westmaas, both of whom represented the Association at the Business Meeting. He outlined the following salient points which arose at the meeting:

Computer Lab – is the most modern in the country and perhaps in the Caribbean. All of the recommendations made by the consultant engaged by the school board had been implemented. Laurie thanked overseas associations for their contributions, and extended special thanks to Keith Corsbie (Florida) who had waived substantial amounts of commission on the equipment purchased from Dell. (Florida were responsible for purchasing and shipping the equipment.)

ICQC website – should soon be up and running. It is being funded by Yellow Cabs of Washington DC, a company owned by old boy Vaughn Williams.

'Alumni Room' – is to be provided at the school for use by QCOSA to store records, hold committee meetings and provide a source of information for students.

'Outreach' programmes – have been introduced by QCOSA to orient new students and familiarise existing students with the Association, its history and its contributions (together with those of other 'chapters') to the school.

Sports – QCOSA will endeavour to address the perennial problem of the absence of organised sports at the school. (It is said the school has some talented cricketers playing for Maltenoes.)

Vernley Ward Bursary – New York had distributed funds for this annual bursary. (The bursary fully funds the first two years' expenses at the University of Guyana if the awardee is reading natural sciences, or up to US\$1000 p.a. for the first two years if the awardee is studying medicine.)

Data Base – New York are the creators and custodians of a data base shared with ten Guyanese secondary school organisations.

Mentoring programme – New York New York will establish and run a this programme offering guidance to students. Rod Westmaas is one of the volunteers offering services as a mentor. The programme aims to advise, nurture and motivate students.

The Washington Association – is defunct, although there remains US\$5000 in the bank which the account's authorised signatories can disburse.

Friction between the Head mistress and her Deputy – This is an ongoing problem. The Board had recommended removal of the former.

Needs List – This list was reviewed, comprising:

- large water tank and system
- cupboards for teachers in staff room
- second computer lab
- language lab
- additional facilities for auditorium (including AC)
- repairs to old and provision of new pavilion for playing fields.

It was agreed that ICQC defer consideration until the projects had been costed. Also, it was noted that the setting up of a language lab required preliminary study, prior to costing, to select the appropriate equipment – it was not an off-the-shelf item.

Norman Cameron's History – Gerald Alleyne distributed copies of the latest draft update (one per 'Chapter') soliciting contributions. Additional material includes various photographs, an appendix and reminiscences by Clarence Trotz. (Corrections to Cameron's original text, previously provided by the writer, have not been included.)

The School's 165th Anniversary - It was agreed not to hold a celebration next year in Guyana as this was not a special anniversary (in any event, Guyana had declined to organise the celebration).

ICQC's 2009 Meeting – It was UK's turn to host this meeting. If UK cannot do it, New York will.

Special Awards – On behalf of the Toronto Association, Gerald Alleyne presented framed certificates of appreciation to Laurie Lewis and Gordon Wilson for their many years of service to their respective associations and to ICQC.

7.2 Discussion

Gary Ramprashad asked if Ian thinks that significant progress is being made towards helping the school. Ian, said that the school sends requests but does not send costing as per the Needs List, but the Associations are quite willing to help the School once funds are available. Rod agreed with Ian and feels that things are progressing well, but we need the cost of the items.

Ivor Ying suggested that the 'Needs List' be prioritised when costs received.

Peter Fraser said that 'one-off' things are being done outside ICQC, but feels that progress is being made and we have been given a list of things that are needed but not costed or prioritised.

Rod Westmaas stated that air conditioning may be a pressing need.

The President commented that we are no longer the 'monied' Association; New York, Florida and Canada are now coming forward, so money is there to meet these needs; this is a healthy development. He asked what has happened with the History of QC and the DVD project.

Ian Wishart replied that QCOSA is preparing an induction course which includes a History of the School. One copy of the draft revision of Cameron's *History* had been

handed to each 'Chapter', but the amendments he had sent a year back and not been included.

Gary Ramprashad said that he was disappointed with the report and he felt that there should have been less discussion on the Constitution. The President said that we would keep this under control if we were to hold the next ICQC meeting.

Henry Edwards felt that there were enough old boys in Guyana with the necessary skills to cost the 'needs list' projects.

The President asked that the new Committee offers the necessary advice to QCOSA so that the History and DVD project does not fail.

8 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The President relinquished the chair to MC Chairman Peter Fraser who introduced the Management Committee's resolution that Neville Linton be re-appointed President. Peter reminded the meeting that nominations could also be made from the floor. There being none, Neville Linton was duly returned unopposed and resumed the chair.

9 ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

Reminding the meeting that there was no limit to the number of Vice-Presidents, and that nominations could also be made from the floor, the President called on MC Chairman to present the Committee's nominations. Peter declared that the Committee had proposed re-appointment of the existing Vice-Presidents (listed below). There were no other nominations and the Committee's proposal was carried *nem. con.*

John O V Rafferty, MBE
Lloyd E Bascom
Brigadier **David A Man**
Dr Ronald F Hall
Clive H Lloyd, CBE
Sir Shridath S Ramphal, GCMG, OE, OM(Jam), OCC
M Trevor Phillips, OBE
Henry O Edwards.
Derek G Hugh
Ivor E Ying

10 ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The President invited Claire Carballo to act as returning officer as she was ineligible for re-election under the three-year rule. Each member present could vote for up to seven candidates. He then invited nominations for the Management Committee. These were [**candidate** (proposer, seconder)]:

Leila D Persaud (Ian Wishart, Chris Chunnillall)
Praveen D Hanoman (Ivor Ying, Ian Wishart)
C Ian C Wishart (Claire Carballo, Gary Ramprashad)
Dr Peter D Fraser (Gary Ramprashad, Peter McLean)
S Mark D Dalgety (Ian Wishart, Claire Carballo)
Rod A Westmaas (Neville Linton, Chris Chunnillall)
Jillian A Lilico (Bruce Nóbrega, Peter Fraser)

The nominations were then closed and the President declared the above seven duly returned unopposed.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ian Wishart said that he had copies of three books which may be of interest to the members, viz:

History of Theatre in Guyana by Frank Thomasson – cost £18

The Commonwealth and the World by Sir Shridath Ramphal published by Hansib – £16

Caribbean Wars Untold by John Graham.

Rod Westmaas informed the meeting that it was the 100th Anniversary of QC Scouts Troop next year and that Laurie Lewis planned to put together a history of scouting in Guyana. Could members spread the word? This was the first troop in Guyana.

The President drew the meeting's attention to the fact that this was the third year that QC was top in the Caribbean at the CSEC exams; it was also top in the country at the A Level exams.

12 CLOSURE

The President expressed his thanks to Committee for this year's work and stated that we need members to come out and help with the various events. He thanked the High Commissioner for the use of the building and Carl for all his help with our meetings. He thanked Joan Plummer for her help and contributions to the Summer Reunion. Ivor Ying thanked the Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer for their work and Ian Wishart for the *Newsletter*. The meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the first verse of the School Song.

Prepared by _____ Minutes adopted _____
(Mrs E C Carballo, Outgoing Hon Sec) (N O Linton, President)

Date _____

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Officers of the Association

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

Members and Guests

Neville L Beharry
Mrs Jean Besson (guest)
Dr John A O Besson
E L (Ted) Murray
Peter E McLean

Ms Joan Plummer (guest)
J R Gary Ramprashad
Adolph W Saunders
Michael J Sharples
David Singh (guest)