



# NEWSLETTER

DEC 2010

*The Queen's College of Guyana Association (UK)*  
(Registered Charity No. 801250)

No. 42



*Season's Greetings*



## SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Members are reminded that subscriptions (£12; £5 for full-time students) fell due on 1st October last.



*UK taxpayers are kindly requested to pay their subscriptions by Gift Aid as this increases the payment to the Association by just over 28%. The method is simple – contact Ian Wishart (see last page)*

## AGM HIGHLIGHTS

We had planned to hold the AGM on the afternoon of Saturday 13th November, but unfortunately Carl Browne was required at short notice to help on the Guyana stall at the Commonwealth Fair, and was not therefore available to open the High Commission. We were therefore forced to revert to a Friday evening, 19th November being the first Friday suitable for the caterers. Unfortunately, the turnout was the poorest that we have ever experienced – just 18 persons. As 35 persons had been catered for, the 'Social' incurred a loss of £78.

## OFFICERS FOR 2010 –11

**Neville Linton** was once again returned unopposed as President, and existing Vice-Presidents **John Rafferty**, **Lloyd Bascom**, **David Man**, **Sir Shridath ('Sonny') Ramphal**, **Trevor Phillips**, **Henry Edwards**, **Derek Hugh**, **Ivor Ying** and **Gary Ramprashad** reappointed.

The seven members of the Management Committee, all returned unopposed, are: **Ian Wishart**, **Christopher Chunnillall**, **Peter Fraser**, **Rod Westmaas**, **Mark Dalgety**, **Bruce Nóbrega** and **Claire Carballo** (Praveen Hanoman stood down under the three-year rule). At the first Committee meeting on 10th December, **Christopher Chunnillall**, **Ian Wishart** and **Peter Fraser** were respectively elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, whilst **Praveen Hanoman** and **Mark Adamson** were co-opted, the former to serve as Assistant Treasurer (see last page for contact details).

## DONATIONS TO QC

In his report to the meeting, Chairman Christopher Chunnillall listed the donations made and being made to QC: school ties to the value of £2420, £9375 for funding classroom furniture for the 3rd form (under-reported in the June *Newsletter*), orders for a further supply of ties to the value in excess of £1300 and for language CDs costing £460. The Association is grateful to honorary life member **Susan Belgrave Matheson** who has promised to fund the purchase of the language material in memory of her late husband **Jimmy**

**Matheson** (QC 60–67) a former life & Committee Member of this Association. (For Jimmy’s service to Guyana in his various diplomatic roles, see *Newsletter* 28, Jan 04.)

#### FUND-RAISING INITIATIVES

The June Brunch made a profit of £1210. The reported profit for the Summer Reunion was £531 (in fact if the sale, after the event, of surplus beverages were credited to the Reunion account, the true profit would be £593). The evening of Guyanese Art, Music and Literature (see item below) yielded a profit of around £250.

#### FINANCES

Donations to QC have reduced our bank balance from £14,661 at the beginning of the financial year, to £5606 at the end.

The Chairman’s Report is available on our website <http://qcoga.org.uk> at subpage [http://qcoga.org.uk/tiki-index.php?page=agm archives](http://qcoga.org.uk/tiki-index.php?page=agm%20archives)



**The furniture donated to the school. This was taken while a third-form French class was in session.**

*Photo courtesy QC-OSA.*

#### **QCA JOINS THE FEDERATION OF GUYANESE NATIONALS (UK)**

The Committee has accepted an invitation from the Federation of Guyanese Nationals (UK) to join their organisation. The Federation is purely a co-ordinating body, and there are no financial commitments. **Mark Adamson** is our representative.

## **A CELEBRATION OF GUYANESE ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE**

A varied and enthralling programme was put together by Rod Westmaas and Leila Persaud. Formal proceedings at the Kensington Library began with Michael Abbensetts discussing his TV Series – Empire Road and Little Napoleons – using illustrative video excerpts. Sharon Maas performed a reading from her novel ‘Of Marriage Age’, and Juanita Cox made a brave, and successful, attempt at reading extracts from Edgar Mittelholzer’s Creole Chips in ‘dialect’. Each presentation was followed by a vigorous question and answer session. Stanley Greaves, in the lead presentation of the evening, showed slides of his art works, and discussed their genesis and intention. Patrick Hinds provided an interlude of gymnastics, and Keith Waite performed solo pieces on his flute. The programme ended with the audience singing Guyanese folk-songs, to the accompaniment of music provided by Keith, Leila and Stanley (see picture below). Books were available for purchase from Hansib Publications and Peepal Tree Press. The evening was rounded off with Guyanese refreshments. Our thanks to all of the above, who gave freely of their time and talent. The evening was dedicated to the memory of bibliophile Raymond Kudrath.



**(L-R) Keith Waite, Leila Persaud, and Stanley Greaves, leading the singing of Guyanese folk-songs**

*Photo courtesy Rod Westmaas*

## **HANSIB AWARD**

The Association received a Community Award at Hansib Publications’ 40th Anniversary Gala evening, held at the Hilton Park Lane in November, in recognition of our supplementing the College with over £120,000 worth of books, equipment and furniture since our formation in 1988. Committee member Rod Westmaas received an individual award for his work with the Alumni Associations, firstly in Florida, and now in the UK, recently organising the Celebration of Guyanese Art, Music and Literature (above). A report on the evening is available at <http://qcoga.org.uk/tiki-index.php?page=Newsletters>

## **ANNUAL DINNER AT THE BUNGA RAYA RESTAURANT**

With the re-opening of the New Loon Fung restaurant in 2009, we returned to that venue for last year’s Annual dinner. However profit margins were considerably reduced, so the Committee decided to go back to The Bunga Raya Restaurant in Thornton Heath, the venue we used in 2008. The dinner, held on 28th November was a most successful affair, with many complimentary remarks about the quality of the cuisine. A profit of £550 was realised.

### SALVETE

We welcome to the Association **Mohamed A Karimullah** (QC 64–71) and **J Samantha Griffith** (QC 85–90) who has re-joined as a Life Member.

### VALETE

We regret to announce the deaths of: **Ewart Neil Malcolm Isaacs**, AA (QC mid 30s–39), former Deputy Commissioner of Police, *b.* 4.7.23, *d.* 13.9.10 in Guyana; **John Emile Reginald King** (QC 50–mid 50s), *b.* 2.12.37, *d.* 19.9.10 in the US; **Morrison T ('Telly') Lowe** (QC student 42–49, Master 52 then 57–71, Headmaster 71–74), *d.* 10.11.10 in Miami; Dr **Mohamed Ali Ramjohn** (QC 1960s), *Member*, *d.* 1.11.10; **Jeffrey L Robinson** (QC 56–65, Guiana Scholar 65) *d.* 9.11.10.

To the bereaved relatives, the Association extends its sincerest condolences.

The Association also extends its sympathy to the family of the late **Lucille Mongul**, widow of alumnus Ivan Mongul, and mother of committee member Claire Carballo.

### DR VICTOR BOODHOO WINS AWARD

Dr Victor R Boodhoo (QC 1953–61) was recently honoured with an achievement award for outstanding contributions to medicine and to the University of the West Indies at the 10th UWI Medical Alumni Association reunion and conference held in Barbados. Only three others, including alumnus the late Dr Walter Chin, have been similarly honoured.

Dr Boodhoo, who graduated from UWI in 1966, practices in the US. Every year since 2006 he has been named by the (US) Consumer Research Council as one of the top family doctors in the country. He is a Fellow both of the American Academy of Family Physicians and of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The Association extends its heartiest congratulations to Dr Boodhoo for his achievement.

### CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

Belatedly to former member, author **T Wilson Harris** on being made a knight bachelor in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

To life and committee member **Mark Adamson** and to **Hansib Publications** for their donations to the Association.

### FLIGHT LIEUTENANT RONALD HALL

An article 'GONE TOO SOON' on page 3 of the Autumn 2010 issue of the magazine 'Black History 365' describes a campaign to obtain greater recognition for late Vice-President Ron Hall's efforts during the World War II. It is being run by Jimmy Fairweather, who served under Ron. The link to the magazine is <http://anax8ep.pressmart.com/BlackHistory365/PUBLICATIONS/BLACKHISTORY365/BLA/2010/10/01/index.shtml> and the homepage is <http://www.black-history-month.co.uk>

Also, see 'Remember the Caribbean WW2 Air Crew' in Newsletter 38, and Ron's obituary in Newsletter 40.

### HISTORY CORNER

#### A PEEP INTO THE AUTUMN 1938 – SUMMER 1939 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

From the Preface:

"Owing to the war, plans for the new building are in abeyance, but I am confident that, once this struggle in Europe is over, Guianese will unhesitatingly supply the funds necessary." – H. Annamunthodo, (Editor). [Later eminent surgeon Sir Harry Annamunthodo; construction started ca. four years after the end of the war].

From Queen's College Cadets:

Cadet Rowe, J G [Association member John Rowe] was runner up in the Hodgson Cup for shooting.

From Cricket Notes:

**MR. C. E. BARKER** ['Bup']: A jolly old fellow who smiles impartially whether his team is on top or not. A good bat but unfortunately his work does not allow him much time to practise. A good field at cover point. Bowls a very big off-break, but his action resembles that of pelting far too much for his peace of mind. [Barker was not yet on the teaching staff, but the title 'Mr' probably means he was a lab assistant. He was at the time company sergeant major in the cadets].

From Athletic Notes:

The Governor's Cup was awarded to L. Basom [Association Vice-President and former President Lloyd Bascom] for his outstanding performance in the long jump, in which he did a jump of 21 feet 7 inches, thus breaking J. Niles's long-standing record of 20 feet 10 inches. [(The late) Jerry Niles would later become physics master].

From Athletic Characters:

**L. BASCOM (Sparks)**: Our Athletic Captain. Broke the long jump record... He was however unable to take part in the flat events due to an injury to his leg. He was also placed second in this event in the B.G.C.C. Olympiad. (Lloyd was also captain of football and a member of the cricket team).

From On Dit:

That a certain fellow has a habit of letting down his bicycle tyre every afternoon so that he can stop at a house on the pretext of borrowing a pump.

That Umpire Jeff shouted out "One short" after a single had been scored.

Some ads:

Humber, the aristocrat of cycles, complete with electric lamp etc, from \$41 up. (Pradasco Cycle Store).

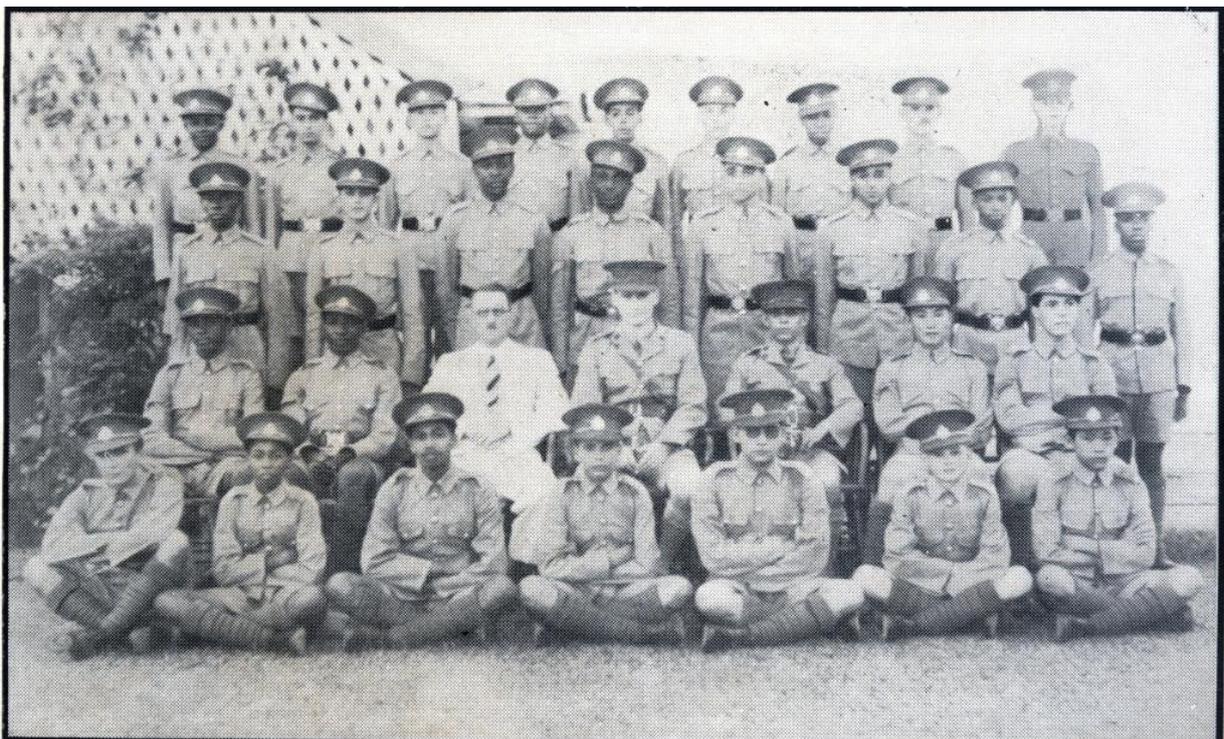
Alternatively you could buy a Raleigh from New Demerara Cycle Depot for \$1 per week.

Fogarty's New Store: Queen's College Blazers made to measure @ \$10.00.

And some howlers:

The people in England before the English Conquest were savage little men called caved men.

Clive [of India] was offered large brides.



**1938 – Q.C. CADET CORPS**



### 1939 – Q.C. ATHLETIC TEAM

(Athletics Captain Lloyd Bascom in the centre, flanked by Headmaster Capt. H. Nobbs on his right and Games Master F.T. Weston on his left).

If anyone can identify others present in the photographs, please let us know.

*We are indebted to Inge Veacock for the loan of the magazine which belonged to her brother-in-law, old boy Ralph Percival Veacock who lives in Toronto.*

Association member H. Fred Weston, son of F.T. Weston, has also kindly provided some photos from the 1937-1938 period. Some of these may make an appearance in a future Newsletter, and we will see if they can all be archived on the Association website.

### HEADLINES FROM ACROSS THE POND

(Actual headlines from North American newspapers)

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says  
 Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers  
 Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over  
 Miners Refuse to Work after Death  
 Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant  
 War Dims Hope for Peace  
 If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile  
 Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures  
 Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges  
 New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group  
 Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft  
 Kids Make Nutritious Snacks  
 Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

*[Once again, our thanks to alumnus Allan Lee for the above contribution.]*

## THE GREAT GAME

*[From an impromptu after-dinner speech, at which the Sri Lankan team were present, by former Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, the late Lakshman Kadirgamar].*

Some historians say, I think uncharitably, that cricket is really a diabolical political strategy, disguised as a game, in fact a substitute for war, invented by the ingenious British to confuse the natives by encouraging them to fight each other instead of their imperial rulers.

The world is divided into two camps – those who revel in the intricacies of cricket and those who are totally baffled by it: who cannot figure out why a group of energetic young men should spend days, often in the hot sun or bitter cold, chasing a ball across an open field, hitting it from time to time with a stick – all to the rapturous applause of thousands – now millions – of ecstatic spectators across the world. The game has developed a mystical language of its own that further bewilders those who are already befuddled by its complexities.

In the course of my travels I have a hard time explaining to the non-cricketing world – in America, China, Europe and Russia – that a ‘googly’ is not an Indian sweetmeat; that a ‘square cut’ is not a choice selection of prime beef; that a ‘cover drive’ is not a secluded part of the garden; that a ‘bouncer’ is not a muscular janitor at a night club; that a ‘yorker’ is not some exotic cocktail mixed in Yorkshire; or that a ‘leg-break’ is not a sinister manoeuvre designed to cripple your opponent’s limbs below the waist.

Let me see whether politics and cricket have anything in common. Both are games. Politicians and cricketers are superficially similar, and yet very different. Both groups are wooed by the cruel public who embrace them today and reject them tomorrow.

Cricketers work hard; politicians only pretend to do so. Cricketers are disciplined; discipline is a word unknown to most politicians in any language. Cricketers risk their own limbs in the heat of honourable play; politicians encourage others to risk their limbs in pursuit of fruitless causes while they remain secure in the safety of their pavilions. Cricketers deserve the rewards they get; the people get the politicians they deserve. Cricketers retire young; politicians go on forever. Cricketers unite the country; politicians divide it. Cricketers accept the umpire’s verdict even if they disagree with it; politicians who disagree with an umpire usually get him transferred. Cricketers stick to their team through victory and defeat, politicians in a losing team cross over and join the winning team. Clearly, cricketers are the better breed.

Foreign ministers sometimes find themselves in very difficult situations. Take the case of the Foreign Minister of Uganda. President Idi Amin told him that he wanted to change the name of Uganda to ‘Idi’. The minister was asked to canvas world opinion and return in two weeks. He did not do so. He was summoned and asked to explain. He said: “Mr. President, I have been informed that there is a country called Cyprus. Its citizens are called Cypriots; if we change the name of our country to ‘Idi’ our citizens would be called....”. Reason prevailed.

A story goes that a shark was asked why diplomats were his preferred food. He replied “because their brains being small are a tasty morsel, their spines being supple I can chew on them at leisure - and they come delightfully marinated in alcohol.”

Today we lost a match. Every team loses. It takes two to play a game. One has to lose. It is the manner in which you play the game which gives the promise of success to come. Do not allow yourselves to be disturbed by the armchair critics who will no doubt engage in a display of theoretical learning on how the game was played. Many of these critics have never put bat to ball. It makes them feel good to indulge in the pastime of amateur criticism. They do not know what it is to face fast bowling in fading light; to engage in a run race against daunting odds; to find the stamina and sheer physical endurance to spend concentrated hours in the field of play. They know nothing of the psychological pressure that modern sportsmen are subject to. Therefore, my advice to you is ignore them. Go your way with customary discipline and methodical preparation for the next game, the next series in different parts of the world under different conditions.

## DIARY DATES

- Fri FEB 11 (tbc) Documentary evening – W.A.R. Stories – The life of Walter Rodney  
– Guyana High Commission**
- Sun APR 10 (tbc) Sunday Brunch – The Bedford Pub, Balham**
- Sun JUL 10 (tbc) Summer Reunion/Garden Party – St. John’s Nature Garden, Clapham**
- Fri OCT 7 (tbc) ICQC Social (Members and Invitees only) – Guyana High Commission**
- Sat OCT 8 An Evening of Cultural Entertainment – Kensington Library**
- Sun OCT 9 ICQC Business Meeting (Delegates only) – Eversheds, City of London**
- Sat NOV 12 Annual General Meeting – Guyana High Commission**
- Sun NOV 27 (tbc) Annual Dinner – The Bunga Raya Restaurant, Thornton Heath**

We shall inform our contacts by email as soon as dates are confirmed.

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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*Happy New Year!*