



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

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

No. 52

DIARY DATES – COVID-19 UPDATE

The Covid-19 epidemic has led us to postpone this year's social events until next year:

Spring Lunch – Sunday 2 May 2021

Boat Cruise – Sunday 1 August 2021

ANNUAL DINNER

Due to the gales, attendance was well down at our 30th Annual Fundraising Dinner held at the New Loon Fung Restaurant in Chinatown on 9th February. A small profit of £170 was made. However, donations amounting to £360 were subsequently received from many who were unable to attend. Of the donations, £320 were gift-aided which will yield a tax rebate of £80 from HMRC. This makes an overall total of £610 (£360 + £80 + £170) - more than the profit we might have made had everyone attended! (Every cloud...)

2019 AGM (22 November 2019)

Paid-up membership was 107. Asst. Treasurer Praveen Hanoman reported that Independent Examiner Carl Warren had confirmed that the accounts complied with the Charity Commission's latest requirements. Although, under the Commission's rules, the amount of the Association's income was insufficient to require an independent examiner, the Committee nevertheless felt that this was desirable.

Donations to the school during the year amounted to £2000 for improvements to the sports ground. A shipment of school ties was also sent, the cost of which was reimbursed by QCOSA. There had been a loss on the Association's 30th Anniversary Dinner-Dance, but the summer Boat Cruise had made a record profit. As in the previous year, the Cruise had been promoted by Dalgety's Teas, which helped to boost numbers.

The following non-executives were elected: President: Dr Peter Fraser; Vice-Presidents: Derek Hugh (immediate past President, now deceased - see obituary), Dr Neville Linton, John Rafferty MBE, Brigadier (retd.) David Man, Sir Shridath ('Sonny') Ramphal GCMG, Trevor Phillips OBE, Henry Edwards, Ivor Ying, Gary Ramprashad, Ian Wishart, Mark Adamson, HE Hamley Case, Mark Dalgety, Bruce Nóbrega.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following were elected at the AGM, with appointments and co-options made at the first meeting of the Committee held on 6.12.19:

Chairman: Bruce Nóbrega, brucybaby75@hotmail.com
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Claire Carballo, eccarballo@aol.com
Hon Treasurer: Praveen Hanoman, pdhanoman@yahoo.com

Co-opted: Dr Christopher Chunnillall, christopher.chunnillall@gmail.com
Dave Debidin, dave@debidins.co.uk
Joseph Le Roi-Smith, jls7@hotmail.com
Frederick Weston, fred-coity@talktalk.net
Mrs Karen Alexander (née Trotz), kanese@hotmail.com
Keith Alexander, keith__zander@hotmail.com
Mark Dalgety, markdalgety@hotmail.co.uk
Jillian Lilico, jillian.lilico@gmail.com
Ian Wishart (Asst. Sec), 2 Prince Consort Drive, Chislehurst BR7 5SB,
tel 020 8467 4028, wishartian1@yahoo.co.uk

QCOSA

QCOSA was reconstituted at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting held at Queen's College on Sunday 13th October. The new executive comprises 14 members, with President Dr. Arron Fraser, 1st and 2nd vice-Presidents Pauline Chase and Vidushi Persaud-McKinnon respectively, and Secretary Martina McDonald-Johnson. The members thanked outgoing Secretary, and Chair of the proceedings, Ms. Sharon Singh-Kreuter for her dedicated service over the years. The UK association also extends its thanks to Sharon, who has been a steadfast conduit for correspondence between QCOGA(UK) and QCOSA during her many years as QCOSA Secretary and organiser of the Special Needs Programme.

175th ANNIVERSARY REUNION (27 October 2019 – 3 November 2019)

Mark Dalgety and Christopher Chunnillall represented the Association at the 175th (Dodransbicentennial) Anniversary celebrations in Guyana.

An **ICQC business meeting** was held on Monday 28 October at Herdmanston Lodge. The following were the key items reported or agreed:

- The Central Florida Chapter is dormant. The Central & South Florida chapters will consider merging.
- The ICQC Reunion Facebook channel set up by Mike Annamunthadoo (Toronto Chapter) can be used to build communications with the alumni community.
- The Centre of Excellence for Creative Arts – a 5-person sub-committee was set up (including UK Committee Mark Dalgety). Mark has submitted a business plan for the sub-committee's consideration.
- Re-establishment of the Cadet Corps. A 3-person committee was set up to identify ways forward, and asked to report back by March 2020.
- The sports ground is returning to a suitable state – with the support of the 'Grass Cutter organisation'. However, it needs to be maintained – at the time of the meeting, the groundsman only prepared the cricket pitch, and the Min. of Education does not want to get an assistant groundsman.
- A games master / mistress is needed, as well as a music teacher.
- A sub-committee was formed to consider a strategy for the sports/ground/pavilion and asked to report back by April 2020.
- The Board of Governors is having discussions on the excessive number of subjects (up to 20!) being taken at CAPE (the old 'O' Level). (St Stanislaus has proposed a 'back to basics' programme for its students of 10-12 subjects).
- There are between nine and eleven students on the Special Needs Programme.
- The ICQC Committee term will run for two years. The 2021 meeting scheduled to be held in Toronto around the time of Caribana, with subsequent meetings held annually.

- The new Committee comprises: President (by default, as Chair/President of host Association) – Dr. Arron Fraser, Exec. Secretary – Eden Gajraj, Deputy Sec. – Gerald Alleyne, Recording Sec. – Victor Moses, Funding & project co-ordinator – Martina McDonald-Johnson.
- Alfred Granger, retiring Executive Secretary, was thanked for his efforts on behalf of ICQC.



New ICQC Executive Secretary Eden Gajraj (left) with Mark Dalgety and Christopher Chunnillall

SOCIAL EVENTS

A full programme of formal and informal events was organised (by the ICQC Reunion Committee where not otherwise stated):

On Sunday there was a wreath-laying at Founder Bishop William Piercy Austin's grave in St James-the less Churchyard. Subsequently, Mark & Chris organised the repainting of his grave. This was followed by an Inter-faith service, and a Welcome Reception and Brunch at QC.

On Monday and Tuesday evening a 'A Conversation with Guyana' was organised and presented by 'Women of Queen's College & Friends' at the Pegasus Hotel. The aim of these events was to open a dialogue among caring Guyanese on ways we can all thrive while working together to create a future we want for our homeland. The topic on Monday was *'Living in Guyana! A Multi-varied Vision and Experience of Home'* and on Tuesday was *'Toward a Just and Caring Society: Imagining Guyana in 2045'*. On Tuesday evening there was also a QCOSA-organised Sports Quiz for students and alumni at the school.

A Special General Assembly was held on Tuesday, graced by the attendance of the President, H.E. Brigadier (ret'd) David Granger (QC 56-64, Moulder House). After the assembly, the Library was renamed the Dr. Laurence Clarke Memorial Library and the Allied Arts Building the Lynette DeWeever Dolphin Centre for Excellence in the Creative Arts.

Ray Luck performed a recital at the Cultural Centre on Wednesday evening, followed by a Wine and Cheese Reception. On Thursday there was a sports day, including a 'teachers vs alumni' cricket match. The New York Chapter organised a lime at the YMCA in the evening (an event including alcohol could not be held at QC on a school day).

A student Conference was organised by the New York Chapter on Friday, and in the evening there was a 'Thank You QC' Concert and Cultural Evening at the Cultural Centre, organised by Vibert Cambridge, Eden Gajraj and Alfred Granger.

The QC PTA organised a Fair at QC on Saturday; in the evening a "70's Themed Party" (1970's not over - 70's!!) was held at the Pegasus. The week closed with a QCOSA afternoon/evening of go-karting at the Guyana Motor Racing and Sports Club, enjoying the participation of current students.

SALVETE

We welcome to the Association: Life Member Mrs **Karen Alexander** (née Trotz, QC 80-87), Life Member **Keith Alexander** (QC 79-86), **Othniel A N Lewis** (QC 11-16), Ms **Corinne Locke** (QC 75-84, also a member of the New York Association), Ms **Basanti Narine** (QC 84-87), and **Marlon Watson** (DJ 'Mr Marlon', non-alumnus).

VALETE

We regret to announce the deaths of the following:

2019

Lester Adams (QC 65-72, Head Boy 71-72), *d.* 13.2.19 in Maryland; Life Member **Erwin Eustace Chamberlain Ross Brewster** (QC 48-57), *d.* 6.1.19 in Florida; **Jerome Wylde ('Jerry') Carter** (QC 1940s), *d.* 1.12.19 age 86 in Guyana; **Clifford Ellis** (QC dates unknown), *d.* 24.2.19 in Texas; **Miles G Fitzpatrick** (QC 40s-53), *b.* 12.1.36, *d.* 12.3.19 in Guyana; **Aurangzeb Rohini Kemahl Khan** (QC 51-58), President of the Toronto Association 2009-11, Vice-President Membership and Communications, *b.* 17.11.39, *d.* 13.9.19 whilst on holiday in the Bahamas; Life Member (non-alumna) **Helen Joan Howard Nedham**, *b.* 21.9.51, *d.* 20.6.19; Life Member **James F ('Jimmy') Parker** (QC 1930s), *d.* 19.8.19; **Ronald Campbell Reid** (QC ?-47), member of the Toronto Association, *b.* 16.12.29 *d.* 10.4.19 in Canada; **Leslie Gordon ('Ali Pang') Robinson** (QC late 50s-63, French master 60s-72), served internationally in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *d.* 23.2.19 in Maryland; **Ronald Savory** (QC 44-48), *d.* 4.2.19 age 85 in St Lucia; Dr **Bromley Simon** (QC 1950s), *d.* 5.5.19 in Barbados; **Claude ('Patches') Yearwood** (QC master early 1960s-1980), *d.* 18.2.19 age 93 in New York; **Vybert Young-Kong** (QC 1950s), younger brother of Life member Lloyd, *d.* October 2019 in Florida.

2020

Stanislaus Nathaniel ('Stanny') Fox (QC 57-62), *d.* 9.1.20 in Brooklyn; **Ulric P Gibson** (QC 50-53), *d.* 13.5.20 in Maryland USA; Dr **Michael A Gilkes** (QC 43-49), *b.* 1933, *d.* 14.4.20 in England (see obituary below); Dr **Ivor Hylton Denys Harewood** (QC 44-52), Deputy Head Prefect and Head of Weston House 51-2, co-editor of the *Lictor*, *b.* 21.7.33, *d.* 16.1.20 in Los Angeles, active in medical relief for Guyana; **Derek Gordon Hugh** (QC 46-52), Association Committee Member 1990-2002, President 2014-2019, *b.* 17.1.35, *d.* 19.2.20 in England (see obituary below); Association Member (non-alumnus) Dr **Franklin K S Jacobs** *d.* 20.3.2020; Dr **W Irving ('Bud') Lee** (QC 43-51, Head of School and C House 50-51), Surgeon, *b.* 14.7.32, *d.* 11.1.20 in Guyana; **Frank Edward Mongul** (QC 43-51), Head A House and School Athletics Captain 49-51, retired vet, paternal uncle of Hon. Sec. Claire Caballo, *b.* 3.1.32, *d.* 28.4.20 in the US; **Brynmor (Bryn) Innis Thornton Pollard** OR, CCH, SC (QC 40-47), *d.* 24.1.20 in Guyana; Life Member **Michael John Sharples** (QC 47-56), *b.* 31.1.37 *d.* 25.4.2020 in England; **N Miles S Stoby** (QC 52 to mid-50s), *d.* 19.5.20, age 77, in Muscat, formerly Guyana diplomat, UN Assistant Secretary-General (appointed by Kofi Annan) and, on retirement, Permanent Observer of Caricom to the UN; Life Member **Andrew C Terrill** (QC 47-57) *d.* 17.3.20 in England; **J S M Worrell** (QC 49-53), *d.* 2020 in Guyana;

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

The Association also extends its condolences to Vice-President Sir Shridath ('Sonny') Ramphal and family on the death of his wife **Lois Winifred**, Lady **Ramphal**, who passed away on 20.9.19. A moving eulogy was delivered by son-in-law and Association Life Member Sir Ronald Sanders. The Association was represented at the funeral by Ian Wishart

OBITUARIES

DEREK G HUGH

A stalwart supporter of the Association, and its first Life Member, Derek joined in 1988 and served on the Committee between 1990 and 2002, holding the posts of Secretary and of Chairman during that period. He was made a Vice-President in 2004 and served as President for five years from 2014-15 to 2018-19. However, because of health problems he declined to stand for the presidency at last year's AGM and was re-appointed as a Vice-President.

Derek was admitted to QC's First Form (in those days the pre-11-plus form) in 1946. He was, to put it mildly, a somewhat wild character at school, even managing to get into a fight and be caned by Becks* on his first day! (He probably won the fight as well.) I remember him as the demon fast bowler in the Raleigh House second XI (of which I was captain, though not through any particular ability as a player). He would begin his run-up from the boundary ending with a delivery that sometimes beat both batsman and wicketkeeper bequeathing four byes to our opponents. He also possessed a bicycle with a 'constant' (fixed wheel) drive and no brakes.

Following O-levels in 1952, Derek returned to England, the land of his birth, and found his feet in the engineering industry. He progressed to hold a senior position with Foster Wheeler Power Products, and became a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow (i.e. senior member) of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of other engineering institutions.

Derek was also a senior Freemason, being a member of various lodges in the UK, and Provincial Grandmaster of certain West Indian Lodges. Through his freemasonry activities he was made a Freeman of the City of London which, among other things, entitled him to drive a flock of sheep over London Bridge – an entitlement I don't believe he exercised.

Derek died on 19th February from an illness linked to his immune system, and was cremated at a private funeral on the 24th.

*The late Hilary A M Beckles, Deputy Headmaster.

Ian Wishart.

DR MICHAEL A GILKES

Michael Gilkes, who attended QC from 1943 to 1949, died of the Covid-19 virus in England on 19 April after three days in intensive care. Michael was a "late developer" (or perhaps he was not motivated by the educational curriculum) as he himself admitted in an email to me 18 years ago. I quote: "I was an undistinguished near-drop-out of Q.C. in the[...] 1940's. I got a scholarship to attend, but apart from Art [...] and English [...] I did poorly as a student." Having worked in various jobs, he then decided to come to Britain to study, gaining a BA (1st class honours) in English from London University in 1968, and subsequently a PhD from Kent in 1973.

Michael subsequently taught at a number of colleges and universities in the Caribbean, Canada and the UK. At the UWI campus in Barbados, he was Reader in English and Head of the English Department, one of the many QC alumni who held senior posts there.

Poet, actor, playwright, director, film maker and literary critic, Michael was winner of the Guyana Prize for Drama in 1992 and 2006, and of the Guyana Prize for Best Book of Poetry in 2002. In his email he described himself as "a roving, retired Caribbean cultural activist in the creative arts." He will be sadly missed.

Ian Wishart.



L-R: Derek Hugh (see Obituary), the late Sammy Stevenson (QC 1929-36) and Ian Wishart at QC's 150th anniversary dinner at Lord's Conference Centre on 24.9.94. Sammy is wearing what in those days was the school colours blazer. This went out during WW2. The cap may also have been part of the colours.



Life Member Michael J Sharples
31.1.37 - 25.4.20

CONGRATULATIONS

To Life Member and Vice-President **Hamley Case** on being awarded the Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH) on relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner. We hope to see Hamley on one of his promised visits to the UK.

To Life Member (non-alumnus) **Clive Hubert Lloyd CBE** on being made a Knight Bachelor in the New Year's Honours – a long overdue award.

To Dr. **Jamal Deen** (67-73, 'K' House), a Distinguished Professor at McMaster University, on being elected to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Academician echelon, China's highest academic title. He is the first Caribbean national and second Canadian to be elected to that prestigious position.

QC MAGAZINES and LICTOR ARCHIVE - <https://qcguyanapublications.org/>

Roderick ('Rod') Fletcher (QC 'F' House, 60 - 67) has successfully completed a mammoth project of digitising old QC magazines and copies of the *Lictor*, the first copy of which was published in 1950 and includes a piece entitled "Spotlight on IVA" by Wishy Washy (no prizes for guessing who that may be).

WEBSITES

qcoga.org.uk qcguyana.charity.com