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Royal Over-Seas League



Annual Report 2009

Royal Over-Seas League

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Vice-Patron

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Sir Anthony Figgis KCVO CMG from 7 December 2009

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Mrs Beryl Keen (deceased January 2010)
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Mr David Newman
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Mrs Doreen Regan*
Mrs Judith Steiner*
Mr Geoffrey Thompson OBE
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Mr Simon Ward FCA* (Honorary Treasurer)
*Executive Committee

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Front cover pictures: (clockwise from top left) the Solstice String Quartet; HRH Princess Alexandra inaugurates the new Steinway piano (© Robert Piwko); children in Nhoma village, Namibia; HRH Princess Eugenie meets the Hong Kong Down's Syndrome Association football team at Over-Seas House, London; the winners of the Younger Member's Inter-Club Quiz

Back cover pictures: (top) the Twisted Woman by Lilian Naubulime and (below) Princess Alexandra Hall (© Charles Glover)

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The Royal Over-Seas League was founded in 1910 by Sir Evelyn Wrench to foster international friendship and understanding. ROSL operates under Royal Charter and 'aims at promoting an enduring multi-racial fellowship pledged to the support of the Commonwealth and to the service of others and humanity at large'. It is required to encourage the arts, particularly among the young people of the Commonwealth.

ROSL seeks to fulfill its aims by:

- supporting Commonwealth ideals
- offering clubhouse hospitality to members
- organising annual competitions for young artists and musicians
- developing joint welfare projects for disadvantaged communities
- providing a network of contacts and representatives around the world

ROSL has over 18,000 members worldwide. There are branches or member groups in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand and the UK, plus reciprocal arrangements with over 85 clubs worldwide.

Membership of ROSL is open to men and women who are citizens of Commonwealth countries and of countries which have constitutional links with the UK at any time since 1910, such as Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan, or such citizens of any country which the Central Council shall specify from time to time.

Chairman's report

The year 2009 got off to a right royal start. In January, Princess Alexandra, Vice-Patron of ROSL, inaugurated the Steinway grand piano in the hall she had opened exactly three years earlier. In May, a princess from a younger generation, Eugenie of York, attended the tea party for a group from the Hong Kong Down's Syndrome Society.

My main overseas visit of the year never took place. Because of the political riots in Bangkok in April, my visits to our branches there and in Hong Kong had to be cancelled. Sadly, Hong Kong remains the only active overseas branch that I was unable to visit during my chairmanship.

Later, in July, I went again (with the Director-General) to the annual dinner of the Switzerland branch in Lausanne. Because the British Ambassador was suddenly taken ill, I had to make the main speech, instead of merely the supporting one.

In September (for the sixth year running), my wife and I went with the London Group on their overseas visit – to Poland. Both Warsaw and

Krakow were fascinating, the former largely rebuilt after the savage wartime destruction and the latter historically intact because the Germans had used it as the capital of their General Government. Only an hour's drive from the medieval castle, cathedral and university, examples of the heights to which man can rise, was Auschwitz, the supreme example of the depths to which he can sink. The visit was enlivened by accidents on the escalator and train

“The whole event brings great credit to ROSL”

steps at Warsaw station, from which we emerged bruised but not broken.

My wife and I visited a number of the branches in Britain: Bournemouth (twice), Taunton, West Sussex and Bath. Twice we went to Edinburgh, in May for the branch AGM and, in August, to attend the concerts organised every year by ROSL ARTS at 100 Princes Street during the Festival. We had heard much about them but the reality exceeded all reports. The music, provided by prizewinners in the ROSL Annual Music Competition, was wonderful; the capacity audiences were enthusiastic; the whole event brings great credit to ROSL.

As Chairman, I spoke at two non-ROSL events: a lunch of the Rotary Club of Edinburgh and a dinner of the 200 year old Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

Our events have continued to

Below: (l-r) Mrs Hanni Martin, Lord Luce (ROSL President), Mr Stanley Martin, Mr Hugo Vickers, Lady Luce, John Julius Norwich (guest of honour and speaker), the Hon Ivor Lucas and Mrs Christine Lucas at the Chairman's Lunch in May

Right: ROSL staff (l-r) Mr Roderick Lakin, Mr Rachid Mellah, Miss Margaret Adrian-Vallance, Mr Stanley Martin, Mrs Fatima Vanicek, Mr Shakil Tayub, Mr Michael McCall and Mr Robert Newell, who celebrated their long service to the ROSL at the Central Council lunch in September



attract eminent speakers, thus continuing to fulfil one of our original aims. At the crowded Chairman's Lunches, John Julius Norwich gave a brilliantly concise account of 1500 years of Venice, and Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor reflected on his time as Archbishop of Westminster and his experiences of a papal conclave.

A third lunch marked the 60th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth; the President, Director-General and I entertained the Commonwealth Secretary-General and all the High Commissioners. Mr Newell and I also attended the anniversary flag-raising at Marlborough House.

The Central Council entertained the High Commissioners for Canada and Australia, where we have thousands of members, and Sir David Brewer, who as Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London is The Queen's representative in the capital, where we also have thousands of members.

One particular duty I fulfilled with special emotion. I represented ROSL at the service in Westminster Abbey, attended by The Queen and Prince Philip, to commemorate the passing of the last surviving veterans of the First World War. Many ROSL members from throughout the Commonwealth served and died in that conflict; my father was wounded on the Somme.

It was especially pleasing during the year to mark long periods of service to ROSL. At one of its lunches, the Central Council honoured Roderick Lakin, Fatima Vanicek and Mick McCall for 25, 30 and 25 years with us. Later, Robert Newell's 30 years were recognised by a surprise



staff party, which my wife and I were privileged to attend.

Graham Lockwood's very special contribution to the ROSL – as Deputy Chairman, as Chairman of the vital Sponsorship Committee and as a generous benefactor – was recognised by his election as a Vice-President.

“I thought I had achieved what I set out to do in 2005”

All this illustrates the great debt owed by ROSL to its (very) permanent staff and to those members who give their time voluntarily both at headquarters in London and in the branches in Britain and overseas. (I shall not rehearse again my thoughts on ROSL – past and future – which I set out in my farewell article in *Overseas*, issue 4, 2009.)

As the year went on, more time was devoted to preparations for ROSL's centenary in 2010. The new logo was introduced and the excellent 'History' of ROSL (by Adele Smith) was published and launched at an evening event. By the end of 2009, most of the arrangements for the centenary had necessarily been made, although much detailed work remained to be done.

My year (and term) as

Chairman was due to end by representing the ROSL at events and ceremonies connected with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad. Suddenly, however, serious illness intervened and I was unable to go.

Indeed, my term of office ended 'not with a bang but a whimper'. I could not be at the London Group Christmas lunch or at the Festival of Christmas carols. Sadly, I also missed chairing the last meetings of the Executive Committee and Central Council during my term, at which I was formally to hand over the chair. Even the Council farewell lunch for my wife and me took place without us: 'Hamlet' without the prince.

Nevertheless, I thought I had achieved what I set out to do in 2005: to attend as many as possible of the wide range of ROSL activities and to represent ROSL fully in the outside world. More recently, I have been able to work with the Director-General to ensure that everything feasible has been done to prepare for the centenary year.

As you read this, the centenary celebrations will be well under way.

**Stanley Martin
Chairman**

Director-General's report

At the beginning of the year, my colleagues and I met to discuss the economic doom and gloom being widely reported by the financial pundits. The recession was just starting to take effect and the consensus of our meeting was that we should react immediately by cutting costs wherever possible. We were conscious that there should be no diminution of services, events and facilities to the membership.

financial initiatives and for the extra burden they endured due to the cuts to our budget. They responded in a financially mature manner, and acknowledged that, as world economies are not yet out of the woods, 2010 would also be a year of uncertainty.

Mr Stanley Martin's annual report is his last, as he retired from the chairmanship at the end of the year after nearly five years in office. He did so to allow his successor, Sir Anthony Figgis, to be Chairman throughout

“ROSL ended 2009 in sound financial shape”

the centenary year, which was both generous and thoughtful of him. Mr Martin first joined the Central Council in 1982, when he was with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). He retired as a diplomat in 1992 and became ROSL Vice-Chairman in 2002, and Chairman in 2005. He shares in the credit for our sound financial health. He travelled widely in the UK and overseas to visit ROSL branches, often with his wife Hanni, and together they made many friends and admirers. We are grateful to them both for the service they have provided to the ROSL and convey very best wishes for the future, particularly to Stanley after his recent serious illness from which, I am pleased to report, he is recovering well.

Sir Anthony Figgis joined the ROSL Central Council in 2004 and became Vice-Chairman in 2007. He was HM Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps from



At Over-Seas House (l-r) Miss Lucia Sanchez (FA International Manager), Mr Geoffrey Thompson (Central Council member, Vice-President of UEFA and FIFA and immediate past FA Chairman), Princess Takamado of Japan, Mr Robert Newell

It was the right decision, as revenue to the end of June fell, but fortunately, in the latter part of the year Over-Seas House, London experienced high levels of occupancy.

Recruitment and retention of members, suffered due to the recession but the membership revenue budget was almost achieved. 2009, therefore, ended with ROSL in sound financial shape with a better than expected surplus. I am grateful to my colleagues for their

2001 to 2008. Before that he was a diplomat with the FCO and served in Belgrade, Bahrain, Madrid, Geneva and Bonn, and was Ambassador to Austria from 1996 to 2000. Sir Anthony was appointed CMG in 1993 and KCVO in 1996. He is married to Mayella, and to them both we send best wishes for a very happy term of office.

Much work during the year focused on preparations for the ROSL centenary. The first projects were the publication of the 'History' of ROSL, written by Adele Smith, and the design of a new ROSL logo incorporating our coat of arms. The logo was designed by Raymond Patmore (Helix Design), assisted by input from Council members and staff, and it now adorns all ROSL stationery and literature and was featured on the front cover of *Overseas* magazine issue 4 2009, to mark the beginning of the centenary year.

During 2009 a Centenary Appeal was launched for donations to ensure the continuation, in perpetuity, of our endeavours on behalf of young Commonwealth classical musicians. The initial response has been excellent and we are grateful to those members who have already donated.

A cause of sadness during the year was the death of the eminent artist Donald Hamilton Fraser RA, a ROSL Vice-President.

With the help of our membership database support company, a thorough reconciliation of the membership records took place, archiving a large number of life members and those whose membership had lapsed.

In 2009, 1,279 new members were enrolled and worldwide membership at the end of the

year was 18,383.

Four of my colleagues celebrated long service: Fatima Vanicek (Asst. to Director-General/Membership Secretary) 30 years; Roderick Lakin (Director of ROSL ARTS) 25 years; Michael McCall (Head Hall Porter and Health & Safety Officer) 25 years; and Alan Chalmers (Manager Over-Seas House, Edinburgh) 20 years. I myself completed 30 years in October.

At the AGM, in May, the appointments to the Central Council of Miss Sheila MacTaggart, Mr Graham Archer, Mr Ian Partridge and Mr David Jamieson were confirmed under the term of bye-laws 14.6 and 14.7. In accordance with the terms of bye-laws 20.1 and 20.2, Mrs Judith Steiner, Mr

“The first project was the design of a new ROSL logo”

Christie Cherian and Mr John Edwards will retire at the AGM in 2010. The Chairman, Central Council, my colleagues and I convey our grateful thanks for the service they have provided. In accordance with bye-law 21.3, Mr Stanley Martin retired from the Chairmanship in December 2009 and Sir Anthony Figgis was elected by the Central Council to succeed him. Under the terms of



bye-laws 14.6 and 14.7, Mrs Lindsay Ross, Miss Maureen Howley, Mr Peter Hamlyn and Mr Monojit Chatterji are nominated for election to the Central Council at the AGM in 2010. Mr Graham Lockwood was elected a Vice-President in accordance with bye-law 18.1, as was Mr Stanley Martin upon his retirement from the chairmanship.

I am grateful to Lord Luce (President), Mr Stanley Martin (Chairman), Mr Simon Ward (Hon Treasurer), and members of the Central Council for their support and help to my colleagues on the staff and me, during the year. I am also very grateful to all those who serve ROSL so ably around, the world on a voluntary basis.

**Robert Newell
Director-General**

Above: Mr Newell celebrates his 30th anniversary at ROSL

Below: (l-r) Lady Luce, Lady Figgis, Lord Luce and Sir Anthony Figgis at the Central Council lunch in December



Clubhouse news

Over-Seas House, London

Early in the year, the balcony, which stretches the full width of Rutland House, built in 1735, was found to be unstable. After much investigation by Richard Watkins (structural engineer), Peter Bickerstaff (building surveyor) and Paul Streat (Maintenance Manager), the balcony was expertly pinned back to the wall and fully repaired.

Soon after, other unexpected and costly maintenance was required to the bar and Hall of India and Pakistan. The second and third floors of the Westminster Wing bedrooms were refurbished and redecorated, which completed the modernisation of that part of the building.

Essential maintenance to the Green Park elevations of both Vernon and Rutland Houses also took place.

Paul Streat
Maintenance Manager

House Advisory Committee

The committee is always receptive to observations by members about all aspects of the London clubhouse and service. There has been particular praise for the enthusiasm and helpfulness of the staff who work in the Buttery and also for the Porters, particularly during the Christmas period.

Patricia Farrant
Chairman

Discussion Group, London

The Discussion Group's monthly lectures in 2009 covered a wide range of topics with excellent and varied speakers, from John Bird (founder of *The Big Issue*) to the Rt Hon the Lord Woolf (former Chief Justice of England and Wales). The talks were followed by lively discussions which the speakers

Below: A recently-refurbished bedroom at Over-Seas House, London

Right: Former Scotland First Minister Mr Jack McConnell spoke at the November Arts lunch at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh



greatly appreciated.

In May, John Edwards succeeded Maj Gen Tim Toyne Sewell as Discussion Group Chairman.

John Edwards
Chairman

London Group

The London Group had a successful year. Membership increased, and talks covered a variety of topics, including Soho in the 50s and 60s, living and working in Ghana and a history of the dictionary. There were also interesting and well-supported visits to the Handel House Museum, the British Medical Association, Thomas Carlyle's House and the Brit Oval.

The AGM in April was also a social success, commencing with refreshments and concluding with a talk by Adele Smith, who presented her 'History' of ROSL.

In September, London Group members and friends visited Poland. They stayed in Warsaw and Krakow, and learnt a good deal about the history, culture and architecture from the excellent guides.

Andrew Brewis provided piano and vocal entertainment at the annual Christmas lunch and was enthusiastically received.

Doreen Regan
President

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh

Over-Seas House, Edinburgh has had a difficult year due to the work to install tram rails on Princes Street which, combined with the economic downturn, affected food and beverage sales.

Bathroom upgrading work was

completed at the beginning of the year and the Robert Louis Stevenson Room was redecorated. Most bedrooms have had flat screen televisions with Freeview installed, which provide a wider choice of TV and radio stations.

Successful weekend packages were organised, for members, which included trips to the Royal Yacht Britannia and Glamis Castle.

Alan Chalmers
Manager,
Over-Seas House,
Edinburgh

ROSL Scotland

2009 was an extremely difficult year for ROSL in Scotland. The national economic situation, combined with the advent of tramworks in Princes Street, created an almost surreal atmosphere of depopulation and silence in the main thoroughfare for many months. It also meant that Over-Seas House recorded a financial loss and recruited only 70 new members.

The social programme, however, continued to thrive thanks to the loyal support of members. Former First Minister Jack McConnell MSP addressed the November Arts lunch in support of the University of Edinburgh Centre for African Studies, and other events attracted a number of distinguished speakers such as authors Lorn MacIntyre, Billy Kay, and Alasdair Hutton. Gordon Arthur, Head of Communications for Glasgow 2014 (Commonwealth Games) was guest speaker at the Commonwealth Day Lunch and Adele Smith presented her book, the 'History' of ROSL, at the



December Arts Lunch.

ROSL ARTS delivered a high-quality programme, ranging from regular Music with a View events to special dance and Gala Evenings. The outstanding Edinburgh Festival Fringe series of concerts was again very popular. Members also heard from pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin and St Mary's Music Schools, and the work of ROSL prizewinning visual artists was shown at the Landings Gallery throughout the year.

I am indebted to all members and colleagues who support ROSL in Scotland: Bob Gregor (Edinburgh Branch Chairman) and Bill Agnew (Glasgow Branch Chairman); and the core Edinburgh personnel, including kitchen, housekeeping and reception staff who gave excellent service in 2009 under Manager Alan Chalmers, particularly over the very busy festive season. Their combined efforts managed to combat, to a degree, the extremely difficult economic climate.

James Wilkie
Scotland Development
Officer

ROSL centenary

It has been a year of busy preparation for the ROSL centenary. With its rich history of social, cultural and charitable endeavour, it was essential that ROSL's 100th anniversary should be marked in a fitting manner. As with most milestones, the centenary is a time for reflection, reassessment and change.

This was especially true of the decision to create a new logo. Since 1960, the ROSL logo bore its coat of arms with its motto, 'Ubique Navigavimus', and name, Royal Over-Seas League, beneath. For the centenary it was decided to adopt a more contemporary look. After much

discussion with graphic designer Raymond Patmore (Helix Design), we alighted upon a new logo which emphasised the acronym 'ROSL', and retained the coat of arms, encompassed in an eye-catching centennial flourish.

The new logo has been implemented in a variety of ways including stationary, brochures and a selection of centenary merchandise sold in the ROSL Shop and by mail order.

November saw the launch of *The Royal Over-Seas League: from Empire into Commonwealth, A History of the first 100 Years* published by IB Tauris and written by Adele Smith. The 'History' provides a

lively and readable account of the past 100 years and is available from the ROSL Shop and by mail order.

To complement the 'History', ROSL has commissioned a Centenary DVD which focuses on the ROSL today. Directed by former BBC producer and BAFTA award winner Christopher Swann and narrated by Chris de Souza, the DVD will showcase the wide range of activities in which the ROSL is currently involved, including exclusive footage from the ROSL-Namibia Project, the annual ROSL ARTS tour of New Zealand and the Visual Arts Scholarship programme in Arbroath, Scotland. The DVD is intended to celebrate the ROSL and its achievements so far, but will also act as a promotional tool for membership recruitment.

The premiere of the DVD follows the Chairman's Lunch on 4 May 2010 at Over-Seas House, London. Further screenings will take place at branch events worldwide during 2010.

To mark the centenary, and to acknowledge the Annual Music Competition as one of ROSL's most significant and enduring achievements, the Centenary Appeal was launched in September to secure endowment in excess of £1,000,000 to support outstanding young professional musicians. The funds raised will be held in a restricted fund within the ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust (registered charity number 30695).

Polly Hynd
Centenary & International
Events Co-ordinator



Overseas magazine

It was a good year for the *Overseas* magazine, with issue 3 2009 marking the first of five special centenary issues. Characterised by a unique ‘Centenary’ section, with stories from the *Overseas* archives and excerpts from Adele Smith’s ‘History’ of ROSL, the centenary issues have a Focus on a specific theme, rather than a country. The September-November issue focused on the Commonwealth, specifically on CHOGM, while the final issue of the year investigated the issue of climate change.

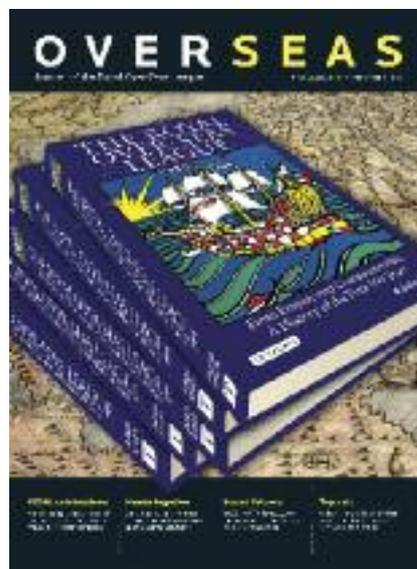
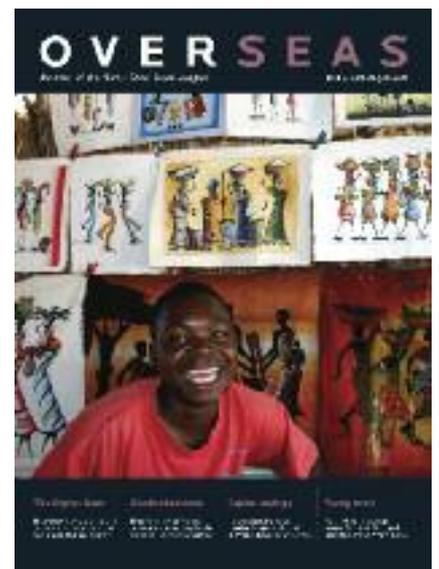
Despite the new centenary articles, *Overseas* managed to maintain all its regular features – in issue 4, by increasing the number of pages to 40. Some of the highlights from 2009 were the pick of the best shows from the Edinburgh Festival, an interview with ROSL member Len Goodman and an examination of how Malawi took itself from famine to surplus.

The most successful ROSL events were also covered – with pieces on the 57th Annual Music Competition and the arts scholars – while the report on the ROSL-Namibia project looked at past bursary students who are now teaching a new generation.

Middleton Mann took over as Deputy Editor in January and changed the design of the magazine so that articles could be longer in length, while maintaining the overall ‘look’. The Editor, Miranda Moore, went on maternity leave in May, leaving *Overseas* in the capable hands of Jessica Moore, former editor of *Guardian Monthly*. As Acting

Editor, Jessica commissioned a range of inspirational articles, including a glimpse at the work of a chief cheetah keeper in Namibia. The editorial team also produced two special covers: the first featuring Adele Smith’s ‘History’ and the second introducing the new ROSL logo.

Miranda Moore
Editor



ROSL-Namibia project

The success of ROSL bursary awardees in remote areas such as the Kalahari, the generosity of ROSL donors and new fund-raising initiatives were the main highlights of 2009.

The ROSL-Namibia project was established in 1995 with Clara Bohitile, then Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Culture, to provide primary school bursaries for individual San (Bushman) and other children living in remote areas. Due to the generosity of ROSL members and non-ROSL donors it was possible to extend this support to secondary and tertiary levels and contribute to the

development funds of three primary schools in isolated areas: Katora, Hippo and Huigub.

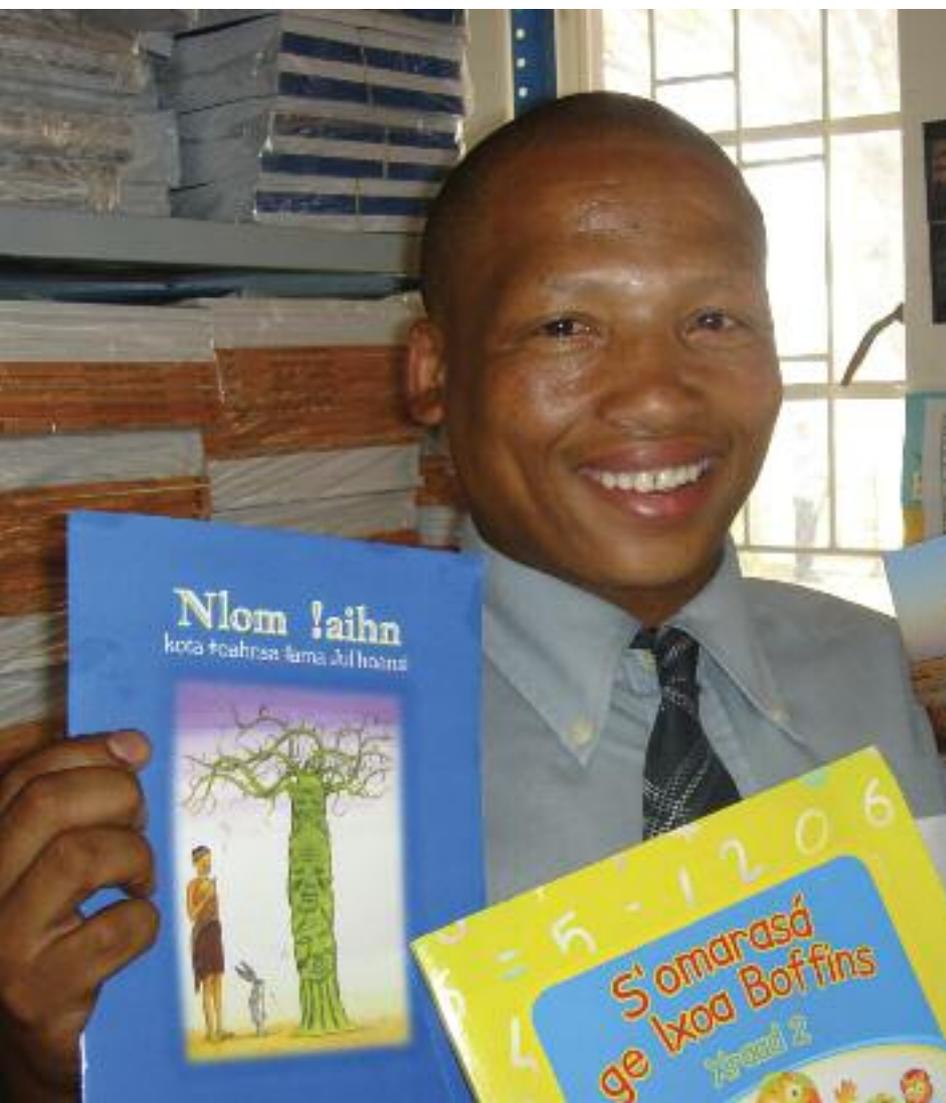
2009 saw most of the 17 ROSL bursary recipients doing well. Kobus Gaiseb, for example, who started at Huigub Primary and is now at Otjikoto Secondary, was selected for a leadership training course, continued to win school prizes and was voted head of the school hostel. Tamigu Gariseb, who started at Katora Primary and is now at Swakopmund Secondary, excelled in maths and other subjects.

During the year, two caring and supportive Principals who had played such a vital part in the project came up to retirement: Rheinhard Doeseb at Katora Primary and Habakuk Shilongo at Huigub Primary. At Katora the five ROSL bursary recipients did well, and at Huigub a new kitchen and classrooms were built with additional funding from Germany. At Windhoek College of Education, ROSL continued to support seven students, mainly from Himba communities in the far north.

In September it was agreed that the ROSL-Namibia project should feature in a short section of the Centenary DVD. Director Chris Swann therefore joined the first part of the annual monitoring visit, in October, and filmed in the east and west of the country. My co-monitor Paul Oosthuizen and I filmed in the north and the Nyae Nyae conservancy.

In the Nyae Nyae our guide was ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi,

ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi with the text books he has helped to translate into Ju'hoansi San





La Fondation raised the interesting question as to whether the project could be used as a template in other Commonwealth countries and why it works so well. The main reason, as confirmed by Clara Bohitile, is the long-term commitment by ROSL, and the project is therefore very grateful to all those donors who have kept it going since 1995.

Margaret Adrian-Vallance
Director of Public Relations & Development

now Principal of five bush schools in his homeland of the Jo'hoansi San. Cwisa was one of several awardees to give an interview in a confident and thoughtful way. Others included two of the first nine in the project – Elias Araeb and Ellie Velskoen from the Omaheke. Both are now teachers. Chris also interviewed Clara Bohitile MP in Windhoek, ROSL bursary recipients at Katora and took general shots to

Fondation Espace Afrique, which 'provides support for the realisation of projects and initiatives at the Pan-African level and is the Petrolin Group's commitment to the development of Africa'. In December, it was confirmed that a grant agreement would be ready in early 2010 and it was decided that a short DVD should be made about the project to support such applications in the future.

Left: The approach to Katora Primary School in the Namib desert

Below: An evening gathering at Nhoma village in the Nyae Nyae

“Cwisa was one of several awardees to give an interview in a confident and thoughtful way”

indicate the tyranny of distance in this vast country with its population of only 2 million.

On the downside, 2009 was the second year in which the project was not entirely self-funded due to the recession, falling exchange rates and fewer donations from non-ROSL sources. In order to safeguard funds for those already in the project, support for the three schools was therefore reduced and only one new bursary award was made during the year.

As it was essential to find new donors to supplement the £5,700 from members, an application was made in November to



Members' events

The 2009 members' events programme presented an exceptionally broad array of events. The popularity of the events has grown, and more members than ever before enjoyed meeting each other and relishing what London has to offer.

Explorations included backstage tours of the Royal Opera House, the Poppy Factory and the BBC, where members were able to make their own piece of television in the BBC's interactive studio. Members have also gone behind the scenes of some of the most magnificent historical houses and gardens, including Osterley House and park, Marble Hill House, Syon Park and the Chelsea Physic Garden.

Guided walks around London are always extremely popular, as members discover hidden treasures

and learn about the area's history. In 2009, guided walks were taken around Greenwich, Kew Gardens, Little Venice and St James's, where, in Floris, members learnt about making perfumes.

Private guided tours were also taken around several historic palaces: Kensington Palace, Hampton Court, Kew Palace and Lambeth Palace.

During the summer, many members attended the traditional favourites: Trooping the Colour, Wimbledon and the Chelsea Flower Show. There was also a delicious tea at the House of Lords, hosted by ROSL President Lord Luce, after which, thanks to a torrential downpour, members squelched home wet but happily fed. Later in the year, those who attended returned to the House of Lords for a guided tour.

The first wine tasting event using vintage wines from ROSL's cellar took place in October in the Restaurant at Over-Seas House, London, and was a great success.

Also in October, Stanley Martin hosted his last Chairman's Lunch which was attended by more than 100 members, and in November the new members reception allowed those who had joined in 2009 to meet each other and the ROSL staff.

Many exciting events are planned for 2010 to celebrate the centenary year.

Alexandra Debarge
Events Co-ordinator
& PR Assistant

Members enjoyed a guided tour of the Royal Hospital by one of the Chelsea Pensioners



▼ The Royal Opera House



© ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

▼ Osterley House



© NATIONAL TRUST/DAVID WATSON

▼ Hampton Court Palace



© WWW.NEWSTEAM.CO.UK

▼ Foundling Museum



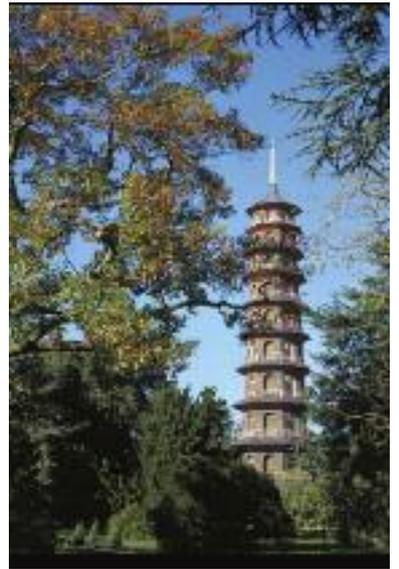
© FOUNDLING MUSEUM

▼ Chelsea Flower Show



© JON ENOCH RHS

▼ Kew Gardens



▼ Lambeth Palace



© LAMBETH PALACE

▼ Syon House



▼ The Wallace Collection



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Younger Members' Inter-Club Group

The Younger Members' Inter-Club Group began 2009 with a delicious curry buffet, hosted by the Oriental Club, followed by after parties ending in the early hours.

In March the Oxford and Cambridge Club was filled with laughter as comedians took to the stage for Comedy Night. Charlie Talbot was an excellent MC, raising the polite applause to a near standing ovation.

On Location, hosted by the Royal Automobile Club in April, featured property developer and television presenter Phil Spencer, who provided an insight into the property world as well as many entertaining stories. In May, the Lansdowne Club hosted a Moveable Feast for 120 members and guests, where the men changed seats after every course.

The anniversary of D-Day in June was celebrated with a Summer Swing Ball at the Army and Navy Club. Members and guests dressed in black tie and military uniforms and the club was transported back to the 1940s for the night. Also in June, a summer drinks party was held at the Travellers Club.

In August, the annual Club crawl was a great success. Members began the crawl at ROSL, with a glass of champagne in Princess Alexandra Hall, and then continued through torrential rain to the Army & Navy for canapés and wine. When it was time to leave, the club sold a record number of umbrellas. The Reform Club put on a speedy dinner, which was

followed by a quick stop at the Farmers Club before members finished the crawl at the Savage Club with music and dancing. Also in August, the first Inter-Club Tennis Tournament took place at the Queen's Club, with Pimms, a barbeque lunch and traditional strawberries and cream.

The Inter-Club Quiz was hosted by the Army and Navy Club in September where, after a series of challenging questions, the Carlton Club managed to usurp reigning champions for the past two years, the Savage Club. Later that month, a Ceilidh at the Caledonian Club was a great success with traditional Scottish fare, whisky, and plenty of dancing to George Buchanan and his Ceilidh Band.

A Reverse Dinner at the Savile Club in October really put members' taste buds to the test. The meal started with whisky and coffee, followed by a three cheese selection, chocolate tart, a succulent filet of beef and, finally, spiced crab and champagne. Palates were stimulated again, in November, at the Port and Stilton Tasting hosted by the Carlton Club and, in December, the Hurlingham Club was transformed into a winter wonderland for the Narnian-themed Christmas Ball. Complete with an ice bar, vodka luge and a huge chocolate fountain, the ball concluded another successful year of Inter-Club events in style.

Alexandra Debarge
Events Co-ordinator
& PR Assistant

The first Inter-Club Tennis Tournament at the Queen's Club





◀ Comedy Night



▶ On Location

▼ Summer Swing Ball

▼ Club Crawl

▼ Tennis Tournament



▼ Inter-Club Quiz

▼ Port and Stilton Tasting



◀ Ceilidh



www.westminster.ac.uk

▶ Christmas Ball



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ROSL ARTS

Annual Music Competition

In February and March 2009, musicians from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Uganda, and the UK participated in auditions at Over-Seas House, London for the 57th ROSL Annual Music Competition. The final was held on 5 May 2009 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, at which the prizes

International Summer School.

A total of £40,000 was awarded: the four solo award finalists received £2,500 each and the overall winner and gold medallist received the £5,000 first prize.

The four finalists were Sarah Beaty, clarinet (UK), Madeleine Pierard, soprano (New Zealand), Yelian He, cello (Australia) and Ben Schoeman, piano (South Africa) who won the First Prize and Gold Medal. Two Ensemble Awards of £5,000 were awarded to the Solstice String Quartet and St James's Wind Quintet, and the Accompanists Award of £2,500 went to Simon Lane (UK).

This was the first time in the competition's history that three of the four solo award winners were from overseas. Ten musicians won overseas awards including Sarah Power, soprano and Alison Murphy, flute (Ireland); pianists Shuenda Wong (Malaysia) and Carlisle Anderson Frank (Canada); and Eric Dippenaar, harpsichord (South Africa).

Prizewinners' concerts were given throughout the year in London at Over-Seas House, St Mary's Perivale, St James's Piccadilly, St George's Hanover Square, St Martin-in-The-Fields and St Barnabus, Ealing.

Concerts were also presented at Wigmore Hall as part of the prestigious Monday Platform series, and at the National Portrait Gallery. ROSL ARTS also supported prizewinners' concerts in the Brighton Festival, the Budleigh Salterton Festival and the



Annual Music Competition winner Ben Schoeman receives his trophy

were presented by David Sigall Hon FTCL, who is a Director of Ingpen and Williams Ltd, former Chairman of the British Association of Concert Agents and a Director of The International Artists Manager Association.

The panel of judges was chaired by Gavin Henderson CBE, Principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama, and Director of Dartington



King's Lynn Festival.

At Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, prizewinners performed in bi-monthly concerts and ROSL ARTS presented its 10th concert series as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe: 31 concerts in 12 days, the majority of which played to a full house.

Prizewinners' concerts were also given in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe.

Inauguration of the new Steinway piano

25 January 2006 was a landmark date for ROSL when, following extensive refurbishment, the concert room at Over-Seas House, London was re-opened by Vice Patron HRH Princess Alexandra, and renamed Princess Alexandra Hall in her honour.

Her Royal Highness graced us with her presence once again, almost three years later to the day, on 26 January 2009, for a very special evening to inaugurate the new concert grand piano, which marked the final

stage in the transformation of the hall.

To show off the superb new instrument, the concert programme encompassed the five disciplines of the ROSL Annual Music Competition: keyboard, strings, wind, singers and chamber ensembles.

Music by Bach, Schumann, Chopin, Rachmaninov, Strauss, Poulenc and Czerny was performed by pianists Martin Cousin, Nicola Eimer, Simon Lepper and Ben Schoeman, soprano Madeleine Pierard, cellist Brian O'Kane and the Camarilla Ensemble.

Book events

ROSL ARTS presented a wide range of speakers at Over-Seas House, London, in 2009, including historian Edward Paice on the great Lisbon Earthquake of 1755; film critic Barry Norman on his other passion – cricket; Adele Smith on the 'History' of ROSL; and Chairman of Adjudicators for the ROSL Annual Music Competition, Gavin Henderson, on his planned definitive history of British seaside piers.

In July, the five shortlisted writers for the Caine Prize for African writing took part in an evening of readings at Over-Seas

House, London: Mamle Kabu (Ghana), Parselelo Kantai (Kenya), Alistair Morgan (South Africa), EC Osondu (Nigeria) and Mukoma wa Ngugi (Kenya).

This is the eighth year ROSL ARTS has supported the Caine Prize by providing accommodation for shortlisted writers at, Over-Seas House, prior to the announcement of the winner.

Visual arts

The ROSL Annual Scholars Exhibition was held at gallery@oxo, in London's South Bank cultural quarter. The exhibition brought together paintings, sculpture and installation produced by the four 2008 Visual Arts Scholars: Melanie Fitzmaurice (Australia), Michele Fletcher (Canada), Lilian Nabulime (Uganda) and Kazi Sahid (Bangladesh).

Above left: Pianists Nicola Eimer, Ben Schoeman and Martin Cousin play Czerny's Overture Fra Diavolo for 6 Hands on One Piano at the inauguration concert

Below: HRH Princess Alexandra meets the musicians who performed in the concert





Visual Arts Scholar Kazi Sahid at Hospitalfield with his work

Throughout the year, solo and group exhibitions were held at Over-Seas House, London and Edinburgh. Artists included Jacob Carter (UK), Leo du Feu (UK), Jason Gibilaro (UK), Christina Papakyriakou (Cyprus), Lauren Porter (UK) and Douglas Crane (New Zealand).

In association with the Thailand Branch, an exhibition was held at Over-Seas House, London of the 12 shortlisted works from the 2008 ROSL Young Artist of Thailand competition. Winner Patcharaporn Arunsirichok came to London for the opening of the exhibition, as a guest of ROSL ARTS.

Visual Arts Scholarships 2009 were selected in collaboration with Julian Bukits, Edinburgh; Emma da Costa (Commonwealth Foundation); John Lai (Malaysia); Sarah Myerscough (Fine Art, London); Ebony Patterson (Jamaica); Liz Peri (Sandor Peri

Prize, University of Nigeria-Abuja) and Peter Robinson and Ruth Watson (Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland).

Four overseas artists were selected: Keagan Simon (Trinidad and Tobago), Todd Stratton (New Zealand), Chan Kok Hooi (Malaysia), and Anikpe Ebene (Nigeria). They each spent a month at the Patrick Allan Fraser Foundation at Hospitalfield, Arbroath, Scotland, plus a week at Over-Seas House, London.

Friends of ROSL ARTS

'Friends' continued to play an important part in supporting the work of ROSL ARTS, particularly by raising funds to purchase the new grand piano for Princess Alexandra Hall.

The Friends Garden parties in July and September at Over-Seas House, London were extremely popular, as were the supper/

opera concert evenings in January and July at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh.

Sponsorship committee

The appeal for £70,000, to purchase the new Steinway model D concert grand piano, reached a successful conclusion before the inaugural concert for the piano, in January.

Chairman of the Sponsorship Committee Graham Lockwood and Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin have concentrated their efforts on the fundraising strategy and launch of the Centenary Appeal to secure the long-term future of the Annual Music Competition.

Roderick Lakin
Director of ROSL ARTS

ROSL branches

AUSTRALIA

Australian Chairman, Jason Ronald, visited the UK in August and was welcomed by Chairman Stanley Martin at the Executive Committee meeting where he reported on activities in Australia. He also joined Director-General Robert Newell, at his Tuesday evening reception for members staying at Over-Seas House, and met members from around the Commonwealth, including some from Australia and New Zealand.

Also in August, the Opera Awards were conducted in Sydney where Victoria Branch Vice-President Jean Black and NSW Branch Secretary Lily Murray represented the ROSL. Of the four finalists, Emma Pearson won the ROSL Bursary as well as the overall Award donated by Di Bresciani's Youth Music Foundation of Australia.

The semi-finals of the Mathy Awards, the Australian Singing Competition, were held in Sydney in September where five were chosen to compete at the finals in Perth, accompanied by the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra. The

winner was Sam Roberts Smith, baritone, who received a total prize package valued at AUS\$48,000.

Jason Ronald and Jean Black attended the final with Tasmania Branch President Robert

Dick and WA Branch President Jeff Turner, with his wife June.

The British High Commissioner, the Rt Hon Helen Liddell, was given a farewell celebration, and her successor, the Rt Hon Baroness Amos, was welcomed at receptions in Victoria, at the home of the British Consul-General Stuart Gill, in November and December respectively.

Jason Ronald
Australia Chairman

New South Wales (Sydney)

The New South Wales Branch held a lunch in April to mark The Queen's birthday, and in November, members attended a Remembrance Day service, and held a lunch to welcome the new British High Commissioner, Baroness Amos.

Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin brought the Barbirolli String Quartet, winners of the ROSL Annual Music Competition 2009, to Sydney in December where they gave a concert for over 100 members and guests.

Many branch members have attended events in conjunction with a number of other clubs throughout the year, including The Monarchists League, The Australia Britain Society, The Royal Commonwealth Society, the English Speaking Union and the Australian Decorative Fine Arts Association (A.D.F.A.S).

Financially the NSW Branch is in good health and recruited many new members during the year.

Lily Murray
Secretary

Victoria: A lunch at the RACV City Club to honour Branch Vice-President Rob Pollock for his lengthy service to the ROSL



Queensland (Brisbane)

In June, many members attended the 'Queensland Day' Open Day at Government House and enjoyed a guided tour of the building and the mature bush land. There was also a Community Fair with displays and demonstrations, and later, a picnic on the surrounding lawns accompanied by music and entertainment.

Also in June, branch Chairman Sharon Morgan and several branch members attended a reception to mark The Queen's official birthday, and, in August, a presentation by the Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma, which was followed by a reception in his honour.

Later in the year, Sharon Morgan and her husband attended a reception to mark the Sesqui-Centenary publication about the Governors of Queensland.

During 2009, several new members were welcomed to the branch, mainly from outside the metropolitan area, and membership remains stable.

Many branch members travelled and enjoyed the wonderful position and facilities at Over-Seas House, London and Edinburgh, and also of some of the reciprocal clubs.

Branch Chairman Sharon Morgan thanks Patricia Tritton for her enthusiastic assistance.

Sharon Morgan
Chairman/Secretary

**Victoria: British Consul-
General Stuart Gill and
Australia President Jason
Ronald**

South Australia (Adelaide)

The core of the SA Branch activity is the monthly lunch, which is usually followed by a speaker. In 2009 the speakers were varied and all exceptionally interesting, including a teenage schoolgirl, born profoundly deaf, but who can now hear thanks to cochlear implants in both ears, and who is now a Cochlear Awareness Network Volunteer, informing and encouraging those with similar disabilities.

Other speakers covered the treatment of drug and alcohol abuse, memories of Ireland in the 50s and 60s and the special accommodation which is planned to house the only two pandas in the Southern Hemisphere at Adelaide Zoo.

The content of the two branch lunches is predetermined: the Melbourne Cup lunch in November, where the ladies can sport their fancy headwear and many lose their money in the sweepstake; and the Christmas Lunch.

A highlight of the year was the 100th birthday of Daphne Duval, a long-serving member and former Branch Secretary, who rarely misses a lunch. In addition to the congratulations from local members, the Director-General's message was much appreciated.

The SA Branch can report a very successful year, a loyal membership and a modest influx of new members.

Michael Kent
Secretary

Tasmania (Hobart)

In March, branch members attended the Commonwealth Day service at St Mary's Cathedral, and a lunch to mark The Queen's birthday was held in April at the Black Buffalo Hotel where branch Patron, the Governor of Tasmania, the Hon Peter Underwood, proposed the loyal toast.



In November, the Prince of Wales's birthday was marked with a lunch at Drysdale House and branch Chairman Robert Dick attended the Australian Singing Competition 2009 Final, in Perth, Western Australia.

Robert Dick
Chairman/Secretary

Victoria (Melbourne)

Many branch members journeyed to Cruden Farm in February to be the first to sing happy 100th birthday to Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. A presentation was made, followed by a tour of the gardens and a lunch at the Ranelagh Club, Mt Eliza.

Also in February, on the National Day of Mourning following the horrific Black Saturday bushfires, many members attended a 'Together for Victoria' Service at Rod Laver Arena with the Prime Minister, the Governor-General and the Premier.

In April, the Premier of Victoria, the Hon John Brumby, held a reception in Melbourne to welcome the Governor-General of Australia, Quentin Bryce, and Michael Bryce on their first official visit to Victoria. The reception provided the opportunity to talk to the ROSL's national Patron and to wish her well as Her Majesty's representative in Australia.

Many members attended theatre trips organised by the branch to see *Trial by Jury and other Legalities*, *Billy Elliot* and *The Jersey Boys*.

British Consul-General, Stuart Gill, spoke at the branch AGM and Ron Williamson was elected onto the Council.

Later in the year, members attended a dinner and quiz at the Melbourne Savage Club hosted by Graham Ryles, where a raffle was also held to raise funds for the ROSL Bursary; and a surprise lunch at the RACV City Club was held to honour Vice-President Rob Pollock for his lengthy service to the branch.



Western Australia:
Branch Secretary Anna
Dean on a fundraising
bike ride which raised
over \$500 for the ROSL-
Nambia project

As part of their tour, the Barbirolli String Quartet gave a concert at the home of Lino and Di Bresciani, where Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin also introduced Adele Smith's 'History' of ROSL.

The year ended with a Christmas reception at the home of British Consul-General Stuart Gill and his wife Maggie.

Jason Ronald
President

Western Australia (Perth)

The WA Branch report that, although membership numbers have been retained, they have sadly lost some long-standing and valuable friends during 2009.

Speakers at the social evenings



Alberta: The annual summer social event in Edmonton

covered a wide range of interests, from Zimbabwe to International Technical Relations.

In March, following the AGM, speaker Brett Christian gave an absorbing talk on the foundation and progress of the Post newspaper.

Branch Secretary Anna Dean participated in a sponsored cycle ride of 575km to raise funds for the ROSL-Namibia project.

Also in March, many members attended the Multifaith Commonwealth Day Service at St George's Cathedral organised by the Joint Commonwealth Societies Council, and the Youth Rally the following day where entertainment was provided by school choirs and pipe and concert bands.

In April, the guest of honour at The Queen's birthday dinner was Hon Professor David Malcolm, and at a morning tea in June, the theme was the *Antiques Roadshow* with expert advice from Carolyn Staveley.

The 2009 winner of the Royal Schools Music Club Young Singer Competition, sponsored by the branch, was soprano Victoria Wilkie, and branch Chairman Jeff Turner attended the Final of the National Australian Singing Competition, in Perth. The following evening Australian Chairman Jason Ronald, and other members of the Victoria Branch who had also been at the Final concert, were welcomed by the WA Branch to a reception at the Victoria League Headquarters, on Melbourne Cup Day.

Accommodation at the Karrakatta Club, a ROSL reciprocal club, was first class and highly recommended.

In December, branch members celebrated Christmas with the annual lunch and carol concert.

**Jeff Turner
Chairman**

CANADA

Alberta

The Alberta Chapter reports a membership of 71, and, sadly, the deaths in 2009 of Anthony Cordery and Robert Matheson QC, a long-standing member and ROSL Vice-President, whose mother, Eva Johnson, was a founder member of the Edmonton Branch in 1954.

The Alberta Executive meets bi-monthly and information is passed to the membership through the ROSLink newsletter, on a regular basis.

In 2009, the branch held its AGM in March, the President's lunch in October and a Christmas lunch in December. The Eva Johnson Memorial Scholarship was presented to Ikena Ijeke (Nigeria), a third year student at the University of Alberta. Three Cadet Awards (Army, Navy and Air Force) were presented at the Cadet Annual End of Year ceremonies in June.

**Cynthia Cordery
Secretary**

British Columbia

Many branch members were unfortunately snowed-in for much of the beginning of 2009.

In April, the branch held a reception followed by a visit to the theatre to see *Table Manners* by Alan Ayckbourn, and in August, Grace Mo gave a recital at the Silk Purse, a little house, on the shore of West Vancouver, which belongs to the municipality and where concerts and

other music events take place.

In October, branch members joined members of the Commonwealth Society for a lunch at the Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club where Nora Harrison spoke on the work of 'The High Achievers' Program', which helps deserving young Kenyan boys secure places in secondary schools.

The Christmas lunch was held at the Terminal City Club where member Sir James Barlow, who is Charles Darwin's great-great-grandson, spoke about a television series he is taking part in called *The Future of the Species*.

**Pamela Ducommun
Chairman/Secretary**

Nova Scotia

There has been a ROSL branch in Nova Scotia in the past and, in 2009, Barbara Hughes QC met with Director-General Robert Newell at Over-Seas House, London, and agreed that a new Nova Scotia Chapter should be opened, along the lines of those in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

The Chapter has been established under the Chairmanship of Barbara Hughes, who has been busy getting it up and running.

**Barbara Hughes
Chairman/Secretary**

Ontario

Branch members enjoyed trips to Stratford and the Shaw Festival in 2009, and the Annual Lunch was held in November, at the University Club in Toronto, with speaker Consul-General Jonathan Dart and special guests, the Director-General Robert Newell and his wife.

The runner-up in this year's 'Shakespeare on the Platform' competition and recipient of the Sir Evelyn Wrench Trophy, contributed by ROSL, was Angelica Samaniego, a 17-year-old grade 12 student at

Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School. This was the third year that ROSL participated by presenting a trophy.

**Ishrani Jaikaran
President**

HONG KONG

2009 marked the 10th anniversary of the Hong Kong Branch and the year was a busy one, during which many new members were welcomed.

In February, members attended an evening of New Zealand wine and food organized by the New Zealand Society, and in March, Commonwealth Day was celebrated with a reception at the Hong Kong Club.

**Hong Kong: (l-r)
Countess Cawdor; Sir
David Tang (Hong Kong
Branch Patron); HRH
The Princess Michael
of Kent; Mr Paul
Surtees (Branch
President)**



Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent joined members at a reception, in April, while passing through on a private holiday.

One of the charities the branch supports is the Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association. In May, the Hong Kong DSA football team visited London and enjoyed tea at Over-Seas House with Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie, and in August, an Olympic-themed cocktail reception,

in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, helped to raise a considerable sum for the organisation.

In June, several branch members joined members of the Italian Chamber of Commerce for an Italian film and music festival, and in October, the Southern African Association of Hong Kong invited branch members to join in on a challenging hike across the rugged island of Lantau.

Later in October, branch Patron Dr Hari Harilela treated members and guests, and representatives of the charities which the branch supports, to an Indian buffet and cocktail reception at his palatial residence in Kowloon Tong.

British Consul-General Andrew Seaton and Professor Kevin Thompson were guests at the Christmas party at the Library of the China Club.

Branch President Paul Surtees thanks all the branch Patrons and Committee Officers who have supported branch activities, and the branch committee for organising the many events.

**Paul Surtees
President**

**New Zealand: The
Barbirolli String Quartet
played to Maori
audiences**



NEW ZEALAND

The six branches in New Zealand continued to meet monthly.

Highlights included a Quaich greeting and reading of 'The Origin of St Andrew's Day' to Southland Branch members; a talk on their 'Opera Houses of Europe' tour by Oamaru Branch members; the Manawatu Branch's 60th anniversary celebrations; a trip to Terrace Downs by Christchurch members; and a concert by Maurice Till (piano) and Natalia Lomeiko (violin) to a capacity audience at Chalmers' Church organised by the South Canterbury Branch.

The 2009 Visual Arts Scholarship winner Todd Stratton enjoyed his 5-week residency at Hospitalfield, in Arbroath, Scotland, and trip to Over-Seas House, London.

The winners of the 2008 Pettman/ROSL ARTS Chamber Music Scholarship, Duo Giocosio – Helen Bevin (viola) and Rafaella Garlick-Grice (piano) – enjoyed the many concerts, performances, master-classes and festivals organised for them in the UK in July and August.

The Barbirolli Quartet, former ROSL prizewinners, toured New Zealand and gave 10 concerts over two weeks in Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Napier, Gisborne and Waiheke Island, captivating their audiences with their enthusiasm and fearless approach to music.

Director of ROSL ARTS Roderick Lakin joined Euan Murdoch, CEO of Chamber Music NZ, and Stephen de Pledge, Head of Piano University of Auckland, to mentor and judge at the Pettman/ROSL ARTS Scholarship 2009 weekend held at the University of Waikato. The winners were the Leonari Trio – Hilary Hayes (violin), Edward King (cello) and Maria Mo (piano) – from the University of Waikato.

Membership in New Zealand currently stands at around 900 members.

Lyn Milne
New Zealand Director

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh Committee

Early in 2009, Hong Kong Branch President Paul Surtees spent some time in Riyadh and, through an enthusiastic publicity campaign supported by the Ambassadors of Commonwealth countries, ROSL Saudi Arabia was created.

A lunch on Commonwealth Day, in March, hosted by the British Ambassador, marked the official launch of the committee. Since then, the membership has attended a variety of functions at Commonwealth embassies. A highlight was a dinner at the residence of the New Zealand Ambassador to celebrate the first Saudi to have climbed Mount Everest.

Stan Izmajlowicz
Committee Officer

SWITZERLAND

The annual dinner for members of the Switzerland Branch was held at the Lausanne Hotel School in July. Chairman Stanley Martin, who was the guest of honour, spoke on the role of ROSL in today's Commonwealth, and Director-General Robert Newell spoke about the plans for the centenary year celebrations.

Several branch members were present at the ANZAC Ceremony in April and at the Remembrance Day Service in November, both of which were held at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.

The branch maintains friendly links with the British Residents Association

of Switzerland, the Switzerland Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Federation of Anglo Swiss Clubs and the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

Jo Brown
Chairman

THAILAND

In January, the 2008 Young Artist of The Year Final and Gala reception was held, postponed from November 2008 for organisational and logistical reasons. The artworks from the 2008 finalists were displayed at Over-Seas House, London and Edinburgh during the year.

The Young Musician of Thailand 2009 Final competition was held at the Conrad Hotel in April, preceded by a reception. The winner, Krit Niramittham (piano), was awarded the prestigious King's Trophy and travelled during the summer to London, where he gave a recital at Over-Seas House, London.

In November, the Final of the 2009 Young Artist of Thailand competition was held at the Sukhothai Hotel, with an afternoon reception for the finalists, and their families and supporters.

Roger Willbourn
Secretary

**Thailand: The 2009 ROSL
Young Musician of
Thailand competition
winner, pianist Krit
Niramittham**



UK

Bournemouth

In 2009, Gordon Irving succeeded Marjorie Harvey as Bournemouth Branch Secretary, and Chris Bladen was appointed Chairman. ROSL Chairman, Stanley Martin, hosted a lunch at Over-Seas House, London for Marjorie Harvey, in recognition of her 25 years of service.

During the year, a questionnaire was sent to all branch members, the results of which provided the committee with useful information on the needs and desires of the membership.

Regular Thursday coffee mornings were held throughout the year at the

Edinburgh: Branch Chairman Bob Gregor received a Robert Burns memento from Chairman Stanley Martin at the Edinburgh AGM



Marriott Highcliff Hotel and in June, the branch hosted Chairman Stanley Martin and his wife, Hanni, at a lunch to celebrate The Queen's official birthday.

The summer garden party was held for the 18th time at the home of Mrs Granville-Lewis, and many members enjoyed the annual three-day trip to Over-Seas House, London.

The new ROSL Chairman, Sir

Anthony Figgis, attended the Christmas lunch during which where a raffle was held and members raised over £200 for charity.

**Gordon Irving
Secretary**

Cheltenham

During the year, the branch held eight afternoon meetings with illustrated talks on various subjects, including Georgian Cheltenham, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador and the Gulf Stream. All meetings were followed by afternoon tea.

Lunches were held in March, June and December, and all events were well-supported and enjoyed by branch members.

A party of six braved the British Rail system and enjoyed a mid-week break in April at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh, and, as usual, in July, a party of 12 had a long weekend at Over-Seas House, London.

**Kathleen Northage
Secretary**

Edinburgh

The branch enjoyed an excellent programme of events in 2009. A Burns Supper, the Scottish members' dinner and St Andrew's Day dinner were addressed by Douglas Abercrombie, Robin Harper MSP and Billy Kay respectively and all attracted near-capacity audiences.

Coffee mornings with bridge and Mah Jong meetings added further range to the programme.

A substantial charitable donation was made to the Gurkha Welfare Trust and Scottish members greatly enjoyed the annual August visit to Over-Seas House, London.

The branch once again appreciated the continued efforts of James Wilkie, Alan Chalmers and the staff at Over-Seas House, Edinburgh.

**Margaret Beard
Secretary**

Glasgow

The branch held five afternoon meetings at the Western Club, where members heard talks on a wide range of subjects, from the Glasgow trams to a sponsored trek for charity in China.

In April, a group of members visited Queen's Cross Church in Glasgow, followed by lunch at New Kilpatrick Church, Bearsden.

The Christmas lunch was held at the Western Club where James Wilkie, ROSL Scottish Development Officer, was guest speaker.

The year ended on a sad note with news of the death of Professor Arthur Kennedy, a former branch committee member.

William Agnew
Chairman/Secretary

ROSL West

In September, 27 members from Bath, Exeter and Taunton branches enjoyed a weekend at Over-Seas House, London. They had the opportunity to visit Kenwood House, the Garden Museum, the Chelsea Physic Garden and a performance of the musical *Oliver!*.

Bath: The branch held monthly coffee mornings at Pratt's Hotel and two lunches were held during the year at the Bath and County Club, the first, in April, with Vice-Chairman Sir Anthony Figgis and his wife, and the second, in October, with Chairman Stanley Martin.

Sally Roberts
Secretary

Exeter: The branch held monthly lunches and talks at St Olave's Hotel, from September to March, and were pleased to welcome Director of PR and Development Margaret Adrian-Vallance to the AGM in April.

At a coffee morning at Topsham Museum in June, a raffle was held to



Exeter: Branch members enjoyed a picnic at Sand near Sidbury, Devon

raise funds for the ROSL-Namibia project, and in July, the annual picnic was held at Sand historic house near Sidbury.

Brian Hawkes
Secretary

Taunton: The branch was saddened by the death of its President, Maj Gen John Carpenter in the early summer.

Weekly coffee mornings were held every Wednesday throughout the year at the Castle Green Inn.

In May, a group of members, including John Carpenter, toured around Exmoor, and later in the summer, members travelled to Tiverton for a trip on the canal in a horse-drawn barge, followed by a lunch hosted by the owner of Tiverton Castle.

Taunton: Branch members toured on Exmoor





West Sussex: Author Adele Smith (centre) viewed the 'History' of ROSL for the first time at the branch's book launch with (l-r) Pamela Voice and Branch Chairman-Marilyn Archbold

The winter lunches were very well attended, and from October were held at a new venue, Somerset College, where the food is cooked and served by catering students at a very moderate cost.

Talks ranged from a behind-the-scenes look at the *Antiques Roadshow* to a career working for The Queen in the Royal Household.

The branch raised £660, during the year, for the Taunton Deane Association for Neighbourhood Care, which helps the elderly and disabled with gardening and decorating services.

**Sally Roberts
Secretary**

Torbay/Torquay: The branch held monthly coffee mornings at the Livermead Cliff Hotel.

**Sally Roberts
Secretary**

West Cornwall

Monthly branch meetings followed by a cream tea were held throughout the year at the Carbis Bay Hotel near St Ives.

In January, members enjoyed a talk on New Zealand, which was followed in February with a film by John Potter recording his visit to Borneo.

Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, was guest of honour at the Annual Lunch in March, and, after the AGM in April, newly-elected branch Chairman Margaret Knighton gave a talk about her experiences in Oman.

The traditional September social evening at Trevethoe House brought

members back together after the summer break, and Barbara Kirk, a local expert, also gave a talk about members' antiques and collectables.

A SAGA 'ambassador' gave a talk in October, and in November Dr Sue Turner gave a fascinating account of her time working in Kiribati.

At the December talk, on the subject of the wildlife on the Falkland Islands, members enjoyed mince pies with their cream tea. Branch membership has remained steady throughout the year.

**Ian Wood
Secretary**

West Sussex

The year began with an informal lunch party in February, followed by the AGM and lunch in March, which was attended by Director-General Robert Newell.

In May, a group of members attended a Brighton Festival Lunchtime Concert, arranged in association with ROSL, which featured Laura Lucas, flute, winner of the 2008 ROSL ARTS Annual Music Competition. A lunch was held in June to celebrate the official birthday of The Queen, with guests of honour Chairman Stanley Martin and his wife, Hanni.

After the summer break, meetings recommenced in October with an informal lunch. In November, the branch held its first centenary event to launch the 'History' of ROSL, with its author Adele Smith, who introduced the book and signed copies for members.

The year concluded with a successful Christmas lunch, during which the traditional Christmas raffle was held to raise funds for the branch's contribution to the 2010 ROSL Annual Music Competition Sussex Prize.

**Marilyn Archbold
Chairman**

Honorary Treasurer's report

Reflecting the experience of most businesses in the grip of the recession, the first six months of 2009 were extremely difficult in both London and Edinburgh.

Happily, by the third quarter, bedroom occupancy at Over-Seas House, London, had picked up so that the operating surplus there, for 2009 of £281,008 compared favourably with the surplus achieved in 2008 of £236,130. Notwithstanding

We have taken the opportunity presented by the centenary to commission several long-term projects, such as the redesign of our logo and the launch of more marketable memorabilia. The centenary is a unique opportunity to raise our profile throughout the Commonwealth.

Although subscription income held up well in 2009, indications are that more members are not renewing for 2010. The publicity generated by the centenary will hopefully help to reverse this trend.

The three-yearly valuation of the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme on 1 October 2008 showed an increased deficit of £1,190,000. This is disappointing, particularly bearing in mind that we had made contributions of £200,000 more than required in respect of the smaller deficit of £532,000 revealed by the 2005 valuation. We continue to monitor the position.

The Golden Jubilee Trust continues its sterling work supporting our cultural activities by contributing to the various art prizes and ROSL's work in Namibia continues to rewarding effect. The Trust has launched the Centenary Appeal to raise an additional £1,000,000 to secure and enhance the standing of the Annual Music Competition. I am sure members will respond generously.

Once again, Shakil Tayub and his team have been diligent in their work and I would like, on behalf of the membership at large, to thank them for all they do.

Simon Ward
Honorary Treasurer



Director of Finance and Administration Shakil Tayub with Honorary Treasurer Simon Ward

the very best endeavours of all involved, and not helped by the severe disruption caused by the tramworks in Princes Street, the Edinburgh operations incurred a loss for 2009 of £23,203 compared to a profit in 2008 of £11,474. The net overall result is a surplus for 2009 of £257,805 compared to £260,599 achieved in 2008. The outlook for 2010 is positive, although we are budgeting for a lower surplus than 2009.

Financial statements

Statement of responsibilities of the Central Council in respect of the accounts and annual report

The bye-laws of the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) require its Central Council at the annual general meeting to lay before the membership an account and balance sheet. In accordance with standard accounting practice, the Central Council has adopted a policy of producing accounts, which in its opinion give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and state of affairs of ROSL.

Furthermore, in accordance with such accounting practices in preparing these accounts, it has selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently, made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepared the accounts on a going concern basis. The Central Council also takes responsibility for safeguarding the assets of ROSL and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

		NOTE	2009		2008	
			£	£	£	£
Royal Over-Seas League <i>Incorporated by Royal Charter</i>	FIXED ASSETS	2		6,386,485		6,404,149
	CURRENT ASSETS					
	Stock		148,034		114,208	
	Debtors and prepayments		381,878		343,360	
	Cash on deposit		478,242		486,071	
	Bank current accounts and cash		132,836		281,894	
			<u>1,140,990</u>		<u>1,225,533</u>	
	CURRENT LIABILITIES					
	Creditors and accrued expenses		557,901		625,994	
	Taxation	6	341		5,034	
	Subscriptions received in advance		465,178		632,063	
	Bank loan payable within one year	8	120,000		120,000	
			<u>1,143,420</u>		<u>1,383,091</u>	
	NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>(2,430)</u>		<u>(157,558)</u>
	TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			6,384,055		6,246,591
	LONG TERM LIABILITIES					
	Bank loan payable after one year	8		(572,016)		(692,016)
				<u>5,812,039</u>		<u>5,554,575</u>
	FINANCED BY:					
	General fund	5		<u>5,812,039</u>		<u>5,554,575</u>

Financial Statements

		NOTE	2009		2008	
			£	£	£	£
Royal Over-Seas League <i>Incorporated by Royal Charter</i>	INCOME					
	Entrance fees			55,677		42,099
	Subscriptions			1,429,029		1,370,613
	Food and beverage and bedrooms					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 December 2009	Gross receipts		3,168,401		3,219,366	
	Direct expenditure		(1,264,844)		(1,397,203)	
				1,903,557		1,822,163
	Interest receivable			1,196		22,517
	Miscellaneous receipts			17,508		15,655
				<u>3,406,967</u>		<u>3,273,047</u>
	EXPENDITURE					
	Magazine		97,572		119,082	
	Promotion		154,114		182,452	
	Clubhouse running costs		853,994		751,486	
	Legal, professional and financial		154,354		147,575	
	ROSL ARTS		419,972		319,280	
	Administration		409,380		435,870	
	Administration salaries		710,428		681,291	
	Staff costs		334,348		360,412	
	Audit fee		15,000		15,000	
				<u>(3,149,162)</u>		<u>(3,012,448)</u>
	SURPLUS			257,805		260,599
	Taxation	6		(341)		(5,034)
	BALANCE added to General Fund	5		<u>257,464</u>		<u>255,565</u>

		NOTE	2009	2008
			£	£
Royal Over-Seas League <i>Incorporated by Royal Charter</i>	OPERATIONS			
	Net cash inflow from operating activities	4 (i)	4,897	434,483
CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2009	TAXATION			
	UK corporation tax paid		(5,034)	(4,147)
	CAPITAL EXPENDED			
	Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(36,750)	(115,216)
	FINANCING			
	Repaid		(120,000)	(120,000)
	Total net cash (outflow)/inflow		<u>(156,887)</u>	<u>195,120</u>
	(Decrease)/increase in cash	4 (ii)	<u>(156,887)</u>	<u>195,120</u>

Financial Statements

Notes on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of freehold land and buildings. The accounts are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(b) Subscriptions are those receivable from full members of the ROSL together with the proportion of subscriptions from branch members which is payable to central funds. In addition to the proportion of subscriptions retained by branches, support may be given to them from central funds.

All income is accounted for on received basis.

(c) No depreciation is provided on buildings at valuation, nor on extensions thereto, as the buildings are considered to be worth at least their book value and any depreciation would be immaterial. Depreciation is provided on depreciable improvements at a rate of 10% per annum. Depreciation of the furniture fixtures and fittings and computer and office equipment is charged at a rate of 5%, 20% or 33% per annum as is applicable.

(d) Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at rates ruling at the year end.

2 FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land and buildings	Furniture fixtures and fittings and computer and office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2009	5,766,982	1,861,153	7,628,135
Additions	<u>0</u>	<u>36,750</u>	<u>36,750</u>
At 31 December 2009	<u>5,766,982</u>	<u>1,897,903</u>	<u>7,664,885</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2009	0	1,223,986	1,223,986
Charge for year	<u>0</u>	<u>54,414</u>	<u>54,414</u>
At 31 December 2009	<u>0</u>	<u>1,278,400</u>	<u>1,278,400</u>
Net book value			
At 1 January 2009	<u>5,766,982</u>	<u>637,167</u>	<u>6,404,149</u>
At 31 December 2009	<u>5,766,982</u>	<u>619,503</u>	<u>6,386,485</u>

The valuations relate to World Headquarters at £2,250,000 and the Scottish Branch at £180,000 which were valued professionally on an open market basis at 12 August 1983 and 16 March 1984 respectively. The transitional provisions of FRS 15 are being followed and the valuation has not been updated. It is not the policy of ROSL to revalue the properties on a regular basis.

3 PENSION SCHEME

The pension scheme now administered by Scottish Widows covers the old Money Purchase scheme and the ongoing Final Salary scheme. The new Money Purchase scheme is administered by Clerical Medical. The schemes are externally managed and have independent trustees. The League's contribution to the final Salary scheme and the new Money Purchase was 18% and 6% respectively. The final salary scheme is multi-employer and it is not possible to identify the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme between employers as required by the Financial Reporting Standard No 17 Retirement Benefits and therefore the scheme has been treated as a defined contribution scheme. The final salary scheme had a deficit of £ 1,190,000 as at 1 October 2008.

Financial Statements

4 CASH FLOW

	2009	2008
(i) Reconciliation of surplus before taxation	£	£
to net cash inflow from operating activities		
Surplus before taxation	257,805	260,599
Depreciation	54,414	56,336
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(68,093)	114,210
(Decrease)/increase in subs in advance	(166,885)	78,691
Increase in debtors and stock	(72,344)	(75,353)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>4,897</u>	<u>434,483</u>
(ii) Cash at bank and in hand		
At 1 January	767,965	572,845
(Decrease)/increase in cash	(156,887)	195,120
At 31 December	<u>611,078</u>	<u>767,965</u>

7 STAFF

Employees' remuneration totalled £1,813,512 (2008: £1,807,453).

8 LOAN

The loan, which is from ROSL's bank, is secured on land and buildings. Repayment will be over fifteen years, payable in quarterly instalments of £30,000 and interest is variable with the bank's base rate. The charge for interest on the loan amounted to £20,044 and is included as part of direct expenditure charged to bedrooms, as the loan was raised to finance the sixth floor of eight bedrooms.

Independent auditors' report to members of the ROSL

We have audited the financial statements of the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) for the year ended 31 December 2009 which comprise the Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Cash Flow Statement and the related Notes numbered 1 to 8. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein. This report is made solely to the members, as a body, in accordance with the bye-laws of ROSL and their Royal Charter. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are permitted to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than ROSL and the members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL AND AUDITORS

As described in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Central Council, the Central Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, which are required to be prepared in accordance with your Royal Charter and accounting standards. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with regulatory requirements and International Standards on auditing (UK and Ireland). We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of ROSL and of the surplus of ROSL. We read the Honorary Treasurer's Report for 2009 and consider the implications for our

5 GENERAL FUND

	2009	2008
	£	£
At 1 January	5,554,575	5,299,010
Surplus in the year as shown in the income and expenditure account	<u>257,464</u>	<u>255,565</u>
Accumulated at 31 December	<u>5,812,039</u>	<u>5,554,575</u>

6 TAXATION

	2009	2008
	£	£
Provision at 1 January	5,034	4,147
Amount paid during year	(5,034)	(4,147)
Charge to I&E Account	<u>341</u>	<u>5,034</u>
Provision at 31 December	<u>341</u>	<u>5,034</u>

ROSL is exempt from taxation of its income to the extent that it arises from its mutual activities. Only investment income is subject to tax.

report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on auditing issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also included an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Central Council in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of ROSL, consistently applied and adequately disclosed. We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

OPINION

In our opinion the financial statements of ROSL give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of ROSL as at 31 December 2009 and of the surplus of ROSL for the year then ended.

haysmacintyre
Chartered Accountants, London
29 March 2010

ROSL branches

AUSTRALIA

Jason Ronald OAM, Chairman

New South Wales

Lily Murray, Secretary

Queensland

Sharon Morgan, Chairman/Secretary

South Australia

Marjorie Scriven, President

Michael Kent, Secretary

Tasmania

Robert Dick, Chairman/Secretary

Victoria

Jason Ronald OAM, President

Coral Strahan, Secretary

Western Australia

Jeff Turner MBE, Chairman

Anna Dean, Secretary

CANADA

Alberta

Cynthia Cordery, President

British Columbia

Pamela Ducommun, President

Nova Scotia

Barbara Hughes QC, President

Ontario

Ishrani Jaikaran, President



HONG KONG

Paul Surtees, President

NEW ZEALAND

Lyn Milne, NZ Director of 6 branches
in North and South Islands

SAUDI ARABIA (Riyadh)

Stan Izmajłowicz, Committee Officer

SWITZERLAND

Jo Brown MBE, Chairman

THAILAND

Jim Napier, Chairman

Roger Willbourn, Secretary

UK

Bath

June Jessop, Chairman

Sally Roberts, Secretary

Bournemouth

Christopher Bladen, Chairman

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Cheltenham

Mera Stone, Chairman

Kathleen Northage, Secretary

Edinburgh

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Margaret Beard, Secretary

Exeter

Ewan Macleod, Chairman

Brian Hawkes, Secretary

Glasgow

William Agnew, Chairman/Secretary

Taunton

Cllr Nigel Stuart-Thorn, Chairman

Sally Roberts, Secretary

Torbay/Torquay

Sally Roberts, Secretary

West Cornwall

Margaret Knighton, Chairman

Ian Wood, Secretary

West Sussex

Marilyn Archbold, Chairman

Pamela Voice, Secretary



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