

**3. Tynwald Management Committee –  
Manx Patriots’ Roll of Honour –  
Second Report 2020-21 received and recommendation approved**

Mr Speaker to move:

*That the Tynwald Management Committee Second Report for the Session 2020-2021 [PP No 2021/0007] be received and the following recommendation be approved –*

*That Tynwald approves Hector Duff OBE MM BEM TH for inclusion in the Manx Patriots’ Roll of Honour.*

**The President:** We turn now to our Main Order Paper, and we find ourselves at Item 3. On behalf of the Tynwald Management Committee, Mr Speaker to move.

**The Speaker:** Gura mie eu, Eaghtyrane.

Hon. Members will be aware that the Manx Patriots’ Roll of Honour is for deceased persons who have made, during their lifetime, a significant contribution to some area of Manx life. The Committee would like to propose someone for addition to the Roll of Honour.

In the Report before you, we propose a person who dedicated his life to public service right to the very end and was known to you all: World War II veteran Mr Hector Duff OBE MM BEM Tynwald Honour.

Mr Duff sadly passed away last year at the age of 101. Following a nomination from an Hon. Member – in fact from Hon. Members Mr Baker and Mrs Corlett – the Tynwald Management Committee agreed to put forward Mr Duff for addition to the Roll of Honour to recognise his significant life-long public service and his commitment in educating and promoting understanding of the reasons behind, and the realities of, world war.

Mr Duff was already the recipient of the highest award that the Island can bestow, the Tynwald Honour, which was awarded to him by the Tynwald Honours Committee and this Court in 2014. The Tynwald Management Committee has now taken the exceptional decision to propose that Mr Duff also be added to the Manx Patriots’ Roll of Honour.

More information on Mr Duff’s career and significant contribution to the Island can be found in the Report before you. Hon. Members, I am sure you will agree that Hector Duff would be a most worthy addition to the Manx Patriots’ Roll of Honour.

Mr President, I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

**Several Members:** Hear, hear.

**The President:** Hon. Member, Mrs Corlett.

**Mrs Corlett:** Mr President, I am honoured to second the recommendation that Tynwald approves Hector Duff OBE MM BEM TH for inclusion in the Manx Patriots’ Roll of Honour. Before the name of any person is recommended for inclusion in the Manx Patriots’ Roll of Honour, that person must have shown ‘to have disinterestedly or self-sacrificially exerted himself or herself to promote the well-being of the Isle of Man’. Hector Duff meets this criteria many times over.

Hector was honoured many times during his life, not only for his war efforts, but also for his contribution to the Isle of Man community. He was awarded the Military Medal for his action in North Africa, given the British Empire Medal for his work in schools, became an OBE last year, and he is one of only a handful of people to have been given the Isle of Man highest honour, the Tynwald Honour.

Hector had an amazing ability to connect and engage across the generations. A natural affinity with people, old and young, and all those in between. He always made use of his ability to do this in a truly selfless way.

Hector believed that the hopes for future peace lie in the hands of our children and young people and he worked tirelessly to make sure that the horrors of war are not forgotten. He recognised that when war is no longer in living memory it becomes easier to glorify it.

Hector always spoke movingly of the sadness of war, and he said that while there would be victors, there could be no winners. His hope was that our young people, our future leaders, will discover better ways to settle disputes without recourse to war.

This is such an important message because it translates into everyday life. By encouraging children and young people to find ways to negotiate their way through the personal conflicts that will almost certainly arise as they go through their lives, and to understand that violence is never the answer. He was giving our young people a positive and important life lesson.

I feel, like so many others, privileged to have known Hector personally. (**A Member:** Hear, hear.) To bear witness to his straight-talking, no nonsense approach to life, (*Laughter*) and to never being prepared to take no for an answer. The inclusion of Hector Duff in the Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour allows our Island to express our gratitude, appreciation, respect and admiration for a person who deserves the public recognition that he has received. It is our way, our nation's way of saying: thank you, Hector Duff, for a job well done, for a life well-lived, providing inspiration and not only setting an example, but leading by example. The role model that encourages us *all* to strive towards that well-lived life, the thing we all aspire to.

Hector Duff: a true gentleman. A *Manninagh dooie*: a true Manxman.  
Thank you.

**Members:** Hear, hear.

**The President:** Does any Member wish to add anything to what has been said?  
Mrs Caine.

**Mrs Caine:** Thank you, Mr President.

I just wish to say this is a really welcome and a really worthy addition for inclusion on the Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour.

Everyone who knew Hector was aware of the huge input he had into community life and in fact, only a couple of days, a few days before his death, Hector was attending the War Memorials Preservation Committee and his input was as feisty as ever, (*Laughter*) and he was calling for certain actions to be taken and rousing everybody to take action. I am very pleased that he was actually able to see, from a presentation from Manx National Heritage, Jude Dicken, the new website and way the recording of all our war memorials will be presented in the near future.

I will say that the trouble was we all thought Hector would go on forever, and it came as a *huge* shock that at 101 years of age he suddenly was no more, and Hector kept on working to the end. He was the inspiration for the War Memorials Preservation Committee. It was his initial work that generated all the information that led to the establishment of that Committee. He was the founder member, he was the backbone of it and he will inspire us to continue. All he did throughout his post-war years was to ensure that all the fallen comrades of his were honoured, and that work will go on, and we will remember them; and, most of all, we will remember the amazing human, compassionate man that was Hector Duff.

Thank you, Mr President.

**Several Members:** Hear, hear.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member, Mr Callister.

**Mr Callister:** Thank you, Mr President.

I also would just want to echo the comments that my colleague from Garff has just said. I also want to thank the Committee for putting forward this recommendation. I do not think there is a more fitting tribute in my lifetime.

I was very proud to know Hector and to actually share his 100th birthday at Onchan School, which he was very surprised when the students asked him to come down. We had cake and we celebrated his birthday – it was a really good afternoon. It is something that I am always going to remember, as part of my role as being an MHK. I do not think there is anything more I can add that Mrs Corlett from Douglas Central has not already said. I think this is a very fitting tribute for an excellent man and a legend of our lifetime.

Thank you, Mr President.

**Several Members:** Hear, hear.

**The President:** Hon. Member, Ms Edge.

**Ms Edge:** Thank you, Mr President.

I just really want to give some reflection to the work that Hector, who I think we all loved, did within the education setting. Obviously I have known him a long time, I know his family, but certainly my experience when he was in an education setting talking to children will always live with me. But the one area that I think he touched – and he certainly was a guest of honour at the prize day at Ballakermeen High School one year. I can honestly say in my near-20 years working in that school and going to numerous prize days, I had never seen the Royal Hall so quiet, listening to Hector. I think that just tells you what effect he has on individuals in front of him, but also on the young.

My own granddaughter, when he passed away, said, 'Isn't it really sad we've lost Mr Duff?', and I thought, 'This is a 10-year-old.' So I think most children, certainly from school age, all know who Hector was and I think it is a great honour that Tynwald is respecting him in this way. And my hon. friend for Garff, in saying what he has done on the War Memorials Committee, we need that to continue. We need somebody else to come along that has got that tenacity and the twinkle in the eye that Hector had.

Thank you, Mr President.

**The President:** Mr Speaker, to reply.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Mr President.

I need do no more than associate myself with all of those heart-warming and supportive tributes and comments from all quarters of this Court, and I commend the motion to the Court.

**The President:** It is with great pleasure that I put to the Court that Tynwald approves Hector Duff OBE MM BEM TH for inclusion in the Manx Patriots' Roll of Honour. Those in favour, say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.