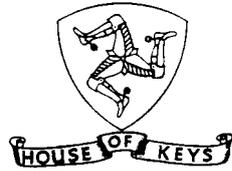


Manannan School



HOUSE OF KEYS Y Chiare as Feed

ORDER PAPER Claare Obbyr

Douglas
Monday 30th April
10:00am

KNOCK ON DOOR

HOST OPENS DOOR & SAYS "HONOURABLE MEMBERS PLEASE BE UPSTANDING FOR MR SPEAKER"

EVERYBODY STAND (SIT DOWN AFTER PRAYERS)

MR SPEAKER, CHAPLAIN & CLERK PROCEED TO SEATS

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

We turn to the Chaplain to lead us in prayers.

Chaplain

(Mr Costain)

The Lord be with you.

Everybody

And with thy Spirit.

Chaplain

(Mr Costain)

Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Everybody

Christ have mercy upon us.

Chaplain

(Mr Costain)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Everybody OUR FATHER, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our Trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN.

Mr Speaker
(Mr Quayle) Thank you Honourable Members, please be seated. Now we turn to Questions and Question 1 is with the Honourable Member for Douglas East, Miss Shimmin.

Member for Douglas East
(Miss Shimmin) Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name.

Mr Speaker
(Mr Quayle) Chief Minister to reply.

Chief Minister
(Mr Cain) Mr Speaker, it is a Government decision that the Manx 'Three Legs' flag be flown over public buildings and schools and the Council of Ministers wishes to encourage the flying of the flag on Government Buildings. The Flag is flown on any day when the building is operational.

The Isle of Man is not part of the United Kingdom, but is a Crown Dependency with Her Majesty the Queen as Lord of Mann. In the past it was common practice for the Manx Government to regularly fly the Union Flag, particularly on the occasion of Royal Birthdays, and the Manx flag during the summer months and on Tynwald Day.

The Three Legs symbol shown on the Manx flag seems to have been adopted in the Thirteenth Century as the arms of the native Kings of the Isle of Man. However after 1266, when the rule of the native Kings ended and the control of the Island passed permanently to the English Crown, the emblem was retained.

Mr Speaker
(Mr Quayle) Turning to Question 2 and the Honourable Member for Rushen, Miss Kerruish.

Member for Rushen

(Miss Kerruish)

Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

The Treasury Minister to reply.

Treasury Minister

(Miss Kelly)

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member for Rushen asks, would we consider funding a pocket money allowance to every child on the Island?

Last year, according to the Department of Social Care figures, there were nearly 10,000 families on the Isle of Man receiving child benefit for around 16,000 children. Pocket money for 16,000 children would be a considerable sum of money for the Government to find. Even if it was only one pound per week that would be eight hundred and thirty two thousand pounds extra per year, and I don't think one pound per week would buy very much. Remember that any allowances paid by the Government have to come from money collected by taxing people in some way.

If we did agree to an allowance, how would it be paid? If it were paid to the parents, there is no guarantee that the children would actually receive it but how would it be possible to pay an allowance directly to children? Most children do not have a bank account and younger ones would need to be accompanied to the Post Office if it were to be paid there.

Also, from what age would we start? How old does someone have to be before they can sign for their own allowance? How old are you before you need your own money? As you can see, there would be difficulties in finding a good system for paying the allowance.

In any case, families with children already receive child benefit. This allowance is meant to be spent on the children in the family, but the Government does not tell the parents how it should be spent. It could be used for food, clothing, extra books for school, or sporting activities. It could even be used for pocket money!

Therefore, on the grounds of expense, difficulties in payment, and the fact that families already receive child benefit, I must answer that my Department does not intend, at this stage, to fund an allowance for all the children on the Island.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Rushen, Miss Kerruish – do you wish to ask a supplementary question?

Member for Rushen

(Miss Kerruish)

Yes Mr Speaker, I certainly do. We have just seen the Treasury Minister trying to wriggle and slither out of treating children with respect.

If eight hundred and thirty two thousand pounds is more than the Treasury Minister thinks our children are worth – then how about a mere eighty thousand pounds. Surely even the Treasury Minister would agree that a one off payment of five pounds at Christmas to each of our sixteen thousand children would be both affordable and show children that we value them? Surely five pounds a year isn't too much – or is it? A 'Yes' or 'No' answer please Treasury Minister.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

The Treasury Minister to reply.

Treasury Minister

(Miss Kelly)

Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes is the answer.

Member for Rushen

(Miss Kerruish)

What! Well said.....

Treasury Minister

(Miss Kelly)

Yes is the answer to the question 'will I give a yes or no answer'
No is the answer to the silly request for a Christmas payment.

Member for Rushen

(Miss Kerruish)

Disgraceful!

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Order! Order!

Now our final question for oral answer and I turn to the Honourable Member for Douglas South, Mr Cannell.

Member for Douglas South

(Mr Cannell) Thank you Mr Speaker. I beg leave to ask the question standing in my name.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle) Minister for Economic Development, Mr Christian.

Minister for Economic Development

(Mr Christian) My Department is involved in a number of ways in supporting children and young people who want to gain trade qualifications.

Staff from the Training Centre at Hills Meadow attend all careers events at the Island's schools to provide expert advice to pupils and their parents about apprenticeships. All the Island's pupils are offered the opportunity to visit the Training Centre and discuss with staff the wide range of training available.

The Training Centre also offers, as part of school years 10 and 11, an opportunity to study construction craft at a basic level. Pupils are transported to the Hills Meadow Training Centre and are trained by the Department's qualified construction staff. This training can assist pupils who wish to continue with a full construction qualification to qualify more quickly.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle) Honourable Member for Douglas South, Mr Cannell, for a supplementary question?

Member for Douglas South

(Mr Cannell) Yes thank you Mr Speaker. Really my only point is in relation to two particular apprenticeships – those of apprentice professional footballers and apprentice journalists – would they receive the same degree of support as apprentices attending Hills Meadow?

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle) Minister to reply

Minister for Economic Development

(Mr Christian) Thank you Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker I can advise that in those two cases the support would be different than that offered to the

apprentices at Hills Meadow. In the case of apprentice professional footballers they would receive no funding support from public funds. In the case of apprentice – or trainee – journalists they would receive funding from the Department of Education and Children as long as the training was part of a journalism degree course.

Mr Speaker
(Mr Quayle)

Well Honourable Members that concludes our Question time and we move to item 2 on our Order Paper and the Honourable Member for Michael, Mr Moore

ABOLITION OF HOMEWORK BILL

Member for Michael
(Mr Moore)

Mr Speaker, I have great pleasure in moving the second reading of the Abolition of Homework Bill.

I believe this is a great step forward for education on the Isle of Man, as for too long children and young people have suffered the loss of their free time at the expense of teachers who have been **failing** in their duties during work hours. This is a totally unsatisfactory situation and it is a **shame** that this government and governments in the past have not had the courage to tackle this issue before.

Mr Speaker this Bill will put the responsibility for education where it firmly belongs, that is with the Department of Education and Children and its teachers. Mr Speaker there is very little else to add other than to move this Bill as in order to give children's more free time and at the same time add to the responsibility of teachers to provide a proper teaching service between the hours of 9 am to 3.30 pm in term time only.

Mr Speaker, I beg that the Abolition of Homework Bill be read for the second time.

Mr Speaker
(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Malew and Santon, Miss Quirk

Member for Malew & Santon
(Miss Quirk)

Mr Speaker, I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member, the Minister for Education and Children, Mr Corkish

Minister for Education and Children

(Mr Corkish)

Mr Speaker, perhaps not surprisingly, I rise to oppose this Bill as it completely misses the point that education is very much a partnership. Children and young people undertake homework to test their understanding of what has been learned in school and to develop independent study skills. Mr Speaker, homework has long been the foundation of a successful academic career and, I can do no more than to oppose this silly and totally unnecessary Bill. In doing so I would propose Mr Speaker, that I am speaking not only on behalf of the Government of the Isle of Man, but also the parents of every child on this island and indeed **most importantly, every child** on the Isle of Man.

Mr Speaker, I hope Honourable members will treat this Bill as moved by my Honourable friend for Michael, Mr Moore, as it deserves. Mr Speaker I will be opposing this Bill and I call on Honourable members to support Government in this – and throw it out!

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Onchan, Miss Watterson.

Member for Onchan

(Miss Watterson)

Mr Speaker, though I am not a Member of the Government, I have to agree wholeheartedly with the views put forward by the previous speaker, the Minister for Education and Children, Mr Corkish. I entirely agree that this Bill serves no useful purpose **and should be thrown out**. It is simply a measure designed to whip up popular unthinking support and has no place before this House. Mr Speaker, I will be voting against.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Michael, Mr Moore, to respond.

Member for Michael

(Mr Moore)

Thank you Mr Speaker. Again we have seen a Government Minister trying to put the blame for Government failings and the failings of

teachers onto others. In this case blaming children. Not only blaming them but also asking them to work in their free time. This is not in the best interests of children and I hope Honourable Members will vote in favour of children and in support of this Bill.

I beg to move this Bill for its second reading.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

The Motion before you Honourable Members is that the Abolition of Homework Bill be read for a second time.

All those in favour say **aye** (*PAUSE for members to say Aye*)

All those against say **no** (*PAUSE for members to say No*).

*(Then say the following adding **ayes** or **nos** in the spaces depending on which was the loudest)*

The have it. The have it.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Now Honourable Members we move on to Item 3.1 on our Order Paper and I turn to the Minister for Community Culture and Leisure, Miss Kissack.

Minister for Community Culture and Leisure

(Miss Kissack)

Thank you Mr Speaker. No-one can be unaware of the world-wide popularity and influence of football. A successful football club can bring a city, or even a small town, a recognition and profile that would cost millions of pounds to achieve through normal advertising. A successful football club also directly benefits local business through hotels, pubs, shops and transport.

Every week hundreds of people travel from the Isle of Man to England and Scotland to watch their favourite team. Manchester United and Manchester City have many fans from the Island. Everton have a large and loyal supporters club and even Liverpool have a few fans. Football is big business and **I want some of that business here.**

Football is a business and before anyone opens a business they have to think of a 'Business Plan' – that is an assessment of whether the business they are considering will work or not.

So Mr Speaker, I am asking that this House of Keys elects a committee – a Select Committee – to consider the Business Case for us on the Isle of Man, having our own football club. I don't know if it will be good for the Isle of Man; but I don't want to miss the chance simply because we didn't think about it properly.

Mr Speaker, I think an Isle of Man Football Club might bring visitors, business, profile and money to the Isle of Man and I beg to move the Motion at Item 3.1 on today's Order Paper.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Hon Member for Onchan, Mr Corlett.

Member for Onchan

(Mr Corlett)

I beg to second Mr Speaker and reserve my remarks.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Peel, Miss Kneale

Member for Peel

(Miss Kneale)

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Now this sounds like a good idea on the face of it, but I do have a concern which I would like the Honourable Mover to tell me about. I know that people support football clubs for many reasons – not only because the club is rich and well-known. Let us think about a football supporter and why they continue to follow their chosen team? They are not fans because they demand or even expect success!

**Any Members who
like football**

Hear, Hear

Member for Peel

(Miss Kneale)

Mr Speaker, my point is that you cannot invent loyalty. Football is about passion – loyalties can split families – it can be that serious – what then does the Honourable Mover say to that?

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Douglas North, Mr Comish.

Member for Douglas North

(Mr Comish)

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this idea is NOT worth considering. What Miss Kissack has failed to mention is the curse of football hooligans. These people use football as an excuse to cause trouble, they get drunk, they smash things up, they cause fights and generally make life very unpleasant for families and others. **They are a curse.** Happily, we don't have too much of that behaviour on the Isle of Man at the moment, but if this Motion goes ahead then we will be inviting these people here – not once, not even once a year, but **every** time the proposed Isle of Man Football Club has a game here. It is dangerous and I oppose it – I hope others will do also!

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Does any other Honourable Member wish to speak?.....No, alright then I return to the Mover, Miss Kissack to respond to the debate.

Minister for Community Culture and Leisure

(Miss Kissack)

Thank you Mr Speaker. Firstly let me begin by thanking my good friend, Mr Corlett, for seconding this Motion.

Mr Speaker, we have heard concerns raised today and I would like to respond to them individually.

The Honourable Member for Peel, Miss Kneale, raised a very good point when the Honourable Member said that loyalty to a football team is a matter which cannot be exchanged simply by 'inventing' a club. I recognise this – but I would say that the Isle of Man has about eighty thousand residents – most of whom love the Island and feel a loyalty to it – plus we have many, many Manxmen and Manxwomen around the world who feel perhaps equally, or maybe even more, strongly about their Island homeland. A regular football game might be a focus for all of these people to regularly show their loyalty to the Isle of Man. I believe that this would benefit the Isle of Man.

Secondly, I move to Mr Comish who quite rightly and understandably talks about the threat from possible football hooligans. No-one would want to dismiss such a concern out of hand.

Mr Speaker, it is for that reason that I ask this House to consider my Motion when it says 'investigate' – or examine – the 'feasibility' – or possibility of forming an Isle of Man Football Club. I want to consider

my views further and I want others to have their say to support or oppose the idea behind this Motion.

Mr Speaker I beg to move.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Members the Motion is that at Item 3.1 before us. All those in favour say **aye** (*PAUSE for members to say Ayes*) All those against say **no** (*PAUSE for members to say Nos*).

*(Then say the following adding **ayes** or **nos** in the space depending on which was the loudest)*

The have it.

Member for Peel

(Mr Corlett)

(Quickly Shouts) Divide!

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Division called so I turn to the Secretary of the House.

VOTING COMMENCES

EITHER VOTING IS AGAINST THE MOTION

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members the votes are..... for and against, therefore the Motion fails.

SKIP TO VOTING CONCLUDED

OR VOTING IS FOR THE MOTION

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable members the Motion carries with votes for and votes against.

So Honourable members, I look to you for nominations to serve on this Select Committee. Of course if a Member is nominated he/she has to be seconded – that is another Member has to agree – and tell

me they agree that the candidate is a suitable person to be on this Committee. Honourable Members, I am in your hands.

MEMBERS NOMINATE AND SECOND MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Thank you Honourable Members. I now close nominations for this Committee and ask the Clerk to name the Members who have been proposed and seconded.

Mr Clerk

Thank you Mr Speaker. Sir, the Members proposed and seconded are:
(Reads out the names)

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Members, the Messengers will distribute voting papers. As they do, I will remind you that you can vote for **three** Members to serve on this Committee. You have 3 votes and the candidates are:
(Reads out the names)

BALLOT PAPER VOTING

- *MEMBERS VOTE BY MARKING THREE X ON THE BALLOT PAPERS*
- *THE MESSENGERS COLLECT THEM IN*
- *THE CLERK AND COT HELPER COUNT THE VOTES AND GIVE RESULTS TO MR SPEAKER*

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

The votes have been counted and I can tell you that these are the results. The three members elected are: *(Read out the names)*

VOTING CONCLUDED

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Moving on to item 3.2 on our Order Paper we turn to the Honourable Member for Glenfaba, Miss Kerruish.

Member for Glenfaba

(Miss Kerruish)

Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Summer Term 2012 should end tomorrow. Mr Speaker, I should make it clear that this motion would mean that the Summer holidays would start early. The reason for this motion is that the children of Manannan School have

worked exceptionally hard this year as have the teachers and all the other staff, they have all achieved the standards set for them and therefore, it is unnecessary for them to remain at school after today and that accordingly school should finish tonight and meet again next term. Mr Speaker I have pleasure in proposing the motion standing in my name.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Rushen, Mr Clague

Member for Rushen

(Mr Clague)

Thank you Mr Speaker, I have pleasure in seconding this motion and reserve my remarks.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member, Minister for Education and Children, Mr Corkish

Minister for Education and Children

(Mr Corkish)

Once again I find myself having to resist and oppose a very silly motion brought to this House. Certainly, it is true that through hard work and effort all the staff at Manannan School have achieved many great things this year. However, it is a foolish idea to think that the school should close early in order that all the staff and children can have a longer holiday and in doing so miss valuable learning time.

Mr Speaker, I completely oppose this motion and hope that once again Honourable Members will agree with me that Manannan School holidays should be in line with all of the schools on the Isle of Man and should not be allowed to finish this evening as is proposed. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Middle, Miss Faragher

Member for Middle

(Miss Faragher)

Thank you Mr Speaker. This school is in the Constituency of Glenfaba, indeed, I know many of the children who attend there and all of the staff. It is an excellent school, it is a happy school and it is a school which achieves high results. We all wish to see that continue and in order to allow that Mr Speaker, I would completely agree with the previous speaker, the Minister for Education, in opposing this motion.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Member for Glenfaba, Miss Kerruish

Member for Glenfaba

(Miss Kerruish)

Thank you Mr Speaker. I have listened with interest to this debate and I can appreciate some of the arguments opposing this motion but, I would simply remind Members that the motion is based on the idea that the school has done well and therefore it is unreasonable to ask the children or the staff to do more than we have already asked of them.

Mr Speaker, I hope Members will support the motion and allow Manannan School to commence Summer holidays in 2012 this evening. Mr Speaker, I beg to move the motion standing in my name.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Members, the motion before us is at item 3.2 on your Order Paper, which we will now put to the vote.

All those in favour say **aye** (*PAUSE for members to say Ayes*)

All those against say **no** (*PAUSE for members to say Nos*).

*(Then say the following adding **ayes** or **nos** in the spaces depending on which was the loudest)*

The have it. The have it.

Mr Speaker

(Mr Quayle)

Honourable Members, that concludes today's House of Keys sitting for Manannan School and I would like to thank all the officers for their assistance, parents and teachers, as well as the elected Members for their advice and encouragement.

This House now stands adjourned until the next sitting on a date to be arranged.