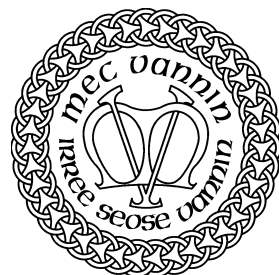


# Un Habyr Segr



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## BRANDING? JUST SAY NO!

In 2003 a group of people who presumably see themselves as "movers and shakers" and who move in the circle of ambitious politicians, managed to convince them that the Island needed a "make over" to create a new and exciting image for the 21st century. In due course, Tynwald voted half a million pounds of public money to the Branding Committee.

The current branding exercise is symptomatic of successive Manx Governments' paranoid approach to what they believe is the outside world's perception (when we register at all) of the Isle of Man.

Certainly, in the present situation, it is easy to see the attraction for the Manx Government of a new image but, as that would involve multiple resignations, it is not likely to happen.

On the one hand, we have the ludicrously overblown claims by the likes of Alan Bell that, "we are a player on the international stage," or Donald Gelling with his, "we are in the top drawer of financial service centres," or the delusions of the Film Commission that half of Hollywood is beating a path to our door.

On the other hand, we have over reaction and hyper-sensitivity when the UK and world media report on the Island in a manner that our leaders see as negative. Never mind that the article may be balanced and accurate: In our politicians' minds, everyone is out of step except us. This lead to an MHK asking the Chief Minister in Tynwald what he intended to do about "inaccurate" reporting in the UK's "Times". This Lilliputian attitude of mind only conveys to the outside world that we are, indeed, a small-minded and introspective little country.

We have our senior politicians strutting about as if they are the statesmen of some independent sovereign nation, forgetting all the while that we are a Crown Dependency answerable to some junior Minister in the UK Government. They present themselves to the Manx people as if they are equal in rank to Blair and Aherne. Our Manx politicians have given themselves the titles and status of a national Government, and to complete the self deception, the high salaries as well. The local media appear go along with this delusion.

No doubt, government hopes we will get rid of, on the one hand, our "TT, Manx cat and kipper" image and, on the other, the "dodgy tax haven" label. However, as the current image of the Manx Government is one of a scandal-ridden, financially illiterate administration, they are going to have their work cut out. In any case, why on earth should the taxpayer pay anything when the main beneficiaries will be the business sector and some foreign consultants?.

How will the local media handle any story that seriously damages the Manx brand identity they seem so keen to support? Why on earth is Manx National Heritage involved? Do they really think they reflect our national identity and culture at present?

More and more "heritage" is presented to us, but the Island becomes less Manx by the day, it seems. The Manx people are not a commodity to be branded. Living, breathing inhabitants cannot be treated like soap powder. One of the most irritating aspects of the branding exercise is the exhortation to the people to get behind it and support what in the end will be just an expensive advertising campaign. We should remember the late Marje Joughin, treat it with the indifference it deserves, and just say "not in my name, thank you."

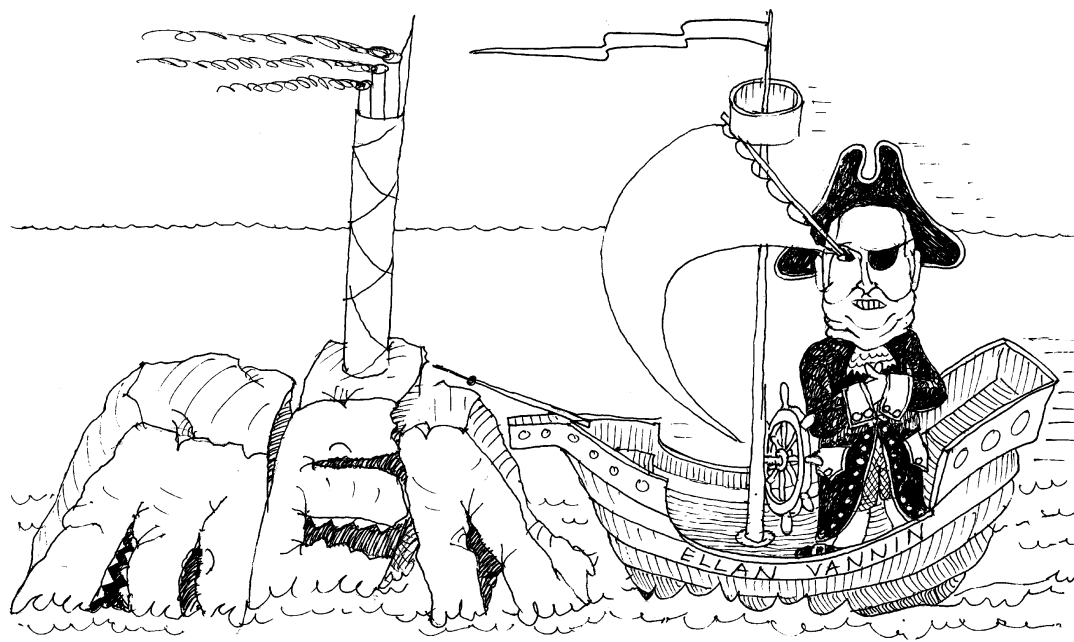
# MIKE'S ENRON ACCOUNTING

The Chief Minister's announcement that the entire board of the MEA had resigned when it became clear to them that they no longer had the confidence of the Council of Ministers is something of a joke.

Has it not occurred to Mr. Donald Gelling and his colleagues that the Manx public may no longer have confidence in them? Has the Council of Ministers not yet realised the seriousness of the new economic situation, or are they once again in denial? Perhaps they think they can bluff their way through this crisis. Perhaps they will cobble together some "action plan" in time for the next sitting of Tynwald. Perhaps a combination of the CoMin bloc vote and putting the frighteners on backbenchers will force through a rescue plan for the MEA involving our reserve funds and repayment of the unauthorised loans. The Manx Government will go to almost any lengths to have this whole affair buried as soon as possible.

No matter what the eventual outcome of any report or inquiry into the MEA that may appear in due course, there is no doubt in the public mind who bears the ultimate responsibility and that is the Council of Ministers, the Treasury, the DTI and the entire membership of Tynwald bar one. Only a single MHK has consistently probed for the truth since 2001 and he has been repeatedly vilified for his efforts. It has been the total failure of the remainder to scrutinise and monitor the MEA, or even to ask a few simple questions, that has brought us to this state.

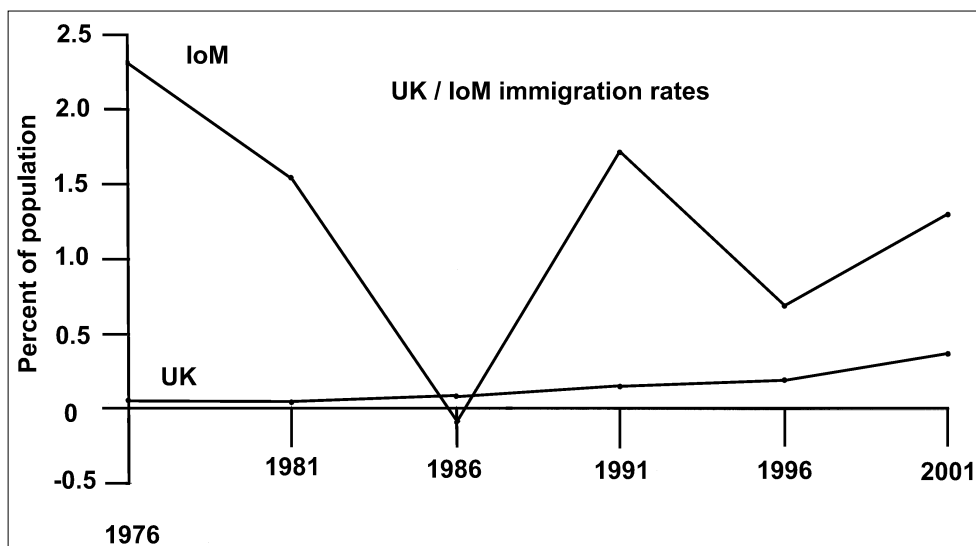
Mec Vannin has been criticised in recent times for wishing to de-stabilise the Manx Government. Well all we can say is, if that was our desire, we could do no better than leave this Administration to bring the Manx economy to its knees. The UK media are circling and it is entirely the failure of this Government to be truly accountable and to turn a blind eye to maladministration, that is attracting them.



**EASY ON THE HELM, DONALD!  
BUSINESS LIKES STABILITY.**

And before anyone says that Mr. Gelling can't be held responsible for what the MEA did under Mike Proffitt, just remember that Mr. Gelling was a member of Treasury during all of this and relayed Mr. Proffitt's excuses to Tynwald during question time.

# Immigration: Who's kidding who?



The above chart shows population growth rate in the Isle of Man against the UK. The figures come from the IoM Treasury and the UK Office of Statistics.

Since 1976, the Isle of Man's official population has been pumped up from 60,000 to over 76,000, an increase of over one quarter. This is despite so many Manx people being driven out to find education, employment and, of course, housing.

During the same period, the UK's population has increased by a meagre 5% in total, despite having more births than deaths over that same period.

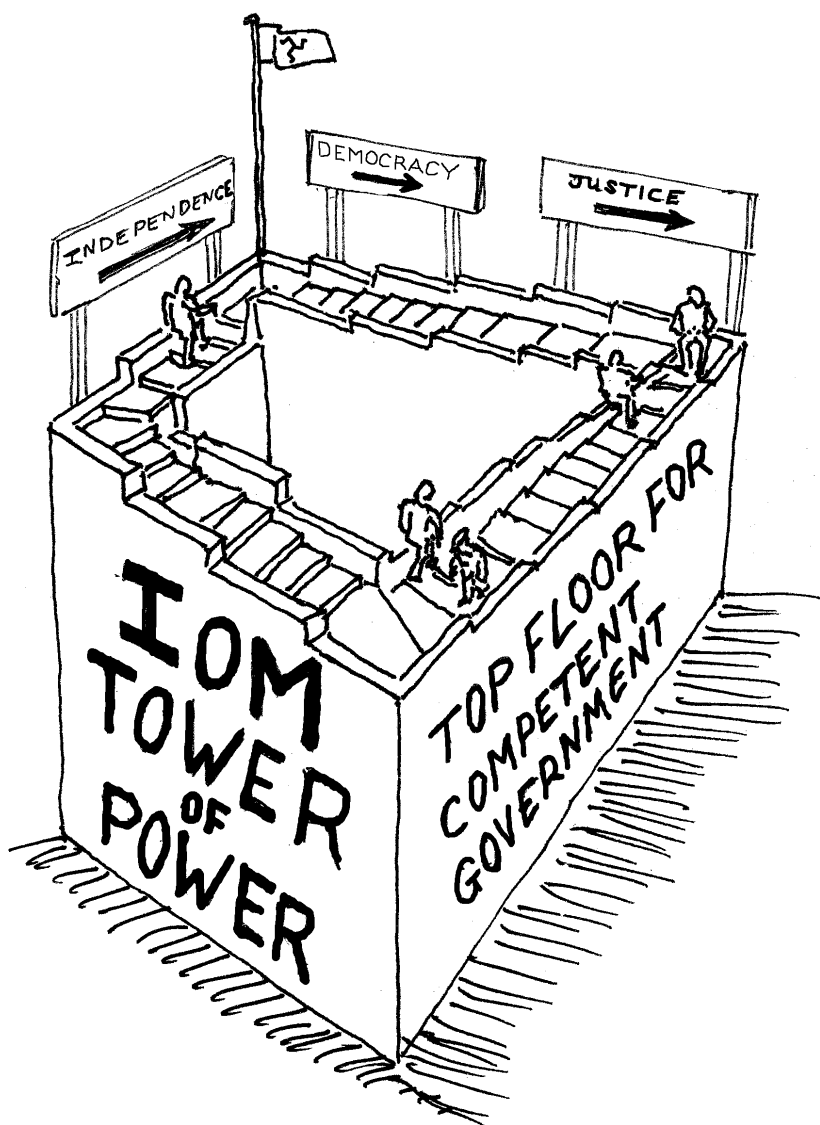
Now that annual UK immigration is approaching half of a percent of the population per year (0.005 of the population), the predominantly English population raised such a stink that both opposition AND entrenched

government parties promised allsorts to address the situation.

Not so in the Isle of Man, where all the warnings of the nationalists have come to fruition: a massively overburdened infrastructure, a marginalised Manx people, unaffordable housing, a destroyed landscape and an offshore English culture.

Many of the immigrants to our country complain about the relatively low level of immigration into their own country. That's fine as long they don't try branding us as being small-minded xenophobes.

Mec Vannin has always opposed the artificial population increase inflicted upon us. It is not based upon scare-mongering and racism but demonstrated fact.



# Troggal Argid

An article in Manx on housing with an English precis at the end. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Dan Tynan or any of his "friends" in the House of Keys.

Va ourys ain rish foddey agh nish t'eh oikoil, t'eh jeeaghyn. Ta'n genney dy hieyn ayns Mannin jiu - er l'eh thieyn son kionneyderyn noa - kyndagh rish ny troggyderyn mooarey as y jiooghid oc. T'ad er ve 'reaghey' yn margey-thie dy yraghey priosyn ny thieyn as y cosney ocsyn.

Haink y skeeal shoh magh ayns ansooryn hooar Mnr Phil Gawne O.K.F. da feyshtyn hug eh da'n Rheyann Reiltys Ynnydag. Ren ny ansooryn soilshaghey dy row y chooid smoo dy halloo cowrit ec y reiltys son thieyn noa ayns laueyn kuse veg dy hroggyderyn mooarey as dy row kied troggal oc dy hroggal foddey ny smoo thieyn na'n earroo dy leih ta fuirraghtyn er thieyn. T'eh jeeaghyn dy vel margey gyn cohirrey ny monopoly ayn as ta ourys mooar ayn neesht dy vel ny troggyderyn mooarey troggal thieyn ny smelley na oddagh ad dy firrinagh dy hannaghtyn dy neughoochyssagh yn genney dy hieyn rish cha foddey as oddys ad as myrshen dy chosney foddey ny smoo argid.

Ta Mnr Gawne laccal cur lesh stiagh l'iasaghey da'n leigh t'ayn hannah ta reill margaghyn gyn cohirrey dy ghoail stia gh dellalyn thallooin. Dy row raah echey er yn eab shoh, as nagh jig eh stiagh ro anmagh gollrish y Slattys Keesh Dellal Thallooin ny Land Speculation Tax bleeantyn er dy henney.

S'olk dy liooar dy vel ny troggyderyn mooarey cosney rouyr argid liorish dellal sollagh. S'olk dy liooar dy vel ad troggal thieyn boght ta tuittym veih my cheilley bunnys chelleeragh; thieyn ta coayl ny mulleeyn oc tra heidys y gheay dy lajer. S'olk dy liooar dy vel ny thieyn jeeaghyn boght as graney as surley er y cheer aalin ain gollrish doghan. Agh mannagh beagh shoh dy liooar, ta ny troggyderyn jannoo faghid er y skielley shoh liorish cur enmyn bolvaneagh as joarree er ny straiddyn as steaydyn dy hieyn noa t'ad croo; enmyn nagh vel cur scansh erbee da shennaghys, cultoor ny eer cheer-oaylleaght Vannin, gollrish The Meadows son thieyn va troggit er mullagh cronk tammylt er dy henney!

Ta'n musthaa ec y traa t'ayn ayns Glion Meay ny hampleyr mie jeh ard-wannalys ny troggyderyn. Ta Hartford Homes troggal thieyn

aynshen faggys da'n eas as t'ad gearree cur yn ennym 'Chestnut Grove' er. Ta cummaltee yn voayl as ny Barrantee Skyll Pherick noi'n ennym gra nagh vel eer un billey castan ry gheddyn syn ard shen as dy vel yn ennym Creggan Ashen er y voayl shen hannah. Lhisagh shen ve jerrey y chooish agh ta Hartford Homes gobbal caghlau yn ennym oc gra dy bare lhieu 'Chestnut Grove' son oyrn margeeys-ta shen dy ghra, bee eh ny sassey creck ny thieyn da Juanyn Hig/Haink Noal dy beagh ennym cheerey ashlinagh, Sostnagh orroo.

Ny smessey na shoh, t'ad gra dy nee ocsyn ynrican (lesh coardailys veih yn Oik Post) y pooar dy reaghey yn ennym gyn scansh da plaiyntyn ny cummaltee ynnydoil. Er lhiam nagh vel ad kiart er shoh as dy vel pooar ec ny Barrantee boayl ennagh ayns reillyn y Slattys Gurneily Ynnydag 1916 dy lowal enmyn noa, agh eer nagh vel eh kiart myr shoh ta foast pooar dy liooar ec ny barrantee dy chur sthap er shoh my vees ad daaney dy liooar. Lhisagh Barrantee Skyll Pherick geiyrt er sampleyr Barrantee Phurt ny hlnshey va speeideilagh er y gherrit cur er Heritage (sic) Homes cur Gaelg er ny enmyn straiddey v'ad hoshiaght er nenmys ayns Baarle ynrican.

Ta'n theay ny stroshey na'n chiarn, rere y chenn raa creeney ain. Son shickyrys, ta ny troggyderyn mooarey t'ayns Mannin jiu gymmyrkey ad hene gollrish chiarnyn Vannin sy chenn laghyn ren roostey wheesh d'argid as dod ad veih ny Manninee.

In the last issue of Yn Pabyr Seyr, the belief that developers were manipulating the housing market was aired.

This article reveals that what was long suspected is now official: The major property developers in the Island are operating a sytem to keep the housing market artificially inflated. It is obvious from the very English "Home Counties" type names that are applied, that the developers have little interest in catering to the indigenous population's needs.

The government and even some Local Authorities are complicit in this situation.

## BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL: SUMMIT OR NOUGHT?

The seventh summit meeting of the British-Irish Council took place in May at the Villa Marina in Douglas. This was a ministerial level meeting attended by several heads of Government or deputies, and chaired by our own Chief Minister. A pity then, that when the BIC met it was to talk about telemedicine rather than any implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

Telemedicine is the IoM's special area of work within the BIC and very laudable as far as it goes, but are these summit meetings anything more than a distraction from the real issue i.e. self-determination for the people in the north of Ireland with devolution of power to a Northern Ireland Assembly. The Assembly, an important element of the GFA, was dissolved in 2002 by the UK Government. It would seem that by hosting this summit the IoM Government has aided and abetted the UK Government in perpetuating the illusion that something is being done to advance the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

## Bugs for auction?

As the row rumbles on over the Cheshire Constabulary's investigation of the IoM Constabulary, a way of regaining some of the expenditure may have been identified.

When Sinn Féin discovered that its Falls Road offices had been bugged, they auctioned the device on the internet with a certificate of authenticity signed by Gerry Adams. Substantial amounts were raised.

Perhaps our glorious leaders could do the same with the bugs unearthed at Douglas Police HQ and get a member of the Council of Ministers to sign a guarantee of authenticity.

*On second thoughts, maybe it would be better if Gerry signed it....*

### Some forthcoming productions from the IoM Film Commission:

"I'm an MHK's wife - Get me out of here!"	(Location - Victoria Road Prison)
"The Price is Right"	(Location - MEA Headquarters)
"It's a Bug's Life"	(Location - Police HQ)
"Call my Bluff"	(Location - Tynwald Question Time)
"Flog It!"	(Location - General Registry)

### **mec vannin website**

[www.mecvannin.org](http://www.mecvannin.org)

Here you'll find more information about the Party, including nearly all the previous issues of Yn Pabyr Seyr.

Mec Vannin can be contacted by e-mail at:

[mec\\_vannin@yahoo.com](mailto:mec_vannin@yahoo.com)

For more information about the workings of government in the Island, try visiting:

[www.tynwald.org](http://www.tynwald.org)

# Mec Vannin News

**Over the past few months, Mec Vannin has been taking positive part in government (as it always has) with, amongst other things, submissions on the following:**

The proposed capping of tax on the exceedingly wealthy.

Unsurprisingly, the Party did not regard this as the best thing since free money, which is exactly what it represents to the exceedingly wealthy. The full text of the submission can be read on the internet at: [www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec\\_vannin](http://www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec_vannin) under the title "Mec Vannin opposes anti-social tax proposals"

Consistent with long standing Party policy, we also opposed the reform of Local Authorities as being, on the one hand, a creation of yet another unnecessary intermediary layer of government and, on the other, a back-door move to centralise local government and further remove the people from government. The full text of the submission can be read at [www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec\\_vannin](http://www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec_vannin) under the title "IoM Local Authority Plans"

Disturbingly, it has been reported to us that the subsequent report circulated by the DLGE to Local Authorities and members of Tynwald prior to the debate states, in Appendix B that Mec Vannin states that "...the proposals make reasonable sense." The actual words were, "In summary, we do not support the proposals." A slight discrepancy? Perhaps someone in the DLGE can explain the disparity.

Civil Partnerships is also out for consultation and the Party has supported the notion of people who share their lives and expenses being recognised in law as such if they wish. The full response can be viewed at [www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec\\_vannin](http://www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec_vannin) under the title "Civil Partnership proposals in the Isle of Man". The submission DOES NOT favour copying UK law.

Smoking in public is on the agenda and the Party is resubmitting its previously expressed view on the matter which can be read at [www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec\\_vannin](http://www.yahogroups.com/groups/mec_vannin) under the title "Smoking Ban - Mec Vannin does not favour "Irish Model"".

## AGM REPORT

**The Party's AGM, held in May 2005, elected the following people as Officers of the Party:**

President	Bernard Moffatt
Chairman	Mark Kermod
Secretary	Verity Gorry
Treasurer	Cristl Jerry
PRO	Mark Kermod
Editor	Alan Comaish
Cultural Officer	Freddy Cowle

The following Resolutions were passed and build upon existing Party policy:

This AGM rejects the concept of "mass medication" as represented by flouridisation of the drinking water supply.

In light of its oft repeated policy of a "Caring and prosperous society", this AGM believes that the government in the Isle of Man is guilty of ignoring its own policies and driving down living standards with pay adjustments to public sector workers that do not

match inflationary increases.

This AGM reiterates the Party's opposition to income tax "capping" for the wealthy and further states that this is yet another example of policies that make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

This AGM, citing its long standing opposition to BBC licence fees, calls upon the UK Home Office to justify this tax in light of the differing laws applied in its own country and to other British Crown Territories and Dependencies, particularly in view of the apparent attempt to drive viewers away from analogue channels and onto digital despite no explicit support being extended to the Isle of Man.

This AGM endorses calls for a full public enquiry into the management of the MEA and associated companies and further calls for a thorough inquiry into the lack of diligence of the Isle of Man Treasury in its scrutiny of the financial affairs of the MEA and associated companies.

**I am interested in joining Mec Vannin. Please send me a copy of your policy summary and a membership form to:**

(Please print clearly)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

**I am interested in (delete as appropriate) Full / Family / Junior / Associate / Unwaged membership.**

# KULCHER

Those who attempt to defend the virtual eradication of the Manx through untrammelled immigration, frequently claim how much these people contribute to our culture. Listening to some of them (politicians and others), you would swear that without such immigration, we would have no culture of our own.

It is appropriate to recall the first paragraph of the leading article of Issue Two of Yn Pabyr Seyr, back in July 1990 under the title, "Will this be the last Manx Tynwald?":

"The November election is probably the most important for this Island in over one hundred years. It will decide whether or not the Manx nation survives, or ends up in its own museum.

"If the present Government is re-elected largely unchanged, with the same constitution, the latter will be the case. You had better believe it. Already the influence of the Manx people on their own destiny is weak to say the least. This situation has come about in the unbelievably short time of five years. Is that possible? A people who have survived invasion and suppression for 1500 years snuffed out overnight? Look around you. Listen. You could be almost anywhere in England."

That government remained largely unchanged and it is now something of a rarity to encounter a group of Manx people in the Isle of Man. Culture? The safe, sanitised and, let's be quite honest, highly artificial "culture" as epitomised by Yn Chruinnaght is not the culture of

the people.

The language could easily go the same way.

The World Cup in football of 2002 was bad enough. The "Euro 2004" event saw the populace and allegiances of the society in the Isle of Man revealed for what it is: Offshore English. English football culture has a strong undercurrent of low racism and neo-fascism. The reaction of both the England football fanatics and the English press towards the Swiss referee would have likely resulted in criminal proceedings had the same expressions of outright hatred been directed towards a Muslim or coloured person.

It would be nice to think that here, in the Isle of Man, we would escape such neanderthal expressions of tribalism, particularly someone else's tribalism. The predominance of the flag of England and the gusto with which it was waved told all. Worse than that, many of those waving it with the greatest gusto, with the greatest hatred towards anything not English would, if challenged, profess to be Manx.

Bear in mind that had Scotland, Ireland or Wales been in the competition rather than England, there would have been little interest. Those who are trying to preserve the concept of Manx (be it through politics, language or the likes of the Department of Education's Manx history curriculum) are facing an uphill and quite possibly insurmountable battle.

*Do you support a fully independent Isle of Man, governed for the benefit of the Manx people? Do you support fully accountable, democratic republican government for the Island? Do you support generating wealth, talent and ideas from within our own community? Do you support giving our children the opportunity to rise through the "glass ceiling"?*

*Do you oppose the exploitation of our country and its people for simple greed? Do you oppose the finance sector domination of our economy? Do you oppose our subjugation by the United Kingdom for its own self-serving aims? Do you oppose corrupt, secretive and unaccountable government?*

*If you answer yes to the above, then you probably support Mec Vannin's policies and should consider joining. Please fill in and send this coupon to:*

**The Secretary, Mec Vannin, (see homepage)**

# CHAMBER OF HORRORS

Despite operating in what must be one of the most business friendly environments in western Europe, the wild eyed, neo-con wonks at the Chamber of Commerce have, once again, issued one of their all too frequent warnings laden with doom and gloom. Such utterances are guaranteed to surface whenever a hint of an increase in workers' employment rights is mentioned, no matter how small.

And the cause of this chagrin for the Chamber, no doubt shared by their chums in the Institute of Directors? A bill drawn up by their servants in government to bring about minor changes to Manx employment. Such would pay lip service towards narrowing the distance between prehistoric Manx labour laws and the slightly more progressive Employment Act in the UK. The bill includes proposals to increase unpaid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 25 weeks, a right to 2 weeks unpaid paternity leave for new dads and minimum paid annual leave of 4 weeks. Further daggers in the very souls of our friends in the hallowed Chamber include the right for carers and parents to request flexible working, equal rights for part time workers and protection for whistleblowers who may have the temerity to inform authorities about unlawful activity such as money laundering.

The corporate sector forms a highly effective lobby, applying constant adherence to the oldest rule of the game: However much rope you are given, you must always demand more. The Manx government, in response to pressure from the likes of the Chamber

of Commerce, property developers and tax-dodgers, has granted Manx registered companies amongst the lowest rates of tax in the rich world, a planning system which prevents effective challenge to speculative, corporate developers and lax environmental standards.

No constituency has gained more from the Manx Governments over the last 20 odd years than business. The gulf between the highest earners and the low paid widens at an exponential rate, yet the avarice of commerce is never satisfied as it continues to whinge that the climate for business is hostile.

The popinjays leading from the front in this quest for more is the media, led by Isle of Man Newspapers. Part of a UK corporate money grabbing group, the IoM produced newspapers have no interest in the Isle of Man for it's own sake. They rely for most of their income on corporate and governmental advertising, the proprietor's political project being solely to create a better world for multi-millionaire tax-dodgers and corporate business with property developers at the head of the pile. IOM Newspapers form the vanguard of the ludicrous "Branding" project. Naturally the anticipated beneficiaries of this little bit of greed driven nonsense are the corporate interests polluting the island.

At least it can honestly be said that these people, from the geeks in the Chamber of Commerce, through the media to the bosses at "Grasp PLC - Tax dodging and Money Laundering our speciality" at heart want only one thing -

**EVERYTHING!**

