



Un Habyr Seyr



The Free Manx Paper

Earroo / Issue 45 - Jerrey Souree / July 2010

Published by Mec Vannin

Legislative Council / House of Keys Election Fiasco

Everybody's least favourite plastic scouser, Kevin Woodford, has suddenly decided he has an interest in Manx politics. Manx politics has a lot less interest in him. On the back of his brief career as a TV chef, he enjoyed a small empire of food outlets here in the Isle of Man in the early 1990s. None seemed to last very long and he disappeared to pastures new but has magically rediscovered his Manx roots.

Having been unsuccessful in his unheralded attempt to be fast-tracked into the Legislative Council, he then decided to stand for the Douglas East House of Keys By-Election. That required a campaign and that required money. Whether unwilling or unable to put up his own money for his campaign, he was funded by a "blind-trust", but was "Our Kev" bothered about where that money came from? Not according to his responses in interview with Paul Moulton and Richard Butt, which can be viewed on "Manx Tube" at <http://www.manxtube.com/video/1739/Kevin-Woodford--Douglas-East-By-election>

Since arrests have been made and serious charges maybe pending, we won't comment on allegations made about Mr. Woodford and his associates but the whole issue has made it clear how open to abuse the electoral process to both bodies currently is.

Mec Vannin was the leading campaigner for Members of Tynwald to register their interests but this requirement is tenuous and poorly policed. It has often been said that Manx politics doesn't require the regulation that UK politics does in terms of funding, backing etc. but this instance shows that this is a naive viewpoint. Just because Kev's behaviour was so blatant that he was pulled up doesn't mean that other candidates haven't been or won't be beholden to bodies unknown or undisclosed.

The really disturbing part is that it has been revealed that the secretive body represented by the "blind trust" has been formed in an attempt to pack Tynwald with candidates of their choice.

Mr. Woodford's defence of his secret backing was that the people involved wanted to "raise the bar" in terms of candidates at election.

Well, they've got off to a grand start haven't they? Incompetent doesn't even begin to describe them.

Our Kev chose to sell himself on the strength of his business acumen and experience. This clearly explains why he didn't fund himself.

The election was won by Chris Robertshaw with 388 votes (27%), a former hotelier who had previously stood for election and ran an apparently minimal campaign. Without being critical of Mr. Robertshaw's election, this does demonstrate the appalling state of affairs in Manx elections when you consider that this is substantially less than most losing votes in General Elections. With six candidates sharing, legitimately or otherwise, a mere 1428 votes, it moves towards lottery status.

Meanwhile, many of the posters for Our Kev's campaign were on lamp standards which are the responsibility of Douglas Corporation. If these were put up without permission, why weren't they removed? If they were put up with permission, who gave it and how did one candidate get this opportunity whereas others didn't?

We have been informed that a written question was submitted to the Requisition Meeting meeting asking if any candidates were bankrupt in any jurisdiction. The question was not tabled.

MEC VANNIN SUPPORTS CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Much of the good public relations achieved by community policing was cancelled out by reports of inappropriate behaviour by the police during the investigation of the 'independence graffiti' earlier this year. This has prompted calls, yet again, for the establishment of an independent Police Complaints Commission.

It was reported that an innocent and well-respected member of the community was hand-cuffed and taken from his home in full view of his neighbours as part of this 'over the top' investigation. His alleged crime was to receive an unsolicited text message from another accused person. No charges were brought.

It was also alleged that up to seven plain clothes detectives were involved in the arrest of one sixteen year old youth at his home address. We understand that he was questioned initially without a parent or legal representative present. If these allegations are true, then some serious questions need to be asked about the behaviour of the police in this case and the efficient use of tax-payers' money.

Just as important, is the damage to police public relations. One young person with knowledge of these events said, 'I used to have faith in and would support the police in the past, but not any more.'

The disproportionate use of police manpower, and abuse of police powers leaves us in no doubt that these arrests were politically motivated and the responsibility lies with the Chief Constable - yet another import to acting as a colonial overseer.

Manx Authorities swallow yet another UK propaganda campaign

Armed Forces Day is yet another piece of British Government propaganda designed to influence public opinion and attempt to justify what many people regard as illegal and unjustifiable wars. The Isle of Man appears to fall willingly in line to help promote their dubious cause, but do the majority of Manx people support the military actions of the British Government over the last ten years? We doubt it very much, particularly when it appears that even the opinion of the British people is turning against them. The credibility of the British Army has been severely dented by the findings of the recent Bloody Sunday report, which revealed the orchestrated lies and deceit, involved in a cover-up and whitewash by the British establishment.

No doubt the Manx establishment will continue to openly support British forces. Most noticeable is the strong presence of the British armed forces at Tynwald, on this our supposed National Day. A further accommodating stance will be shown by the Department of Education and Children when they invite the British armed forces into the secondary schools to provide a programme of physical activities for the students followed by a thinly veiled recruitment exercise using biased and powerful audio-visual aids.

Calls for this to stop has fallen on the deaf ears of previous Ministers, most particularly Anne Craine. Whether or not the new Minister, Eddie Teare, will appreciate the fundamental inappropriateness of the behaviour remains to be seen. If not, instead of renaming the Department of Education as "Education and Children", "Indoctrination and Recruitment" would be more appropriate.

For information about membership of Mec Vannin and our policies, please write to :

The Secretary, Mec Vannin, c/o 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel, Isle of Man

You can also visit our website at www.mecvannin.im

Manx can delight in England's defeat

Congratulations to Germany for putting the England football fans out of their misery and helping the removal of the epidemic of English flags around the Island. Yet again the English football team has failed to live up to over-inflated expectations fuelled by the hype of the English media and shamefully exploited by some traders on this Island, who swamped their stores with English flags and other paraphernalia.

We have no sympathy with those left with large amounts of unsold goods, but maybe it will come in useful to generate a small amount of electricity at the incinerator alias 'inefficient energy from waste plant'. which is allegedly desperately looking for a lot more calorific material to burn as there is now more effective recycling of materials.

Did you know..

The three lions emblem used by England is actually French in origin and made England's Emblem by Richard Coeur de Lion (Richard I) who couldn't speak English and only spent a few months of his entire life in England.

The St George's Cross is similarly imported, probably from Italy.

St George has absolutely no connection with England and appears to have become adopted over a period of centuries from the time of the Crusades onwards, probably as a result of the use of the flag by English ships for trading purposes in the Mediterranean.

Despite the chant "Two World Wars, One World Cup", Germany has beaten England in all World Cup competitions except 1966.

Since 1966, Germany has won the World Cup twice whereas England has only managed to make fourth place once in 1990.

Cost cutting - Some points to ponder

Manx Government estimates show that the income drop due to English Government actions will be £100,000,000. Every Ministerial department will have to reduce their budgets to accommodate this deficit. Some thoughts on this imposition are:-

1) As Departmental Chief Executive Officers are paid according to their budget, will their salaries be reduced accordingly?

2) It was announced that there will be no future recruitment of teachers, resulting in larger classes and mixed year students. No mention has been made of the excessive numbers of educational advisors.

3) Recent requests by various departments to bring forward capital expenditure has been explained by the Treasury Minister as being due to greater departmental efficiency. The implication is that the faster you spend money, the more efficient you are.

4) The MHK's have decided to 'share the hurt' by having their salaries frozen but there are lots of people on the Island, whose incomes have been reduced due to the current economic climate. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to take a 10% cut in salary and / or a five year freeze on pay?

5) Recent Tynwald questions have revealed that at least 100 civil servants earn more than the Chief Minister. Translating this to the UK, would give 87,500 civil servants earning more than the Prime Minister. There has to be a reigning-in of the number of civil servants and the excessive pay that some get.

It is difficult to understand why some Commissioners' Clerks, eg Ramsey, Braddan, Douglas earn £80,000 and more per annum. This is just out of proportion for the relative responsibility.