



TYNWALD COURT OFFICIAL REPORT

RECORTYS OIKOIL
QUAIYL TINVAAL

PROCEEDINGS

DAALTYN

HANSARD

Douglas, Tuesday, 22nd May 2012

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Present:

The President of Tynwald (Hon. C M Christian)

In the Council:

Mr R P Braidwood, Mr D M W Butt, Mr D A Callister, Mr E A Crowe,
Mr A F Downie OBE, Mr E G Lowey, Mr J R Turner and Mr T P Wild,
with Mr J King, Deputy Clerk of Tynwald.

In the Keys:

The Speaker (Hon. S C Rodan) (Garff);
The Chief Minister (Hon. A R Bell) (Ramsey);
Hon. D M Anderson (Glenfaba); Mr L I Singer (Ramsey); Hon. W E Teare (Ayre);
Mr A L Cannan (Michael); Mr T M Crookall (Peel);
Mr P Karran and Mr D J Quirk (Onchan); Mr R H Quayle (Middle);
Mr J R Houghton and Mr R W Henderson (Douglas North);
Hon. D C Cretney and Mrs K J Beecroft (Douglas South);
Mr C R Robertshaw and Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East);
Hon. J P Shimmin and Mr C G Corkish MBE (Douglas West); Mr R A Ronan (Castletown);
Mr G D Cregeen (Malew and Santon);
Mr J P Watterson, Mr L D Skelly and Hon. P A Gawne (Rushen);
with Mr R I S Phillips, Clerk of Tynwald.

Business Transacted

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The Council withdrew.

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The House adjourned at 9.45 a.m.

Tynwald

The Court met at 9.30 a.m.

[MADAM PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

*The Speaker was escorted into the Chamber
and took his seat.*

A Messenger: Hon. Members, please be upstanding for Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Moghrey mie. Good morning, Hon. Members.
Please be seated.

*The President of Tynwald was escorted into the Chamber
and the Sword of State was placed in position.*

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The Deputy Clerk: Hon. Members, please rise for the President of Tynwald.

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The President: Moghrey mie, Hon. Members.

Members: Moghrey mie, Madam President.

The President: The Chaplain will lead us in prayers.

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PRAYERS

The Chaplain of the House of Keys

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God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant not
master, we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed
this nation, the realms and territories, with Elizabeth, our
beloved and glorious Queen, Lord of Mann. In this year of
Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace, as she
continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God, and
in devoted service to her lands and peoples and those of the
Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Members: Amen.

The President: Please be seated.

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Order of the Day

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**Loyal Address by the President
on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

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The President: Your Excellency, Learned Deemsters, Your Worships, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this special sitting of Tynwald Court, where our purpose is to recognise and pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Lord of Mann, in this, the year of her Diamond Jubilee.

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I am also delighted to welcome Mrs Colleen Corlett, who has exercised her outstanding talents to create Tynwald's Diamond Jubilee address, and she is accompanied this morning by Mr Corlett.

55

Tynwald, in over a millennium, has come under the suzerainty of many monarchs but, with the exception of Queen Victoria, none has reigned for as long as our present Lord of Mann. In fact, most of you today have not lived for as long as Her Majesty has carried the great responsibilities of her high office. We are, of course, delighted that, after all these years of carrying the burden of that office, she continues to enjoy robust good health and we hope it may continue for many years to come.

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But longevity is not something we can control. Of greater significance than the length of her reign is the manner in which she has undertaken and discharged her responsibilities in a period of great change. Few people, if any, would by choice undertake such a role. We therefore recognise that an unremitting sense of duty and selflessness has underpinned these 60 years of service to the people of the Isle of Man and the Commonwealth.

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The last 60 years have seen many challenges and changes in the Island, not least in this Tynwald setting, particularly in respect of our constitution, the separation of the judiciary from Tynwald and the changing role of the Lieutenant Governor. More than ever before, we have greater control over our own destiny. The acceptance of these changes reflect in our Lord of Mann a wisdom to move with the times and, if I may use an equestrian analogy, it is an indication of her good hands and light rein, which lead to the Lord of Mann enjoying the respect of the Manx people.

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Our Island has been pleased to have had many visits from Her Majesty and members of her family and, in particular, we have very much welcomed those significant occasions, when she has come to preside over our Tynwald Day ceremony at St John's.

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Of course, over the past six decades, there has been a revolution in the manner in which we communicate. Information exchange can be instant and for those in the public eye the media exposure is relentless.

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How extraordinary it is then that, in the face of this paralysing public glare, with microscopic analysis of every move, Her Majesty steadfastly remains a great example to us all, embodying qualities of duty and service, firmness of purpose, diligence and wisdom, all tempered with flashes of humour and wit. Many tributes have been, and will continue to be, paid to a remarkable Queen, who has gained affection and respect throughout the world, who can honestly be described as a gracious Queen and a noble Queen and who, despite her elevated position, appears to have a very sound grasp of the realities of ordinary lives.

85

In her Diamond Jubilee year as our Lord of Mann, she reflects those qualities of a diamond which make it precious: able to resist abrasive pressures, multi-faceted, sparkling and enduring. As our tribute to this remarkable example of service and commitment, I invite Your Excellency, as Her Majesty's representative here, to receive and convey to Her Majesty this illuminated address, which has been prepared in the following terms, in the Manx and English languages:

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'This Court recognises the unparalleled service given by Her Majesty the Queen as Lord of Mann over the past 60 years, during which she has visited the Isle of Man many times and, in particular, to celebrate the Millennium of Tynwald in 1979, expresses its gratitude for the leadership and example which she has given to her people on this Island and throughout the Commonwealth, congratulates her on her Diamond Jubilee and looks forward to many more happy years of her reign.'

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To this end, I will ask the Clerk to deliver the Address to Your Excellency at Government House, along with the *Hansard* record of today's proceedings for forwarding to Her Majesty the Queen, Lord of Mann.

I call on Mr Speaker.

Reply by the Speaker of the House of Keys

100 **The Speaker:** Madam President, it is with great pleasure that I rise to second your remarks, with which I most heartily concur.

105 The Diamond Jubilee is a historic landmark in what has been a long reign. You alluded to the changes which have taken place in the past 60 years, during which Her Majesty has reigned over us. The monarchy itself has evolved along with society and yet Her Majesty has kept a measure of continuity and has provided a continuing and unwavering sense of duty and purpose, which has been an example to all of us in her various realms. She has maintained a remarkable balance between tradition and modernisation, which has preserved much of value in our society, while accepting and welcoming change.

110 We can all be proud to have Elizabeth II as our Lord of Mann. She is unquestionably the most famous woman in the world. In the course of her long reign, she has met all the major figures and leaders in the post-war world and has carried out her duties unfailingly during that time. She reigns over a family of nations and, as Head of the Commonwealth, provides an important focus for all of us who share traditions of parliamentary democracy and rule of law.

115 Sometimes, perhaps, because we have grown up with Her Majesty as Head of the Commonwealth, we tend to take for granted some of the advantages which being a member of the Commonwealth family provides. However, the Commonwealth is a vital element in the evolving relationships between its member nations and its importance continues to grow. It is worth remembering that it is an association of free nations, which has attracted some countries to join it which were never part of the British dominions.

120 Her leadership and example have played an important role in providing the Commonwealth with its sense of common purpose. Although this Island is not a separate member of the Commonwealth, since it is represented there by the United Kingdom, it is a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in its own right, and it is through this organisation that much of our representation of the Island overseas takes place.

125 Her Majesty's personal example is one which we all admire. At an age when many have long since retired, she continues to represent the various realms within the Commonwealth with a sense of duty which is unparalleled.

Long may she reign over us. God save the Queen, Lord of Mann.

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Response by the Lieutenant Governor

The President: May I invite Your Excellency to respond?

135 *The Illuminated Address was displayed in the Chamber.*

140 **The Lieutenant Governor:** Madam President, may I thank you for your kind words and, indeed, for this wonderful gift. I am honoured to accept it on behalf of Her Majesty. It is a fine way for this ancient parliament to mark her Diamond Jubilee, to mark 60 years of her reign as Lord of Mann. May I also echo the sentiments that you have expressed.

Mr Speaker spoke of Her Majesty's role as Head of the Commonwealth. In my past career with Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service, I saw at first hand the respect in which she is held throughout the Commonwealth and the significance that this has, in a world where relationships are increasingly intertwined and complex.

145 I benefited, too, from her wisdom and knowledge. If you ever have the opportunity to visit Marlborough House, the seat of the Commonwealth Secretariat, you will see a remarkable gallery of photos, dating back to the time when Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Her Majesty is in them all. It underlines a great experience that she brings to public life, and the knowledge she has accrued, not just of the nations of the Commonwealth, but of their many leaders over the years.

150 Madam President, you remarked how often Her Majesty has visited this Island. It is not really a surprise. Her Majesty has made clear to me the central place that it enjoys in her heart, and not only because her Aunt lived for many years at Government House. It was striking how warmly their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall were received on the Island on their visit to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, a visit that they palpably enjoyed.

155 Her Majesty continues to follow the evolution in the Island's constitutional arrangements closely, an evolution that she has been pleased to support. It is an evolution that has been both

160 remarkable and proper. I am the 12th Lieutenant Governor to represent Her Majesty on this Island.
Though the nature of that role has changed, it continues to be a great honour.

165 On a wall in Government House hangs a portrait portraying the thanksgiving service in St Paul's Cathedral that marked the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V. I have often pondered the small figure of Princess Elizabeth, how the future for her was unforeseen, and yet with such dedication to service has she met it.

165 Madam President, when I go to St Paul's for the Diamond Jubilee thanksgiving service next month, I shall be humbled to represent the Manx people, a nation, independent in spirit, proud of its heritage and confident in its future.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to accept this wonderful illuminated address on behalf of Her Majesty, in recognition of the loyalty and devotion of the people of this ancient Kingdom of Mann, not only to the throne, but also to the person.

170 It is our hope that Her Majesty's reign will continue for many years to come and bring continued prosperity and blessing to the British Isles and the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Madam President.

The President: Thank you, Your Excellency.

175 Hon. Members, that concludes our Tynwald business this morning. I thank our distinguished guests for their attendance.

Council will now withdraw and leave the House of Keys to transact such business as may be placed before it.

180 *The Council withdrew.*

House of Keys

185 **The Speaker:** Hon. Members, the House will now stand adjourned until 10 o'clock in our own Chamber.

The House adjourned at 9.45 a.m.