

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF
TYNWALD COURT**

**Douglas, Tuesday, 18th April 2000
at 2.30 p.m.**

Present:

The Deputy President of Tynwald (the Hon N Q Cringle) and the Acting President (Mr E G Lowey). In the Council: The Lord Bishop (the Rt Rev Noël Debroy Jones), the Attorney-General (Mr W J H Corlett QC), Hon C M Christian, Messrs E A Crowe, D F K Delaney, J R Kniveton, Dr E J Mann, Messrs J N Radcliffe and G H Waft, with Mr T A Bawden, Clerk of the Council.

In the Keys: The Speaker (the Hon N Q Cringle) (Rushen) and the Deputy Speaker (Mr J D Q Cannan) (Michael); Mr L I Singer and Hon A R Bell (Ramsey); Mr R E Quine OBE (Ayre); Mrs H Hannan (Peel); Hon W A Gilbey (Glenfaba); Hon S C Rodan (Garff); Hon D North (Middle); Mr P Karran, Hon R K Corkill and Mr G T Cannell (Onchan); Messrs J R Houghton and R W Henderson (Douglas North); Hon D C Cretney and Mr A C Duggan (Douglas South); Mr R P Braidwood and Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East); Hon A F Downie (Douglas West); Hon J A Brown (Castletown); Hon D J Gelling (Malew and Santon); Sir Miles Walker CBE LLD (hc) and Mrs P M Crowe (Rushen); with Prof T StJ N Bates, Clerk of Tynwald.

The Lord Bishop took the prayers.

Sir Charles Kerruish – Illness

The Deputy President (The Hon N Q Cringle): Hon. members, before we commence our business this afternoon I am sure that we are all unhappy to learn that Sir Charles Kerruish is currently unwell. However, I am happy to report to the Court that following a good night's rest and considerable improvement he is currently undergoing treatment in Broad Green, and I am sure that we all send our very best wishes to him for a quick recovery, and to Lady Kay and the family we offer our support, hon. members.

Members: Hear, hear.

Presidency of Tynwald – Election of the Hon N Q Cringle SHK

The Deputy President: Hon. members, on our order paper then we have but the one business and we turn to the election of the President of Tynwald. This election is governed by the Constitution Act of 1990 and subject to its provisions by standing order 5.3 so far as it is applicable.

In the circumstances of this election the Constitution Act provides two categories eligible to be elected as President of Tynwald: firstly, a member of the Keys and secondly, an elected member of the Council.

Hon. members, while ballot papers are being distributed I would remind members of the procedures. I will call for candidates to be nominated and, once a candidate has been nominated, I will seek a seconder for that nomination before seeking further nominations. When satisfied that all those who the Court wishes to nominate and second have been

nominated and seconded, I will ask the Clerk of Tynwald to read out the list of candidates in the order in which they appear on the ballot papers.

Now that all hon. members have ballot papers I call for the proposals for nomination for President. Sir Miles.

Sir Miles Walker: It is my wish, Mr Deputy President, to nominate yourself as a candidate for election to the presidency of Tynwald.

The Deputy President: Hon. member, in that case I must stop you at that particular juncture. If my name is to be proposed it is inappropriate for me to remain here in the chair and I must therefore halt our proceedings to enable the Court to appoint a member of Tynwald to act in my place. I call on the Lord Bishop.

The Lord Bishop: Mr Deputy President, I second that nomination and I move that in accordance with the Constitution Act of 1990 the hon. member of the Council, Mr Lowey, take the chair as Acting President.

The Deputy President: Is that agreed, hon. members?

Members: Agreed.

The Deputy President: In that case, Mr Lowey, over to you, sir.

The Deputy President, having vacated the chair, which was then taken by Mr Lowey, returned to the Speaker's chair in the House of Keys.

The Acting President (Mr E G Lowey): Thank you, hon. members. The same rules apply. I will now call for nominations for President. Sir Miles?

Sir Miles Walker: Mr Acting President, it is my wish, as I said a few moments ago, to nominate Mr Speaker for the presidency of Tynwald.

My colleague Mr Speaker, the hon. Noel Quayle Cringle, has been a member of this Court for a period in excess of 20 years, a political colleague of mine for about 30 years and a personal friend for about 50 years. In all that time he has never ceased to be confident, direct, a person of strong conviction, indeed, I would suggest, a born politician and parliamentarian.

First elected to the House of Keys at a by-election in Rushen in 1974, having served what could be termed a 10-year apprenticeship as a member of Arbory Parish Commissioners, since that election in 1974 he has been re-elected at four general elections. It was after just two years' service and following his re-election in 1976 that he was elected to his first major chairmanship, that of the Board of Social Security, and some of us well remember his predecessor in that post serving 25 years as chairman, Mr Jack Nivison. Mr Cringle held that chairmanship until 1982, when he was elected the first Chairman to the Home Affairs Board, a position he filled with distinction until the 1986 general election. Following the 1991 general election my hon. friend took on the chairmanship of the Civil Service Commission and in 1995 became Minister for Education.

During his time in this hon. Court Mr Speaker has served on the Forestry, Mines and Lands Board, the Tourist Board, the Board of Education, the Highway and Transport Board, the Manx Museum, the Health Services Board, the Whitley Council and the Telecommunications Commission, as well as on over 40 select and standing committees of

this hon. Court and of the House of Keys, and I have to say that never have I heard him complain of having too much to do.

It was as Chairman of the Sports Council between 1982 and 1987 that he drove forward the concept of the Year of Sport. We had a very successful Year of Sport in 1985 and the Island Games were conceived that year and have gone from strength to strength since, and they now have a recognised place in the international athletics calendar - I would suggest, a testament to the foresight and energies of our Mr Speaker. It was following the general election in 1996 that he was elected as our Speaker and he has presided over the House of Keys impartially with great distinction and with confidence.

So, Mr Acting President and hon. members, it is my belief that there is no one better by virtue of experience and ability to preside over this hon. Court as its second elected President than the Hon Noel Cringle and I beg to move.

Mr Delaney: Hear, hear.

The Acting President: Have I a seconder to the resolution?

Mr Duggan: I beg to second, sir.

The Acting President: Any other nominations? If there are no further nominations I will ask that hon. members should now complete their ballot papers. I nominate Mr George Waft as teller for the Council for this election. Mr Speaker, could you nominate someone from the Keys?

The Speaker: I nominate Mr Gelling of Malew and Santon.

A ballot took place.

The Acting President: Right, hon. members, I have the result of the election. The total votes cast are: Mr Speaker, 29 votes and there were two spoilt papers. I now therefore declare that Mr Noel Quayle Cringle has been duly elected President of Tynwald Court to hold office until the day of the first ordinary sitting of Tynwald in July 2001. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Mr Acting President, at this stage, seeing that it is apparently going to be the last time that I am going to be allowed to stand here and address this hon. Court, I would like to thank my proposer, Sir Miles, friend and colleague, as he said, for some 50-odd years now. I thank him sincerely for his comments and I thank the hon. Court for the undoubted tribute which it is paying to me by electing me as your President.

I am very appreciative that I am following a hard act. I am very appreciative of that and I am sure that all your wishes which I tried to express earlier are with the family when we say to Sir Charles that we hope to see him back, recovered and watching over us again very quickly.

So it is simply for me to say thank you to this hon. Court for paying me this tribute. I will endeavour to serve this Court as best I can. My proposer said that I had apparently managed to hold even hand in the House of Keys as Speaker; I will endeavour, sir, so to do in Tynwald Court. Thank you.

Members: Hear, hear. *(Applause)*

The Acting President: Thank you, hon. members. That concludes the business of this Tynwald and Tynwald Court will now stand adjourned until 16th May 2000 and the Council will

now adjourn to allow the Deputy Speaker and the Keys to conduct such matters as they may wish to address.

The Council withdrew at 2.45 p.m.