

Litir do Luchd-Ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

*A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, written and compiled by Roddy Maclean, and specifically aimed at Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Roddy can be contacted by e-mail at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk**

Bidh mi an-còmhnaidh a' faireachdainn an-fhoiseil nuair a chluinneas mi Albannaich a' cur sìos air Sasannaich a leanas an sgiobannan bhall-coise gu dùthchannan eile. Bidh na Sasannaich ri fòirneart, tha iad ag ràdh, ach ... na h-Albannaich? Uill, bidh iadsan làn fhealla-dhà. Bheir iad pògan do na boireannaich, is beiridh iad air làimh air na fir. Cha bhi iad a' sabaid.

Bidh mi an-fhoiseil air sgàth 's gu bheil cuimhn' agam nuair a bha a' chùis gu math eadar-dhealaichte. Gach dàrnacha bliadhna, ghabhadh muinntir Lunainn eagal mòr ro na míltean de dh'Albannaich a rachadh ann airson nan geamannan eadar Sasainn agus Alba. 'S iad na h-Albannaich a bha buaireasach aig an àm.

Agus, an latha an-diugh, gach turas a tha Celtic agus Rangers a' cluich an aghaidh a' chèile, tha obair mhòr aig poilis Ghlaschu ann a bhith a' cumail na sìthe. Gu mì-fhortanach, chan e dìreach droch fhaireachdainn eadar diofar sgiobannan a th' air cùl sin, ach droch fhaireachdainn eadar dà chreideamh.

Ach tha caochladh clòimhe ann an clò Chaluim. Agus tha iomadh taobh aig luchd-leantainn bhall-coise. Mar shamhla dhen sin, tha buaireadh air a bhith ann aig geamannan eadar Celtic is Rangers, bho àm gu àm, nach robh stèidhichte air gràin eadar Pròstanaich is Caitligich.

'S ann mar sin a bha e ann an naoi ceud deug 's a naoi (1909), aig cuairt dheireannach Cupa na h-Alba, aig Pàirc Hampden. Bha an trioblaid cho dona 's nach robh an Cupa air a thoirt seachad air a' bhliadhna sin idir. Chan e creideamh a dh'adhbharaich an t-strì, ge-tà, ach airgead.

Bha cùisean eaconamaigeach ann an Glaschu truagh truagh. Bha mòran de muinntir a' bhaile gu math bochd. A dh'aindeoin sin, lorg trì fichead 's a deich mìle duine airgead gu leòr airson a dhol don gheam. Chosg e tasdan do ghach duine, airgead mòr aig an àm.

Bha Celtic agus Rangers co-ionann aig deireadh a' ghèim, agus bha aca ri chluich a-rithist. Bha an darna gèam ann, a-rithist aig Hampden, agus chaidh còrr is trì fichead mìle duine ann airson a choimhead. Bha dùil ann gun tigeadh an fharpais gu crìch air an latha sin, agus bha páipear-naidheachd air a ràdh gum biodh ùine a bharrachd ann aig deireadh a' ghèim, nan robh an dà sgioba co-ionann a-rithist.

Uill, as dèidh ceithir fichead mionaid 's a deich, bha iad co-ionann, agus dh'fhuirich an luchd-coimhead a-staigh, a' feitheamh ri ùine a bharrachd. Ach cha robh ùine a bharrachd ann am planaichean an fheadhainn a bha a' ruith na farpais. Mu dheireadh, thàinig oifigear air a' phàirc agus thug e bratach-oisein air falbh, mar dhoigh gus innse don t-sluagh gu robh an geam seachad.

Bha an luchd-coimhead dhen bheachd gu robh na h-ùghdarrasan ag iarraidh geam eile airson tuilleadh airgid a dhèanamh, agus chaith iad às an rian. Loisg iad na lìn agus na puist, mhill iad na bùthan far an robh an t-airgead air a chruinneachadh, gheàrr iad pioban an luchd-smalaidh, agus chaith iad an sàs ann an sabaid leis a' phoilis gu seachd uairean feasgar.

Agus co chaith a choireachadh? Uill, rinn am pàipear-naidheachd, an *Glasgow Times*, ceangal eadar an geam agus buaireadh aig coinneamhan Comhairle nan Aonaidhean agus Comhairle Baile Ghlaschu air an t-seachdain roimhe sin. Nan robh dath an sàs anns a' chùis, a rèir a' phàipeir, chan e uaine neo gorm a bh' ann – ach dearg. Chan eil fhios a'm mu dheidhinn sin, ach bha an dearg chaoch air luchd-leantainn gach sgioba, agus iad a' sabaid ri guaillibh a' chèile, chan ann an aghaidh a' chèile, air an droch latha sin.

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Faclan na seachdaine: sgiobannan bhall-coise: *football teams*; fòirneart: *violence*; dàrnacha: *second (=dàrna)*; buaireasach: *troublesome*; gràin: *hatred*; Pròstanaich: *Protestants*; Caitligich: *Catholics*; tasdan: *shilling*; oifigear: *official*; bratach-oisein: *corner flag*; na h-ùghdarrasan: *the authorities*; bùthan: *booths*; luchd-smalaidh: *firemen*; aonaidhean: *unions*; Comhairle Baile Ghlaschu: *Glasgow City Council*; dearg: *red (here meaning politically red)*; an dearg chaoch: *absolute fury (dearg strengthens caoch and lenites it)*.

Abairtean na seachdaine: bidh mi an-còmhnaidh a' faireachdainn an-fhoiseil: *I always (future tense for habitual action) feel ill at ease*; bidh iadsan làn fhealla-dhà: *they are full of fun*; ghabhadh muinntir Lunnainn eagal ro na míltean de dh'Albannaich: *the people of London would be fearful of the thousands of Scots*; an aghaidh a' chèile: *against each other*; a' cumail na sìthe: *keeping the peace*; tha iomadh taobh aig luchd-leantainn bhall-coise: *there are many sides to football fans (followers)*; mar shamhlà dhen sin, tha buaireadh air a bhith ann aig X: *as an example of that there has been unrest at X*; cuairt dheireannach Cupa na h-Alba: *the Scottish Cup Final*; airgead mòr aig an àm: *a lot of money at the time*; gun tigeadh an fharpais gu crìch: *that the competition would end*; gum biodh ùine a bharrachd ann aig deireadh a' ghèim: *that there would be extra time at the end of the game*; chaith iad às an rian: *they went off their heads*; loisg iad na lìn agus na puist: *they burned the nets and the posts*; cò chaith a choireachadh?: *who was blamed?*; nan robh dath an sàs anns a' chùis: *if there were a colour involved in the matter*; ri guaillibh a' chèile: *along with each other (ie shoulders together)*.

Puing ghràmair na seachdaine: Bheir iad pògan do na boireannaich, is beiridh iad air làimh air na fir: *they kiss the women and shake the men's hands*. Are you confused about the use of “bheir” and “beiridh”? They are in fact different verbs, and both are irregular. Bheir is the future indicative of the Active Voice of the verb thoir (a' toirt), give, take, bring (it is used here to express a habitual action which is given in the present tense in English). Bheir mi pòg dhi (*I will give her a kiss*); bheir iad tiodhlacan dha (*they will give him gifts*); An toir thu sin dhomh? (*will you give me that?*). Bheir (*yes*). But beiridh is the future indicative of the Active Voice of the verb beir (a' breith), bear, catch, take hold of. Beiridh mi air an uan (*I will catch hold of the lamb*); ma chì thu deagh bhean, beir oirre neo beiridh fear eile oirre (*if you see a good woman [wife], catch her or another man will catch her*); beiridh mi air làimh air (*I will take him by the hand, shake his hand*). And, just to demonstrate the irregularity of these verbs, here they are in the past tense: thug mi pòg dhi (*I gave her a kiss*); rug mi air làimh air (*I took him by the hand, shook his hand*).

Sean-fhacal na seachdaine: Tha caochladh clòimhe ann an clò Chaluim: *there are various wools in Calum's cloth, ie there are many aspects to the matter. This phrase can also be used of individuals who are of complex character or who react to something in an unexpected manner.*

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