

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Gàidhlig aig Murrayfield (1)

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for 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, Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,002. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 698 corresponds to Litir 1,002.

Cò am fear mu dheireadh, aig an robh Gàidhlig, a riochdaich Alba ann an gèam rugbaidh eadar-nàiseanta? Agus cò am fear mu dheireadh, aig an robh Gàidhlig, ach nach robh a’ riochdachadh Alba, a chluich aig Murrayfield ann an gèam eadar-nàiseanta? Leis an fhìrinn innse, chan eil mi buileach cinnteach. Ma tha **fuasglaidhean nan ceist** sin agaibh fhèin, bu mhath leam cluinntinn bhuaibh.

Ach tha adhbhar agam airson na ceistean sin a chur. Tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu dhithis – aig an robh Gàidhlig, ach a bha an aghaidh a chèile air a’ phàirc – a chluich aig Murrayfield a’ chiad turas a thug Alba a-mach an t-sàr-bhuaidh no *grand slam*. Sin nuair a nì aon dùthaich an gnothach air a h-uile dùthaich eile san fharpais. Thachair e sa bhliadhna naoi ceud deug, fichead ’s a còig (1925).

Bha an seusan sin gu math mòr ann an eachdraidh rugbaidh ann an Alba. Dh’atharraich a’ bhuidheann-stiùiridh a h-ainm bho *Scottish Football Union* gu *Scottish Rugby Union*. Tron t-seusan, ghluais iad na geamannan eadar-nàiseanta aca gu stadium ur – Murrayfield.

Ach ghabh a’ chiad ghèam de dh’Fharpais nan Còig Dùthchannan àite anns an Fhaoilleach air an t-seann phàirc ann an Inbhir Lite. Rinn Alba a’ chùis air an Fhraing. Thachair rudeigin annasach letheach-slighe tron ghèam sin. Bha leth-dhubhadh na grèine ann. ’S dòcha gun robh sin na mhanadh de shoirbheas ...!

Bha sgioba mhath aig na h-Albannaich, gu h-àraidh am measg nan dìonadairean. Bha Seòras Mac a’ Phearsain air leth làidir. **Bha, agus Iain Mac a’ Ghobhainn**, a bha a’ cluich air an iomaill. Bha Mac a’ Phearsain agus Mac a’ Ghobhainn le chèile a’ cluich airson Oilthigh Oxford. Agus chuir Mac a’ Ghobhainn ceithir scòraichean an aghaidh nam Frangach.

Chuir e ceithir scòraichean a-rithist anns an dàrna gèam an aghaidh na Cuimrigh ann an Swansea. Bhuannaich Alba fichead ’s a ceithir gu ceithir-deug. Anns an treas gèam ann am Baile Atha Cliath, rinn Alba a’ chùis air Èirinn. An uair sin thàinig na Sasannaich a Mhurrayfield air an aonamh latha fichead dhen Mhàrt airson a’ ghèam mu dheireadh air beulaibh seachd mìle duine. Agus bha cothrom aig Alba an t-sàr-bhuaidh a thoirt a-mach airson a’ chiad turais riamh.

Bha an latha tioram is grianach, agus bha an gèam air leth teann. Bhuannaich Alba le trì puingeann – ceithir-deug gu h-aon-deug. Ach bha na Sasannaich dhen bheachd gun robh Iain Mac a’ Ghobhainn air a chas a chur thar na loidhne-oisein leis a’ bhall na làimh goirid mus do chuir Alba an scòr mu dheireadh. Ge-tà, cha robh rèitire-bhidio ann airson dàrna beachd a thoirt air a’ chùis an uair sin!

Bha co-dhiù dithis air a' phàirc air an latha ainmeil sin aig an robh Gàidhlig. Bha Iain Mac Ille na Brataich cliùiteach mar chluicheadair airson sgioba na h-Alba. Rugadh e ann an Glaschu ach bhuineadh athair do dh'Uibhist a Deas. Agus bha Gàidhlig aig Iain.

Anns an sgioba eile, bha fear Ruairidh MacIllInnein – *Roderick Ross Forrest MacLennan*. Ged a bha e a' cluich airson Sasainn, rugadh esan cuideachd ann an Glaschu. Agus bha Gàidhlig aige.

An robh an dithis a' bruidhinn ri chèile air a' phàirc ann an Gàidhlig? Chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh. Ach bha an dèidh a' ghèam, a rèir choltais. Innsidh mi dhuibh mu dheidhinn an-ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan na Litreach: a riochdaich: *who represented*; rugbaidh: *rugby*; eadar-nàiseanta: *international*; adhbhar: *reason*; a' bhuidheann-stiùiridh: *the governing body*; Inbhir Lìte: *Inverleith*; dìonadairean: *(half)backs*; Baile Atha Cliath: *Dublin*; teann: *tight*; Iain Mac Ille na Brataich: *John Bannerman*.

Abairtean na Litreach: ach nach robh a' riochdachadh Alba: *but who wasn't representing Scotland*; leis an fhìrinn innse, chan eil mi buileach cinnteach: *to tell you the truth, I'm not entirely sure*; a' chiad turas a thug Alba a-mach an t-sàr-bhuaidh: *the first time Scotland won the grand slam*; nuair a nì aon dùthaich an gnothach air a h-uile dùthaich eile: *when one country defeats all the other countries*; thachair rudeigin annasach letheach-slighe tron ghèam sin: *something unusual happened halfway through that game*; bha leth-dhubhadh na grèine ann: *there was a partial eclipse of the sun*; 's dòcha gun robh sin na mhanadh de shoirbheas: *perhaps that was an omen of success*; a' cluich air an iomaill: *playing on the wing*; chuir Mac a' Ghobhainn ceithir scòraichean an aghaidh nam Frangach: *Smith scored four tries against the French*; an aghaidh na Cuimrigh: *against Wales*; rinn Alba a' chùis air Èirinn: *Scotland defeated Ireland*; air an aonamh latha fichead dhen Mhàrt: *on 21 March*; airson a' ghèam mu dheireadh air beulaibh seachdad mìle duine: *for the final game in front of seventy thousand people*; gun robh Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn air a chas a chur thar na loidhne-oisein: *that Ian Smith had put his foot over the touchline*; cha robh rèitire-bhidio ann airson dàrna beachd a thoirt air a' chùis: *there was no video referee to give a second opinion on the matter*; chan urrainn dhomh a ràdh: *I cannot say*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Ma tha **fuasglaidhean nan ceist** sin agaibh fhèin: *if you yourself have the solutions to ['of'] those questions*. If you look at the word *ceist* in the modern context, you would expect its definite genitive plural form to be *nan ceistean*, with a broad ending (the same as the nominative plural). However it follows an older model in which the genitive plural has the same form as the nominative singular, despite having a slender ending. The reason it retains this more 'fossilised' model is because of its use in religious matters as the Gaelic for 'catechism'. The *Shorter Catechism* is *Leabhar Aithghearr nan Ceist*. And the Gaelic for quiz is *farpais-cheist* not *farpais-cheistean*.

Gnathas-cainnt na Litreach: Bha, agus Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn: *so was Ian Smith*.

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoineachadh le MG ALBA