

Celtic League AGM 2005

Resolutions Passed, Alba

(Gaelic College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, on the Isle of Skye)

Alba

1. This AGM:

- _ Proposes that the Celtic League generally supports the aims and objectives of Independence First, the Scottish campaign for a referendum on national independence, and notes that the organisation is both non-party and transparty.
- _ Recognises that the UK has never given the people of Alba or Cymru the opportunity to vote in such referenda, contrary to UN self-determination guidelines.
- _ Reaffirms its support for Scottish independence and opposes British moves to hinder its coming about.

2. This AGM:

- _ Condemns the Scottish Football Association for refusing to put the old name of the country, “Alba” on the national strip.
- _ Recognises that David Taylor, chief executive of the SFA, has publicly voiced his opposition, but that his attitudes are symptomatic of more widespread, deepset prejudices against the language.
- _ Calls on politicians to intervene in this situation, and encourages all sympathetic parties, wherever they may be, to lobby the SFA on this matter.
- _ Recognises that placing “Alba” on the shirt is a very minor change, with no great financial cost, but also a massive gesture from a bastion of popular Scottish culture.

3. This AGM:

- _ Congratulates the Scottish parliament on passing the first Scottish Gaelic Act.
- _ Expresses regret at past inaction by Westminster and Holyrood, but also hopes that the language be further consolidated into law and protected from discrimination and neglect.

4. This AGM:

- _ Demands that Berwick upon Tweed be reintegrated into Scotland.
- _ Notes that Britain itself recognised the town’s unique position up until 1885 when it was illegally incorporated into Northumberland, that Berwickshire is considered part of Scotland, the football team plays in the Scottish league and that the River Tweed falls under Scottish law from end to end.
- _ Considers Berwick upon Tweed to lie entirely to the north of the Tweed and not to incorporate the neighbouring towns to the south such as Spittal.

Breizh

1. This AGM calls on the French government to:

- _ Sign the Charter for Lesser used Languages (Karta Europa) and recognise the Breton language as a working language in the EU, like Basque, Catalan etc.

_ Allow tvbreizh to be on the TNT (Télé Numerique Terrestre) in BZH5 (4 million subscribers).

Background

TV Breizh is a private TV, like Sky News or ITV. It has the will to develop news and films in Breton as much as they can financially. It is possible to look at it on Canalsat or TPS; as well as on the net. Unfortunately, Breton people behaved like French people and considered that TV is for "FREE". Therefore, the Breton people did not buy the right to watch TV Breizh and the audience went down for the Breton programmes... Before being 'Beljinised' Rozenn Milin, the former manager, worked hard to promote those Breton programmes. In 2005, there are less and less programmes in Breton. In 2004, TV Breizh worked hard to gain the right to be chosen by the TV Broadcasting state body (C.S.A.), in order to be on the TNT (TV Numerique Terrestre). That is to say a high quality system using masts, on the land, all over the French state. At the end of the day the Breton people must buy a satellite dish to get TV Breizh as well as one hundred channels instead of 24 on TNT. Today most of the Breton people think that TV Breizh should be on TNT, in their minds TNT means 'for free'. That's wrong. It's the advertisements who pay the programmes on TFI and on the other private channels, on TNT. In fact, it does not make much difference... you have to buy a dish!

Éire

1. This AGM congratulates Stádas and the Irish Government on their successful campaign in achieving full EU working language status for Irish.
2. This AGM calls on the British Government to grant political status immediately to the republican prisoners being held in prisons in the North of Ireland.

Kernow

1. This AGM of the Celtic League supports the current campaign for Cornish and English signs to be used throughout Kernow and for Breton road signs to be used throughout Breizh.
2. This AGM of the Celtic League supports the aim of establishing a Celtic Environment Council that aims to campaign, on behalf and in association with the Celtic League, in matters that affect the environment in and around all the Celtic countries.

Mannin

1. This AGM

Mindful of the more open attitudes to the release of official information by the introduction of a freedom of information Act in the United Kingdom, urges the Manx government to seize the opportunity that this presents to obtain greater information about incidents / events that have occurred at British nuclear installations around the Irish Sea in the past five decades.

2. This AGM calls upon the public authorities in all the Celtic countries to:
 - _ recognise their duty to protect and promote their national languages through the use of them in signage
 - _ reject the reactionary and discredited argument that signage is in any way confusing
 - _ resist the insidious translation and renaming into English and French of place names
3. This AGM calls on the UK government to force the BBC to implement its obligations under the European Language Charter and broadcast in the native languages of all the countries it takes fees from.

4. This AGM believes that the acceptance of British Imperial Titles is, by definition, incompatible with the notion of furthering the culture, history, independence and government within the Celtic countries

England

Governments throughout the Celtic countries have a duty to provide cheap rented social accommodation to local people in their locality.

General Secretary

1. This AGM

_ expresses its concern at the imprisonment of five landowners from County Mayo because of their opposition on environmental and safety grounds to the construction of a gas pipeline across their land.

_ pledges support to the community of North Mayo to ensure that any development associated with off-shore gas deposits is safely exploited and is of benefit to the local economy.

2. This AGM expresses concern at the failure of the Manx Government to provide detention facilities at police stations and prisons that comply with international standards.

3. This AGM support calls from political leaders and community groups to extend all Irish TV broadcasting to the substantial Irish expatriate community in Britain.

This AGM

_ calls upon the British Government (NIO and MoD) to publish the results of any land quality assessments undertaken at military facilities (both operational and disused) in the north of Ireland.

_ urges the British Government to carry out full environmental assessments and remedial work at sites which it is decommissioning to restore them to their former condition.