

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Iain Catanach, 'Prionnsa' na Camanachd

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.maclea@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 926. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 622 corresponds to Litir 926.

An cuala sibh riamh air Iain no Seonaidh Catanach? Tha cuid a' cumail a-mach gum b' e an cluicheadair a b' fheàrr riamh a thog caman, co-dhiù bho Linn Oisein. Tha mi **gu mòr an comain** a' chraoladair is òraidiche, Ùisdean MacIllInnein, airson m' aire a thoirt don laoch seo. Tha Ùisdean air obair mhòr a dhèanamh airson aire dhaoine a thoirt do dh'eachdraidh is dualchas na camanachd.

Le ainm mar Catanach, **cha chuir e iongnadh oirbh** gun do bhuineadh Iain do Bhàideanach. 'S ann a' cluich do Bhail' Ùr an t-Slèibh a dh'fhàs e ainmeil mar chluicheadair iomain. Chì sinn, ge-tà, gun robh e fìor mhath air spòrsan eile cuideachd.

Rugadh e ann an ochd ceud deug, ochdad 's a còig (1885), an neach a b' òige de cheathrar cloinne aig Uilleam is Anna Chatanach. Bha Uilleam na mharsanta ann am Bail' Ùr an t-Slèibh. Fhuair Iain – no Seonaidh – a chuid foghlaim ann an Sgoil Bhail' Ùr an t-Slèibh agus Sgoil Cheann a' Ghiùthsaidh, mus deach e air adhart gu Colaiste Sheòrais Watson agus Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann. Rinn e ceum anns na h-Ealain agus an uair sin ann an Eòlas-leigheis. Bha e ag obair mar dhotair ann an Sasainn agus sa Chuimrigh.

Bha e na lùth-chleasaiche air leth agus gu math luath mar ruitheadair. Ann an naoi ceud deug 's a naoi agus a deich (1909/1910) bhuannaich e an leum-fhada ann am farpaisean Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann agus chaidh a thaghadh mar riochdaire don oilthigh ann am farpaisean eadar-oilthigheach. Bha e cuideachd sònraichte math mar chluicheadair hocaidh. Chluich e airson sgioba hocaidh na h-Alba.

Ach 's e a' chiad chaman a thog e fear na h-iomain agus 's ann mar sin as motha a tha e air a chuimhneachadh. Bha na sgilean camanachd aige air leth. Bhiodh e a' bualadh ball suas le caman, agus a' ruith timcheall craobh airson am ball a ghlacadh air a chaman mus ruigeadh e an talamh. Nuair a bhiodh e air an rathad chun an Eilein, pàirc na h-iomain ann am Bail' Ùr an t-Slèibh, a rèir aithris, bhiodh e a' ruith airson leth-mhìle a' bualadh a' bhuill san adhar le caman, gun a bhith ga leigeil gu talamh.

Bha sgioba a' Bhail' Ùir soirbheachail nuair a bha Iain Catanach na bhall dhaibh. Ann an naoi ceud deug 's a naoi (1909), chluich iad an Fhùirneis ann an Cuairt Dheireannach Chupa na Camanachd ann an Glaschu. Bhuannaich Bail' Ùr an t-Slèibh aon tadhail deug gu trì. Agus chuir Iain Catanach ochd tadhail! 'S e sàr-chluicheadair dha-rìribh a bh' ann. Tha cuid dhen bheachd gun seas sin gu sìorraidh

mar an uiread as motha de thadhail a chuir aon chluicheadair ann an Cuairt Dheireannach Chupa na Camanachd.

Gu mì mì-fhortanach, chaill Iain Catanach a bheatha anns a' Chiad Chogadh. Bha e ann an Corps Meidigeach Rìoghail an Airm agus chaidh a leòn anns na Dardanelles ann an naoi ceud deug is còig-deug (1915). Cha d' fhuair e seachad air sin, agus chaochail e.

Chaidh ainmeachadh ann an Talla nàiseanta an Sàr-luchd-spòrs – an aon chluicheadair iomain a fhuair an inbhe sin. Bidh òraid agus duais ainmichte air a shon air an toirt le Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann gach bliadhna. Tha e ceart agus iomchaidh gu bheil ga chuimhneachadh fhathast.

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Faclan na Litreach: Iain/Seonaidh Catanach: *John/Johnny Cattanach*; marsanta: *merchant*; Ceann a' Ghiùthsaidh: *Kingussie*; Eòlas-leigheis: *Medicine*.

Abairtean na Litreach: ma tha ùidh agaibh ann an iomain no camanachd: *if you are interested in shinty*; gum b' e an cluicheadair a b' fheàrr riamh a thog caman: *that he was the best player who ever picked up a caman*; co-dhiù bho Linn Oisein: *certainly since the time of Ossian*; airson aire dhaoine a thoirt do: *to draw people's attention to*; cha chuir e iongnadh oirbh gun do bhuineadh Iain do Bhàideanach: *it won't surprise you that John belonged to Badenoch*; 's ann a' cluich do Bhail' Ùr an t-Slèibh a dh'fhàs e ainmeil: *it was playing for Newtonmore he became famous*; bha e na lùth-chleasaiche air leth: *he was an excellent athlete*; bhuannaich e an leum-fhada ann am farpaisean Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann: *he won the long jump in Edinburgh University's championships*; 's ann mar sin as motha a tha e air a chuimhneachadh: *that's how he is best remembered*; a' ruith timcheall craobh airson am ball a ghlacadh air a chaman mus ruigeadh e an talamh: *running around a tree to catch the ball on his caman before it reached the ground*; chluich iad an Fhùirneis ann an Cuairt Dheireannach Chupa na Camanachd: *they played Furnace in the Camanachd Cup Final*; aon tadhal deug gu trì: *eleven goals to three*; gun seas sin gu sìorraidh mar an uiread as motha de thadhail a chuir aon chluicheadair: *that that will stand forever as the most goals that one player scored*; Corps Meidigeach Rìoghail an Airm: *The Royal Army Medical Corps*; chaidh a leòn: *he was wounded*; chaidh ainmeachadh ann an Talla nàiseanta an Sàr-luchd-spòrs: *he was inducted into the Scottish Sporting Hall of Fame*; an aon chluicheadair iomain a fhuair an inbhe sin: *the only shinty player to be accorded that accolade*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Tha mi **gu mòr an comain** a' chraoladair is òraidiche: *I'm much obliged to the broadcaster and lecturer. We might also say fada an comain. If you are using a pronoun, it works like this. Tha mi gu mòr nad chomain 'I'm much obliged to you'; tha mi na chomain 'I'm obliged to him'; tha e gu mòr na comain 'he' is much obliged to her'; tha sinn nan comain 'we're obliged to them'.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: cha chuir e iongnadh oirbh: *it will not surprise you.*

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