

Manx Notes 225 (2015)

“CLASS 25—MANX FOLK TUNE (HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED)”

THE CRUINNAGHT VANNINAGH ASHOONAGH COMPETITIONS (1926–31) *

Faill Chreeoil gys y Chruinnaght—A Hearty Welcome to the Cruinnaght—ran the motto on the cover of the official programme of the *Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh*, a jamboree celebration of all things Manx that was held in the Villa Marina in Hollantide week on the Thursday. The *Cruinnaght* lasted from 1924 until 1939, although the outbreak of war in that year resulted in that year’s cancellation and it was never started up again after the war ended. It was sponsored by the World Manx Association and the Manx Society (ie, *Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh*).

In 1926, what appeared on the syllabus for the first time was a new competition, “Class 25—Manx Folk Tune (Hitherto unpublished).”¹ This ran only until 1931—in fact, all the musical aspects of the *Cruinnaght* were dropped thereafter in 1932. Entries were made in 1926, 1927, (the programme for 1928 is missing), and 1929. Competitors frustratingly entered using pen names and equally frustratingly the title of the winning tune is not stated....

In 1926, there were six entries,² three in 1927,³ and in 1929,⁴ a solo endeavour. There were nine entrants overall, and just one person entered on more than one occasion: Dalyott (1926), Jenny Veg (1929), Juan Noa (1927), Rune (1927), Sertfell (1926), Sewell (1926), Shallag (1926, 1927), Slekyby (1926), and Three Legs (1926). Juan Noa of course is well-known as John Cleator.

As there were nine entries so then were there nine folk tunes entered the titles of which are lost to us—and nine singers who were still there to be collected from in the 1920s and whose names are equally lost to us.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2015

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¹ Yn Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh, *Syllabus of Competitions* (n.p. [Douglas]: World Manx Association & Manx Society, 1926) 7.

² Yn Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh, *The Book of the Proceedings of the Cruinnaght on Hollantide Day, 1926* (n.p. [Douglas]: World Manx Association & Manx Society, 1926) 21.

³ Yn Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh, *The Book of the Proceedings of the Cruinnaght on Hollantide Day, 1927* (n.p. [Douglas]: World Manx Association & Manx Society, 1927) 15.

⁴ Yn Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh, *The Book of the Proceedings of the Cruinnaght on Hollantide Day, 1929* (n.p. [Douglas]: World Manx Association & Manx Society, 1929) 15.

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- Yn Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh. *The Book of the Proceedings of the Cruinnaght on Hollantide Day, 1926*. n.p. [Douglas]: World Manx Association & Manx Society, 1926.
- . *Syllabus of Competitions*. n.p. [Douglas]: World Manx Association & Manx Society, 1926.
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- . *The Book of the Proceedings of the Cruinnaght on Hollantide Day, 1929*. n.p. [Douglas]: World Manx Association & Manx Society, 1929.

