



Manifesto

Capt. Kurt Buchholz



The first time I came to the Isle of Man was in 1996 where I met my wife Amanda (nee Costain). Her parents are from two of the oldest families in the Isle of Man and they give me regular Manx views.

During my career as a Captain I had to visit the IOM regularly and I eventually got the opportunity to move from a career on board a ship into a land based position. Since then I have had a number of top senior management positions in globally operating maritime companies. Eventually I decided to “drop my anchor” here for good. In 2010 our daughter Millie was born. For her, for my wife, her family and for myself I want to get involved in the creation of a better future for the Isle of Man.

New policies for a better future of the Isle of Man.

A new type of politician with fresh views, fresh ideas, a vision and expertise. I am independent in my decisions.

The alternative is the same old people, forming the same old government, producing the same old results.

Many problems on the IOM are unresolved, many problems have been ignored and many problems have not even been looked at. With my international experience, management and interpersonal skills, combined with your help, I would like to start making a change and a difference to our politics.

Let's get back on course!



General Information

Politicians have one of the worst reputations of all professions. So why do I want to become a politician here on the Isle of Man?

I want to change the reputation of this profession here on the Isle of Man with a simple motto: "I say what I do and I do what I say". People have heard this statement too many times and have also been disappointed too many times. When you have to choose a candidate you may choose him/her based on their education, their professional experience, the way they talk, based on what they promise or even on how they look. The only important thing is that you believe your candidate can really keep and realise his promises.

Could a candidate who has never seen balance sheets, profit and loss accounts or made a budget understand the government budget? Could a candidate who has never been involved in top management positions make the urgently required changes in government management? Could a candidate who has no higher education make the right decisions regarding our young generation's education? Could a candidate who has never written, read or dealt with legal contracts be qualified to sign any agreements for the Isle of Man?

In order to avoid disaster, you would not put an incompetent or unqualified person in the cockpit of a plane or on the bridge of a ship, so what would happen if you allow incompetent persons to run a country!

The recent past on the Isle of Man gives the answer.

Let's get back on course will mean a lot of hard work for a politician in the government for our people and with our people.

Let me share an iconic quote of a president who inspired me and a generation in his time. **US President John F. Kennedy's** Inaugural Address, January 20. 1961:

"Ask not what your country can do for you-- Ask what you can do for your country!"



Infrastructure and Economy

The economy needs a good infrastructure. The Economy needs good access to the market, it needs a suitable legal and fiscal environment and finally it needs a business friendly political environment. This includes roads, electric energy, gas, ports, airport, waste, sewage, communication, internet, flights and ferry service. The access to the Isle of Man is of the utmost importance for the nation.

The connections by air and sea to the IOM need to be reliable, affordable and in the interest of the Isle of Man.

We benefit from the main air routes to the UK and Ireland. The main maritime cargo supply and passenger transport goes to and from the UK. As a small island nation we need to make sure that there is a reliable, regular and suitable ferry service. There should be two routes based on two user agreements, daily connections to the UK and another daily connection to Ireland. Many products from Ireland are cheaper than in the UK. Two separate services would provide backup compared to the one ship situation we presently have during the winter season.

All User Agreements need to go through an open tender process.

It would make sense if the two Departments responsible for economy and infrastructure were merged so that they could combine their synergies and reduce costs.

The departments of Economy and Infrastructure should be merged.



Bus stop at the Sea terminal

Government

It would appear that government departments need an urgent review. Ministers have spoken about government inefficiencies recently. The government and all its departments have to be streamlined to become more efficient.

Inefficiencies in all government departments need to be identified and rectified!

The management structures and manpower need to be reviewed. Reducing staff is not always the right solution but often used to cut costs. A sensible approach is absolutely paramount.

We must have expertise in government departments!

The frequent use of external consultants is a clear indication that the politicians mistrust the abilities and expertise of their own departments. Highly paid individuals in departments without the required expertise need to be replaced.

We need politically independent bodies for the OFT and the Judicial system.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) needs to be politically independent

The Department should not be controlled by the council of ministers. For example, the OFT is responsible for investigations against the abuse of monopolies, cartels with price fixing and energy prices. Findings of the OFT have been withheld in the past for political reasons.

Positions in the judicial system on the IOM should not be appointed by politicians.

The judicial system needs to be politically independent.



Health service

The government has responsibilities for the services to the nation. One of the main services is the health service.



Providing a good health service.

The health service needs to be of a good standard. The workers in the health system need to be adequately paid and working standards need to be in line with the UK. This will ensure that working times for medical staff here on the IOM count towards keeping the validity of their documents and licenses. Recent cost cutting decisions by the government has resulted in the loss of staff and further deterioration of the quality of our health service. Suitable working conditions and pay are not an option but a must!

Education

I strongly believe that the basis for a successful working life and career is a good education. The importance of a high quality education cannot be underestimated. Learning by doing is not an education. We need good schools with good teachers on good pay.

The government needs to support higher education

To achieve a college or university degree is hard work. The successful students will find a good place in business and hopefully on the IOM one day. We need such ambitious people and we need to support them.

Social security and Benefits

Our government has the responsibility to provide a certain level of social security. Everybody pays into the social security system and therefore has the right to receive something in return when needed. **We need to fight against any abuse of the benefit system** but we should provide the following.

Free bus tickets for the over 65's !

Free TV license for the over 65's !

Support the older people suffering from energy poverty!

No tax on pensions and retirement annuity plans!

A new first time buyer's program!



Energy

Energy prices have soared continuously during the last decades. To a great extent the IOM is dependent on electricity and gas supplies from the UK and Ireland. All our gas and fuel is imported.

The IOM is essentially surrounded by unlimited free energy resources. We have a regular tide difference of up to 6 metres. Every 12 hours, during these tides, billions of tonnes of water is **pumped upwards** 6 meters and pressed into the Irish sea by the tidal effect of the moon. We have strong currents in the sea based on the tides and we have strong winds. This energy needs only to be harvested. The proven and affordable technology exists with wind farms, hydro-electric systems and turbines powered by the current.

All the natural and renewable energy is for free and it is clean!

The energy we are presently using is dirty energy. Oil is pumped out of the ground by large pumps. The oil is then transported by tankers polluting the atmosphere and often the environment. Oil spills are common and lead to ecological disasters. The oil we are burning with our vehicles and heating systems pollutes the atmosphere again. The latest system to get the oil out of the ground by fracking is not only polluting the ground water but also causes earth quakes. Gas is pumped out of the ground in the UK right outside our waters by big gas platforms and when we burn it we pollute the atmosphere again. Huge wind farms with hundreds of turbines are built in UK waters and are clearly visible from the IOM. Number of commercial wind turbines on the IOM: **Zero!**

Let us use our free energy and clean resources

Our free energy resources will still be there when the oil and gas runs out. Let's use them.



Environment

The Isle of Man has one of the most beautiful environments you can find. In my profession as a seafarer and ship's captain, I have sailed across nearly all oceans of the world. I have seen beautiful places but only a few places compare with the IOM nature. The island is surrounded by the sea and we have clean air due to our location and we have fresh sea breezes that carry away any smog particles. We have clean rivers and healthy Glens but the entire environment still needs to be looked after and preserved. We need to make sure that our beaches and the seas are still clean.

We need to control fishing areas and queen scallop grounds. The advice from Bangor University last year was not to dredge this year around the IOM to allow stocks of scallops to recover. This was ignored. 30+ boats per day are often active since this advice was given and it should also be noted that most of the boats are not Manx (according to online ship finder).

Swimming in our waters must be safe and should cause no harm. We should ensure that we have the same high 'blue-water' seawater quality standard as the rest of Europe.

Pumping sewage into the sea needs to stop. Dumping garbage illegally needs to stop. Littering the streets with cigarette butts, dog waste, chewing gum and in any other way needs to stop. Anybody who had the opportunity to travel to Singapore would have seen one of the cleanest cities due to a very strict environmental policy with heavy fines and strict controls against littering. We all live in the Isle of Man, we all have the right to enjoy unpolluted nature and have to make sure that we pass pristine conditions to our future generations.

Protect the environment, stop pollution and littering.



Let's get back on Course!

Let us restart and refresh Manx politics with new people

Let us allow new ideas, views and visions

Let us improve the health and education system

Let us introduce a new first time buyer program

Let us support and help the elderly

Let us fight for Transparency and Equality

Let us work for a strong economy!

Personal Information

Family Buchholz: Amanda, daughter Millie and Kurt

Born 01. January 1954 in Germany

Hamburg University, Degree in Economics 1981

Hamburg Maritime Academy: Captain's license , 1981

Professional career in shipping, on board and ashore

Directors positions ashore since 1999 in senior management within globally operating maritime companies.

Owner and CEO of Sea Alliance (IOM) Ltd, Douglas since 2009

Married to Amanda (nee Costain) with our 4 year old daughter Millie.

Two grown up children: My son Curd born 1988, is working as a ships engineer and my daughter Estelle born 1989, she is a full time mom.



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