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InfoGibraltar

Una encuesta del *Gibraltar Chronicle* predice una victoria electoral aplastante para la coalición GSLP/Liberales en Gibraltar

Basado en un artículo del diario Gibraltar Chronicle de hoy

Gibraltar, 7 de octubre de 2014

Si se celebraran elecciones generales hoy, Fabián Picardo y la coalición GSLP/Liberales lograrían una clara victoria con el 60% de los sufragios, frente a un 40% de previsión de votos para la actual oposición GSD, según los resultados de una encuesta postal realizada por el *Gibraltar Chronicle* publicados en su edición de hoy.

El sondeo también refleja que mientras Picardo puede estar seguro del apoyo de sus votantes, el electorado del GSD se encuentra tremendamente dividido sobre el liderazgo en su partido y señalan a Sir Peter Caruana, antes que a Daniel Feetham, como el hombre que querrían ver como Ministro Principal.

La encuesta permite a Picardo sentirse tranquilo en cuanto al apoyo de los gibraltareños sobre su gestión de las relaciones con España, especialmente entre sus partidarios, pero resulta poco esperanzadora para aquellos políticos que pretendan reemplazar a Picardo en el N°6 de Convent Place.

Si se incluye a los indecisos y a los votantes que querrían otras formaciones políticas en el poder, la intención de voto sería: GSLP/Liberales 49% y GSD 32%. El restante 19% iría a la intención de voto a otros partidos o a votantes indecisos

Esta intención de voto le demuestra a Picardo que el 'nuevo' GSLP ha fortalecido considerablemente su posición desde las últimas elecciones generales. En el plano personal, entre sus propios votantes, Picardo cosecha un 88% de aprobación, frente al 3,5% de Joe Bossano y también de Joseph García.

Para el líder de la oposición, Daniel Feetham, quien heredó el GSD tras la derrota –que dio fin a 16 años en el poder de Sir Peter Caruana–, el resultado es el reflejo de un partido que aún lucha por la recuperación y la consolidación.

Para el sondeo se distribuyeron 1.000 formularios de encuesta a hogares en Gibraltar. El porcentaje de respuesta ha sido del 24%, similar a sondeos anteriores, donde el pico de respuesta llegó hasta el 30%.

Entre las respuestas recibidas, casi un 20% decidió no valorar a los políticos activos en este momento. El sondeo además preguntaba como votarían en unas elecciones generales que se celebraran en este momento y ofrecía como posibles respuestas GSLP/Liberales, GSD y NS/NC. También se formularon preguntas acerca de a quién querrían ver como futuro Ministro Principal.

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Esta pregunta es la que más irritó a los políticos cuando vieron el sondeo. Algunos de la lista son diputados actuales y otros son figuras políticas no activas de perfil relevante. Sus egos serán ensalzados o tocados por el resultado. Con todo, a estas alturas aún se desconoce el cartel electoral de candidaturas para unas elecciones generales.

La valoración de los políticos sobre los que se consultó fue la siguiente: Fabián Picardo 47%, Sir Peter Caruana 21%, Peter Montegriffo (no activo) 11,3%, Daniel Feetham 8,5%, Joseph García 2%, Joe Bossano 1,5%, Keith Azopardi (no activo) 1% y Damon Bossino 0,5%. El restante 7,2% prefirió no contestar.

La valoración, teniendo en cuenta la intención de voto del consultado, ofreció el siguiente resultado: entre los votantes de su partido GSLP, Picardo encabeza ampliamente con un 88%, seguido por García y Bossano con un 3,5% cada uno. Los votantes del GSD colocaron a Sir Peter Caruana al frente con un 50,5%, seguido por el actual líder de la oposición, Daniel Feetham, con un 24,5% y Peter Montegriffo (no activo) con un 12% y NS/NC con 8%.

Este resultado es clave para el GSD en su aproximación a las primeras elecciones tras la derrota de 2011. El incremento de la intención de voto para la alianza gobernante GSLP/Liberales es lo que se esperaría habitualmente para un gobierno en su primera legislatura; sin embargo, la gran diferencia de intención de voto y la buena opinión sobre Picardo son claros indicadores de que la 'vieja guardia' del GSLP ya no está al timón.

El efecto que esta encuesta pueda tener sobre el liderazgo del GSD es incierto a poco más de un año vista de las elecciones y más cuando por parte del ejecutivo actual puede haber una gran tentación de anticiparlas a mayo del próximo año para consolidar la posición del gobierno frente al sostenido y creciente desafío de España al futuro político y económico de Gibraltar.

Los votantes de la alianza GSLP/Liberales apoyan la política del Gobierno hacia España

La pregunta sobre las relaciones con España ilustra la división en el espectro político gibraltareño. Mientras que el Ministro Principal, Fabián Picardo, puede estar contento con el hecho de que el 88% de sus votantes, según el sondeo del *Chronicle*, son de la opinión de que el Gobierno está gestionando bien las relaciones con España, solo un 54% del electorado global es de la misma opinión. Del muestreo total, un 37% piensa que el Gobierno gestiona mal las relaciones con España y un 9% no sabe o no contesta. De quien muestra intención de voto hacia el GSD, el 77% opina que el Gobierno gestiona mal las relaciones con España mientras que un 18% piensa que sí están bien gestionadas.

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Sondeo postal a 1.000 votantes, respuesta del 24% (igual al 1,1% del electorado activo de 21.700 personas en las elecciones de 2011) , margen de error +/- 1% basado en resultados de sondeos comparables de años anteriores

| Pregunta | General sin NS/NC | General | Votantes GSLP/Lib | Votantes GSD |
|---|-------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Si se celebraran elecciones hoy, ¿a qué partido votaría? | | | | |
| GSLP/Liberales | 60 | 49 | | |
| GSD | 40 | 32 | | |
| NS/NC, otros | | 19 | | |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> | | |
| ¿Cuál de los siguientes políticos querría ver como próximo Ministro Principal? | | | | |
| Fabían Picardo | | 47 | 88 | |
| Joseph García | | 2 | 3,5 | |
| Joe Bossano | | 1,5 | 3,5 | |
| Keith Azopardi | | 1 | | |
| Daniel Feetham | | 8,5 | | 24,5 |
| Sir Peter Caruana | | 21 | | 50,5 |
| Damon Bossino | | 0,5 | | |
| Peter Montegriffo | | 11,3 | | 12 |
| NS/NC | | 7,2 | | 8 |
| Otros | | | 5 | 5 |
| <i>Total</i> | | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> |
| ¿Cómo cree que el Gobierno ha gestionado las relaciones con España? | | | | |
| Bien? | 59 | 54 | 88 | 18 |
| Mal? | 41 | 37 | | 77 |
| NS/NC | | 9 | 12 | 5 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> |

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Bringing the 'Ice Age' in Europe alive
See page 4



A 'proud moment' for the Royal Gibraltar Regiment See pages 8 & 9



Prison for Rock knife muggers

by **Cristina Cavilla**

Two local men who threatened an elderly tourist with knives then mugged him as he walked up Devil's Gap Steps have been handed lengthy jail sentences.

The "ring-leader" Peter Macias, 29, received a five year prison sentence and his accomplice Ryan Cattini, 21, was sentenced to four years and three months.

During yesterday's sentencing hearing, the Supreme Court heard how the pair accosted the 67-year old man in the Upper Rock area on September 4, 2013.

Macias donned a balaclava while Cattini kept the hood of his jacket up as they brandished knives and a wooden stick and demanded that the man hand over his possessions.

The victim handed over his rucksack and wallet containing £760, credit cards, an (Continued on page 3)

Europa incident man lied to police

by **Cristina Cavilla**

A local man who sustained a gunshot wound in a firearms incident at Europa Point yesterday pleaded guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mark Galia, 38, of Sea Daffodil House in Waterport Terraces, has now pleaded guilty to all the charges against him relating to the January 2013 incident including nine counts of (Continued on page 3)

UK Ambassador on unprecedented visit as tensions rise ahead of UN

by **Brian Reyes**



TAKING A LOOK: Simon Manley, Britain's ambassador to Spain, is pictured above, left, alongside Sir Julian King, the newly appointed Director General for Economic and Consular issues at the Foreign Office. This is the first time that a serving British ambassador has visited the Rock, at least in modern times. "I don't think you should read too much into it," Mr Manley said.

Britain's ambassador to Spain was despatched to Gibraltar yesterday to accompany a senior Foreign Office official on a two-day visit that signals the British Government's growing discontent with Spain's stance toward the Rock.

This is the first time that a serving British ambassador to Madrid has travelled to Gibraltar, at least in modern times, according to The Convent.

Ambassador Simon Manley played down the significance of his visit and told reporters: "I don't think you should read too much into it."

But the presence in Gibraltar of Britain's ambassador to Spain is certain to rankle with authorities in Madrid.

(Continued on page 21)

Picardo set to lead GSLP/Liberals to landslide victory - poll

by **Dominique Searle**

If an election were held today

Fabian Picardo and the GSLP/Liberal alliance which he leads would romp home with a land-

slide 60% to 40% win against the GSD. That is according to the results of a postal poll carried out by the Gibraltar Chronicle.

But the poll also reflects that whilst Mr Picardo holds a clear dominance in his support, the GSD supporters are hugely divided over their leadership with former leader Sir Peter Caruana remaining as the man they would most like to see as their Chief Minister.

The poll brings some reassurance to Mr Picardo over his handling on the relationship with Spain, mostly from his own supporters, but brings little comfort to politicians hoping to get their

This opinion poll is being conducted by the

GIBRALTAR CHRONICLE

It is confidential and no participant can be identified.

We appreciate your participation.

In each case please TICK one box and then please fold, seal and post.

Profile: Male Female Age: 18-34 35-54 55 or over

1. If an election were held today which party would you vote for?

GSLP/Liberal Alliance Other

GSD Don't know

2. Of the following list who would you most like to see as Chief Minister?

Fabian Picardo Dr Joseph Garcia

Joe Bossano Keith Azopardi

Daniel Feetham Sir Peter Caruana

Damon Bossino Peter Montegriffo

Don't know

3. On relations with Spain which of the following do you agree with:

Government has handled relations with Spain Well

Government has handled relations with Spain Badly

Don't know

feet under Mr Picardo's desk at No 6 Convent Place.

If one includes the undecided (Continued on page 21)

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UK Ambassador on unprecedented visit as tensions rise ahead of UN

(Continued from front page)

The visit comes against the background of fresh tension at sea and includes a trip into British Gibraltar territorial waters on board a Royal Navy patrol boat, before the two men depart overland this morning by crossing the border.

Implicit in that itinerary is Britain's position on the sovereignty of the waters and its belief that the border between Gibraltar and Spain should be free flowing.

"We are EU citizens crossing a border," Mr Manley said. "We flew in but we'll be leaving normally."

Mr Manley said the meetings would help him to have a better understanding of an issue that has cropped up repeatedly since he became ambassador in October last year.

"It's really good to see the issues at first hand, to understand them better," he told the Chronicle.

"I think it enables me to protect the interests of Gibraltar in Spain more effectively."

"And it's good to see the economic potential, not just for Gibraltar but for all the people of the surrounding area."

"This could be the most extraordinary arc of prosperity if we could find ways to move from confrontation to cooperation."

TENSE CONTEXT

Mr Manley and his boss Sir Julian King, the newly appointed Director General for Economic and Consular issues at the Foreign Office, arrived in Gibraltar as the British Government took Spain to task over an incursion on Sunday in which a Spanish oceanographic vessel was involved in a dangerous incident with a Royal Navy patrol boat.

Britain's Europe Minister David Lidington telephoned his Spanish counterpart, Gonzalo de Benito, to express grave concern over the Spanish ship's actions, which he described as 'irresponsible and dangerous'.

The oceanographic ship Angeles Alvariño, operated by the Spanish Oceanographic Institute, entered British Gibraltar territorial waters south of the lighthouse on Sunday afternoon and was deploying sonar equipment.

Vessels from the Royal Navy's Gibraltar Squadron, the Gibraltar Defence Police and the Royal Gibraltar Police deployed to the scene and attempted to prevent the ship from carrying out survey work.

During those manoeuvres, one of the Royal Navy's vessels suffered a glancing blow from the heavy sonar kit, in what one source with close knowledge of the events described as "an incident that could have

ended in catastrophe".

Mr Lidington's rebuke to his Spanish counterpart was couched in more diplomatic language, but was nonetheless stern.

"The irresponsible actions and dangerous manoeuvring of this vessel were not only unlawful but also presented a significant risk to the safety of Royal Navy personnel at sea," Mr Lidington later said.

"Under no circumstances should Spanish vessels be provoking a situation that could result in serious injury or a fatality." "The waters around Gibraltar are indisputably British. We will continue to take whatever action we consider necessary to uphold British sovereignty and the interests of Gibraltar, its people, its security and economy."

Spain's Ministry for Foreign Affairs said Sr de Benito used the phone call with Mr Lidington to repeat Spain's traditional position on the waters, which does not recognise UK jurisdiction over the territorial waters around the Rock.

"What the UK classes as 'illegal incursions' in what it describes as 'British territorial waters' are nothing but routine operations by Spanish ships in Spanish waters," the statement said.

"Spain has no doubt about the limits of its territory and as such, as occurred in this case, Spanish ships will continue to carry out their duty in Spanish waters in the same way as has happened since time immemorial."

CONDEMNATION

Last night the Gibraltar Government condemned what it described as Spain's continued attempt 'to uselessly challenge and to undermine' UK sovereignty in a 'reckless and dangerous' manner.

It said that more 'effective and robust' actions were needed 'at different levels' to put an end to such incursions.

"Gibraltar continues to be at the receiving end of Spanish bullying and harassment," Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said.

"Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar takes a very serious view of this incident. In seeking to undermine UK sovereignty Spain is behaving in a reckless and dangerous manner which does not befit a NATO ally and an EU partner."

Mr Picardo said he would highlight the incident during his address to the UN's Fourth Committee later this week "to ensure the whole world understands the type of activity that the Spanish Government engages in."

"We should be engaged with Spain in dialogue as neighbours, trying to improve peo-

ple's lives by working together to enhance our respective economies."

"Instead we find the Spanish Government intent on these childish provocations which achieve nothing."

"The waters around Gibraltar are as British after an incursion of this type as they were before. Nothing is achieved except needlessly risking mariners' lives and wasting precious euros on diesel."

The incursion at sea followed weekend reports that Britain is investigating whether two Spanish military jets illegally entered its airspace over Gibraltar last month.

A Foreign Office statement said the department was investigating an incident involving two Spanish jets flying close to a commercial airliner that was coming in to land on September 19.

It said that Gibraltar's air traffic control ensured that the jets kept a safe distance from the airliner.

"We are continuing to examine the incident to ascertain whether it was within the lawful right of passage, but this incursion did not represent an obvious exercise of jurisdiction," the Foreign Office statement said.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Yesterday Sir Julian and Mr King met with Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, the leader of the Opposition, Daniel Feetham, and various figures from across the political spectrum, as well as local business leaders.

The aim was to explore how the Foreign Office can work effectively with the Gibraltar authorities to support Gibraltar internationally and to fulfil the Rock's economic potential.

"It's evident all around you," said Mr King, a career diplomat who took up his new senior post in June. "It seems to be booming, which is excellent."

Both men will leave Gibraltar today and travel to Málaga, where they will meet the British consular team before travelling to Madrid for meetings with Spanish authorities on matters unrelated to Gibraltar including EU reform.

Yesterday, as he spoke to reporters between back-to-back meetings with senior figures in Gibraltar, Mr King reflected on the incidents at sea and insisted that Britain would not budge from its position.

"Whatever people feel about the rights and wrongs of these incidents, we have a very clear position which we will give no ground on," he said.

"Incidents that create risk and particularly those that might cause harm to people are deeply regrettable, and we must do everything we can to avoid them."

Picardo set to lead GSLP/Liberals to landslide victory - poll

(Continued from front page)

and people who would prefer to see some other party on offer then the vote divides GSLP/Liberals 49%, GSD 32% and others/don't know 19%.

The state of the parties however brings to Mr Picardo an indication that the 'new' GSLP, has further consolidated its position since the general election. Internally Mr Picardo personally secures 88% of the support within those voting for his alliance compared to the 3.5% which Joe Bossano and Dr Joseph Garcia each hold individually in terms of popularity.

For Opposition leader Daniel Feetham, left holding the party after the defeat that followed 16 years of Sir Peter as Chief Minister the result reflects a party still struggling to recover and consolidate.

The poll saw 1,000 forms distributed strategically throughout Gibraltar residences. The return as at closing yesterday was 1% below the anticipated 25% threshold seen with previous similar polls that have peaked at 30% response.

Of the samples returned 20% of those polled were not decided on their feelings for the current parties and politicians on offer. The poll asked how people would vote if an election were held now and were offered GSLP/Liberal alliance, GSD, other, don't know. They were also then asked the question that caused most upset with politicians when they saw the poll questionnaire - Who would you most like to see as Chief Minister? Some listed are currently MPs others are political figures often mooted and egos will be lifted or bruised by the outcome. However, the line-up for the next general election is not known at this stage.

The choice was Fabian Picardo, Joe Bossano, Daniel Feetham, Damon Bossino, Dr Joseph Garcia, Keith Azopardi, Peter Caruana, Peter Montegriffo and Don't know.

Out of all those polled on this question the result was: Fabian Picardo 47%, Peter Caruana 21%, Peter Montegriffo 11.3%, Daniel Feetham 8.5%, Don't know 7%, Dr Joseph Garcia 2%, Joe Bossano 1.5%, Keith Azopardi 1% and

Alliance voters back Govt policy on Spain

The question of relations with Spain illustrates the divide in the political spectrum of Gibraltar. Whilst Chief Minister Fabian Picardo can draw comfort, according to the Chronicle poll, from the fact that 88% of his voters back the view that Government is handling relations with Spain well, only 54% over the electorate (as reflected in the poll) holds that view. Of the total sample 37% think Government is handling relations with Spain badly and the remaining 9% don't know. Of GSD voters 77% think that the Government is handling relations with Spain badly and 18% says these are handled well.

Damon Bossino 0.5%.

Within the party vote things changed a little. GSLP/Liberal alliance saw Mr Picardo with 88% of the vote whilst Dr Garcia and Mr Bossano each secured 3.5%. In the GSD camp Sir Peter Caruana leads with 50.5% followed by Mr Feetham at 24.5% and Mr Montegriffo at 12%, 8% did not know.

The result will be seen as a key moment for the GSD as it heads for the first general election after its 2011 defeat. The increase in the alliance vote is what would be expected in the first term of a new government although its scale and the ascendance of Mr Picardo is a clear pointer to the fact that the 'old guard' in that party no longer holds the reins.

What the effect on the GSD leadership will be is uncertain but a general election becomes due in just over a year although there may be a great temptation to hold one as early as May to consolidate the government's position in the face of the sustained and growing challenge from Spain to the economy and Gibraltar's political future.

Support for Spain's ruling conservatives sinks - poll

Support for Spain's centre-right People's Party (PP) has sunk to its lowest level since its general election victory in 2011, while support for new leftist party Podemos has risen, a poll showed on Sunday.

Spaniards have become increasingly disenchanted with politics as unemployment, fraud and separatist tensions in Catalonia cloud a nascent economic recovery. This has taken its toll on Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's government, which has also lost enthusiasm from traditional conservative voters since it withdrew a controversial abortion law last month.

Rajoy's People's Party (PP) would win 15.9 percent of the vote if elections were held now, about half of what polls showed it would win in 2011, the Metroscoopia poll published in newspaper El Pais showed.

While support for Spain's op-

position Socialists has ticked up to 20.7 percent versus 20.3 in the same period, new leftist party Podemos has emerged as the country's third largest political force, gaining 14.3 percent of votes, the poll showed.

Led by university professor Pablo Iglesias, Podemos has plugged into discontent with big establishment parties, threatening an end to a two-party political system that has dominated Spain since its return to democracy in the 1970s.

A poll that showed the PP and the Socialist parties winning 52 percent of the vote in 2011, at the height of a financial crisis that was threatening to push Spain into an international bailout, said they

would only capture about 37 percent today.

Spain's next general elections is due late next year.