

Dark Times

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Eyjafjallajo-coup

Dark Times staff writers

Europe was brought to a virtual standstill this month, as a volcanic eruption caused flight regulators to restrict air travel over vast swathes of the continent considered to be affected by ash clouds overhead.

Nothing odd there you say?

Well, observe the reaction of regulatory bodies. The uncertainty, the bans which were so rigorously applied despite a lack of evidence, and the sudden change of heart over the danger posed after around a week.

Again, just the usual kine's usual dithering, panic arising from assumption and fear?

I might have agreed with you. I might have been willing to chalk this all up to hysteria and confusion. That is, until rumours reached me that the Anarch who styled himself as the "Prince" of Ulster has disappeared. Coincidence that this should occur at the same time as a ban upon flights in the area, preventing any reinforcements arriving in the usual manners, isolating Ireland in a way scarcely seen in the past 50 years? That would



be straining credulity just a little too far I think.

Coupled with the unusual level of political activity prior to and after the realisation that this potentially disruptive element had vanished, and you can only be left with the conclusion that someone wished him removed, and took their opportunity in the most grand and cunning way I have ever encountered.

To be able to take advantage of this natural disaster so swiftly and so effectively, to shut down air travel across Europe, very few groups have the connections and capability of achieving this. In fact, to my mind, there are only two. The Ventrue of course, and the Giovanni.

Perhaps our latest Giovanni contributor will be able to shed some light on her own clan's involvement? Either way,

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disruptive elements beware, your days may be numbered!

Chaos in Govan and Ibrox

Dark Times staff writers

Govan and Ibrox, whilst not traditionally thought of when you mention pleasant or safe areas of Glasgow, have in recent times been in the press for the lack of disturbances present there. This was attributed to both to inspired and proactive policing and community involvement. Police Superintendent Robert Horton made his career on Govan's success during the riots, and now that his focus has shifted to other priorities Govan and Ibrox are collapsing like a deck of cards.

However, everyone who actually has a little knowledge about the operations of the Glasgow underworld knows full well that the death of McClusky has left a power vacuum, which now needs to be filled. This comes in time with the recent, and still quite shaky, cease fire between the two major Glasgow crime families, an agreement that seems to exclude Govan and Ibrox by all accounts. Everyone who has something to prove or feels that they can handle more seems determined to carve out a bit of turf. Of course this has brought far too many players into a small area and they aren't playing nicely.

In the last week alone Govan and Ibrox area had 14 homicides, around 50 incidents of grievous bodily harm and countless other infringements. These are only the reported official figures as many crimes committed within the criminal fraternities will never appear on any report. Sources on the street claim that many people simply disappear, for without a body there is no evidence of murder.

Strathclyde Police themselves have focused on Ibrox stadium and the main thoroughfares, but even cops seem to be fair targets at the moment. During McClusky's funeral shots were fired from the road adjacent to the graveyard injuring 2 police officers and 1 member of McClusky's

family. In response the police have started a campaign of no tolerance and are using every tool at their disposal to quieten things down. How ever you look at this, Govan and Ibrox are a mess at the moment and it will be some time before a victor emerges and things quieten down.

Wake the fuck up Glasgow!

Forbes



Recognise this fucking picture? Every inch of this shit heap we call a city is covered in CCTV cameras. This network is controlled by a group of mortal Harry fucking Potters: wizards and spell slingers. They're holding a loaded gun to our heads and just waiting to pull the trigger.

Each night that passes sees our comings and goings recorded: our business, our movements, our feeding. We're wide fucking open like an altar boy's ring piece at bible camp. These kine could destroy us at their whim. Information is power, and as we sit around with our dicks in our hands they are measuring the fucking coffins.

Things should be different. None of us should have to skulk down alleyways and fret over what the kine are seeing of us. We should own this city. Kindred should rule in the night and let the kine dance on our strings. We must be free to come and go as we please, without the worry of being observed by electronic eyes. No fucking mortals

must be allowed to hold this power over us. We must kick these bastards out of our home and shove their cameras so far up them that they need their fucking magic wands to get them back out.

Why does nobody do anything about this? Is the reputation of Glasgow true? Are we fucking stupid? The scum of our society, too foolish and unruly to even secure our own domain? Does nobody know? We look to our Prince for leadership, but we get a fucking sweepstakes for Baron of the fucking east end. I'll admit watching the contestants scrabbling for power is good for morale, but I saw enough wankers trying out for student politics at university to be finding it funny this time around.

If you are more interested in making sure we survive this threat than sucking the assorted cocks of authority, come and talk to me.

Forbes

Monthly Business Update

Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni

Many companies have found this month to be challenging. The impact of Iceland's volcano hit more than just holiday passengers as 80% of the UK's fresh fruit and vegetable imports were halted at the airports. As flights resume, the aviation industry calls for state aid to counter the £2.2bn the ban on flights cost them.

EU Transport Commissioner, Siim Kallas, said that "maximum pressure" would be put on airlines to pay passengers hit by the volcano ash but there is little they can do against those companies who are refusing to reimburse passenger's hotel and meal expenses. Ryanair was quickly followed by BMI in denying that they should be left with the bill for an event that was out with their control.

There is positive news for passengers, however, as Thomas Cook announces that they are increasing the number of aircraft based at Glasgow airport. Flights to Turkey, Egypt and Tunisia will be available this summer. BAA welcomes this commitment from Thomas Cook in recognition of the level of demand

from holidaymakers for the wide range of holiday destinations they provide.

Market Update

Commodities

Brent Crude Oil Futures \$/barrel	87.78 Up 4.25
Forex Gold Index \$/oz	1152.25 Up 41.0
White Sugar Futures \$/m tonne	465 Down 38
Feed Wheat Futures euros/m tonne	102.5 Up 4.0

Stock Market

London: FTSE 100	5603.52 Down 107.14
Frankfurt: Dax	6159.51 Up 2.66
Paris: Cac 40	3844.6 Down 156.06
New York: Dow Jones	10993.8 Up 97.94

By Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni

Southampton Airport

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Society matters

Dr Robert Douglas Hume

Well Ladies and Gentlemen,

It sounds like things have been eventful in Glasgow, but I haven't heard much of it! No-one with any gossip, I can't believe it! Hopefully this month will produce a finer crop of tales and rumours, with the last minute wheeling and dealing to be seen as the race for the East Barony draws to a close.

Of course, the big news, which I heard even all the way from Edinburgh, was the exile of Jack. After last month's accusations of threats against Christine, it must be wondered how big a part the Toreador played in the Scourge's disappearance. Has Christine bared her teeth and shown that she cannot be slighted with impunity?

Not that her involvement went unnoticed, or without blame, and she was promptly challenged to a duel. Having perhaps learned the lesson of overenthusiastic duelling Toreador from our unfortunate clan-mate to the south, Christine wisely refused, then sought to hold the duel upon her own terms.

However, while not engaging in a duel might have been the best option, it does raise the issue that without a legitimate outlet for their fury, where will her enemies turn now... I do hope the flight ban in Europe didn't prevent Christine returning to the safety of Paris, or her return to Glasgow this month!

Which brings us finally to the result of the race to the east, and how the political landscape will stand in Glasgow after tonight. From my opening declaration of Mary as the favourite, I have been swayed to indecision, and I must await the outcome of the Prince's decision with equally baited breath as you all.

Please do send me your thoughts, opinions and (potentially) curses at the outcome, and I hope to hear from you all over the next month.

Until next night,

Robert

Amongst New Flowers

Poetry Corner

This is an old temple amongst new flowers.
Here she lies,
As do I,
An old dog with no tricks.

I behold the sight with squinted eyes.
Here stand the dry, chapped-lip trees,
My scent carried by the breeze.
I'm slow to slobber and quick to breathe.

Deep, dry heaves.
It was a questionable act, momentarily.
Still the memory remains. Warily
I sniff.

If I've already been spotted
Then it would be impossible to lie.
It's in the eyes;
They give me away.

Alone, the smell's still good though
The tall, pink bushes are the best.
These weary haunches attest
My need for a little sit,

A little rest,
Just to take it all in.
Memories of my pants create a grin.
And the scene is recreated.

Except now I'm old.
Yes, I'm old now.
No time left to contemplate how
That warm, beautiful, bright, lovely light feels
right now...

Great Britain By Night

Margery Houndsorth-Stone, Clan Toreador, Ancilla,
Harpy of London

Erupting volcanos, potentially hung parliaments, excitement in Glasgow; what more could a month need? It appears that those who broker power and favours in and around the parliament have been exceedingly busy these past few weeks and I am sure some reputations will be made or broken by Thursday's poll results.

There has also been lots of wrangling over the flight restrictions which the UK was subjected to for a goodly while. Not that many of our kind actually rely on planes for anything that important, but the amount of influence and pressure being applied makes me believe some interests clashed forcefully over whether to allow flights or not.

On the political landscape we have to focus on a number of places. Firstly we shall look at Cruithni vs Manchester. It is now all but confirmed that Cruithni has taken Carlisle. Reports I have received indicate that he is using Carlisle to raise a brood of his own childer. London has made no obvious move to interfere with that, but talks behind closed doors have been held. Prince Carter has not commented one way or another on

London's lack of support and hence I believe he has gotten something from Queen Anne.

Next we'll look at Severn. There are unconfirmed rumours of internal strife floating about. With the locked borders and the minimal contact it is hard to be more detailed than this at the moment, but I will continue to look into the matter. There also seems to be an alliance forming between Severn and Glasgow, probably related to those rumours. Witnesses reported a representative from Severn offering opportunities for Glasgow kindred to form ties to the domain of Severn and in the recent weeks we have seen a little bit of a migration wave from Severn towards Glasgow. It could be coincidence that, to my knowledge, three kindred, previously resident in Severn have moved, or are in the process of moving to Glasgow.

That brings us neatly to Glasgow. A lot is happening in the 2nd city of the Empire at the moment. I myself have traveled for a brief excursion to the area just beyond the borders of the domain to get a better understanding of the excitement. Recent highlights include the exile of scourge Jack for violating the laws of Elysium, challenges being banded around between candidates of the final barony and at least one candidate being certain that they are the only viable choice and that Prince Rothschild would be extremely foolish to select anyone but them. This month should, according to popular belief, see the announcement of the 4th baron of

Glasgow. I'd wager any serious candidate has some aces up their sleeve for this final month of the competition though.

Glasgow's scourge was interestingly enough given the same choice Queen Anne gave Nathan Kyte, but a few weeks prior, either partake of the vitae of the ruler of the domain or be exiled. I am not entirely surprised that like Nathan Kyte, she chose exile and maybe the two of them can tag each other on Glasgow's borders, a thoroughly nice area of the country.

Also I hear that Loretta Ozimandes' childe, Alexander Page, recently adopted by the honourable elder Duc Francois de Bourbon, will be introduced to the court. I am, however, not certain that he will be released from the Duc de Bourbon's charge. After all he has only just accepted the responsibility of his tutelage.

Let it be known that David Stone, of York, ancilla of the Camarilla, is indebted to Nathan Kyte, formerly of London, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Alexander Jones, of Birmingham, ancilla of the Camarilla is indebted to Julius Montgomery, Baron of southern Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Niall Ferguson, Primogen of Manchester, Elder of the Camarilla is indebted to David Stone, of York, ancilla of the Camarilla.

**Dark Times is accepting submissions.
Send in writing to the address below:**

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