

Dark Times

Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2009

Glasgow Bankrupt?

Dark Times Staff Writers

In a landmark ruling, which will hold serious ramifications for the Scottish public sector, ScotWear was successful in its claim for damages against Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (SFR). In a judgement delivered by Lord Middleton of Kincaig, the Court of Session held that the firefighters employed by SFR had caused unnecessary damage to ScotWear's warehouse in the course of fighting, by knocking through structural walls and causing excessive water damage, resulting in the building being condemned and demolished. The damages awarded to ScotWear totalled over £25,000,000 which will be paid by Glasgow City Council (GCC).

This decision reverses the longstanding trend between public authorities and private property, whereby authorities such as SFR were given substantial leeway where the exercise of their duties in the public interest came into conflict with private ownership. The Court of Session's verdict essentially reversed this position, placing the protection of private property as the priority of public bodies. The decision was reached by a majority of four judges to one, although a number of those on the bench looked distinctly uncomfortable as the ruling was read to the Court.

The large amount of damages has caused concern that there will be a substantial shortfall in Glasgow City Council's budget for the next year. Given the economic climate, and the already overstretched

state of public finances, it is unlikely that GCC will be able to plug the gap, and there will be a corresponding reduction in public expenditure.

However, more significant than the loss itself, GCC is now preparing itself for further lawsuits by the owners of other buildings damages by the firefighters tackling the blaze at ScotWear's warehouse, along with hundreds of similar cases dating back over the last three years. Conservative

estimates put the potential cost at over £500 million.

The news could not have come at a worse time for GCC, as it struggles to cope with the deepening recession, and provide the stimuli necessary to halt the economic downturn. In preparation for the potential damage, economic analysts are predicting cutbacks in all non-essential expenditure, coupled with significant redundancies. Evan Hughes, a senior governmental analyst, has posited a particularly bleak scenario, suggesting that this latest news can only push Glasgow further into recession, and that the extent of redundancies which will become necessary is likely to result in rioting not seen in the UK since the miner strikes of the 1980s.



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Rothschilde responds

William Chauncey, Primogen of Glasgow

Residents of Glasgow, Kindred of the Camarilla,

I address you on behalf of the Camarilla city of Glasgow, which I serve as Primogen under Prince Rothschilde. Over the past month, certain rumours have been propagated in relation to the unfortunate attacks upon three elders, and their relation to the Prince of Glasgow. Some would have you believe that their deaths were by his hand, others that they owe to his incompetence. Prince Rothschilde would have the facts of those elders' disappearances known, and I would see those who would speculate so baseless set right.

Therefore, I shall address each of the elders in turn. Firstly, Arcady Borovich, Elder of Clan Ventrue, who was attacked in Glasgow. As was revealed at the Court in February, this attack was the work of Mikhail Drachev, the childe of Mr Borovich. Prince Rothschilde, upon discovering this fact, ensured that Drachev was immediately incapacitated and handed to Clan Ventrue for justice to be dispensed at they saw fit.

Secondly, the Duchess Montague, Elder of Clan Toreador, who was attacked in Edinburgh, and therefore not within Prince Rothschilde's domain. The fate of the Duchess remains unknown as yet, as does the identity of her attacker. However, any speculation that Prince Rothschilde could have been involved are beyond absurd; The Duchess had gathered a collection of enemies through her own actions and had chosen of her own accord to leave the city in which Prince Rothschilde reigned and in which she retained the right to reside.

Thirdly and finally, Loretta Ozymandius, Elder of Clan Toreador, who has apparently disappeared from her residence in Glasgow. At the time of her disappearance, Elder Ozymandius was in the care and charge of Laird Gordon MacKenzie Stewart, also an Elder of Clan Toreador. Although the Laird has not yet come forward with any

knowledge of the incident, Prince Rothschilde is taking Elder Ozymandius' disappearance most seriously, and has begun investigations to ascertain her condition, and identify any individuals responsible for her sudden departure. Any Kindred with information relevant to this issue should bring it to the attention of the Prince, either directly, or through myself or Elder Vega.

It is to be hoped now that Kindred efforts will move from the pattern of infighting and rumour mongering which appears to have afflicted Glasgow in recent times, and will turn towards achieving our mutual safety, stability and prosperity. I look forward to working with the Kindred of the city to this end.

War of the Bands

Dark Times staff writers

In a disturbing turn of events, the Battle of the Bands event, hosted by Clan Brujah at their Club Diablo and other venues in the city, degenerated into a massacre, as one of the bands began attacking members of the audience, randomly and savagely, resulting in numerous deaths, injuries and widespread panic. Witnesses stated that the band in question, Shank, drew concealed weapons midway through the winning act's show, and began to cut a swathe through innocent civilians.

Police were quickly on the scene, however in the confusion, those responsible were able to flee the premises. Paramedics took the most seriously injured to the Royal Infirmary, while more than thirty people were pronounced dead at the scene and a vast collection of cuts, bruises and trampling injuries were treated outside the club. Of those taken to hospital, a further three are reported to have died of their injuries, bringing the total death toll close to 40 so far. The incident was referred to the Serious Crime Unit, a further case to add to it's workload, which must be bearing heavily upon them in recent months.

The incident was particularly disconcerting as this was a gathering which the Brujah had been keen to invite the Kindred of Glasgow to attend. It is unknown if there were any Kindred present, or if they were among the wounded or killed, but the Brujah actions in attempting to draw others to this slaughter throw a harsh light upon their motivations and attitudes towards other Kindred within the city. It remains to be seen if Prince Rothschild will address this matter swiftly to protect the other members of his court.

Great Britain By Night

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

Good evening faithful readers. There seems to be so little and at the same time so much occurring in this cold and wet winter nights. First we saw the illustrious court of Queen Anne scuppered by something as simple as snow. It has been a number of years since a public gathering in London was abandoned due to weather and I am sure some people in charge of various inner city agencies will be under pressure to prepare for any further winterly interruptions.

Next we should remember the fabulous social engagement thrown by the ancilla Marcus Leavenholme and who had as his guest of honour the archon Jean-Marc d'Harfleur. Some extremely brave souls are whispering behind closed door that he had come to the domain of London to stop the Malkavian

Justicar Crowley. I am only reporting on the rumour and that is all it is, could you imagine the political ramifications if this was real?

Nothing has been heard from our brethren in Severn. It seems after they refused Queen Anne's proposal they have battened down the hatches, and who can blame them.

Further north we have the three domains who are part of Queen Anne's united Britain and who have until the 15th of March, a truly poetic choice of date, to make their tribute to London. It will be interesting to see what they deliver.

It has also been said that an increased number of American anarchs have been spotted in Manchester and Liverpool and some of them where heading north, trouble I wonder?

Turning our eyes to Scotland we heard of a polite little gathering in Glasgow. Nothing much has been said about it, apart from apparently the Ventrue lost a state kin slayer, how embarrassing. Maybe this is an isolated incidence but we hear an awful lot of quite interesting rumours about Glasgow. Maybe it deserves some further study.

Lastly the official bit, and with great pleasure let me be the one to inform you that David Stone of York is to be referred to as an ancilla in the Camarilla from this day forward.

Let it be known that Jack of Glasgow, ancilla to the Camarilla is substantially indebted to Jonathan Carter, Prince of Manchester, Elder of the Camarilla.

**Dark Times is accepting submissions.
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