

Dark Times

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Ripper is caught

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Glasgow seems a safer place this month, as the notorious Glasgow Ripper, Martin Watkins, has been apprehended by Strathclyde Police. After a violent confrontation with members of Meldrum's Serious Crime Unit, Watkins was shot dead by a police marksman.

In the early hours of the 26th October, police were called out to a housing estate in the East of Glasgow. Reports reached them that a man was behaving suspicious, following women to their doors and watching buildings from the shadows. Suspecting this might be their opportunity to catch Watkins before he could harm any more women, Meldrum's unit attended in force, but taking care to mask their arrival.

It took them half an hour to pinpoint his location. By that time, Watkins had managed to entrench himself in a young female student's home, barricading the doorway. Police attempts to force entry were met with hurled objects and incomprehensible screams about "unclean woman destroying homes".

When one officer managed to clamber over

most of the barricades and almost made it into the building, he was slashed across the face with a scalpel and forced to fall back. The attack cost the officer the sight in his left eye, and was the spur for Meldrum to call for an armed response unit to supplement his own well trained team.



When officers arrived they were posted around the building, and ordered to train their weapons upon the building's windows, and when a clear shot become available, and it unfolded that Watkins had turned the knife on his hostage, the order was given to take the shot. Watkins was shot once through the chest and once in

the head, and was dead by the time police broke through the barricade seconds later. A journal was found on Watkins which documented many details of his crimes, and detailed his gothic obsession with death. Jack the Ripper was featured prominently, along with a hatred towards women Watkins viewed as being immoral.

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The hostage, Maria Carpenter, was rushed to the Royal Infirmary, and it appears she will recover in time, although she will be permanently scarred. Meldrum was sober as he held a press conference following the Glasgow Ripper's death. He praised the efforts of the men and women of Strathclyde Police, in particular Police Constable Charles Richards, who was partially blinded in the course of his duties. He finished by stating that this was a time to remember Watkin's victims and to pray that such horror never happens again.

Police have concerns though that the current dark mood of Glasgow may increase the odds of a copycat picking up where Watkins finished. In anticipation of that event, extra patrols will be focusing on likely areas, to prevent a legacy to the Glasgow Ripper's actions.

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Diotr's Dynasty

Dark Times Staff writers (Duncan)

The efforts of Diotr to cement his control over large parts of Glasgow's criminal underbelly have been assisted this month by infighting among the survivors of the city's remaining resident crime family. With a number of individuals vying to be the head of what remains of their activities, that family has been embroiled in chaotic deals, truces and double crosses.

This left Diotr's areas of the city largely uncontested, with other factions looking on and waiting to see how events unfold before choosing their course of action. Diotr used the respite as an opportunity to secure his hold on those areas he currently occupies, largely centred around the East of the city.

In addition, a number of ongoing police investigations against him fell apart this month as key witnesses withdrew their cooperation from police and a number of vital pieces of evidence were misplaced or mishandled. It seems Diotr is quite capable of handling the legal and bureaucratic side of his affairs as well as the criminal. This gives him the freedom to act in person, without having to rely on lieutenants who might become future rivals.

Dark Times Staff writers (Duncan)

A safe bet?

Dark Times Staff Writer (Richard)

Glasgow Council made the popular decision this month to reject the offer they had received from NovaCorpus Inc. for the City Chambers. The preservation of one of the city's most iconic buildings will earn them considerable capital among the traditionalists among their voters.

However, with the global financial crisis deepening by the day, the rejection of an offer worth over £500 million to the city is one which may have even greater ramifications. Critics have begun to point out that the money could have been used to allow the Council to maintain its current level of spending for 5 years, and that this opportunity has been passed up to preserve an expensive and inefficient status symbol.

Once the cuts the Council will be forced to make begin to hit the most vulnerable in society, they may find the popular support for their decision evaporates. In the meantime, this is unlikely to be the last we hear of NovaCorpus. The company has secured new premises, and will be commencing its product development in the coming months.

Dark Times Staff Writer (Richard)

Charitable Chancer

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Prominent Glasgow businessman and philanthropist, Robin McClean, is being investigated this month by police, after the Daily Mail broke a story that he had been siphoning funds from one of his charities into his personal accounts.

McClean, 35, enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame during 2003, as he made an approximate fortune of £200 million trading on the Stock Exchange. The following year, his vast fortune was put to use invested in companies providing and promoting carbon neutral working practices. In 2006, he was named as Ernst & Young's Scottish Entrepreneur of the Year, for his work promoting the Kyoto Protocol and its achievement in Europe. Today, McLean owns 19 manufacturing firms, all of which operate green policies, as well as being a major investor in and promoter of renewable energy.

The Mail ran with the story, using details gathered by

an undercover reporter, after a whistleblower within the organisation raised the alarm at funds being improperly accounted for. Internal records were viewed and discrepancies found throughout the charity – Campsie Fells Nature Reserve. Rather than being put to the purpose of preserving this outstanding piece of natural beauty and providing youngsters from troubled backgrounds the chance to learn important life skills, the funds had found their way into accounts belonging to McClean.

After gathering the evidence, the Mail passed this to the police on the same day they led with the story. Mr McClean's representative claimed that any such discrepancies were due to accounting matters, and did not represent any dishonesty on Mr McClean's part. McClean maintains that he is as committed to his charitable work as ever.

While Strathclyde Police would not comment on proceedings, they did confirm that they had received information alleging that a prominent Glasgow businessman was responsible for defrauding a charity. They stated that these were serious accusations, and that they would be pursued to the full extent of the law.

Dark Times Staff writers (Thomas)

Great Britain By Night

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

let me first begin this months submission with a heartfelt apology. I have come to realise that my words, printed in this very publication, might have offended ancilla Chauncey of Glasgow. I should know better than attempt to rile a kindred of his stature and remember to stay in my place. Ancilla Chauncey after all has managed to stay alive in, and become the seneschal of, Glasgow and that after his mighty performance here in the tower of London helped to cement elder Houblon as the Prince of London. So

without further ado, ancilla Chauncey, I am sorry for any offense I have caused you or your position as seneschal of Glasgow.

Speaking about Glasgow I have received word of the domain of Glasgow asking the fellow domains of Britain to join the blood hunt of one ancilla Theobald Alexander of Glasgow of Clan Nosferatu. Avid readers of my column and the Dark Times will be all too familiar of the circumstances around this hunt. While, I believe, only Birmingham thus far has followed suit and declared the hunt on ancilla Alexander it remains to be seen whether he surfaces in any of the other domains of Britain and if so what will happen to him.

Still staying in Scotland preparations for this year's Winterball are in full swing. I personally received my invitation just the other night during my meeting with the esteemed elder Lady Eleanor. She mentioned that the bulk of the invitations should be delivered over the coming two weeks. Therefore if you have not received an invitation by the end middle of November you can be assured that you are not on the main list. Speculation about the theme of this year's ball is already in full swing as those who manage to dress in accordance to the theme are always better received than their less adept companions.

Let it be known that Colman Rashleigh, Seneschal of London, elder of the Camarilla is indebted to Lady Eleanor Plunkett, of Edinburgh, esteemed elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Charles August Aldworth, Prince of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla has repaid one of his debts to John Smith, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that William DeMontford, of London, elder of the Camarilla has repaid his debt to Margery Houndsworth-Stone, Harpy of London, ancilla of the Camarilla.

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