

DARK TIMES

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ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN

This month saw the dramatic (if you were interested) results of the Anarch elections; the new Baron of Belfast was decided, far outshading the choosing of a new President of America. In a shock outcome to most observers, Pippa Beckett won the election by two votes, and has now taken up the position of Baron.

Peter Fraser was magnanimous in defeat, expressing his satisfaction that Pippa had won fairly and that she was a strong choice to lead the new Anarch domain. He did not state what his immediate plans were, but offered Pippa his assistance with securing the domain in the months to come.

The elections were a boisterous affair, with conflicting opinions being aired loudly and extensively. The discussions went on for three nights, with the vote taking place on the third. Anarchs were asked to move to one end of the room or the other representing their loyalties to Fraser or Beckett. In the end, a careful headcount was needed to show that Beckett was successful.

The election process was not without its own controversies. The principles were laid down, largely between the candidates (with input from the other Anarchs) on the first night. Only the Baron was to be chosen, other positions at their discretion. On the second night though, a group of



four of Beckett's supporters arrived from America, having just completed their journey.

A great furore kicked up then, almost more heated than the election itself, over whether these latecomers (to the election and the domain) should be allowed a voice. Over half an hour of fierce debate was brought to an end when Peter Fraser spoke up, calling for the new arrivals to be permitted to have their say and reminding all present of what the Anarch Movement stands for. Dissenting voices fell quickly into line after that.

Perhaps Fraser thought his display of generosity would demonstrate his qualities to all present. Or perhaps he never truly wanted the position to begin with. Either way, deliberately or not, his loss was by his own hand. And now everyone waits to see what the infamous Anarch does from here on in.

to go before the seas are calm again.

The Church of Scotland, following consistent attacks on its properties (in particular the damage to Glasgow Cathedral) has taken certain measures to repair its own standing in the community. Prin-

BOON TRADING:

- *Minor boon owed by Heather Jackson to Mary Jezabelle*
- *Minor boon owed by Israel Thompson to Heather Jackman*
- *Correction from last month—Minor boon owed by Angus Macdonald to Corvus Brann, not Levi Tius*
- *Minor boon owed by Dominik Wallace to David Stone*
- *Minor boon owed by Sam Riley*
- *Minor boon repaid by Angus Macdonald to Levi Tius*

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FATHER'S ARMY

Relations between Glasgow churches and the public continue to be fraught this month, as the tensions which have built in recent times continue to simmer. The establishment of a police task force to deal with the issue has begun to make some inroads in the area, but there is a long way



Logo of The Church
of Scotland

FATHER'S ARMY CONT...

cial among these measures is a group of retired ministers, with a wealth of experience between them, who have been tasked with opening channels of communication and restoring the profile of the church.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland raised support among church elders for the measure, and approached older ministers from around Scotland to form part of the new group. Some of the ministers served during previous periods of turmoil such as the severe

recession during the 1980s and the consequent industry collapse and community hardships.

The group of ministers will be approaching community organisations, charities and city officials as part of their outreach programme. If anyone can have an effect upon the present situation, it seems this group of men and women have the best chance. It remains to be seen if matters can be remedied in the immediate future.

GLASGOW IN OCTOBER - SIMON HAILE

This month has seen the formation of Glasgow's Primogen council. In discussion between the elders of the domain and his excellency Prince Aldworth the following has been agreed. The Primogen council shall consist of an elder of those Camarilla clans of Glasgow who have a suitable candidate resident in Glasgow and who are accepted by both the council and Prince Aldworth.

Currently the Primogen council consists of elder Angus, of clan Gangrel, Sheriff of Glasgow; elder Dominik Leighton, of clan Malkav, Keeper of the Masquerade of Glasgow and myself, elder Simon Haile, of clan Toreador, Keeper of Elysium of Glasgow.

Concerns of clan Ventrue will be raised by his excellency the Prince himself or by, ancilla Augustus Trenchard, of Clan Ventrue, Seneschal of Glasgow who attends the meeting not as a Primogen but fulfilling his office as Seneschal.

No suitable candidates could be found for clan Brujah, clan Nosferatu or clan Tremere but discussions are ongoing whether the three members of the Council should each "adopt" another clan until such a time that a member of said clan with a reputation sufficient to fulfil the role. Certainly at the last court a number of people have been keen to promote themselves and their capabilities as candidates to join this esteemed council. The coming months will show whether any of them have what it takes to be recognised

as such.

In domains the shape, function and power of the Primogen council differ widely. The noted scholar of the Kindred condition, Claire Bargo, has written extensively on the subject and if you are interested in the wider Camarilla's point of view I recommend you read her treatise on the subject.

As for Glasgow specifically, its Primogen council is an advisory council to his excellency Prince Aldworth. Matters of local and national importance are discussed at the regular monthly meetings. Each member of the council has the ability to call for a vote of the council on any matter though usually these votes will only take place either during a scheduled Primogen meeting or at his excellency Prince Aldworth's court. Whilst a vote of the Primogen council is not binding to his excellency it shows the strong support of the domain on the subject and adds gravitas to the request.

Also this month I had the opportunity to enjoy one of the fine soirees in our capital. It was interesting to see how matters appear from the other side as it were. Most there seem to view the instability in Birmingham as an indication of how far Lady Anne has fallen and those who like to stay a little more neutral on the subject are largely waiting to see how much longer Anne will leave matters as they are.

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GLASGOW IN OCTOBER CONT...

The recent troubles in Manchester and the possibility that it is caused by Sabbat displaced from Ireland by the anarchs are also a widespread topic of discussion but many wonder what the gain for those Sabbat would be to engage in these indirect and risky endeavours. Still, many eyes are closely watching for any developments which indicate Sabbat activity.

Sadly, but unfortunately entirely understandably, the prevalent view of the Court of Glasgow remains that it is an unstable Court. A home for those who need to make a name for themselves quickly but not a long term prospect for most. Add to this the decree by Prince Houblon in August that advises all members of his Court that they should not visit Glasgow, nor place themselves under Prince Aldworth's power.

Unfortunately I had no opportunity to discuss the edict with his Prince Houblon himself to shed more light on what the reasons behind his edict, beyond the obvious of course, are. Given the whole situation it is not surprising that as such there is little interest in the day to day affairs of Glasgow, such as the blood hunt of the anathema Mickey Finigan. It will take a prolonged period of stability in Glasgow to change these opinions and hopefully with his excellency Prince Aldworth at the helm we will experience just that.

Elder Simon Haile
Primogen to Prince Aldworth
Keeper of Elysium of Glasgow



Our capital—
London

SABBAT IN MANCHESTER - ANONYMOUS

I am not usually in the habit of hiding my old and respected name. I remain anonymous here, not out of fear - I believe that my words are both true and impartial - but as a demonstration that I write out of a sense of duty. Not to curry favour with any Prince or faction.

Every so often Kindred of other domains, such as myself, find that the pages of the Dark Times have fallen onto our coffee tables or writing desks for our consideration. I had chance to read in last month's issue that an Anarch in Glasgow's court has been declared blood hunted due to some breach in the Masquerade that he has caused. Now, think what you may about Camarilla-Anarch politics or the philosophies that underpin these two factions. I, for my part, will be absolutely clear about the central issue at the heart of this matter - there is only the Masquerade. The Masquerade is a precious thing. It is the sole purpose of the Camarilla (and for Anarchs too, they being a part of the Camarilla by treaty). Anything which threatens the Masquerade, therefore, must ALWAYS be dealt with swiftly and with absolute severity. Maintaining the integrity of the Masquerade

is not just the responsibility of the Princes, Barons and Justicars of the world but of every Kindred in existence. Anarch or not.

It is, perhaps, fortuitous that this incident serves to highlight the matter of which I write to you all this month, fellow Kindred. You perhaps heard the rumours some months ago of Anarchs massing in Liverpool, perhaps on their way North to Glasgow in response to the Affairs between Prince Aldworth and Glasgow's Anarch faction, or perhaps for some other reason of their own entirely. Now, you have all, no doubt, taken notice of the current agitation in our own fair domain on Manchester. This was punctuated with the devastation of the hotel in which Prince Carter held his court. I can not say that the Lowry was any great architectural achievement. But its loss has been keenly felt by those of us who appreciated it as a fine enough place to meet for court. It was proposed to hide this event as frenzied on the part of Prince Carter. But I must tell you all that this was not the case. It was destroyed by some other agency.

Some have looked at this coincidence and

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The Lowry Hotel

SABBAT IN MANCHESTER CONT...

come to the conclusion that Anarchs are beginning to throw their weight around. But I put this to you - why on Earth would the Anarchs tear up the one Domain in Britain that has shown them so much tolerance? No, Anarchs are not behind these outrages. Nor, I believe, are the machinations of any other Camarilla clan or Kindred. Though it would be in keeping with the nature of some kindred to make it look like such for their own ends. But such Kindred would distract us from our true mission and nudge the spotlight away from the real criminals and our true and common foes: The Sabbat.

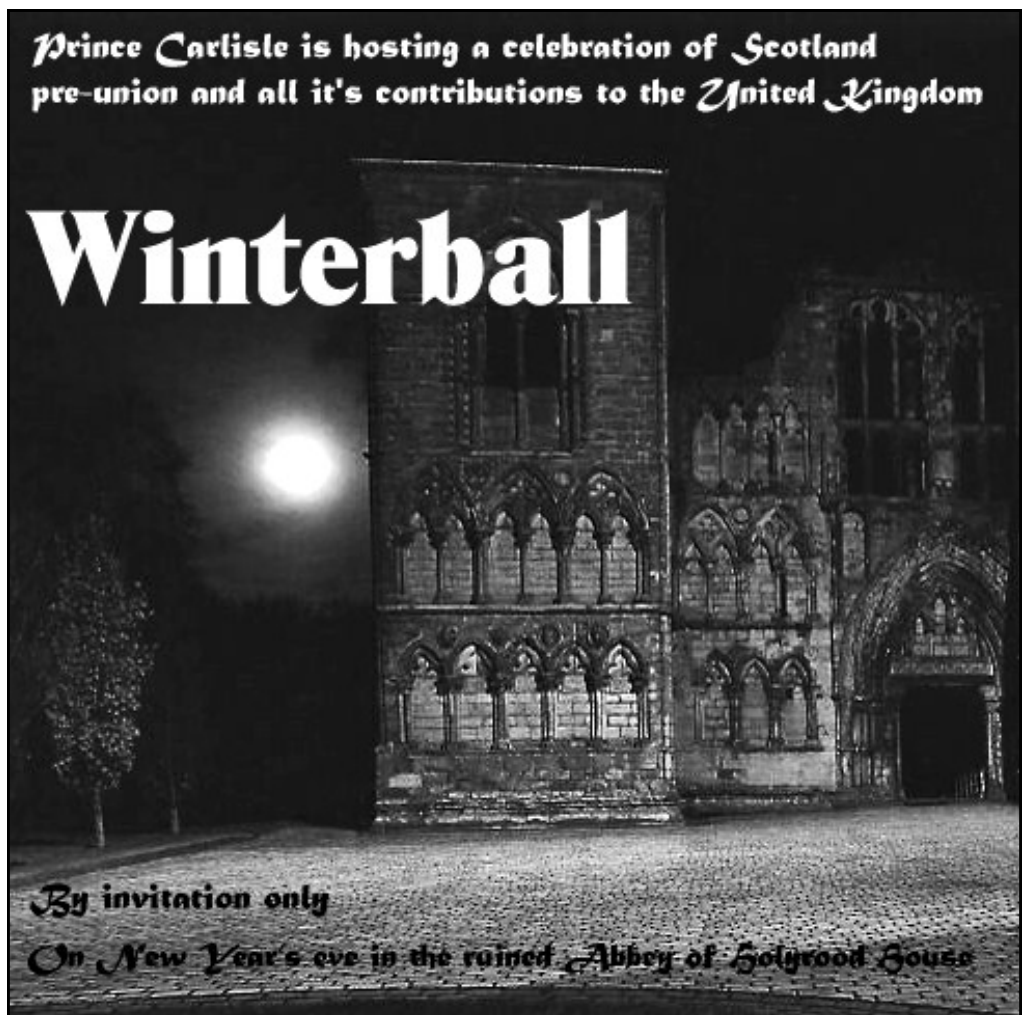
Think about it, fellow Kindred. Peter Fraser has been touring the British mainland for months telling all who will listen of how he has scourged Belfast of the Sabbat scum who infiltrated that domain. Now no sooner does he arrive than we have increased vio-

lence in Manchester. And what are the closest domains to Belfast to where Sabbat fleeing Belfast might infest anew? Manchester and Glasgow.

It goes without saying that the Sabbat, Hell take them, are the greatest threat to us and our Masquerade. Their despicable attacks in Manchester will inevitably escalate and spread to other domains. It would be enough to break our facade and our existence will be exposed. It is the duty of all of us to unite in a common defence, fellow Kindred. We must, at least for a time, set aside our grievances and conflicts and most importantly cease pointing the figure of blame at each other for whatever reason.

Destroy the Sabbat!

"OUR TRUE AND
COMMON FOES:
THE SABBAT."



VENTRUE VENOM

With the standoff between Lady Anne and Dominik Wallace, Prince of Birmingham, many thought that Ventrue internal politics could get no more entertaining. But of course, the Ventrue can always spring a surprise or two. And the latest shock came with the arrival of a long absent member of the clan.

A little backstory is necessary to fully explain the newest turn of events. Fernand Chevalier is an old and respected Ventrue figure, residing largely in France for at least the past five centuries. The childe of Doran, Fernand is of neither the line of Mithras or of Hardestadt, but has allied with those of either at different times.

Specialising in forming alliances, Fernand is believed to have coterie in half the Courts of Europe – but it is difficult to be sure as he is rarely an obvious participant; preferring to work from behind the scenes. Using those coalitions Fernand has influenced the outcome of a dozen power struggles through the years.

Part of the reason for keeping back from the frontline of his coterie has been Fernand's reluctance to associate with members of the other clans. He is an outspoken supporter of the Camarilla, but also of the Ventrue's dominant position within the organisation. He generally only associates with Elders of the other clans, working through intermediaries for anyone else. With even junior members of the Ventrue he can be quite personable though – unless he considers they are bringing the clan into disrepute.

Chevalier lives in France for most of his time, but makes a point to travel the Courts of Europe on a regular basis. His practice has been to visit Britain once every decade – his visit in the Noughties was postponed when he was believed to have placed himself in Torpor for a time. The visit before then was in 1994, and he was welcomed to each of the Ventrue Courts in the country, even the isolated Court of Severn.

Fernand's return began with a stop in York, where he spoke at length with the Prince of York and was also reunited with Lady Anne, who made a rare excursion outwith the confines of Birmingham. From there it was on to Severn, although it was a matter of hours before he left again; rumour is that the Prince of Severn threw Fernand out of the Court and gave him an hour to leave the domain.

The setback didn't throw him though, the very next night he was being told to leave the domain of London! Speculation is rife over what Chevalier could have done to so anger two Princes in two nights, but those who did speak with the man in those Courts have offered little insight.

Finally Fernand arrived in Birmingham. It took two nights of waiting, it is said, before he was admitted to speak with the Prince, and Lady Anne seemed to have played her part in that taking place. They sat in commune for the night of Court, while the other residents of Birmingham speculated, traded rumour and gossip outside the doors of the private room.

Just as the Court finished, Wallace emerged, snarling to his Seneschal that Chevalier was to leave, that night. The hushes and urgent entreaties of one of Anne's followers did nothing to stay the Prince, and he swept from Court. Fernand left, and has now returned to the Court of York where he was warmly welcomed before.

For now Fernand has settled in York, but his coming has been a wind which has stirred up a hornets nest in Ventrue politics. And what impacts on the politics of the Ventrue rarely leaves other sides of the Camarilla untouched. What is still to be assessed is if Chevalier's input is of benefit to Britain or is a force of destruction.

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The Dark Times accepts submissions, and any Kindred should forward their contribution to the address to the left. We look forward to your efforts.

Yours,

Editor in Chief of the Dark Times

DARK TIMES - BRINGING LIGHT TO
THE SHADOWS

HARPY HOUR

Just when everyone thought the only drama in the country came from Glasgow, along came the long missed Fernand Chevalier to prove them wrong! It seems there is barely an Elder Ventrue feather in the country which he hasn't ruffled yet. Lady Anne still looks pretty serene though, will that calm extend to Aldworth if Chevalier's attentions turn north?

Then again, Glasgow has not been absent of drama of the Ventrue internal sort. When Rupe Flanders, a Ventrue of some note in Manchester, went visiting Glasgow, he must have expected that he would benefit from the hospitality of a Ventrue Prince. But mere minutes after arriving he was being cast out again. Whatever did he do to earn such a reaction?

With so many Ventrue at each others' throats, everyone else must be wondering who is doing the essential job of holding the very Camarilla together. Anarchy and chaos must be mere moments away without that stabilising force. Tune in next month to find out if we're still here after all.

~

"It seems like Glasgow is trying to replenish ranks after recent losses by bringing Tremere into the city. One of them, Professor John Pettitt, is known for all those blood testing tasks one likes junior wizards for. Does

Prince Aldworth think that the outbreak of werewolves he's had recently are contagious?"

~

"It should be known to all Kindred of this country that henceforth, upon the order of Dominik Wallace, Prince and Eldest of the Domain of Birmingham, that Fernand Chevalier has no place within the Domain boundaries and shall find no Hospitality there. Any Kindred finding Chevalier in Birmingham should dispose of him as they see fit, and bring word of his trespass to the Prince." - Sam Riley, Seneschal of Birmingham.

~

Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



A monthly summary of
British Camarilla news,
politics, gossip and rumour,
straight from the Harpy's
mouth.