

DARK TIMES

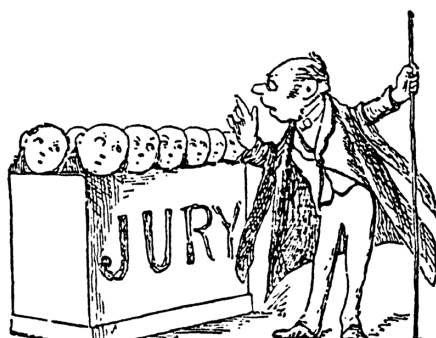
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A TRYING TIME

This month saw a dual revelation that shocked the Courts of Britain. Fernand Chevalier, the centuries old Elder of Clan Ventrue, childe of Doran and six steps removed from the very Eldest, was destroyed in the hotel in which he stayed in York. At a subsequent trial by conclave, Prince Wallace of Birmingham was accused of the deed, and the Court of Glasgow was asked to stand judgement over Wallace.

Rumour has it that the trial never once looked in danger of going against Prince Wallace – who has subsequently smoothed over much of the turmoil which had previously threatened to tear apart his domain. Given this apparent change of heart, questions have arisen as to what occurred to bring it on, and the reason for the trial's one-sided nature. Was it clever politics, simple fear, or that there was no case to answer in the first place? It would be a



brave Kindred to declare that a conclave was brought about by the Justicar of Clan Malkavian for no reason.

Whatever the causes and backroom politics, Wallace's gratitude to Glasgow was plain to see. How it manifests is still to be seen, but initial indications show that Clan Ventrue, and specifically Lady Anne and her supporters, will be stronger now than they were before.

BOON TRADING:

- *Minor Boon owed by Levi Tius to Alexander Barker*
- *Minor Boon owed by Sam Riley to Scott Naismith*
- *Major Boon owed by Ricky "the Faceman" to Oliver of Edinburgh*
- *Major Boon over Ricky "the Faceman" transferred from Oliver of Edinburgh to David Stone*

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WINTER IS COMING

The wind whistles and the flowers wilt
The sky darkens and the nights close in
It becomes cold while the rain freezes solid
like black tears, streaking from a giant
waterfall in the sky

The ground is frosted and the grass is grey,
solid and unified like rank upon rank
of corpses littering the ground,
There is a semblance of longing, of needing
Of remembering what is to come

Anatos

AN AMBER LIGHT

Dear Kindred of Glasgow,

It has come to my attention that an object may have made its way to our fair city. The object in question is an ornate, antique perfume-type glass bottle containing approximately 2.4 cc of an amber liquid. Upon the back is an inscription and insignia:-

"A world in a bottle -
for my beloved"

W

If anyone has information regarding this item could you contact me please. If anyone is in possession of the phial is advised to not open the bottle to remove the fluid.

Levi Tius

BARON SETTLING IN



The Domain of
Ulster

This month saw Pippa Beckett, the new Baron of Belfast, take the reins in earnest. She began the process of installing Anarchs in the relevant positions, which were largely drawn from her own supporters in the city. Some of those who supported Peter Fraser did find places under Beckett too though; some believe as a mere sop to keep them in line, others that it represents a real engagement with the whole Anarch city.

Wade Turner, the notoriously dangerous Ventrue Anarch, was declared as Reeve, who much like a Sheriff has the task of enforcing the ruler's will. Once a lawman in the frontier West, Turner made a name for himself both before and after the Embrace for keeping order – often in the absence of recognisable law. He has developed a talent for convincing people to accept his authority. If his words don't do the job, his swift and brutal physical methods have never failed. His worth to Beckett is clear as she seeks to stabilise an Ulster which has been disrupted by so many new faces mingling with those already there.

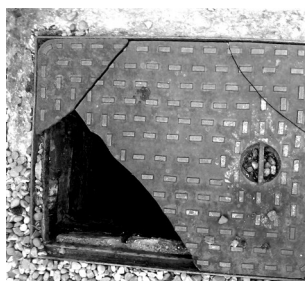
A Sweeper was also appointed, whose task will be to know the makeup of the domain, the Kindred who stay there and the political currents running through the city. For a task which involves meddling in the affairs of others, it can be of no surprise that a Toreador was seen as the best candidate. Lysander Demetriou was a respected Harpy

in Europe, before choosing to join the Anarchs decades ago. The connections between Lysander and Beckett are not known, but she clearly trusts him enough to observe her domain for her.

The third significant position of Coyote (a recruiter and trafficker from other cities) went to one of Peter Fraser's strong allies, Johanna, believed to be a Ravnos out of Eastern Europe. No one is completely certain though. She drifts in and out of the domain, reputedly travelling far and wide, but returning to Belfast more often than wanderlust would ordinarily permit. Rumour is that she arrived just after the election of Beckett – though whether she is a full member of the Anarchs, or would have been permitted a voice which might have changed the outcome, is uncertain. She appears only sporadically, often with a new convert in tow and answers to no one but Fraser, so it will be fascinating to see how she responds to Pippa's new authority.

Finally, Fraser himself is still a presence in Ulster and a power. His followers and devotees represent the bulk of the military might in the Anarch domain; little surprise then that he has earned the title of Warlord. Not an official role, but a mark of the respect he is still viewed with in the Anarch domain he helped to found and a sign that the politics of Ulster is far from settled.

“HIS FOLLOWERS
AND DEVOTEES
REPRESENT THE
BULK OF THE
MILITARY MIGHT
IN THE ANARCH
DOMAIN”



Was this the manhole
cover?

FROM THE VISCOUNT - PRINCE ALDWORTH

Good evening,

I write to you to fully inform you of the facts surrounding the Blood Hunt of Micky Finnigan, Brujah Anarch.

It has been heard that some believe the declaration of the hunt, the most harshest punishment a prince can issue, as that of convenience or politics. A situation manufactured and contrived to suit my own agenda.

I cannot lie, the demise of an anarch is welcome, but to endanger the masquerade is

entirely unwelcome.

With the mention of the Sabbat and visits from two authorities round the entire Isles it was expected that Kindred were overly cautious and anxious about their safety. In my own domain at least, they look to me, the prince, to protect them from such foreign dangers, something it seems other princes may be failing at recently.

As such a debate started and the afore mentioned kindred caused somewhat of a stir, fleeing further questioning he erupted at high

FROM THE VISCOUNT CONT...

speeds from the court through a public space and the late night streets, paying no heed for witnesses to his actions. Some argue that this would be permissible as one would find it difficult to prove supernatural involvement in a fast man, enough that the verdict would be delayed pending lengthy debate. However what no one can deny is his ultimate mode of escape destroys any defence he may have had.

Punching through a steel man hole cover to gain entry into the sewers. Pray tell how would mortal man accomplish such a feat?

Again he did this with complete disregard to who may witness his actions. My dedicated team of Masquerade Keepers worked round the clock to ensure public and private CCTV were neutralised, witnesses on the street were dealt with and questions from the sewer workers were resolved. All easily avoidable by him, but painstakingly dealt with by us.

Yes, there may have been no witnesses to catch him on the street, but who was watching from the windows of flats and businesses around, what cameras did he run by, where did he dispose of the man hole cover? All questions he cannot answer for he paid them no heed.

Someone of that calibre is not fit to share the blood of Caine! He is unwelcome in Glasgow as he should be in the entire Camarilla. I beseech you to see likewise, any prince who sees this differently is unfit to be a prince. Such complete disregard for the Masquerade is anathema to our entire way of life. This transcends politics, friendships or alliances. This matters to us all regardless of clan or creed.

I invite you to argue otherwise.

Yours truly,
Viscount Charles Augustus Aldworth,
Prince of Glasgow

“THIS
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FRIENDSHIPS OR
ALLIANCES”

GLASGOW IN NOVEMBER - SIMON HAILE

It would be remiss of me not to start this article with the Conclave of Glasgow at which the fate of elder Dominik Wallace, Prince of Birmingham was to be decided. At the end of a swift but thorough investigation led by archon Büyücü we all were invited to be the judge and jury on the trial of Prince Wallace, who stood accused of the destruction, without authorisation by the eldest of the domain, of elder Fernand Chevalier, childe of Doran of Clan Ventrue, breach of domain, accounting and against the masquerade. The archon hand picked the five witnesses who gave their accounts on matters relevant to the affair.

To say the trial was one sided is understating a little bit. First there was no accuser and the archon as leader of the investigation offer to stand in the accuser's place should a challenge against the verdict be issued. None of the five witnesses was willing to state that they believed Prince Wallace to be actually guilty of

the crime. None of the five witnesses believed it was within the nature of Prince Wallace to have committed the crime and the only link to Prince Wallace was that a brooch touched and cherished by Prince Wallace was left at the scene of the crime, who at the time of the murder was said to be in meetings with esteemed members of his own domain. It was no surprise that every attendee found Prince Wallace innocent of the crimes he stood accused.

The verdict was never once in doubt and one has to ask themselves what the purpose of the trial was. Was it the exchange of prestaton on the highest levels to see Prince Wallace accused and suffer the indignity of the trial? Was it a test to see whether he could keep his calm whilst even the lowest members of the traditionally least stable domain decided upon the fate of the prince of one of the most stable domains? Why was the trial so rushed only a few days after the



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GLASGOW IN NOVEMBER CONT...

events with some of the key witnesses not present and not enough time given for each witness to answer all questions put before them? Why did a Prince's fate have to be decided in around four hours?

Whilst some of the above question will likely never be answered to those outside the upper echelons of Camarilla politics the question to why this trial was held in Glasgow is abundantly clear. Whilst some domains regard us as a dangerous place which should not be visited it is clear that the Justicar Greene & Archon Büyücü as well as by many accounts the accused seemed to put faith into the domain of Glasgow and its citizens. In spite of being accused of the murder of one of the most active supporters for Queen Anne it was felt that Prince Aldworth and by extension the domain of Glasgow would act and vote based upon the facts of the matter at hand and not simply to retain the status quo. I wonder in which other domain the votes would have been so unanimously been based on the evidence provided and not along the lines of blood or politics.

Of course outside the conclave other matters have arisen in Glasgow. With further rumours regarding the continued Sabbat activity in Manchester the domain of Glasgow is going to form a coterie dedicated to detect and combat any potential Sabbat incursion and influence within the domain of Glasgow. This might be a prime opportunity of one of the more prominent Brujah like Anatos to show their competence. Before anyone asks, the rumours include but are not limited to the recent relocation of Alexander "Hunter" who has come to Glasgow to avoid the troubles in Manchester, the article from Manchester in last month's dark times and the spate of otherwise unexplained attacks and arson in Manchester and other, as yet unsubstantiated, rumours

mostly from sources within clan Brujah.

Also the rumours around the adoption of the low clans of Glasgow, those without someone of sufficient standing to represent them in the council of Primogen, by the standing members of the council has been proven accurate. At one of the meetings of the Primogen council it was decided that Clan Brujah will be represented by myself elder Simon Haile, Keeper of Elysium of Glasgow. Clan Nosferatu will be represented by elder Dominik Leighton, Keeper of the Masquerade of Glasgow and finally clan Tremere will be represented by elder Angus McDonald, Sheriff of Glasgow. From this day forth any matters for the notice of the council by the low clans shall be taken to the council by their respective guardian.

Looking ahead we have Edinburgh's Winterball, a staple highlight in anyone who is anyone's event calendar which has for decades provided a tantalising combination of spectacular entertainment glittering themes, esteemed guests from abroad and the upper echelons of Britain's society. It has provided prime opportunities for members of most of the major factions to come together and freely exchange ideas, offers and threats and all that in splendid surroundings. In a break to the decade long tradition this year's event has had its theme released. A celebration of Scotland pre-union and all its contributions to the United Kingdom. It will be interesting to see how visiting Kindred will address the theme.

Elder Simon Haile

Primogen to Prince Aldworth

Keeper of Elysium of Glasgow



PARKLIGHT'S UP

After months of legal wrangling, where the proposal was put forward to Glasgow City Council, then taken off the table pending a review of Glasgow's parks, then put back on again when that report found evidence of widespread violence and abuse; Parklight has finally been given the green light after a meeting of the Council.

Councillors who had been working closely with the families pressed hard to have the measure adopted, and celebrated the triumph with a press conference alongside those parents, still grieving for their lost chil-

dren. They expressed hope that Parklight might save other parents from having to go through what they have.

Now the contracting process begins to provide the installation services, and a decision to be made whether the cameras will be operated by the Council or by an outside contractor. Several major operators in the field have already expressed an interest; the tender process is expected to be highly competitive. The most pressing question is how effective the solution will prove at protecting Glasgow's residents.



Victoria Park

CONSIGLIERE OR CONCIERGE?

Hotels in Britain do not seem to have a good record at the moment, after a second incident involving a Kindred in as many months. This time it was not a Camarilla member, however, but Rosina Giovanni, Glasgow's resident airport and armoured car guru. If you want to get in or out of Scotland under the Giovanni promise she is your person to speak to.

But apparently not if you want to have a quiet meeting at a hotel. The details – as they are known to mortals – involve a business meeting at the Ramada Jarvis hotel, which went dramatically wrong. A gang, apparently intent upon abducting Rosina's guest at the hotel, tore up the building with automatic weapons. It was only the intervention of Rosina's guards (likewise armed) who stopped the attack, killing a number of their attackers in the progress.

By the time armed police arrived on the scene mere minutes later, Rosina had already made herself scarce – presumably along with her client. The following night she returned to answer police questions, quickly establishing that she had had no part in the violence or in arming her men – this was the handiwork of an overzealous ex army head of security, suffering from Post Traumatic Stress

Disorder after serving in Afghanistan.

There were certainly no threats to the Masquerade, for which all Kindred can be grateful – the gang destroyed all surveillance equipment and Rosina did not feature in any witness statements. Rosina's work is bound to attract shadier elements and reporters were able to find out that she had pointed police towards her customers in South Africa and Nigeria and the negative attention that might well bring. She refused to name the client she was meeting with and in the end police were unable to tie her personally to any crime as her head of security, who died in the attack, apparently procured the firearms during a trip to Cape Town.

The question remains; was this truly a coincidence? Rosina's public face is well known among certain elements, and her work cannot have gone unnoticed. Was there more to it – someone who knew her true nature? Or was it even an attempt to increase her criminal presence as part of expanding her enterprises? Whatever the reason, the Serious Crime Unit will no doubt pay some particular attention to Rosina's operations from here on in.

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The Dark Times is a publication for the benefits of members of the Camarilla only and is made available at the monthly court held by the Prince of Glasgow. The newsletter should only be made available to other Kindred, and all care should be taken to ensure that it cannot breach the Masquerade.

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

So Glasgow had the dubious pleasure of hosting a conclave at the insistence of Justicar Greene. Can't say I'd choose to be in their shoes if I was offered them at discount price. It's said the Justicar is never happy. Never. But his displeasure can be (and has been) fatal.

It seems Glasgow fared well though – at least in the eyes of the accused. Dominik Wallace has since buried the hatchet with Anne, is grateful to Glasgow...things are looking rosy among the Ventrue. Of course, Greene might be less than pleased that the trial he thought was needed was dealt with quite so simply. But maybe the Justicar was wrong...

In other news, the usual speculation has sprung up over who will and won't be invited to the event of the year, Prince Carlisle's Winterball. No doubt the usual faces will feature, but there is always room for surprises. Carlisle and his Court are astute political and social operators – any snub or surprise invite they offer will have meaning and significance stretching well beyond the night's entertainment.

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This month sees the arrival of two new Ventrue in Glasgow, Xander and Lucas Rubini. They have just arrived from America,

where they made a name in organising entertainments – to suit any taste. The question will be, are they there to alter Glasgow's dangerous reputation...or take advantage of it?

Eleanor Plunkett, Harpy of Edinburgh

~

I hear that Alexander of Clan Brujah has left Manchester for Glasgow. Don't believe the rumours of why he left – it was because he was as sick of the Anarchs in Liverpool whining as the rest of us.

Lucretia Reflection, Harpy of Manchester

~

"Eve of Clan Gangrel. Sorry to hear about your Sire. Hope that you'll find what you need in Scotland."

Angus Farr, Harpy of Edinburgh

~

Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



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