

DARK TIMES

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A GOOD TIME FOR GLASGOW BUSINESS

As Britain appears set to emerge from recession, Glasgow has been benefitting from the general economic upturn, with many businesses in unusual sectors showing unexpected success, and events being attracted to the city.

An international financial conference has been arranged for the middle of September, to be held in the International Financial Services District of the city, near the river Clyde. Bankers, stockbrokers, CEOs from around the world will gather to debate issues of relevance to the global financial market. The conference was initially suggested to take place in Edinburgh, but ended up in Glasgow after the city's recent successes.

The Skaworski Circus, famous for its performances throughout Asia and Europe, and for maintaining traditions of rare animal displays. The Circus is currently doing shows around Strathclyde and the Central Belt, and attracting large numbers of visitors. Against the usual stereotypes, animal rights campaigners have actually praised the treatment of the lions, tigers and horses, which provide the greatest draw to the Skaworski Circus.

A new extreme sports festival was launched in Glasgow – the G-Force. Competitors travelled from across Europe for the first year, with some spectacular skills on display. Critics hailed the event as a highly successful debut, and expect the festival to grow in scale by next year. A number of local businesses and participants benefited highly from the event. A new store chain was launched on the back of the event, with the G-Force brand quickly gaining a small market share. A local extreme sports enthusiast and award-



winning roller-blader is on a shortlist for getting sponsorship from a major drinks retailer. And three new skate parks have been commissioned around the city, with the City Council being persuaded of their value.

And finally, despite the positivity which has filled much of the city, there are always those willing to exploit the deprivation which spreads during times of recession. In this case, the subject is gambling, which has always been profitable in Glasgow. Now a new wave of gambling machines, being spread through hotels and pubs in the city, have been attracting a whole new generation of players, spending money on these addictive and social media linked games.

Altogether a positive period for Glasgow's corporate sectors, though it cannot be said that they always operate in a healthy environment, or in a positive manner. But with business doing well, perhaps the benefits will begin to be felt throughout the city. At the least employment will be on the rise, a vital commodity to Glasgow's future.

BOON TRADING:

- *Life boon owed by Marcellus to Prince Carter of Manchester is reduced to a major boon*
- *Life boon owed by Angus McDonald to Prince Carter of Manchester is reduced to a major boon*
- *Gail Middlemass owes a minor boon to Derek Feldman*
- *Drake Anderson owes a major boon to Augustus Trenchard*
- *Levi Tius owes Augustus Trenchard a minor boon*
- *Amadeus Edelstein owes Augustus Trenchard a minor boon*
- *Drake Anderson owes Simon Haile a minor boon*

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FROM THE PRINCE'S DESK



Good evening, fellow Kindred. This month, the nights have been short, but at least they have been clear and pleasant. The little time we have to walk the Earth in these summer months leaves me some time to contemplate the nature of the Camarilla, and indeed our place within it.

To the newest of sired neonates the Camarilla can often appear to be an intimidating monolith, one that does not appear to necessarily have their best interests at heart. Our internal observers, particularly those who claim allegiance to the Anarch movement, paint the Tower as a cabal of despotic elders, throttling the second life out of anyone younger in years or blood despite, perhaps because of, their potential lest they threaten the dominance of the elders. A stranglehold on power that ultimately undermines and threatens of our sect by diminishing the talent and skills available to it if merit were allowed to flourish unimpeded.

First and foremost, I would say that I hold all Anarchs to be members of the Camarilla — part of a highly independent faction of the Camarilla to be sure — but part of the Camarilla nonetheless. I therefore expect them to acknowledge that fact in both word and deed. I also expect them, at least within the borders of a true, blue Prince's Domain, to at the very least respect the Traditions and to respect the system of prestation. The Prince in turn respects the Treaty of Thorns and makes no attack upon the Anarchs that choose to seek his hospitality.

But beyond those obligations, I offer you all a few words on the merits of the Camarilla. True it is the elders, princes, justicars and older who rule and govern the Camarilla. But this is not due to some flight of fancy or out of sheer spite against those who come after us. Remember always that with age always brings with it the powers of our blood and the experience of our years. Yes, of course, we all of us are born and sired with natural ability. And I do believe that talent should be encouraged whenever possible so long as it is guided by a rational and respectful frame of mind. But age by definition, through blood and experience, will always impart on it so

much more ability than the newly sired can yet aspire to. To those with such natural power it is only right that to them should fall the responsibility and respect of political power.

However, there is plenty of place for those younger. For those with talent, respect and patience the Camarilla still yet provides opportunity for advancement in any conceivable pursuit or attribute. The Camarilla is a great machine and relies on even its smallest and newest cogs to keep turning smoothly and its workings frictionless. As Prince of Glasgow, it is my dream that every kindred will someday form some part in the maintenance of domain affairs or be involved in administrating some part of the mortal or kindred life of the city. Thus to anyone who knows their place, can show their due respects, and show promise as individuals rewards do exist;

Let it be known that Seneschal Evelyn Blair is granted Domain and feeding rights over Partick;

Let it be known that Elizabeta Edelstein is granted Domain and feeding rights over Airdrie and Coatbridge.

But to those who seek to upset the order, to those who can not peacefully reside here and live by my lawful word, they can only expect my retribution. Levi Tius is a good man, and a friend of mine. He knows his place in the Camarilla and has been and will continue to be rewarded for it in my Domain. His clan in Glasgow however have seen fit to remove him and insult me. How clear could I make it that I would suffer no insult to my Squires? Well, believe me that a direct insult to the Prince will always have its consequences. All Tremere are thus forbidden from attending my Court until such time as they make up for their transgression and return Squire Tius unharmed to his station. Others have also been commissioned to search for him. Should those officers be impeded or resisted, or should any Tremere disobey my instructions and enter my court uninvited then the transgressors, by my authority, will be slain.

Prince Augustus Trenchard

"CABAL OF
DESPOTIC
ELDERS"



PERSONAL MEMORIES OF DUNDEE



It was a good while back, when I stayed in Dundee, back when everything changed. We were drawn from all over the world when John Cline had his own domain. I'd never even heard of this Dundee place until he called me, but I liked that guy. He was the sort who got your respect – y'know? He didn't make you do things he wouldn't, never looked down on you, just led from the front.

There were ten or so of us, mostly travellers and warriors. We were getting settled, getting used to how things stood. We got to know people from Aberdeen too – our Prince and theirs were good friends. Leslie was... well, he was weird. A bit detached too, not one for chit chat. But he seemed alright.

Anyway, all of that changed. Seemed like no time at all, and Cline was gone. They told us that he had disappeared off. Without saying a word to any of us. I call that pretty damn unlikely.

And then there was the letter, presented by Edinburgh. Signed and sealed, and saying that Cline

gave up his lands to Carlisle. That one I have to call bullshit on. He fought for that place, dragged us from all over the world, all to hold his lands. And then he gives it to Edinburgh and vanishes. Not a chance.

But there was nothing we could do about it. Carmichael was in place, and that ponce Dunnoch lording it over us because he had his Princeling's backing. Two weeks and I had had enough. Most of the others felt the same. It was a bit of a betrayal, but we couldn't stand what was being done to our home. Off we went to our old places, or to find new ones. All save for a couple who stayed behind, never heard what happened to them.

Anyway, not surprised that this is being dug up again. Cline had friends, none more than Leslie. If there's any chance he can be found – well, I'll be first in the party to welcome him back. A good chance to put those toffs back in their place.

Yvanna Beall, of Clan Malkavian

"BE FIRST IN THE
PARTY TO
WELCOME HIM
BACK"

BUILDING UP TO CHRISTMAS

Following the success of the cross-denomination celebrations at Easter, the preparations for one of the largest religious festivals ever to be hosted is gaining speed to take place at Christmas this year.

Visiting dignitaries have been observed or rumoured arriving from Rome, from most of the constituencies in Scotland, many in England and from across Europe and South America. Approaches have been made on behalf of Glasgow Cathedral to host a number of religious artefacts and exhibits to celebrate this occasion.

The wildest rumour to spread on the subject was that the Pope would be attending personally. However, as he would traditionally be giving the Urbi et Orbi address from Saint Peter's Basilica, that seems highly unlikely.

Altogether though, the city's congregation seems abuzz with excitement about this celebration, in a way which hasn't been seen for many years. Charitable drives are seeing more success than expected in recession, homeless shelters are well staffed with volunteers, and a positive air has filled much of Glasgow.



FROM SIMON HAILE

“ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF CLAN TREMERE OF GLASGOW HAVE ATTACKED AND DISABLED PRIMOGEN TIUS”

Before I start on my chosen topic of this month's article, trust and the strength of ones word, I need to speak about the Tremere situation. It is true that in the last few years the relationship between Clan Tremere and the domain was strained. The previous regent was an oath breaker and got executed by Prince Aldworth for his failings. The current regent has been exiled for breaches against the Tradition of domain and made sure everyone understood the reasons for his exile by his open letter. Of course it is true that many of the members of house and clan Tremere themselves have acted with nothing but honour and delivered on all their promises. Unfortunately they are negatively affected by their loyalty to their respective regents. It would appear that on instruction of neonate Book some or all of the members of clan Tremere of Glasgow have attacked and disabled Primogen Tius, squire of Clan Tremere and officer of the court.

It is for that reason that Prince Trenchard has decided to ban the resident members of Clan Tremere within the domain of Glasgow from attending his court. They have not been banished from the domain, their word of acceptance has not been revoked and they have not lost the protection of Elysium. They are merely not permitted to attend Prince Trenchard's court. These restrictions remain in force only until such a time as Primogen Tius is released and returned to his service to the domain. At the court security have been instructed to politely but forcefully deny entry to any resident member of clan Tremere within the domain of Glasgow and should they actively overcome the security and force their way into court they will be treated in direct breach of the Tradition of Domain and punished as such.

Please note though that the members of Clan Tremere from out-with the domain are of course welcome to attend the courts of Prince Trenchard, Should they wish to stay within the domain for longer than the night of the court though they would become residents and fall under Prince Trenchard's domain and hence be likewise banned.

Whilst I cannot see neonate Book taking the path of reason and allowing Tius returned to the court I nevertheless hope that my assessment of the situation is wrong and that he or his superiors will give permission to have Primogen Tius returned.

Back to my topic of choice this month. Over the last couple of years I have written on a number of topics of our society. After an incident shortly after the last court I saw myself compelled to step back and cover the fundamental concept all of our society is based on. Trust and the strength of ones word. Fundamentally if you are a released member of the Camarilla, and that includes those who join the Anarch side of the Camarilla, you are trusted to keep the Masquerade. By your allegiance to the Camarilla you have given your word, both implicit and explicit that you will not only not threaten the Masquerade yourself but actively keep the grand secret. The whole reason you are released from your sire and accepted is that your word is trusted to keep that promise.

A lot of the other Traditions of the Camarilla rely on a similar trust. We trust you to honour your debts, we trust you to obey your Prince and his decrees, we trust you to accept responsibility for your ghouls, mortal servants and consequences of your actions.

With all this trust we are showing you we expect you, no we require you, to keep your word. When you make a declarative statement we expect you to adhere to it. That means if you make a statement such as, "Next month I will get archon Jean-Marc d'Harfleur to visit the domain." We trust that you have made the arrangements and are confident in your prediction. If you were simply attempting to convince the archon to visit you would have stated "I will attempt to get archon Jean-Marc d'Harfleur to visit the domain next month." This precision might be difficult for some of the younger kindred who have had a lifetime where no one really expected them to deliver on their promises, but is nevertheless essential.

The same is true when it comes to debts. A statement such as "In return for you making Rembrandt's A man in Armour available to me to collect from your art dealer on Gibson Street I will owe you a major boon." is a binding promise. You cannot simply decide the following night that whilst still a true master-work the painting is not worth a major boon to yourself and declare the agreement void. Likewise if neither side have specified the time-frame involved it could be years before the person makes Rembrandt's A man in Armour available to you but when he does you will owe him the major boon.

Your peers and betters will take every declaration you make and judge your character and your



FROM SIMON HAILE, CONTINUED

trustworthiness against them. If you are seen to be delivering on your promises then in due course you will get the respect of your peers and your esteem will grow. If on the other hand you are seen to breaking your promises then your standing will wither away and die and in serious cases more drastic steps might need to be taken.

The Masquerade is simply so important that we cannot tolerate any threat to it and kindred who have shown that their word cannot be trusted are a risk. If you fail to keep your end of any promise how can we be certain you will not also break the promise to the Masquerade.

That does of course not mean that we will instantly remove anyone seen to have broken a vow or a debt as sometimes your enemies are able to better your efforts and erode what you had con-

sidered safe. It also means that if you have some standing in the Camarilla you have proven that you are worthy of trust and hence whilst you will lose standing it will be nowhere near as potentially harmful as it would be for someone unknown with no track record of trustworthiness.

So, whilst it pains me that I have to spell all this out, think before you speak and make sure that both mean what you are saying and can actually deliver on your promises'

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

"YOUR
STANDING WILL
WITHER AWAY
AND DIE"

ANONYMOUS POEM

A voice beckons you from the heavens
Or maybe it came from the hearth
All that you know about it is
The voice is not of this earth

Reaching deep into space and time
It travels clear, without stutter
In its angelic voice it speaks
"Come, for I am peanut butter."

AUGUSTUS THE FIRST

He sits alone on a giant throne
Pretendin' he's the prince
A little tyke who's rather like
A puppet on a string
And he throws an angry tantrum
if he cannot have his way
And then he calls for Mum while he's suckin' his thumb
You see, he doesn't want to play

Too late to be known as Augustus the First
He's sure to be known as Augustus the Worst
A pox on that phony Prince of Glasgow!

Yours truly,

Robin Hood



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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.

Articles over 750 words may not be printed in full in the main publication

Yours,

Editor in Chief of the Dark Times

DARK TIMES - BRINGING LIGHT TO THE SHADOWS

HARPY HOUR

Well, my fears over exiles from Glasgow were...almost unfounded. Instead of more exiles, or executions, an entire Clan is cast out of Court. I've heard a little on the basis for this feud, I look forward to hearing more, but if this is truly an insult to an entire Clan to get back a neonate... Well, I am certain those suggestions must be overstated.

In another development, one of Glasgow's Kindred has decided to turn Anarch. No great loss for the moment, but it does reflect gains across the country for the Anarchs, since they felt they had the support of Ulster to turn to. At the same time, many of them are drawn off over the sea, so maybe it's a good thing overall. Best to have them penned up, close but not too close.

~

Let it be known that the debts owed to me by Angus Macdonald and Marcellus, both of Glasgow, are to be considered repaid in part. I no longer consider it likely that I may rely upon their senses of duty to outweigh whatever friendships they have, so I see little value in maintaining life debts.

From this day I consider a Major Boon over each to be sufficient to uphold their debts, which boons I shall hold until I find someone to transfer them to who may be able to derive some value from them.

The words of Prince Carter, told by Lucretia
Reflection

~

It appears many have forgotten the words of Prince Branch, spoken some months ago, but they should be remembered by all of our blood. No member of Clan Malkavian shall be permitted entry to Norfolk. I do not expect to have to deal with such enquiries again.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Seneschal of Norfolk

~

Anne Jacques has been visiting me, showing an interest in matters in Glasgow. Can't say I had too much of particularly interesting nature to tell her, just a general decline in standards. We chatted, think she might be off to speak to Lucretia next – though I'm sure she doesn't hear much in the way of good things either!

Still, interesting, the Harpy of York asking about Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness. Seems York is considering its position – or else Anne is considering hers. Either way, it's worthy of note – York doesn't often stick its neck out anywhere.

Margery Houndsworth-Stone, Harpy of London

~

Best Regards,

Editor in Chief



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