

DARK TIMES

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AUGUSTUS TRENCHARD: THE MOVIE?

The controversy surrounding the demise of the late Viscount Aldsworth, and the role played by Prince Augustus Trenchard in it, has taken yet another new and exciting twist this month. Avid readers of the Dark Times or observers of the cine world will recall how rumours have spread throughout the mortal press like wild fire in the Australian countryside about how “Augustus Trenchard” was responsible for assassinating “Viscount Aldsworth” in some sort of underworld, Godfather-esque hit.

Not only in newspapers was this to be found but it also created a small Twitter storm all unto itself of people decrying that this notorious gangster Augustus Trenchard had not yet been brought to justice by the Police. The source for this story and how the names of these...prominent...kindred came to be released into the mortal domain is as yet unknown, as is the precise motivation behind it. Needless to say, however, its continued exacerbation has only served to fan the flames of rumour among the Prince of Glasgow's detractors that he was in fact the architect of his predecessors *untergang*. Well, dearest readers, it may surprise you to learn that Augustus Trenchard was in the mortal news again this month, but in a very different tact.

Newspapers and social media this month led with the story of what some described as “Scotland's greatest modern hoax”. Glaswegian independent

film maker Jim Walker of Simple Android Productions has revealed to the world his latest and now sadly not-to-be work “*Glasgow Underground*”. The story revolves around fictitious Glasgow mob boss Augustus Trenchard as he battles competitors for his place as Glasgow's criminal kingpin whilst pursuing his vendetta against equally fictitious Norfolk-born aristocrat, Viscount Aldsworth, and struggling to maintain his fledgling romance.

Mr Walker announced “it is with great sadness that I today have to tell you all that *Glasgow Underground* will now no longer be going ahead as we hoped. Our financial backer have regrettably had to pull their support for the project and production has since ceased.”

What was meant to be Mr Walker's debut entrance piece for next years Cannes Film Festival was also meant to be a showcase piece for Scotland's film industry and indeed for Scotland as a whole in the aftermath of this years referendum on Scottish independence; “Whatever the result in



Jim Walker is one of Scotland's most successful independent film makers.

BOON TRADING:

- *None to Report*

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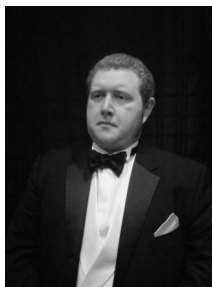
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TRENCHARD MOVIE CONT...



Prince Augustus
Trenchard

“ONE OF THE
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Will we ever really
know the truth?

September we wanted to show the world the quality of our talent in this country and the beauty of my home, this great Scottish city”.

Paul Higgins, the young actor, who hitherto has enjoyed some success in London's West End and bit parts in other Scottish TV exports such as *Taggart* and *River City*, and was cast to play Trenchard in the film, appeared in an interview on BBC Scotland expressing his disappointment that the film will not now be going ahead. “Of course it is very sad.” Higgins said, “It was a great opportunity, a terrific cast and a brilliant script. I was very excited to be offered the role and was really looking forward to start shooting earlier this year. But it just kept getting put back and put back until we are now where we are. Really I feel most sorry for all the hard work the PR people put into all this before now.”

The PR work Higgins refers to is the media frenzy and rumours that have flooded the media about this mysterious version of Augustus Trenchard. Mr Walker admitted that it was all a cunning fabrication on the part of his production company; “We are only a small, independent operation.” Mr Walker attested. “But modern technology allows us nowadays to reach out to such a huge audience like never before. And it's amazing how creative we can be in getting the message out there to promote a film like this one.” These methods included flooding Twitter with a host of fake accounts and posting of spurious messages to whip up public interest for the movie and help promote it once released. Whilst some conservative observers decried this “crying wolf” tactic as irresponsible the editor of the Daily Record called it “one of the cleverest, modern marketing campaigns to date.

Perhaps the first and certainly the most effective to exploit social media for commercial purposes.”

That, of course, is the view of the kine press. As cover ups go it has certainly been a very effective one. The media and public interest in the names Trenchard and Aldsworth has indeed disappeared to negligible levels as people embrace the “reality” that these men are fantasies. Whilst most cynics now sit smugly in their armchairs and puff out their “I told you so's” regarding the shamelessness of the media and marketing men one or two internet fanatics no doubt plug away their belief in their criminal mastermind “Trenchard”.

But what of us, fellow Kindred? We know that Augustus Trenchard exists and how. We can see a cunning and creative ploy like this for what it is. Truly a great deal of effort and skill has been expended by him or one of his close allies to remove his name from any public significance .

For us the question remains what role Prince Trenchard played in his own coronation. Did he in fact betray the Viscount to Prince Carter? His actions and conflicts with Prince Carter hitherto paint a very odd picture if he did, to say the least. Or perhaps that all is part of one greater ruse, one that both Trenchard and Carter together conspire to maintain for their own benefit? Whatever stories circulate or not in the mortal press, perhaps the rest of us will never know the exact truth of what occurred that dramatic night. His name may no longer be mud in the mortal realm, but for Prince Trenchard's many enemies the attacks on him are no doubt far from over.

RIOTING IN CELTIC PARK

Celtic Football Club has once again found itself the subject of unwanted media attention for all the wrong reasons. The absence of Rangers from the Premier League has sadly not deterred many from the hooliganism that has blighted the Old Firm for decades. This month saw yet more of that sickness.

At the Celtic v Motherwell match on 18th January Celtic were 3-0 up and the game seemed to be won. But in the 79th minute Celtic striker Anthony Stokes made a wild lunging - and completely unnecessary - tackle on Motherwell's Keith Lasley. This won him a straight red card from referee Bobby Madden.

Violence erupted among the home supporters. Chairs were ripped up from the terraces and projectiles were thrown on to the pitch. A small number of Celtic fans then proceeded to charge into the Motherwell away supporters before fighting both with them and even with each other. Stewards did what they could to contain what they could before police officers were eventually brought in to break up the rioting.

Neil Lennon, speaking after the event, defended Stokes's conduct. On Stokes's dismissal, Lennon feels his striker was a

little unlucky to be given his marching orders;

"I felt it was harsh - he was late, to be fair, but it was a genuine attempt to get the ball," said the Celtic boss. "I can understand the referee making that decision, but I come down hard on players who get sent off, but in this case it was a genuine attempt. He mis-timed the tackle and he got a red card, so we'll address it this week."

The Celtic Supporters Association Chairman Patrick Ogilvie was quick to denounce the incident as "shameful" and marred what was otherwise one of Celtic's best and most enjoyable performances all season. He promised the full cooperation of CSA in investigating the incident but added that it was a small minority of Celtic fans that were engaged in the rioting who in no way reflected the broader community of Hoops fans. Mr Ogilvie went on to suggest that there had already been substantial accusations and evidence of sectarian chanting by the Motherwell supporters which provoked some of the more hot headed Celtic fans into acting the way they did. Whilst not condoning the violence, Mr Ogilvie once again stated his dissatisfaction with the British media for continuing to tar Celtic with unfair and prejudiced coverage whilst doing nothing



Rioting broke out as a result of Stokes red card. Some violence briefly spilled over to the pitch.

"A TOTAL OF 23 ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE SO FAR IN RELATION TO VARIOUS COMMON ASSAULT AND PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES."



Don't know which fans the coin came from

Police officers eventually had to be called in.



The violence is deeply embarrassing to Celtic Management.

“THE MONTH STARTED BADLY WITH A SERIOUS ACCIDENT IN SCOTSTOUN THAT SAW ONE MAN KILLED AND THREE MORE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND HOSPITALIZED.”



The Titan Crane: Symbol of Clydeport and Glasgow's former glory.

CELTIC PARK RIOTING CONT...

ing to highlight the wider problems of sectarian attitudes in other professional football clubs.

Nevertheless the rioting, although small and localised compared to other skirmishes in the past, is deeply embarrassing to Celtic management. Especially on the back of similar incidents recently involving Ajax, both in Glasgow and in Amsterdam. Inspector Ian Blair, Football Policing Unit, said in statement for Strathclyde Police; “We can confirm that there was a disturbance in Celtic Football stadium on the evening of Saturday 18th January and Police officers were called in to help quell the violence. A total of 23 arrests have been made so far in relation to various common assault and public order offences.”

Detective Chief Superintendent Gillian

McDonald, commander of Strathclyde Police's Violence Reduction Division, stated “We are fortunate that violent crime in the west of Scotland is much lower than it has been in recent years. We have come on in leaps and bounds in trying to re-engage with local communities and commit sectarian violence to the history books where it belongs. Sadly, however, sorry incidents such as these are clearly very disappointing for us, for Celtic, and for Glasgow. It reminds us that we are not there yet and we have a lot of hard work still ahead of us. We will continue to work closely with Celtic Football Club over the next few days to bring those responsible to book for such senseless lawlessness. That's how we keep people safe.”

CLYDEPORT IN TROUBLE

Clydeside suffered more bad business news this month. It is not long after BAE announced moderate job losses in its Govan shipyard. Now Clydeport, the real estate and facilities management company that operates Glasgow Harbour as well as other shipping facilities in Greenock, Port Glasgow and elsewhere, has encountered troubled waters.

Reports have emerged of mismanagement and incompetence on the part of Clydeport's senior staff. The month started badly with a serious accident in Scotstoun that saw one man killed and three more seriously injured and hospitalized. Strathclyde Police are still investigating the incident though a police spokesperson confirmed that a report has now been submitted to the fatalities unit of the Procurator Fiscal. The National Union of Dock Labourers has stat-

ed that this only the latest and most tragic of a history of health and safety concerns which they have raised with port management but have gone unheeded. The NUDL have started civil action and has vowed to seek compensation for the workers and families affected. The compensation being sought has not been disclosed but is likely to amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Problems for the company have been compounded this month by reports of two serious disappointments for Clydeport. First it was revealed that the company had failed to secure lucrative new contracts with world shipping giant, Cunard. Clydeport boss's were unable to convince Cunard to establish a permanent base on the Scottish river in Greenock as a home away from their Southampton home for their gargantuan “Queen”-class cruise ships. Cunard rep-

CLYDEPORT IN TROUBLE CONT...

representatives cited a lack of confidence in Clydeport to supply their demands, to meet the required turnaround deadlines and a dissatisfaction with the quoted costs. This was followed a few days later by a failure to renegotiate their contract with one of their major maintenance sub-contractors who reported to the Scottish Sun that they had encountered “personal difficulties” with senior Clydeport officials, claims of late or missed payments and that continuing operations with Clydeport had become “cost prohibitive”.

It has all served to place a great deal of pressure on CEO Sam Wigglesworth. There are already rumours coming from

the Clydeport boardroom that Mr Wigglesworth's position may now be under threat as the company struggles to keep itself afloat after a bruising month of mishaps and perceived bungling at the highest levels. Clydeports share prices have dipped dramatically this month finishing 44% lower by end of day on the 31st January from what it was on the 1st.



CUNARD

CEO Sam Wigglesworth failed to secure the contract with Cunard

A HAND OF FRIENDSHIP

Ah Edinburgh, such a lovely city. It contains so much beauty and culture that no wonder the Toreador lay claim to it. The city reminds me of beautiful Vienna.

Well the purpose of my visit was one of exploration and diplomacy. I have read Eleanor Plunketts character reference of myself and wished to speak with her about it. In true Toreador fashion to the likes that would make the Denizens of Paris proud, I was not allowed an audience. Some Brujah would say that it is

cowardly to insult people behind their back. Here is a message to all Toreador who care to listen.

I wish to repair the strained relationship that is between myself and your Clan and as such offer an open hand. Such hatred is unbecoming of us. I will warn you though that if you try to bite the hand it will be withdrawn and never offered again.

Elder John Hort Adept of Clan Tremere.

“IF YOU TRY
TO BITE THE
HAND IT WILL
BE
WITHDRAWN
AND NEVER
OFFERED
AGAIN.”





Isn't that nice?

A POEM

Don't look, just keep your eyes peeled.
Thoughtless, traipsing my minds field.
Shotgun, never behind the wheel... any-
more.
Danger, monsters of smoke & mirror.
Slowly, can one so lost be found?

Anonymous

THE BROTHERHOOD GROWS

There is evidence to suggest that the Brotherhood is growing in popularity.

Readers may recall that the Brotherhood has made its popularity by encouraging the trade of knowledge and training among its members without additional cost; opening up avenues of experience for young Kindred who wouldn't otherwise have such a chance.

Although the appeal of this has primarily been to neonates and ancilla, there are a few Elders among their number.

Subscribers to the Brotherhood are identified by three coloured braid worn on the wrist.

The number of kindred observed to be wearing this mark seems to be rising. This is especially evident in Manchester, Birmingham and London. A couple of the wrist bands were rumoured to have appeared in York as well but the practice was apparently quickly "discouraged" by the disapproving, high traditional Duke,

As before, few kindred worthy of mention seem to have enrolled in the fraternity. The fraternity appeals mostly to neonates and younger ancillae. However of those ancillae the most notable are Phoebe Griffiths, a Manchester Nosferatu, Mark Bradshaw a Birmingham Brujah, and Oscar Rahman, a London Malkavian.

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TO THE
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ARE IDENTIFIED
BY THREE
COLOURED
BRAID WORN
ON THE WRIST.

Advanced and Pursuit Driver Training



Contact Rosina Provenzano-Giovanni for more information

GLASGOW BY NIGHT, BY SIMON HAILE

After the excitement of the Winterball, the Edelstein Holiday gathering with its delightful insults we keenly awaited reactions and replies to the various challenges made. So far there have been no avert replies. It is still early days of course and there is no rush yet but eventually they need to show why we should pay attention to their opinions.

This month though I wish to talk about some aspects of prestation which I have heard by a number of younger Ventrue referred as the Terms and Conditions. Most of the time, a boon or favour is simply a recognition for a service performed. You need not have asked for that service being performed to end up owing a boon, you merely need to have accepted it and the associated debt.

Often though the debt comes with a number of strings attached. The most common of these conditions is secrecy. Usually it is not the debt itself that is secret, even though private debts only witnessed by one or a small number of trusted witnesses do exist, but the reason behind the debt. Let me explain with an entirely hypothetical example. Say Elder H had a slight feeding mishap and in the throws of passion accidentally killed the kindly old gentleman running the occult book store in the south side. He might need the service of neonate R who has a reputation as someone who might be able to discretely dispose of a body and tidy up the mess before it threatens the Masquerade and before his lack self control becomes common knowledge with his peers. As such he might agree to owe neonate R a favour with the proviso that the original matter at hand is to be kept entirely secret.

Arranging this as a gentleman's condition

is easy, but if you are wanting to ensure that breaking the secret will be treaty as breaking a boon-sworn oath this condition needs to be recorded. Clearly you would also need to ensure that the witness or witnesses are keeping the secret, which might incur you further debts or you will need to rely on their gentlemanly behaviour to air your dirty laundry.

Another common condition is that a debt cannot be traded. This is often the case with debts owed as a sign of loyalty to another kindred. You might very well be willing to owe your prince a large favour but might not wish him to sell your debt to some outside third party, especially if said 3rd party is of considerably lower standing or dubious loyalty. Of course there is little stopping the holder of the debt calling in their marker on the behalf of a third party.

The third most common condition are temporal constraints. A debt might not be able to be called upon for a year and a day. Or if not used within a decade might become null and void.

All these conditions diminish the value of a debt and thereby can be used to balance the respective cost of matters. For example an unrestricted debt over a up and coming ancilla might well be worth a debt over an elder which you cannot trade and have to call in within the next year.

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



Prestation is the currency of the Camarilla.

“MOST OF THE TIME, A BOON OR FAVOUR IS SIMPLY A RECOGNITION FOR A SERVICE PERFORMED...OFTEN THOUGH THE DEBT COMES WITH A NUMBER OF STRINGS ATTACHED. “

Dark Times

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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

HARPY HOUR

Now it is done. The Duke of York could not sit idly by whilst one of our own makes a mockery of all of us. What new deviations from the Traditions could we expect? What fresh abortions would he concoct?

Whilst we are sure he began with good intentions, he has proven time and time again that he is too young in years and weak in blood to command a domain of all his own, even one like Glasgow.

Our own Prince has taken a stand against this foolishness and lack of respect for tradition and law. A real, wise Prince with age and power flowing through him does not mewl like some starving, injured kitten or kick like a brainless mule.

The Duke of York has spoken with those of authority, like himself. It has been agreed. Now perhaps Glasgow can truly begin again.

Anne-Jaques, Harpy of York

~

Perhaps not all is lost for Glasgow after-all. Despite the...obvious flaws...of Glasgow's many failing Kindred, it is heartening to see that at least its elders...its real elders...still know how to conduct them-

selves as gentlemen. I look forward to conversing with you more. Though I think...not again in Glasgow.

Lucretia Reflection, Manchester

~

I beseech you to not write off Prince Leslie's claim to Dundee too soon. The tiresome quoting of the Treaty of Durham may bind the words and deeds of some, but it does not bind the Prince of Aberdeen. Whatever you heard at Caledonia Nocturness, and you heard much that will be rendered pointless if the rumours I hear from our Seneschal are true, it will be all ring the more hollow when you finally hear the truth at last.

Karen Wells, Secretary to Seneschal Albertson

~

The short sightedness of some truly astounds me. We said and did what we could for you, cousin. Not all of it in vain. Perhaps in your new appointment you shall prove your worth again.

Henry Newbolt, Birmingham

~

Best Regards, Editor in Chief



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