

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



February 2020

# The Mallet

*The Monthly Journal of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307*

No. 431



February 2020

How many of us have sat at a Regular Meeting within the Temple and lazily gazed about the Lodge Room and wondered fleetingly, where a particular Brother was on that evening. Suddenly the realisation hits you that you haven't actually seen them within the Lodge, either at a meeting or socially for quite a while. We strongly suspect that each and every one of us have all done it on more than a few occasions, and then just as promptly completely forgotten about our missing Brother.

It is amazing just how soon a brother, who is rarely absent from more than only the occasional meeting, can rather quickly become a forgotten face, if for whatever reason, his absences become prolonged and as time slips by he finds it harder and harder to find the time to attend his Lodge. Eventually he stops going altogether, more often than not simply because he has grown out of the habit of attending, and is embarrassed to return.

An all too familiar scenario in modern Freemasonry, especially within the Scottish Craft, and one which must cause concern in all Lodges in these days of falling attendances. Without doubt, if we put our mind to it, without too much effort, we could probably come up with a long list of Brethren who no longer attend their Lodge and are lost to our Fraternity, possibly for ever.

With this thought in our mind, surely each one of us could make a determined effort to coax an absent Brother back into the fold with a few well-chosen words of encouragement. This is a fairly simple and easily achievable task which we could all undertake during the course of our normal routine. So let's set ourselves a target in the months ahead. Let's identify a particular Brother of the Lodge who, for whatever reason, has strayed away from the Lodge and make a concerted effort to entice him back to his meetings. The end result could be extremely profitable, not only for the Lodge, but for the Brother in question as well. And who knows who that "long lost, but now found" Brother could in turn reintroduce to the Lodge. The possibilities are endless, and for a small amount of effort, just think of the results.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

*The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac cordially requests your attendance at the forthcoming Meetings of the Lodge to be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead on :*

***Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020***

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Visitation by the  
Provincial Grand Lodge of R.E.  
Harmony*

***Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020***

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Master Mason Degree  
Conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class  
Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*David McArthur P.M., Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

A rescheduled meeting of the Lodge was held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, and after a short business meeting, the Brethren of the Lodge, and their invited guests retired to the Function Suite, where the lodge held its 196<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

A fine meal was enjoyed by all, with the guest speaker for the evening being Sports Journalist Bill Leckie regaling all with his sporting anecdotes and tales.

**Opened : 7-30 pm**

**Lodge Closed : 8.10pm**

**Attendance : 45**

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, the Brethren of Lodge Tyistle & Crown, No.167, led by their Right Worshipful Master - Bro John S Miller, conferred an excellent Fellowcraft Degree on :

**James Arnott Hutchison**

Thereafter the Brethren of both Lodges retired to the Function Suite where they enjoyed a fine harmony, enjoyed by all.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.26pm**

**Attendance : 86**



## 100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes were :

**7<sup>th</sup> February** £20 : **Mrs Christine Miller** & £10 : **Bro Gordon Neil**

**18<sup>th</sup> February** £20 : **Bro Donald Cook PM** & £10 : **Bro George Buist**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our Worthy Treasurer is still taking names for this year at the annual fee of £10, and anyone interested should see Bro George, as soon as possible.



## Forthcoming Visitations

The Lodges has accepted invitations from the following Lodges to confer the Dramatised 'Prisoner of War' degree in the months ahead :

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March ..... Lodge Dunoon Argyll, No.335**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May ..... Lodge Darvel, No.971**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June ..... PGL of Aberdeenshire**

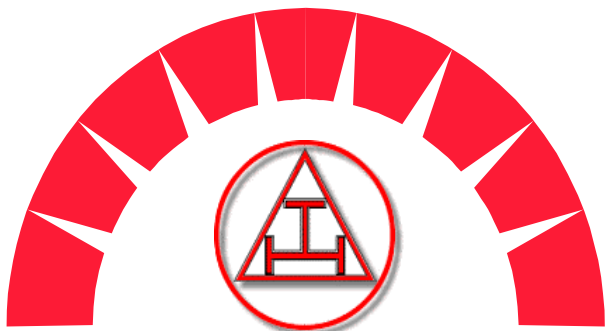
At the moment, the minibus will be leaving the Lodge on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am bound for Gourock, where we will catch the 12.10pm ferry to Dunoon. The return journey later that day is expected to catch the 9pm Ferry with the Brethren back in Barrhead at approximately 11pm



# Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the PGLRE will pay their statutory annual visitation to 307
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March** Visitation to Lodge Dunoon Argyle, No.322, where we have been invited to confer the dramatised PoW Degree
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a MM Degree will be conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class

*In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is constantly involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them)*



**Rockmount R.A.C. No.367**

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, the Provincial Grand Chapter of Renfrewshire paid its annual visit to Rockmount.

They were headed by the Provincial Grand Superintendent – MEC Gordon Renfrew, and he was well supported by the Companions of PGC.

At the close of the Meeting, the Companions retired to the Downstairs

Lounge, where an evening of harmony was enjoyed by all.

MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ extends a cordial invitation to all Companions to attend the next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, which is scheduled for: **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020** at 7.30pm, where a Royal Arch Degree will be conferred.

# BITS & PIECES

- Tickets will shortly be available for the rescheduled Sportsman's Dinner which is being held on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**. Watch this space !
- It was great to see a total of 25 Brethren supporting the RWM on our recent visit to Lodge Nitshill on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- Our Instruction Master, Bro. Tom Mulholland P.M. would like to remind any brother wishing to try their hand at degree work is more than welcome to come along to the lodge instruction class on a Monday evening at 7.30 pm.
- We wish every happiness to Bro Kenneth McPhie and his lovely fiancée Liz on their forthcoming wedding. Bro Kenneth's best man is his father Bro Ian McPhie.
- Bro George McGrandles PM, our Treasurer Elect, would like to remind the brethren that Test Fees are now overdue at £40 per head & any brother wishing to contribute towards the capitation fee should see him as soon as possible.
- It is heartening to hear that Grand Lodge are putting in place an 'amnesty' where Brethren, who have fallen behind in their Test Fees, will be allowed to return, simply by paying the current year's test fee. A considerable saving.
- Sorry to hear that our Worthy Secretary – Bro David McArthur is experiencing severe back pain following a mishap whilst snowboarding in Switzerland.
- It's good to hear that the Annual Lodge Golf Outing to Muckhart GC in Fife on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June is full. However, a reserve list is being taken, and all interested should see Bro Ronnie Maclsaac RWM.
- That you can still participate in the '200 for 200' scheme being offered by the Lodge's Bi-centenary Committee? A single payment of £200 (which can be paid up over the next 5 years if necessary) will secure a range of 200th Anniversary benefits including Tickets, Jewels, Books etc. Apparently, almost 40 Brethren have already enrolled, and anyone interested should be Bro Robert Scott WJW as soon as possible.
- We congratulate Bro Jim Miller PM who recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday whilst sunning himself on The Algarve.



## Meet the Candidate



Our most recent Candidate is **James Arnott Hutchieson**. Whilst originally from Pollok, he now lives in Brookfield with his wife Joanne. The father of three children (2 daughters and a son) he is employed by Mitsubishi Motors as a Network Development Manager.

Proposed by his close friends from school – Bro Ross Aitken and Bro Eddie Mullin, he is a keen runner in his spare time, and also enjoys the odd game of golf.

We continue our series of articles which trace the history of some of the local Lodges, and perhaps even further afield. Having started with a history of our own Lodge, before moving on to a short history of The PGL of Renfrewshire East. This month we trace the history of another of the earliest Lodges in the Province. )

## Lodge Paisley St Mirrins, No.129



It was only three years after Culloden that, ‘the provost and magistrates of Paisley’ granted our first charter to ‘the incorporation of Masons in Paisley’ on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1749. Earlier that year on 1<sup>st</sup> February, two of their members, John Hamilton and William Weir had applied to William Nimmo, secretary of *The Lodge of Kilwinning* for a charter as a Masonic Lodge. On 5<sup>th</sup> August 1749, the Rt Hon and Right Worshipful Master of Kilwinning, the Earl of Eglinton granted a charter to “Paisley Kilwinning” on payment of one pound and one shilling plus an annual due of one merk Scots. It is not recorded

why our ancient brethren decided to apply to The Lodge of Kilwinning, rather than the Grand Lodge of Scotland, for their charter; ‘Mother Kilwinning’, a Grand Lodge in her own right, had left the Grand Lodge of Scotland six years previously, in 1743 – but go they did.

There is also no record why, with The Lodge of Kilwinning still outside the Grand Lodge of Scotland, our brethren, along with many other lodges, applied for a charter from that ‘august body’. This was granted on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1772 as *Lodge Paisley St Mirrins* but with no number, as Grand Lodge did not start numbering lodges until circa 1790. About this time Paisley St Mirrins were issued with the number 170. This number continued until 1835 when, after a purge of the roll, we received the new number 129. Lodges continued to use both numbers until, in 1848, Grand Lodge instructed all lodges to drop their old numbers and use only their new ones.

Nothing much noteworthy is recorded until, in August 1799, we sponsored *Lodge Garthland St Winnoch No 272* (now numbered 205) and in February 1824 *Lodge Union and Crown No 378* (now numbered 307). Similarly, in February 1918 and May 1920 respectively, we sponsored *Lodge Thistle and Crown No 1167* & *Lodge Gleniffer No 1219*. Also in 1920 a unique event took place, when six 129 members were elected as Right Worshipful Master of all five Paisley Lodges, plus the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East simultaneously. Their photograph now hangs in the Master’s room at Maxwellton Road.



Other significant events were our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Grand Lodge of Scotland in April 1972 and our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Mother Kilwinning in 1999, when the then Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Bro Frank Johnstone, having researched our original lodge history as *Paisley Kilwinning*, presented the Lodge with copies of the original charters of 1749 from ‘the provost and magistrates of Paisley’ and from *The Lodge of Kilwinning*,

confirming that although *Paisley Kilwinning* – like Mother Kilwinning – were operative at that time, they were charitable organisations and conformed to the principles on which speculative masonry is based. Having confirmed our original date of erection and the charitable status of *Paisley Kilwinning* a comparison with erection dates in the Grand Lodge of Scotland yearbook indicates that *Paisley St Mirrins No 129* is the 49<sup>th</sup> oldest Lodge still in existence and the oldest Lodge in the Province of Renfrewshire East by nineteen years, seven months and sixteen days.

## **Who Becomes a Freemason ?**

*People have their own reasons why they enjoy Freemasonry. Many come for the Brotherhood, others for self-improvement. The following is a sample of some of the reasons given:*

<b>ACHIEVEMENT</b>	<i>Progressing through the various offices in the Lodge to become Worshipful Master.</i>
<b>BROTHERHOOD</b>	<i>Making new friends and acquaintances from all walks of life, every background and age group.</i>
<b>CHARITY</b>	<i>Being able to contribute to deserving causes, both Masonic and non-Masonic.</i>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<i>Learning from peers and mentors by practicing Ritual and making short speeches.</i>
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	<i>Finding out about the history and mysteries of Freemasonry.</i>
<b>SELF IMPROVEMENT</b>	<i>Making a contribution to your family and society.</i>

If these characteristics describe how you lead your life or the life you wish to attain, then you have been led to Freemasonry.

Our Fraternity has a wonderful and interesting History, which dates back more than three Centuries. We strive to live to the highest moral and social standards, treating others as we would wish to be treated.

## **Visitation to Nitshill**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February the Lodge headed out to our neighbours, Lodge Nitshill, No.1478, where we had been invited to confer the MM Degree. Bro Ronnie MacIsaac RWM was delighted with the support he received with 25 Brethren entering the Lodge.

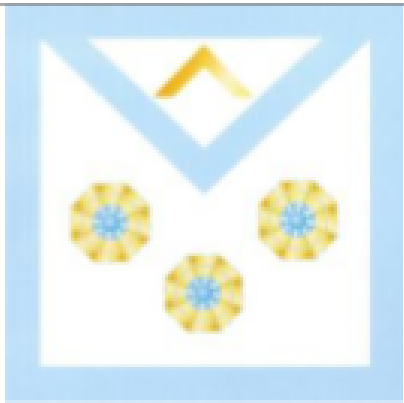
On that evening, Bro Terry Jackson PM of 1478 received his 50 diploma from Bro Ronnie Fraser Depute Provincial Grand Master, before a packed Lodgeroom.

Thereafter, we conferred an excellent 3rd Degree upon a candidate (George Morrison) before afterwards retiring to the Harmony where the Brethren enjoyed each other's company.

# 'The Swedish Rite Continued'

*(We continue our series of articles of Freemasonry in Scandinavia, with a further explanation of how it operates, and some of the main differences with our own practices)*

There is no 'Business Session' prior to a Degree Working with the Ceremony beginning immediately the Brethren are assembled. Meals are taken after all Masonic Meetings and are considered as an integral part of the Working.



A difference between Swedish Masonry and the Anglo-American systems is that there is no procedure whereby all Brethren 'progress' through the holding of Lodge Offices. Swedish Rite Lodges are large, for example, a municipality may have over 500 Masons but only two Lodges. There are many Officers but a Master holds Office for six years and others for at least one year but usually longer. A Member must hold at least the VIII Grad to become the Master of a Lodge. There is no rank of Past Master in the Swedish system and a Master

whose term has expired simply resumes his normal place amongst the Brethren.

This reflects a fundamental difference between the Anglo-American systems and the Swedish Order. While British Masons are waiting for their next Office, Swedish Rite Masons are waiting for their next Degree. Nobody stays put after becoming a Master Mason as everybody passes on to the High Degree section of the Order. This also means that the Rite has no selection of many different High Degree systems such as exist in Britain and also as a consequence has hundreds of Members and holds about one Lodge Meeting per week. Lodges with selective memberships such as policemen, lawyers, soldiers or some other profession as can be found in England do not exist.

In spite of these differences, membership is slowly but steadily growing. More significantly, the spread of ages is much more even with members ages ranging from their mid 20's to their mid 80's but the curve peaks in the mid 40's. In the United Kingdom as we know only too well, the curve is skewed to the elderly peaking in the mid to late 60's. This seems to indicate the relative success of Swedish passive recruitment.

As a Mason progresses through his Masonic Life, various Titles and Styles are attached to his Masonic Rank as below, viz.

	<b>Class</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Styled</b>
<b>First</b>	St John or Working Lodges	I	Apprentices	Diligent
		II	Fellow Crafts	Zealous
		III	Master Masons	Worthy
<b>Second</b>	St. Andrew or Illustrious Lodges	IV	Scottish Apprentices (or Apprentice of St. Andrew)	Very Worthy
		V	Companions of St. Andrew (or Fellow of St. Andrew)	
		VI	Scottish Master of St. Andrew	Illustrious

<b>Third</b>	Steward or Enlightened and Active Lodges and Chapters	VII	Masonic Knights, Steward Companions (or Knight of the East and Jerusalem)	Very Illustrious
		VIII	Masonic Knights, Confidants of Solomon (or Knight of the West)	Most Illustrious
		IX	Masonic Knights, Confidants of St. John	Enlightened
<b>Fourth</b>	Red Cross Dignitaries Chapter of Illustrious Chapter	X	Masonic Knights, Confidant of St. Andrew (or Knight of the Purple Ribbon)	Very Enlightened
		XI	Masonic Knights, Commander of the Red Cross (or Dignitary of the Chapter)	Most Enlightened
		XII	Vicar of Solomon	Most Wise Vicar, Grand Master



The Office of Grand Master has a long history in the Grand Lodges of Sweden, Norway and Denmark. For over 200 years it had been discharged by Swedish Kings and Members of the Royal Family in the Grand Lodge of Sweden/Norway (the two countries were united until 1905 when Norway received independence from Sweden and it's own King and Royal Family). A Danish Prince – although a Danish Freemason, he was not allowed to practice in Norway – and also the Swedish King could no

longer act as Grand Master in Norway. In Denmark members of the Royal Family have acted as Grand Master until Queen Magrethe succeeded to the throne. In Sweden the present Grand Master is Most Worshipful Bro. Christer Person. King Carl XVI Gustav declined requests to become Grand Master and instead his uncle Prince Bertil took up the position. Prince Bertil died in January 1997 and was succeeded by Gustaf Piehl who was in turn succeeded by Anders Fahlman in September 2001. Today, no members of the Royal Families of Sweden, Norway or Denmark are members of any Masonic Lodge, although the present King, Carl XVI Gustaf is the High Protector of the Order in Sweden.



We are indebted to Bro John Hughes for this information. Although Bro John is an active Freemason in his hometown of Bolton, he is also a Past Master of a Lodge in London. A structural engineer by profession, he spends a lot of time in Scandinavia, where he works within the offshore oil industry, and in his free time over there, is closely involved in various branches of Freemasonry.

This article, and the one in our January edition are only short extracts from a much larger and more extensive paper Bro John has written. Any brother who would like to read this further, should contact The Editor, who would be only too glad to share it with you. Next month we will include another extract.

## 307 Burns Team on Tour

On Saturday 1st February 2020 a team of Burns enthusiasts from Lodge Union and Crown travelled to Lodge Douglas 1557 in East Kilbride to entertain the Brethren of the Lodge at their annual Burns Supper.

The Burns Supper is a long standing affair and has been chaired for many years by a good friend of Lodge Union and Crown, Bro David Reid, PPGMRE.

The idea for the 307 boys to visit East Kilbride was hatched

following a visit to Dalkeith in October of 2018. David had spoken to Bro Robert Scott, our own WJW, and asked if Robert could pull a team of speakers together who were both members of 307, and serving or retired fire officers. Some calls were made, and arms twisted, and the team of four gave a commitment to attend the 2020 supper in Douglas Hall, East Kilbride.

Following a very fine introduction by the RWM of Lodge Douglas, Bro Donald Alexander, the brethren set to work.

Bro Robert delivered the Selkirk Grace before his drouthy cronie, Bro George McGrandles PM, stood to Address the Haggis. The assembled company enjoyed a very fine Bill o Fayre and a few wee musical interludes before Bro Stephen Scott stood to toast the lad and the gathering with a wonderful Immortal Memory that focussed on "Burns, the Man, the Myth and the Legend".

Bro Paul Stewart entertained the brethren and gentlemen with his hilarious Toast to the Lassies and Bro Robert took to his feet once again to deliver the ever popular recitation of Tam O'Shanter.

Under the expert chairmanship of Bro David, the event closed at 11.30 and the travelling concert party from Union and Crown were thanked in the most hearty fashion by all in attendance.

In speaking about this event Brother Robert told me "To be invited to speak at a Burns Supper is always a pleasure, to be invited to speak on behalf of your Lodge is always an honour, to be invited to speak with your close friends and brothers is an absolute treat."

I have no doubt the brethren of Union and Crown, No 307, performed to the highest of standards and the bond of friendship between 307 and 1557 will be all the stronger for it. Well done Brethren.



# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 23 Years Ago

No.201

February 1997

On Tuesday 4th February, after a short business meeting, the Lodge was closed and the Brethren retired downstairs, where a dinner was served to celebrate the 173rd Anniversary of the Lodge. The Function Suite was full to overflowing and all in attendance enjoyed the fine dinner, prepared by Bro Gordon Wright.

The stewards ensured that the glasses of the Brethren and their guests were never allowed to empty and at the close of the meal, Bro Oliver Adair PM of Lodge St Conval, Giffnock, No.1359 proposed an excellent and entertaining toast to Lodge Union & Crown which was greatly appreciated by all. Thereafter, Bro Murdo McLeod, ex-Dumbarton, Celtic, Borussia Dortmund, Hibernian & Scotland, now manager of Partick Thistle F.C., treated a spellbound audience to an often hilarious monologue of his life and career.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 8-03pm

Attendance : 104

At the Regular meeting on Tuesday 18th February, the following Candidates :

**JAMES BOLTON**

**IAN MASSON**

**SAMUEL BERRY**

were passed to the Second, Square or Fellowcraft Degree by a distinguished deputation of Officebearers and Brethren of Lodge Craigielea, No.1218. Our Paisley Brethren conferred a fine 2nd Degree, making a fine impression on our candidates and undoubtedly left all those in attendance well satisfied with the standard of the ceremonial.

Lodge Opened : 7-30 pm

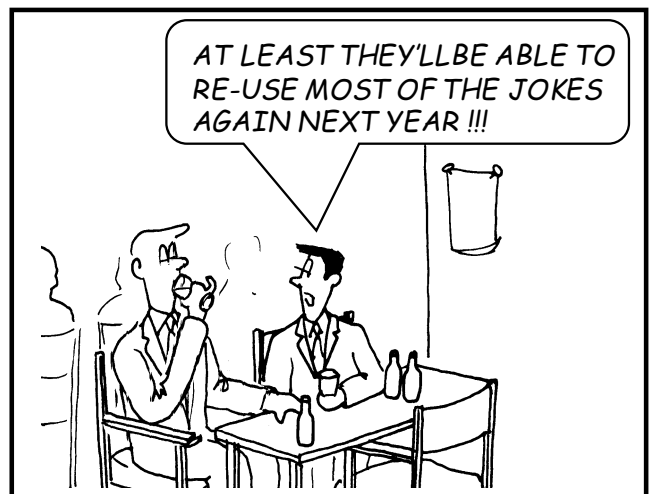
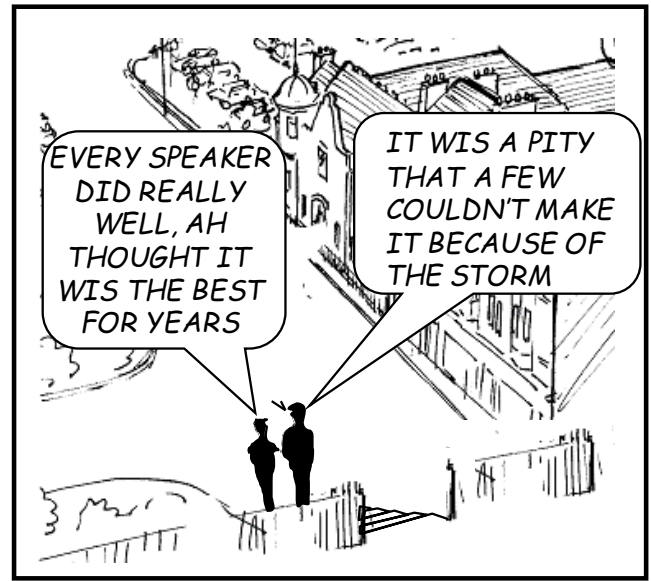
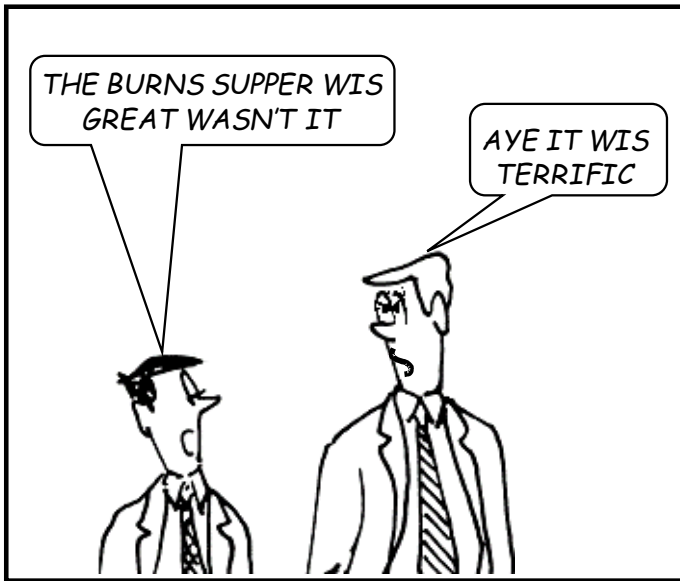
Lodge Closed : 9-43 pm

Attendance : 96

## BITS and PIECES

- ◆ We are indebted to Bro John Osborne for his generosity and most valuable assistance in production of The Mallet.
- ◆ We offer the heartiest of congratulations to Bro. Evans Reid and his lovely wife June on their forthcoming Silver Wedding.
- ◆ We offer best wishes to the well-established local firm of Wm G Renfrew, who celebrate 75 years as Barrhead's Blacksmiths this year and note that Bros Hughie Blair, Bobby Easdon PM and Bud Gauld PM have notched up an amazing total of 106 years service between them.
- ◆ The grateful thanks of the entire Lodge go to the Brethren who gladly gave up their time to act as drivers at the close of the recent Senior Members Dinner.
- ◆ Our grateful thanks go to Bro Bill Drummond PM of Lodge St Patrick, No. 1309 in Old Kilpatrick for his generous donation to our funds.
- ◆ All are reminded that we are staging a Racenight on Friday 21st March in aid of the 175th Fund. Both Tickets and Racecards are available from Bro Donald Cook WJW.
- ◆ We notice that Bro John Gray PM has a shiny new car with 307 on the registration.
- ◆ Brethren are reminded that there are still a few stragglers who have still to pay their Test Fees to the Treasurer and that the Social Club memberships are now overdue.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW FEB'20

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*

**Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.**

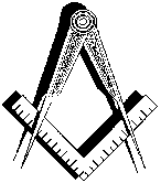
'Rapallo' 5 Stobs Drive, Barrhead, G78 1NY

☎ 0141-571-5979 e-mail : [jim.renfrew@ntlworld.com](mailto:jim.renfrew@ntlworld.com)

**Assistant Editor : Bro Graham Manson PM**

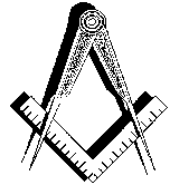
" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown.org>



# Syllabus 2020

(\* Denotes an Official Visitation)



## March 2020

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March PGLRE Visitation

\* Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March *Lodge Dunoon Argyll, No.335 (PoW)*

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March MM Lodge Instruction Class

## April 2020

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April Dramatised 'Burns vs Kipling'

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April EA 'Reigning Masters'

## May 2020

\* Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May *Lodge Darvel, No.971 (PoW)*

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May Dramatised PoW Degree

## June 2020

\* Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June *PGL Aberdeenshire in Fraserburgh (PoW)*