

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



November 2019

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No. 428



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The festive season is well and truly upon us and with it comes the end of another year, a full and eventful year for all who are involved in the production of our monthly journal in one way or another. We marked forty-three eventful years in print during October and whilst the mood of celebration has receded slightly and its now back to the monthly grind of a publishing deadline, it has left a real sense of achievement which will be very difficult to reproduce.

The Mallet has enjoyed tremendous support from a whole host of differing quarters over the years, far too many to mention, and we are sure that each and every one of those who have contributed greatly have done so because they gladly wanted to participate in the ongoing success of our journal. They obviously felt that **The Mallet** was truly part and parcel of the fabric of Lodge Union & Crown, No. 307, and as it was their Lodge, they strove to be associated with it in many many varied and differing ways.

In addition to those who are directly involved with the supply of information or consumables, there are many who contribute without even realising it ! It may only have been the chance remark innocently overheard during conversation but it can often blossom into an article which is appreciated by hundreds and there have been many instances of this in my time.

It can be difficult to continue to produce articles which are fresh, and interesting, and things that can grasp the attention of the reader. There have been times where, close to actual despair, you don't believe that you will get sufficient material it make it worthwhile, and actually meet the tight deadline, which a monthly publication demands. But we are still here, still typing away, and hopefully this will continue for a few years yet.

To each one of our faithful readership, at home & abroad, we extend the heartiest compliments of the season and hope that they return fit & refreshed after the festivities.

**A Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year
to all our Readers**



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 3rd December 2019

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

*Conferred by Worshipful Wardens
Harmony*

Tuesday 17th December 2019

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

*Conferred by Worthby Deacons
Harmony*

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting on Friday 1st November, after a short business meeting, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class carried out an excellent rendition of our 'Table of Scottish Freemasons', which was greatly appreciated by all in attendance, especially the visitors, where Brethren are permitted to invite members of the public to attend.

Opened : 7-30 pm

Lodge Closed : 8.05 pm

Attendance : 56

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 19th November, the Brethren of the Lodge, led by Bro Thomas Nicol Hynd IPM, carried out the Mark Ceremonial on the following Brethren :

IAN RUSSELL CRAIG HAUGH ROSS AITKEN EDWARD MULLIN

All in attendance cannot fail to have been impressed by the work of Bro Nicol and his well-chosen team of Brethren. Thereafter, the Brethren all retired to the Function Suite, where a harmony was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.25pm

Attendance :65

At the Installation Meeting of the Lodge held within the Temple on Saturday 23rd November, Brother Ronald Angus MacIsaac was installed in to the Chair of King Solomon by the Installing Masters for the day – Bro Graham Manson PM and Bro Thomas Mulholland PM.

The entire ceremony, from start to finish, was carried out in a most dignified and sincere manner by the Brethren involved, and the entire ceremony was enjoyed by all, in what was a fine attendance.

Opened : 4.00pm

Lodge Closed : 6.24pm

Attendance : 116



100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes were :

1st November £20 : Alex White & £10 : Bro Jim Urie

19th November £20 : Bro Vic Chapman & £10 : Bro Jim Cherry

23rd November £100 : Bro Iain Nicol & £50 : Bro Colin Hamilton PM

Bro George McGrandles P.M., has started taking names for next year, which will commence at our first meeting in December.

The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro George, our Treasurer.

Big Breakfast

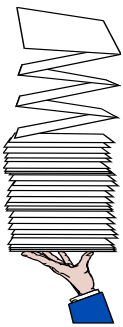
Our grateful thanks goes to Bro Ronnie Maclsaac RWM and his team of hard-working helpers for another successful 'Big Breakfast' fundraisers on Saturday 16th November, where over £740 was raised for Lodge Funds.

It was so busy, that at times it was difficult to get a seat in the function Suite, and tables had to be laid in the Downstairs Lounge.

(An especial thanks to Bro Ronnie's wife Sadie who worked hard all morning.)



Paper Appeal



As ever, we are always on the lookout for that most essential of commodities – PAPER, for our journal.

As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² paper, preferably white but any colour will do. Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary.

In addition, we also need 160g/m² card for various tasks within the Lodge.

307 DVD

Some of our readers will remember back in the 1990s that Bro Stef Lawniczak produced a DVD which contained footage of the construction of our Function Suite extension, and also scenes when some of the brethren walked the 'West Highland Way around the same time to raise funds for the building work.

It now appears that Bro Stef has lost his only copy of this most interesting chapter in the history of the Lodge.

At the time, several copies were distributed, among members of the Lodge and their families.

If you have a copy, or know of somebody who has one, could you let Bro Stef know as soon as possible.

He will, of course return your DVD to you after he has copied it.

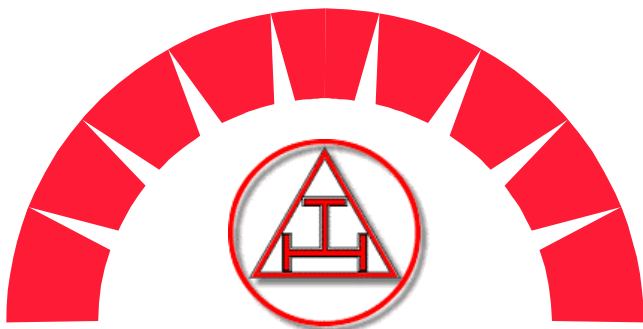




Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 3rd Dec** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Worshipful Wardens will be conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree.
- Saturday 14th Dec** Christmas Dance within the Function Suite
- Monday 16th Dec** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 17th Dec** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Worthy Deacons will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree.

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 12th November 2019, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC conferred a fine Mark Affiliate and Excellent Master's Degree Upon

Bro David Alexander

Whilst it was a neryv occasion, with so many of the Companions performing in their new offices for the very first time, they are to be congratulated for their efforts. Our Candidate, Bro David Alexander is a MM of Lodge Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408.

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 10th December 2019** at 7.30pm, where a Royal Arch Degree will be conferred upon the same Candidate.

BITS & PIECES

- It was great to see both Bro Brian Morton PM and Bro Ken Coleman PM travelling to attend the recent Installation Meeting. Bro Brian, of course now lives in Aberdeenshire, whilst Bro Ken is a very successful Architect with a thriving practice in Bristol, where he now lives with his lovely wife Jackie.
- 15 of our brethren (not including Honorary Members) attended the Annual Installation of Office Bearers at Grand Lodge in Edinburgh the last week in November. They were delighted to see Bro. Thomas Constable Smith, a good friend to 307, being installed as the Right Worshipful Depute Grand Master Mason, as well as our very own Bro. Bud Gauld PM being installed once again as Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- It was great to see that Mrs Jean Law still managed to supply some of her superb home baking for the Big Breakfast. Jean, who is of course the mother of Bro David Law, is now remarkably in her mid 90s
- Our Social Convener, Bro Lawrence Webb tells us that he only has a handful of tickets left for the Christmas Dance on Saturday 14th December.
- Once again many thanks to Bro George Smith of 153 for his kind donation of paper for The Mallet.
- We gather that Bro Johnny Gauld PM was out in Turkey for a week recently, piping at a wedding.
- 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.
- 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.
- The date for our annual Lodge Burns Supper has now been agreed. It will be on **Friday 21st February**, and Bro Robert Scott will be taking names for tickets shortly.
- It was pleasing to note that a total of 12 RWMs attended our recent Installation.



‘The Bud Gauld Plate’

As has become the custom at the Installation harmony, the winner of the Bud Gauld Plate was announced, and presented by Bro Bud Gauld PM

The prestigious award is given annually to the Brother of the Lodge, who it is thought has contributed above and beyond the call of duty within Lodge Union & Crown and the list of previous winners have shown that it is not given lightly, nor without great thought.

This year’s award went to : **Bro Stewart Gray IPM**

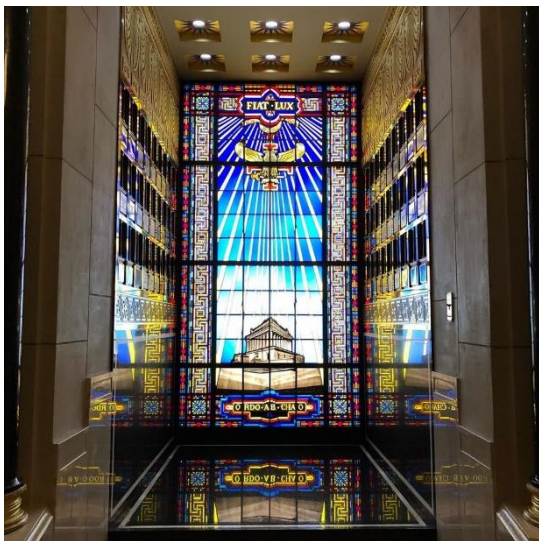
and all in attendance gave a rousing round of applause to a most popular choice.

Bro Craig Allison

It was great to see Bro Craig Allison down for our recent Installation. As many of our readers will know, Bro Craig Allison (nephew of Bro Evans Reid PM) now works and lives in Aberdeen, and has affiliated to 'The Lodge of Old Aberdeen', No.164, where he is currently W.S.W.

Bro Craig has recently returned from a visit to the United States, in the company of another of No.164's Brethren – Bro Brian Dempster PM. Having captured most of the sights in Washington, they headed over to nearby Virginia, where Bro Brian had previously visited almost 20 years before, when Freemasons from the North East of Scotland travelled to Virginia, a visit which was reciprocated a couple of years later.

Whilst paying a recent visit to the Scottish Rite Temple in Portsmouth, Virginia Bro Brian asked about various Brethren he had known from the past, mentioning that he'd struck up a close friendship with Bro Bob McBride of Norfolk Lodge



No.1, but unfortunately, had lost touch with him in recent years. By an amazing coincidence, the Secretary said that Bro Bob now lived close by and that he would give him a call. Ten minutes later Bro Bob turned up and after a few seconds of confusion a tearful impromptu reunion ensued. They shared stories about their past experiences with each other and how wonderful it was to see each other again. Bro Bob, then proceeded to tell the two Scots visitors, that he was the Worshipful Master of Norfolk Lodge No. 1 and that they were meeting that night. It was too good an opportunity to miss, and they set aside plans to

visit another Lodge, and off we went later.

We were picked up at 5:30pm and we went to the Lodge, where before the meeting, we dined on very nice Philippine cuisine. (Nae pies here!) before being given a tour of the temple which consisted of, a Blue Room, a Chapter Room (with very ornate veils) and a Commandery Room. Unfortunately there was no degree on that evening, but it was great to see how the Americans opened and closed their lodge. It was a joint meeting between Norfolk No. 1 and Owens Lodge No. 164 which made the night that bit more bizarre as this is the number of my affiliate Lodge in Aberdeen.



(Editor's Note : We continue our series of articles which trace the history of some of the local Lodges here in the Province of Renfrewshire East, and perhaps even further afield. Concluding this month the history of Union & Crown)

History of Lodge Union & Crown, No. 307

Part 3 : '1940's to the Present Day'

With the War over the returning servicemen, like the generation before them who'd returned from the Great War in 1918, were anxious to recreate the bond they had experienced whilst in the forces. Once again the Lodge was inundated with Candidates, a minute from 1946 records no fewer than 25 Applicants at an Enquiry Meeting in a single evening ! The administrative Office-bearers wisely decided to raise the Initiation Fee from £7-12s to £9-9s.

By 1950 the Lodge agreed because of an abundance of Office-bearers, that each Master should only occupy "the Chair" for one year, where previously it had be two, One bright spot at this time was Union & Crown, in conjunction with Lodge St Christopher No.1453, agreeing to act as Sponsors for a new Lodge being formed in neighbouring Nitshill. Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 was consecrated in Priesthill Parish Church in 1952

By 1954 Barrhead as a town was changing. The old tenements which lined the Main Street, Water Road, Muriel Street, Robertson Street were being demolished, tram lines were being lifted and new council housing was being built at various locations. By the end of 1958 growth in 307 was evident and it was noted that attendances had grown for the 3rd year in succession, and the Brethren agreed to convert the former Library downstairs into a Bar.

By 1961 Bro Bob Addison PM had completed a remarkable half century as Hallkeeper, having moved into the Lodge House when it was first built and living there continuously for over 50 years. On his retiral, the Lodge, together with the other kindred organisations who met in the Temple made a significant joint presentation of a sum of money which was quite substantial in those days.

By 1972 it had been agreed to open the Social Club on Saturday nights. Initially it was only the Top Bar, but it was soon felt that the Main Hall could be used and tables and chairs were bought from the old "White City" dog track in Glasgow which was closing.

October 1976 saw the humble launch of a Lodge Newsletter, initially a single-sheet, it was to grow over the years and on occasions has reached 30 pages and beyond. Within a few issues a name was chosen "The Mallet" and it has been an excellent fundraiser and source of information ever since travelling throughout the known Masonic World. As our monthly journal reaches its 44th year, hopefully it will continue to be published for many years to come.

In December 1979 four Brethren arrived at the Lodge, intending to break through the wall opposite the kitchen door. Their efforts were to no avail due to the fact that the wall was some 15 inches thick. Undeterred, they soon sought and were granted permission to cut through the wooden partition at the rear of the existing lounge, and digging soon began. One Brother suggested that we should weigh the first barrow of dirt to be removed and thereafter calculating the total removed. This was done and the total weight of waste removed totalled over 160 tonnes.

1980 was also the year a letter arrived from the Secretary of State for Scotland, intimating that the Temple had been nominated as a listed building, because of "its special architectural and historic interest".

On 2nd March 1982 we find that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, during their annual inspection of the Lodge Books stating "after looking at the attendances for the past year, they thought that 307 was not only the best supported Lodge in Renfrewshire East, but also in Scotland".

The R.W.M.s were well supported with over 50 Brethren attending official visitations to Sister Lodges and in excess of 20 at unofficial visits not uncommon. During the 1970's attendances climbed steadily, culminating in a series of record attendances in the mid-1980s and whilst they have now levelled out and stabilised, we are still one of the most successful and well supported Lodges in the Scottish Craft.

A handsome extension was erected in 1994, enhancing the already impressive listed building. The Lodge celebrated its 175th Anniversary with a fabulous week of celebrations in February 1999, culminating in a Re-dedication and Consecration Meeting within the Temple, conducted by Provincial Grand Lodge. Thereafter a Dinner attended by over 300 Brethren was held within The Main Hall of the old Barrhead Higher Grade School in Main Street, the site of the Centenary Dinner in 1924.

Later that year 25 Brethren of the Lodge travelled to Frituna Lodge, No.2949 in Essex to confer our popular Dramatised MM Degree, a trip, which was repeated 2 years later. Early in 2001, over 30 Brethren travelled across the Atlantic to Houston in Texas where we had been invited to by Spring Lodge #1174. A reciprocal visit was hosted by Union & Crown in November 2002, when a group of our Texan Brethren and their wives came to Barrhead as our guests.

In April 2001 the Lodge was further honoured when we were invited to confer the Dramatised FC within Provincial Grand Lodge as part of their 175th Anniversary celebrations, the very first occasion a Daughter Lodge had been invited to confer a degree within Prov. Grand Lodge.

In November 2010, the Lodge celebrated the Centenary of the opening of our Temple, with a Rededication Ceremony attended by 29 members of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with all the Brethren in attendance marching from a special service in Bourock Parish Church to the Temple.

In 2012 Union & Crown were invited to confer their Dramatised FC Degree within the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in front of an invited audience of Grand Secretaries from across the globe. A tremendous honour for 307

Over the years, there have been several famous freemasons within Lodge Union & Crown – Lord Colin Renfrew of Kaimsthorn & Hurler, Bro Sir Henry Meehan, Bros Bob McPhail, David Provan, Gordon Durie & Bobby McKean (all of Rangers F.C.), Bro Malcolm McPhail (Scottish Cup Winner with Kilmarnock F.C. in 1919) and Bro Cameron Peddie (Author & Faith Healer).

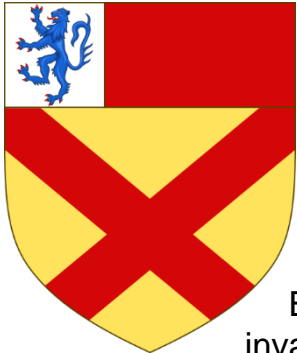
There can be no doubt that Lodge Union & Crown, No. 307 are still very much to the forefront within the town of Barrhead, and throughout Freemasonry, as we approach our Bi-centenary in 2024.

Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to a celebrated Brother, who has contributed much to Freemasonry for almost 70 years)

Bro Andrew Douglas Alexander Thomas Bruce (b 1924)

11th Earl of Elgin and 15th Earl of Kincardine, KT, CD, JP, DL



The eldest son of Edward Bruce and the Honourable Katherine Elizabeth Cochrane, he was educated at Eton and at Balliol College, Oxford. A direct descendant of King Robert the Bruce, he was styled Lord Bruce before 1968, when he inherited both Earldoms upon the death of his father, he is Chief of Clan Bruce.

In 1943, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the 3rd (Armoured) Battalion Scots Guards and was wounded during Operation Bluecoat, the break out from Normandy in August 1944. Subsequently invalided out of the army in October 1946, with the honorary rank of lieutenant, he was appointed an instructor in the Army Cadet Force in 1951.

Following in the footsteps of his father, he was initiated in Lodge Elgin & Bruce, No.1077 in 1948, and served as RWM of his Mother Lodge in 1950, the same year he became a Grand Lodge Office-bearer. He became PGM of Fife & Kinross in 1957, a position he held for 45 years. His family have been most prominent in Scottish Freemasonry for over 200 years, and it was fitting that he became MW Grand Master Mason in 1961, almost exactly 40 years after his father had also been installed as GMM. He is also a Past Senior Grand Warden of the GL of England, and served as First Principal of the Supreme Grand RA Chapter of Scotland for 34 years until 2004. He also served as Deputy Grand Master & Governor of the Royal Order from 1970 for almost 40 years. He is universally known (with affection) as 'Elgin' within the Craft.

In July 1963, by then the County Cadet Commandant for Fife, he was awarded the Cadet Forces Medal. He resigned his commission in April 1965, retaining the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Since 1970, he has been Colonel-in-Chief of the 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins), and was Honorary Colonel of the 153 (Highland) Transport Regiment until 1986.

Lord Elgin was President of the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, and the Scottish motor racing team, Ecurie Ecosse. Appointed a JP in 1951, he was Deputy Lieutenant of Fife for over 30 years until his appointment as Lord Lieutenant in 1987, a position he held for 22 years. A former Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, HM The Queen installed him as a Knight of the Thistle in 1982. Awarded the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav in 1994, he is a former Captain of the Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland – The Royal Company of Archers, and served as President of the Boys' Brigade from 1966 to 1985.



He is a Freeman of Bridgetown, Regina, Saskatchewan, Port Elgin, Winnipeg, Manitoba, St. Thomas, Ontario, and Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Lord Elgin is a Past President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 15 Years Ago

No.278

November 2004

On Tuesday 2nd November, the following Candidates :

DAVID SLOAN

ELLIS MCKINNON

PAUL RATHERAM

was raised to the high & sublime degree of a M.M. by a degree team drawn from the members of the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was a fine and spirited Dramatised Third Degree, much in the tradition of Union & Crown. Those Brethren who participated are to be congratulated upon their efforts, although it may have helped if they had finished a little bit earlier !

Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 10-03pm

Attendance : 92

On Tuesday 16th November, the following Brethren :

GORDON FLEMING

CAMPBELL KENNEDY

RONNIE MCISAAC

ELLIS MCKINNON

received a fine Mark Ceremonial, conferred by Bro Wilson Davidson PM, who stood in at short notice, and his carefully picked team of degree workers, in what is always a good mix of the serious and the light-hearted. Bro Wilson can be rightly proud of the degree under his control, where all involved are to be congratulated.

Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-18pm

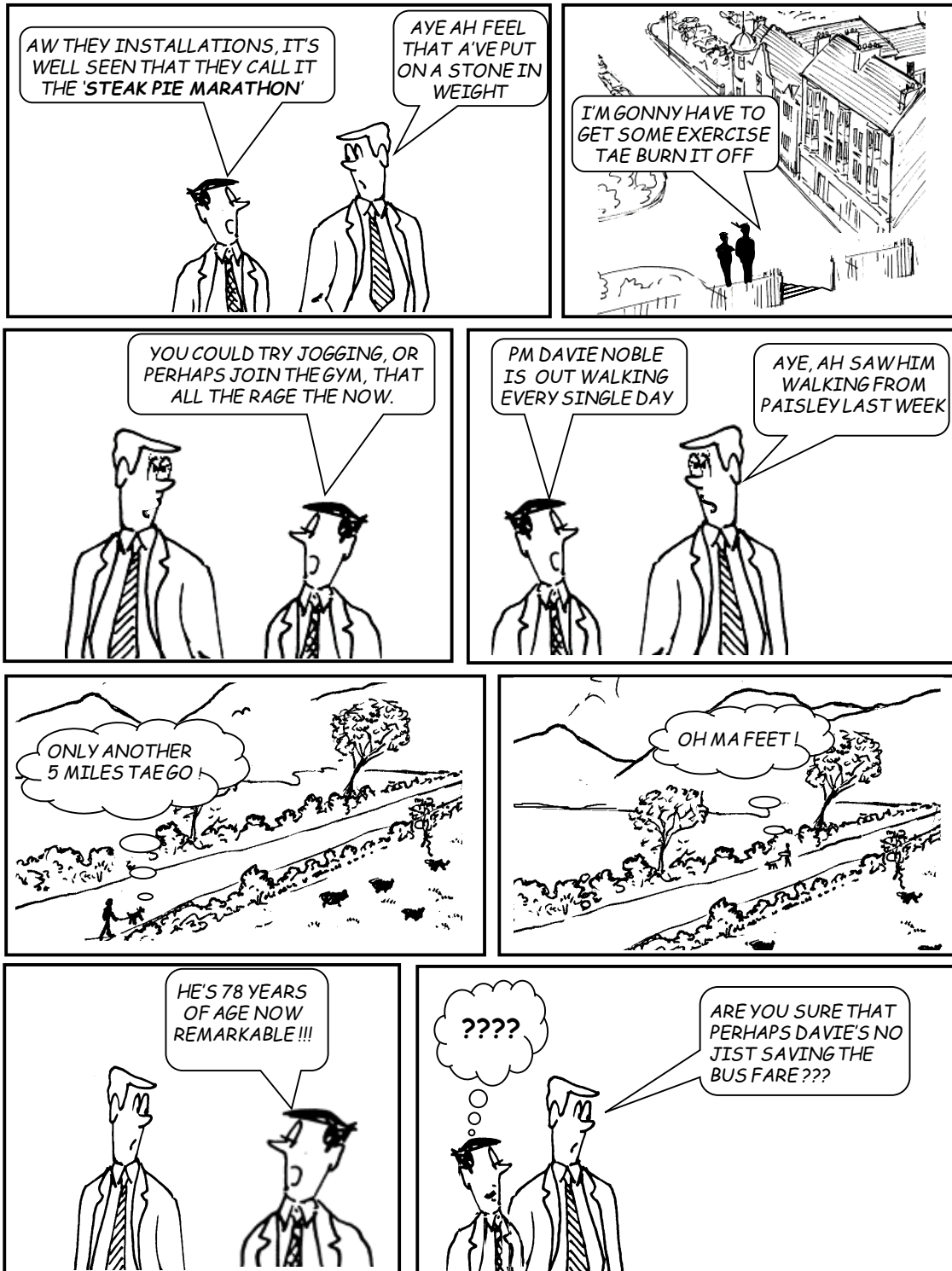
Attendance : 64

At the Installation Meeting held on Saturday 27th November, Bro Tom Mulholland was installed into the chair of King Solomon, in what was an impressive ceremony conducted by the Installing Masters for the occasion - Bro Donald Cook PM, No.307 and Bro Robert Miller PM, 307. All in attendance were impressed by the high standard of work presented by these experienced Brethren.

Bits & Pieces

- The Lodge has been invited to confer our popular Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree within Lodge St Anthony, No.154 in Aberdeenshire West. Although the actual date has yet to be finalised, it is likely to be Saturday 5th March 2005.
- The Lodge has also received correspondence from some Canadian Brethren of Unity Lodge, No 710 in Brampton, Ontario. The Lodge is organising a visit of some of its Brethren to Scotland in the Autumn of 2005 and have asked us if we will play host to their degree team in October.
- We gather that Bro Tom Young PM is to be the latest recipient of "an electric wheelchair type buggy". Bro Tom who has circulation problems in his legs will soon be tearing around the town in his new vehicle !
- Bro Tom Conway, who coincidentally enjoys very good health we may add, certainly has a medical family. One daughter is a senior nursing officer (a matron in the old days) and the other is now a consultant psychiatrist.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW NOVEMBER 2019

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :
Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

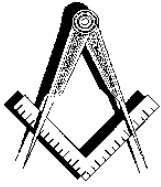
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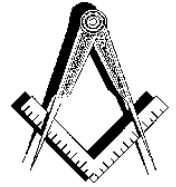
" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

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



Syllabus 2019 / 2020

(* Denotes an Official Visitation)



December 2019

Tuesday 3rd December EA Worshipful Wardens

Tuesday 17th December FC Worthy Deacons

January 2020

Tuesday 7th January MM Installing Masters

* Thursday 9th January EA at Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

Tuesday 21st January EA by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478

February 2020

Friday 7th February 196th Anniversary Dinner

Tuesday 18th February FC Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

* Tuesday 24th February MM at Lodge 'Prince of Wales', No.426

March 2020

Tuesday 3rd March PGLRE Visitation

Tuesday 17th March MM Lodge Instruction Class