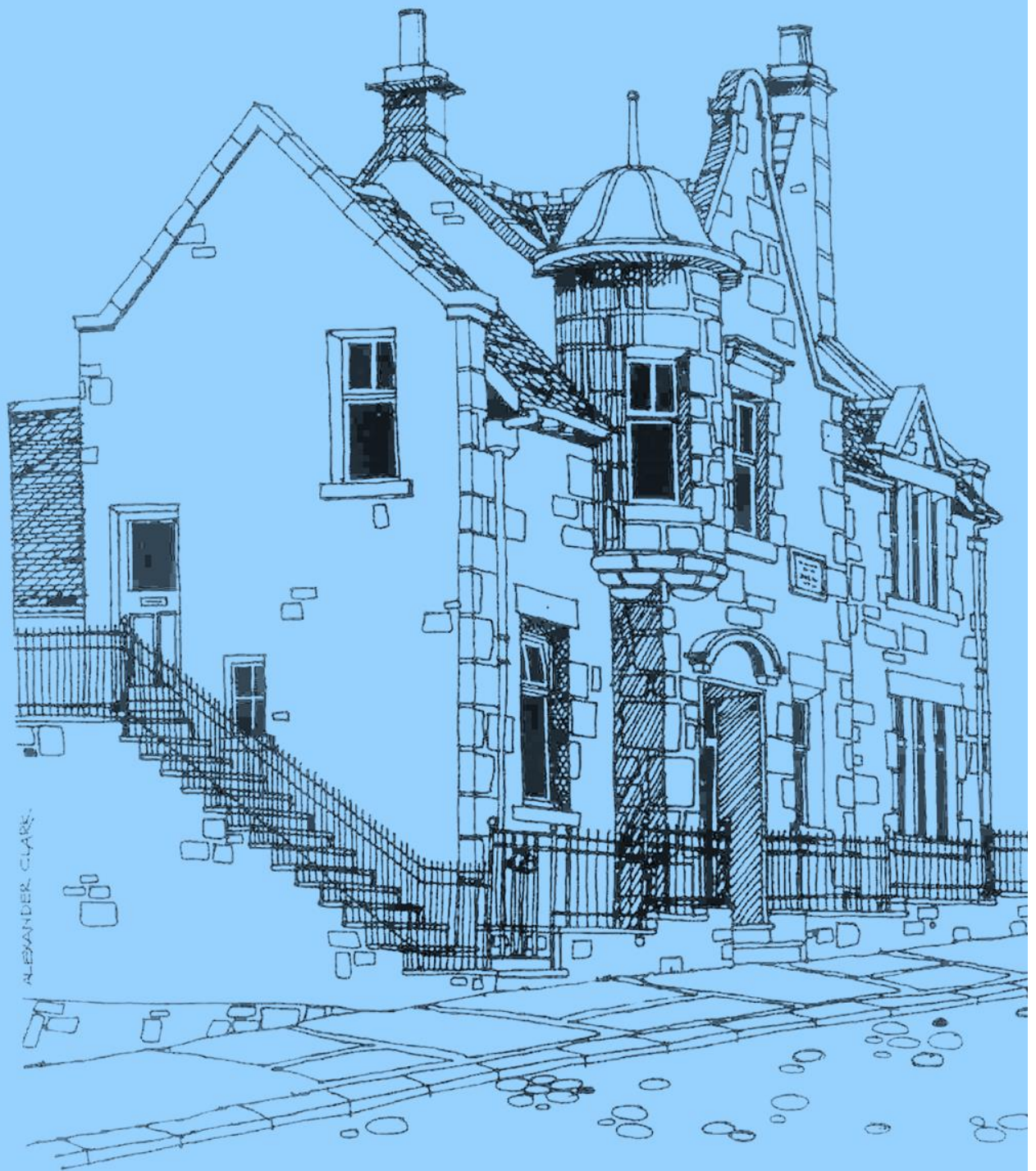


The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



March 2025

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

No. 482

Editorial



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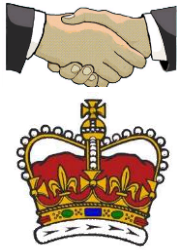
There is no doubt that many enjoy visiting the Social Club occasionally for a quiet drink in pleasant and convivial surroundings. It is an excellent facility within the Temple, further enhanced by its reasonable bar prices.

However, few may contemplate what makes this all possible. Of course, without our patronage, there would be no Social Club for the brethren, their families, and friends to enjoy. Additionally, the efforts of the hard-working bar staff who willingly donate their valuable time contribute significantly to the club's success.

Yet, many may not fully realize the cornerstone upon which our entire Social Club operates—the Bar Convenor. Lodge Union & Crown has been fortunate in the 50+ years of having a licensed club to have had a succession of diligent Brethren willing and able to devote their time and talents to this almost full-time role. Most often, those assigned this crucial task have balanced their duties with another regular job.

The current incumbent, Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM, has excelled in his position despite challenging times for licensed premises due to rising living costs. His dedication to duty, commitment to "getting it right for 307," and long hours, often at the expense of his own family and business, make him well-suited for the demanding tasks involved. His hard work and devotion have ensured good returns from the bar. We are notably appreciative of the patience and understanding of his supportive wife, Sadie, who stands by him in difficult circumstances.

Bro Ronnie handles his responsibilities with composure and rarely appears harassed. He has introduced several initiatives to improve our operations. According to Bro Ronnie, our continued success results from teamwork, where numerous individuals contribute. While our team performs admirably, it is indisputable that this excellence is due to superb leadership from a fine captain who leads by example.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 1st April 2025

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree

By the Guid Brethren o' the Lodge

Harmony



Tuesday 15th April 2025

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

By the Installing Masters

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.,

Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 4th March, the Lodge welcomed the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, who were there to conduct their Annual Visitation to Union & Crown. The deputation was headed by Bro Gavin Burt, Substitute Provincial Grand Master who gave a report of the workings of the Lodge during the last 12 months whilst Bro Robert Scott IPM was Master.

The Lodge received a 'clear minute' with especial mention being given to the Executive Office-bearers of the Lodge for all their hard work. Thereafter, all Brethren present retired to the Function Suite to enjoy the harmony.

Opened : 7.32pm

Lodge Closed : 8.21pm

Attendance : 54

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 19th March, the following Candidates :

ANDREW MURRAY

had an excellent FC Degree conferred upon them by the Worthy Deacons of the Lodge, assisted by some of the members of the Lodge Instruction Class.

A deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge, led by the Provincial Grand Master – Bro Ronald E Fraser, was admitted and thereafter, the PGL assisted our RWM Bro Stephen Scott in presenting a diploma to Bro Douglas Junner PM to mark his 50 years membership of Lodge Union & Crown. The assembled Brethren then showed their appreciation to Bro Douglas for his many years of service.

The tables were soon turn and Bro Ronald E Fraser PGM was asked if he would accept Honorary Membership of the Lodge. A surprised PGM then took his obligation and was afforded a 'noisy' 307 welcome.

The Brethren then retired to the Function Suite where all in attendance enjoyed a calm and relaxing harmony, after the labours of the evening.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.23pm

Attendance : 66

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

7th February £20 : **Bro Donald Cook PM**

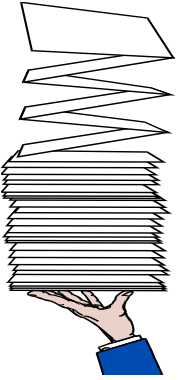
 £10 : **Ross McLardy**

18th February £20 : **Bro Stef Lawniczak**

 £10 : **Bro Ross McLardy (again !!)**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our worthy Treasurer, is still taking names for this year, with the annual fee is still excellent value at £10.

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

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 1st April

Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised FC Degree will be conferred.

Tuesday 15th April

Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Master Mason Degree will be conferred by the Installing Masters, assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge.

Monday 21st April

Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Monday 28th April

Visitation to Lodge Nitshill where we have been invited to confer an FC Degree **(Note Change of Degree !!)**

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and his Wardens are constantly involved in unofficial visits to sister Lodges. Details of which can be easily obtained by contacting Robert Scott RWM or any senior Office-bearer,

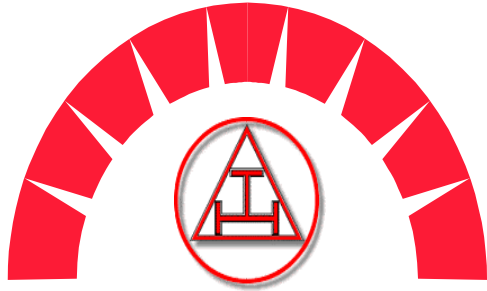
They will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province)



"How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?"

- 2 to complain that the light doesn't work.
- 1 to pass the problem to another committee
- 3 to do a study on light in the Lodge.
- 2 to check out the types of lights other Lodges use.
- 3 to argue about it.
- 5 to plan a fund-raising dinner to raise money for the bulb.
- 2 to complain that "that's not the way we did it before."
- 1 to borrow a ladder, donate the bulb and install it.
- 1 to order the brass memorial plate and have it inscribed.





Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday, 11th March, the Companions of the Chapter conferred a fine Royal Arch Degree on

Bro Robert Scott

All who participated in the degree are to be congratulated for their efforts, especially with a couple of late call-offs.

It was good to see a number of Visitors at the meeting, including four Reigning Principals from within Renfrewshire.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount Royal Arch along with their guests, retired downstairs where they enjoyed a pleasant conclusion to the evening.



Meet the Candidate : Andrew Murray

Andrew who is 36 years old, is a native of the town, although he now lives in Bailleston with his wife Nicola. The son of Bro Robin Murray PM, Andrew holds a responsible position as a shop Manager with Scotmid, which doesn't allow him much time with his favourite pastime of golf.



Lodge Postcards

Unique colour postcards of our Temple are still available for sale at £1-00 each from Bro Jim Miller PM (☎ 0141 881 4006) jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk

All proceeds will go to The Lodge Charity Fund, with an annual donation being made to a local charity each year at our Anniversary Dinner in February. As it stand, a magnificent total of almost £750 has been raised so far.



Famous Freemasons

(This month we look at one of the great empire builders of imperialist Britain during the latter half of the 19th Century)

Brother Cecil Rhodes (1852 – 1903)

Cecil John Rhodes was born on July 1853 in Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire. Although he was already showing signs of what was to be a lifelong illness, at the age of 17, he joined his elder brother Herbert in South Africa, first on a cotton farm in Natal, then in the diamond fields of Kimberley.

At 20, he returned to England to begin his undergraduate studies at Oxford but interrupted them after only one term to return to Kimberley. When he received his B.A. seven years later, he was already a wealthy man and Member of Parliament in the Cape Colony.

Rhodes became a Freemason in the Apollo University Lodge, No.357 during his time at Oriel College, Oxford on June 2, 1877, paying £5 10 shillings. He was raised a Master Mason in the same lodge on April 17 1877. During his time in Africa, he became a charter member of Bulawayo Lodge No. 2566 in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1895.



By the age of 37, he had created De Beers, a company that controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production, headed another major mining firm (Consolidated Gold Fields), managed the British South Africa Company – which the British government had authorized to “settle” large areas of central and southern Africa – and was prime minister of the Cape Colony. In the last twelve years of his life, Rhodes added what is now Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi (750,000 square miles) to the British Empire. Like the US “robber barons” of his day (Rockefeller, Carnegie, Vanderbilt, Morgan) Rhodes was ambitious, hard-driving, and sometimes ruthless. But he was kind and generous to his friends, helpful to those in need, and a philanthropist the whole of his



Following his first heart attack at the age of 19, he sensed that he would not live long. “Everything is too short,” he said once. “From the cradle to the grave, what is it? Three days at the seaside.”

That sense of mortality made him reckless at times and contributed to his political downfall. In

December 1895, an invasion of the Transvaal Republic that he had planned secretly with his close associate Dr. Jameson went awry and he was forced to step down as prime minister. The “Jameson Raid” was intended to relieve the plight of the English community of Johannesburg and hasten the creation of a South African federation. Instead, it added to the tensions that led, four years later, to the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).

Admirers and critics have highlighted two remarkable moments in his life: his two-month vigil at the deathbed of his friend Neville Pickering in 1886, during which Rhodes forfeited

gold claims eventually worth £250 million, and the peace talks he conducted unarmed in the open countryside with the Ndebele leaders at the risk of his own life in 1896.

He died, surrounded by his closest friends, at his seaside cottage at Muizenberg outside Cape Town on March 26th 1902, at the age of 48.

Rhodes knew that his record would be debated. In fact, even in his day, he faced controversy, mainly because of the Jameson Raid, but also from a small number of anti-imperialists, who were as lonely as the prophets of climate change would be in the 1970s and 1980s. Although he did more than anyone else to expand the British Empire, it was not for personal gain – as he had already earned his fortune in the diamond and goldfields of South Africa – but because he genuinely believed that the spreading of British influence would benefit everyone. He was dishonest in pursuing that goal – for example, he tried to convince the Ndebele leader Lobengula that all he wanted was to explore for minerals on his land – but he was consistent in the belief that his ultimate aim was right.

“You must be an Imperialist,” he told a friend, “not from mere lust of dominion or pride of race, but because you believe the Empire is the best available instrument for diffusing the principles of Justice, Liberty, and Peace throughout the world. When Imperialism involves the perpetration of Injustice, the suppression of Freedom and the waging of wars other than those of self-defence, the true Rhodesian must cease to be an Imperialist.” But he knew that his methods had been rough and hoped that he would be judged, not by the settled standards of Victorian England, but by those of the buccaneering Elizabethan age, which he thought were more appropriate to the African frontier.

In recent years, he has been called a “white supremacist”, charged with “genocide”, and regarded as the “architect” of apartheid. Some have even likened him to Hitler and Stalin. But these are exaggerations, which are difficult to support with historical evidence. In contrast to many of his contemporaries, Rhodes did not believe in any inherent genetic difference between peoples; instead, he saw English values as superior because of a favourable history, including four hundred years of Roman occupation. He was proud of his relations with Africans, enjoyed their company, and believed that with proper education and example they could govern themselves. Although he made shameful concessions to Afrikaner opinion on African voting rights, it seems that he was changing his views on that subject in his last two years. Far from wanting to commit mass murder, he saved the Ndebele people from starvation in late 1896, following an outbreak of cattle disease, by giving them £6 million from his own pocket to buy corn. When the British government insisted on arresting and executing “rebel” leaders that year, Rhodes vowed to live with the Ndebele if the peace settlement that he had negotiated with them was not respected. He got his way.

Looking at the same facts, reasonable people can come to very different conclusions about Rhodes’s life and legacy. But, even now, his broader aims – a united South Africa and greater cooperation among the most powerful political forces in the world to promote prosperity and “perpetual peace” – appear worthwhile. The Rhodes Scholarships, which were the chief instrument of that vision, have allowed more than 8,000 young leaders to hone their skills and expand their outlook to help solve global issues or serve their own countries and communities. In turn, the Scholarships have inspired other philanthropists to fund learning and research to improve the well-being of humanity

BITS & PIECES

- Congratulations to our Right Worshipful Master, Bro Stephen Scott, on the manner in which he conducted the affairs of the last Regular Meeting. With the presentation to Bro Douglas Junner and the Honorary Membership of Bro Ronnie Fraser there was a lot of additional work to an already busy evening.
- Congratulations to our Worthy Instruction Master, Bro Graham Manson who recently turned 60 and also retired from his job as a Gas Heating Engineer.
- Bro Lawrence Webb's recent Game Night was an undoubted success, where over 20 Brethren enjoyed a fine evening and help keep a smile on our worthy Bar Convenor Bro Ronnie Maclsaac. He hopes to run on on the last Friday of each month.
- We see that Bro Colin McLardy PM was home from Las Vegas for a brief visit last month. Sadly it didn't allow him to catch a Lodge Meeting, but perhaps next time.
- We gather that the Dinner next year to commemorative the Bi-Centenary of Provincial Grand Lodge has sold out. It is being held in Paisley Town Hall, with 250 people in attendance.
- We would like to remind our readers that our Sister Lodge – Lodge Randolph, No.1434 is holding its Annual Lunch, here in 307 on Saturday 21st June at 1.30 for 2.00pm. Tickets are available for any 1434 Office-bearer (of which there are many within Union & Crown).
- Well done to Brothers John McIntyre and Campbell Ritchie who installed the magnificent new Light above our front door. It makes a fine addition to our premises. A touch of class.
- It was good to see that some of the younger brethren of the Lodge had a proposal to have a Pool Table placed in the Downstairs Lounge accepted by the Management Committee. They plan to run 3/4 fundraising evenings in the Lodge to raise the funds and we hope that all will support them in this worthwhile venture.
- At the recent Provincial Grand Lodge visitation, it was heartening to notice that the collection on that evening, which goes to the PGL Benevolent fund was almost £200.
- It was good to see Bro Jim Miller PM back from his annual lengthy Winter sojourn to Portugal. Hopefully he'll be refreshed and ready to go.
- Congratulations to Bro Billy Petrie's young granddaughter Eilidh aged 9 who recently won the Gold Medal in her age group for the whole of Scotland. A talented gymnast, Bro Billy and his family have high hopes for the future.

The Plumb Rule

The plumb or plumb rule is an instrument of antiquity. The earliest craftsmen used a weighted cord as a plumb. The Greeks of yore formed a bob of lead on a cord and they gave it a name: MOLUBDOS, meaning lead. From this working tool evolved the name MOLYBDENUM, the name of a well-known metal. The ever-practical Romans took the word and latinized it to become PLUMBUM, the tool to measure perpendiculars of structures, walls, aqueducts, and fortifications in every corner of the Roman Empire.

The Gauls adopted the tool, and their successors, the Normans, shortened the word to PLOMB. The Britons added the letter “a” to coin a new word: APLOMB, meaning not easily upset — not off center. Later, Englishmen revised the spelling to PLUMB and it became a verb as well as a noun. Early English mariners used this tool. Shakespeare called it a plummet: “Deeper than ere a plummet sounded.”

It was the French who began to call the lead bob a ball. In French BOULE, meaning a ball of lead small leaden balls or boules were the primitive BULLETS. The Latins modified the word to BULLA. They used very small bullas which they compressed into a thin wafer, utilizing it as a legal seal for documents. Thus was born the Papal BULL — it is definitely not of bovine origins!

While originally a simple lead weight on a string, the plumb, when required by expert craftsmen, evolved into the shape of the Junior Wardens jewel, and specifically adapted for operative stonemasons. It is interesting to note that this jewel or tool is sometimes found to be richly embellished with symbols (sun, moon, all-seeing eye, etc.) and at other times very plain.

Reference to the plumb arises throughout Masonic rituals and books and throughout the lore of Masonry

If you were to visit an American York Rite lodges you will find that in the FC degree the VSL is opened on the book of Amos; and it contains an excellent example of the beauty of the plumb: “Behold, the Lord stood upon a wall, with a plumb line in his hand. He said: “Amos, what seeth thou?” Amos replied, “A plumb line.” The Lord said, “Behold, I will set a plumb line amidst my people Israel, and I will pass by them nevermore.”

To the operative masons, the level and plumb were intertwined, and together they formed a square. Brethren, the plumb rule is an instrument used in architecture by which a building is raised in a perpendicular direction; and it is figurative of an upright and true course of life. It typifies care against any deviation from the Masonic upright line of conduct! If you apply the square to the level, you get the PLUMB — the living perpendicular esteemed by all true craftsmen, and the emblem of growth and immortality. It is a truly magnificent jewel, an indispensable working tool; and when applied to the work with its fellows, the square and the level, it opens the doorway of that middle chamber in those immortal mansions, whence all goodness emanates.



Coffee Morning



The worthy Deacons have organised a Coffee Morning for Saturday 10th May, 10am to 12 Noon in the Function Suite. Tickets are now available from Bro Bryce McCaig, Senior Deacon. Any donations of home baking would be much appreciated.

Did you Know ?

- That the oldest known Masonic Lodge room is said to be St John's Chapel in Edinburgh, Scotland (1736)
- That three out of the four original Lodges that first formed the United Grand Lodge of England are still in existence today.
- That in 1749, the first Lodge was constituted in Norway in the city of Christiania (now known as Oslo).
- That the highest Masonic Lodge in the world is on top of Cerro de Pasco in Peru, 14,208 feet above sea level.
- That to prevent errors, some Grand Lodges have replaced the "black-ball" in the voting system with a black-cube, which would be much easier to identify in low light.
- That the term "*A Beautiful System of Morality, Veiled in Allegory and Illustrated by Symbols*" was coined by Samuel Hemming, the first Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England.
- That the name Solomon means peace. King David (King Solomon's Father) gave him this name in anticipation of the peaceful years to follow
- That Freemasonry exists in various forms all over the world, with a membership estimated at around five million, including approximately 480,000 in Great Britain and over two million in the United States



Food for Thought

When we say that we meet "On the Level" we most usually think of our differing stations in life and it is true that Masonry allows us all to meet as equals, whatever our backgrounds. However, the concept of Masonic parity should also apply to our hearts and minds.

As Masons we should always have our sights set on the highest levels of thought and behaviour and in this, too, we should be " On the Level".

All lives contain drudgery, and it is often difficult to remain optimistic in the face of it but there is no doubt that to do so is the mark of a " Good Mason"...

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 37 Years Ago

No. 113

March 1988

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 1st March the P.G.L.R.E. made their annual inspection of our books etc. with everything was found to be in order. All were specially proud to have the new P.G.M. Bro Bruce Watson lead this deputation, the size of which was particularly noteworthy.

Lodge Opened : 7-33pm

Lodge Closed : 8-49pm

Attendance : 122

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 15th March, the following Candidates :

John Hamilton M.M.

Norman McLauchlan

had the E.A. Degree conferred upon them by the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Pollokshaws Royal Arch, No.153. A good degree was conferred albeit somewhat differently from the way we do it in 307. The Candidates were suitably impressed.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-40pm

Attendance : 113

Lodge Gossip

Congratulations to Bro TOM FORDE'S son, Ian on his recent marriage.

We hear that Bro GEORGE BUIST's daughter Lyn is to be wed within the next couple of months.

Bro JIM WATERSTON is the latest to change job, starting in local company Armitage Shanks.

Surely Willie Love, our R.W.M. is one of the most articulate of Masters we've had in a long time.

It's a pleasure to see the pictures of the latest batch of Past Masters on the wall. This is a custom which has gone on for over 110 years.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Bud was sitting talking to his son Johnny one night, when Johnny suddenly asked him what the "*wee black and white balls*" were for under the dais in the Lodge. Bud asked him how he knew about them, and Johnny answered with the honesty of a child "*Me and Mister Wright had a game of marbles with them one time*"

"Mister Wright" is, of course, Gordon our Lodge Cook !

Masonic News

It's great to see "The Douglas Standard", magazine of Lodge Douglas, East Kilbride doing so well after its rebirth. More power to their elbows.

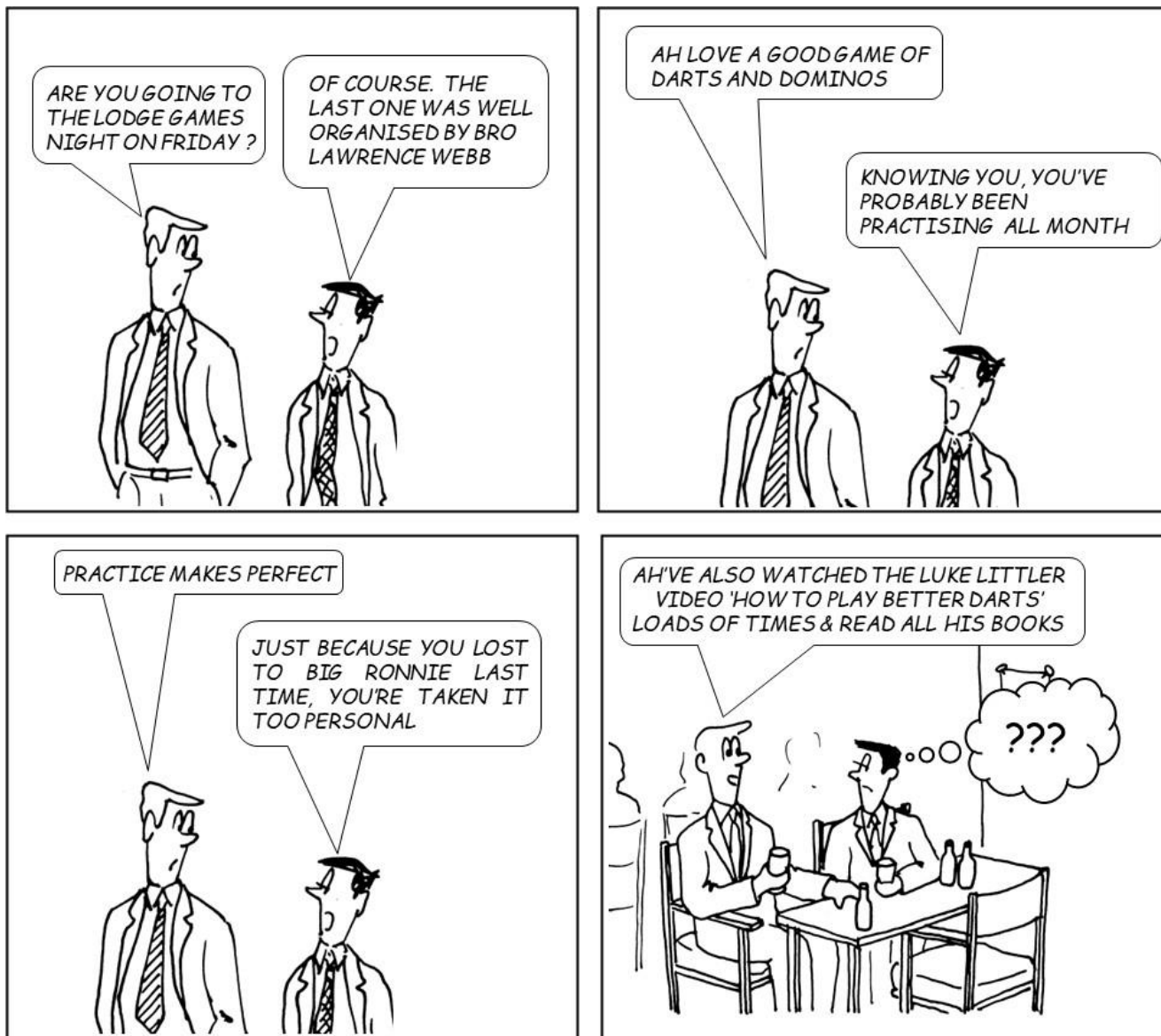
On the subject of newsletters, we notice that Lodge St Clair of Glasgow have a new frontpiece.

President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone is the only head of state in the entire Commonwealth, who at present occupies the Office of Master.

We hear that Bro Ben Gunn, the comedian, who is RWM of Lodge Dramatic may be starting a newsletter for his Lodge. We wish him every success.

Surely Masonry is completely unbiased ? The next RWM of Lodge Langside in Glasgow is, believe it or not ! – 81 years of age !

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MARCH 2025

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

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

☎ 0141-571-5979

e-mail : renfrew2022@gmail.com

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.com>