

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



February 2025

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

No. 481

*Editorial*



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In this era of change, where time-honoured traditions face increasing pressure to modernize in line with contemporary culture, the challenge lies in ensuring that Freemasonry remains appealing to individuals who may not fully comprehend its essence.

Many Lodges uphold the long-standing practice of conferring the conventional stream of degrees throughout the year, even in the absence of a Candidate. While we respect their autonomy in maintaining this tradition, there is a growing sentiment that emulations, which have become more common, are not universally enjoyed.

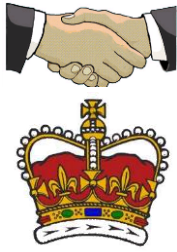
Thirty years ago, in Union & Crown, we recognized the necessity to address the declining number of Candidates and the resulting sense of monotony during degree ceremonies, regardless of the high standard of ceremonial work. Brother Bud Gauld's creative vision led to the development of an alternative approach that preserved our Lodge's successes while introducing an innovative twist.

This innovation is manifested in our 'Dramatised Degrees,' which have surpassed our expectations in popularity. Currently, we offer five distinct dramatizations, with potential for further expansion. These dramatizations are thoughtfully integrated into our syllabus, complementing our traditional degrees to achieve a balanced programme, attracting a significant number of visitors.

We continue to strive for excellence in ceremonial work, which appeases some of the traditionalists among us. However, we also face criticism from Brethren who believe we should adhere strictly to traditional methods, even if it means sourcing additional Candidates amidst competing interests and busy lifestyles.

We honestly seek your opinion on this matter. Have we erred, or does our blend of ceremonial and drama within a carefully structured syllabus provide a well-balanced approach that has even attracted new recruits to our Lodge?

Please share your thoughts, whether they are critical or supportive, and we will publish them accordingly.



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc*

*Followed by.*

*Annual Visitation of the  
Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East*

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Fellowcraft Degree*

*By the 'Worthy Deacons'*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

After a brief business meeting of the Lodge held on Friday, 7th February, the Brethren of the Lodge adjourned to the Function Suite for the 201st Anniversary Dinner.

Following an exquisite meal and the customary toasts, the Brethren were regaled with excellent entertainment by former top-class footballer Duncan McKenzie. He captivated the audience with his stories and anecdotes from his decade at the pinnacle of English football, during which he played for Nottingham Forest, Leeds United, Everton, and Chelsea.

During the harmony, our Right Worshipful Master, in true Masonic tradition, took the opportunity to present cheques for £500 each to the following local charities: Include Me2, Sense Scotland, and RAMH.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 8.28pm**

**Attendance : 41**

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 18th February, the Lodge presented its Dramatised 'Prisoner of War' Degree to a full audience. Those involved performed with a balance of humour and seriousness.

Following the presentation, the Brethren moved to the Function Suite and participated in the scheduled activities together.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.04pm**

**Attendance : 92**

## 100 CLUB

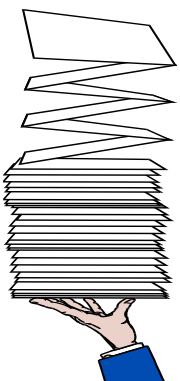
The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

**7<sup>th</sup> February**    £20 : **Bro Callum Heirs**  
                          £10 : **Mrs Christine Miller**

**18<sup>th</sup> February**   £20 : **Bro Graham Smith**  
                          £10 : **Bro Willie Renfrew PM**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our worthy Treasurer, is still taking names for this year, with the annual fee is still very good 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/m<sup>2</sup> 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/m<sup>2</sup> card

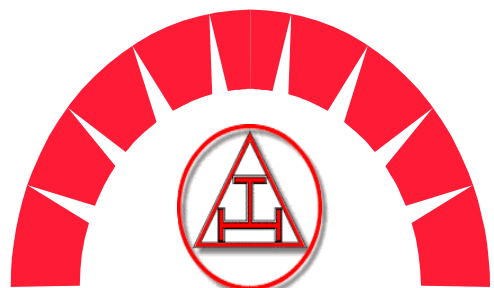
# Dates for your Diary



- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East will be paying their statutory annual visitation to Union & Crown.
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Fellowcraft Degree will be conferred by the Worthy Deacons.

(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)



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

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday, 11th March, the Companions of the Chapter were honoured to welcome a deputation from the Provincial Grand Chapter of Renfrewshire. Most Excellent Companion Dr Kevin Pollock, Provincial Grand Superintendent, commended the efforts of Rockmount over the past twelve months, with particular recognition given to our Executive Office-bearers for their exemplary performance.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of both Rockmount Royal Arch and Cryptic Council, along with their guests, retired downstairs where they enjoyed a quiet yet pleasant gathering.

## Lodge St Medans, No.1335

We would like to offer our heartiest congratulations to Lodge St Medans, No.1335 (the most southerly Lodge in Scotland) on reaching their Centenary last month with a Rededication Ceremony conducted by Bro Andrew McIlwraith PGM.

Lodge St Medans was the Mother Lodge of our late Treasurer, Bro John Livingstone PM, and Union & Crown made many visits down to Galloway during the 1990s and even conferred a degree.

# BITS & PIECES

- Congratulations to our Right Worshipful Master, Bro Stephen Scott, who led a deputation of Reigning Masters into Lodge Newton Mearns No.1706 where they conferred a degree. From all accounts Bro Stephen and his colleagues did a fine job. 10 Brethren of 307 also went along to support our RWM.
- Congratulations to our Worthy Junior Deacon, Bro Eddie Mullin who recently turned 60 and celebrated with a meal for family and friends in a restaurant in Paisley. We gather that Bro Eddie and his son Bro Gregor are having a few days golfing in Portugal to celebrate.
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our hard-working Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new blood at the Lodge Instruction Class on Monday evenings, and he'll be only too happy to help you out if required.
- Great to see that Bro Tom Mulholland PM back on his feet again after a short stay in hospital
- Congratulations to Bro Ronnie MacIsaac PM and his lovely wife Sadie on becoming Grandparents. Best Wishes also to his son Bro Callum and his partner Jodie on a lovely baby boys – Noah.
- It was good to see that some of the younger brethren of the Lodge have been coming along to the Social Club on a Friday to support the Lodge.
- Hearty congratulations to Bro Iain Nicol, our Worthy Steward, who has remarkably just turned 75.
- Bro Lawrence Webb is still filling in for our absent Almoner, and if you hear of any Brother or Widow of the Lodge who is in need of a visit, don't hesitate to contact Bro Lawrence (☎ 07736 780 132)
- It was good to see a total of 9 Reigning Masters of Lodges from right across the central belt in attendance at our recent Dramatisation.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Gordon Wight's wife Marilyn hasn't had her troubles to seek of late. Badly shaken following a car accident towards the end of last year, she has been beset by a few further health problems in recent weeks. We wish her well and hope that she is back to her usual self very soon.
- On speaking with Bro Alex Aitken at our last meeting we heard that his son Kenneth, a senior engineer with the Ministry of Defence, has bought a smallholding, complete with livestock down in Wigtonshire, where he and his wife are living the 'Good Life' (in addition to his other MoD duties)
- It is great to see Bro Mark Lawn attending most of our meetings of late. Missing for a few years due to serious health issues and his irregular working pattern, he's been back and is enjoying the meetings again

# Famous Freemasons

*(This month we look at the designer of the famous Spitfire Fighter of WWII)*

## Reginald Joseph Mitchell CBE (1895 – 1937)

R.J. Mitchell was one of Britain's outstanding aeronautical engineers and designers during the interwar period, renowned for his work on the Supermarine seaplanes that won the Schneider Trophy outright for Great Britain in 1931, as well as the legendary Spitfire. It is important to acknowledge that Mitchell led a team of individuals who collectively contributed to these achievements and continued his work after his premature death in 1937.



Born on 20 May 1895 at, Kidsgrove in Staffordshire, Mitchell was the son of Herbert and Eliza Jane Mitchell. He attended Queensberry Road Higher Elementary School and later Hanley High School, where he nurtured his interest in flight by designing, making, and flying model aeroplanes. Upon leaving school at 16, he undertook an apprenticeship in the workshop and drawing office of Kerr, Stuart & Company in Stoke, a firm that designed and manufactured locomotives. Mitchell also attended night school to study technical drawing, mechanics, and mathematics, gaining a thorough grasp of theoretical and practical aspects that would be invaluable in his future aeronautical challenges.



In 1917, Mitchell joined Supermarine Aviation Works Limited, based in Southampton and owned by Hubert Scott-Pain, as an assistant. Within a year, he was promoted and eventually became Chief Designer and Engineer at the age of 24. This role allowed him to marry Florence Dayson and start a family, with their first and only child, Gordon, born in 1920.

He was initiated into this Jasper Lodge No 3934 in Stoke-on-Trent in 1921. His father Herbert Mitchell at that time was organist and became Worshipful Master in 1923. In 1931, Bro Mitchell affiliated to Lodge of Concord 4910 in Southampton as he was finding it difficult to attend meetings at his Mother Lodge.

The company primarily designed flying boats from the First World War and continued to build seaplanes and flying boats for the Royal Air Force in the post-war world. Mitchell's Sea Lion II won the Schneider Trophy race held in Naples in 1922. The production of military aircraft included models such as the Sea Lion II, Scarab, Southampton, Scapa, Stranraer, Walrus, and Sea Otter, operated by countries including Britain, Japan, Australia, Spain, Argentina, Denmark, Turkey, Canada, France, Egypt, Ireland, New Zealand, the Soviet Union, and the Netherlands. Additionally, commercial services were launched with the Sea Eagle, which operated scheduled passenger flying boat services between Southampton and the Channel Islands from 1923. Mitchell also designed a landplane, the Sparrow, for the Lympne light aircraft trials between 1924 and 1926, although it was unsuccessful due to engine failures.

Mitchell's first major achievement was the outright win of the Schneider Trophy for Great Britain in 1931, involving a revolutionary series of Schneider seaplanes. The S.4 set a world speed record of 226 mph in 1925 but unfortunately crashed off the coast of Baltimore in America while competing for the trophy. The S.4's monoplane wing arrangement and monocoque fuselage were advanced compared to the biplanes of the time. By the 1927 competition, Mitchell had incorporated changes from the S.4, and the S.5 achieved first and second positions at 281 mph. Further revisions with the Rolls-Royce R engine and other improvements led to the S.6 winning the 1929 Schneider Trophy at 328 mph. The 1931 competition saw the S.6B, improved with financial backing from Lady Houston, win by default at 340 mph, securing the Schneider Trophy outright for Britain. Both the aircraft and the trophy can be viewed at the Science Museum in London.



The Spitfire, the design most associated with Mitchell, faced multiple challenges during its inception and initial production. Its origins began with the Type 224 in 1931, which failed to meet performance parameters set by the Air Ministry. After rejection in 1934, Mitchell and his team revised the design under the designation Type 300, resulting in the Spitfire. The prototype K5054

took its first flight on 5 March 1936, piloted by Chief Test Pilot (Mutt) Summers. Despite early performance and production issues, the Spitfire's advanced features enabled continuous improvements during the Second World War to counter Luftwaffe fighters. Mitchell, diagnosed with cancer in 1933, continued working in considerable pain until his death on 11 June 1937. His enduring legacy is commemorated through institutions such as the Solent Sky Museum in Southampton, the Science Museum in London, Tangmere Aviation Museum, and The Spitfire Society.



# *From the West*

Recognising the accepted adage that most wise men come from the East, I have been asked to share some of my experiences and thoughts with my brethren in my capacity of the WSW of Lodge Union & Crown.

Unlike many of the human pillars of this lodge, I came to Freemasonry a bit later in life, mainly due to some restrictions on my personal life demanded by my former profession. So, when I was fortunate enough to become a mason, I was keen to take an active part in the running of the lodge, within the bounds of my family and work life commitments.

Like many of my brothers, I found that floorwork, despite being challenging to master, afforded me a level of enjoyment and satisfaction that motivated me to seek progressive offices to develop my understanding and increase my knowledge of all things masonic. I have always found the camaraderie and friendship of my fellow floor workers to be one of the most inspiring and rewarding aspects of freemasonry and it is this supportive and friendly atmosphere that has encouraged me to have the aim of, one day, having the honour to become the Right Worshipful Master of my Mother Lodge.

I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed all the offices I have occupied but am particularly proud of being the Worshipful Senior Warden, especially when supporting Brother Stephen, our Right Worshipful Master, as he visits other lodges within the province.

There will be no surprises in this article for our experienced brethren, but I would wholeheartedly encourage our newer brethren to take part in our floor work. Yes, it is difficult at first, but it gets easier with practice, and you will experience, first-hand, what freemasonry is all about.

**Brother Ross Aitken Worshipful Senior Warden**

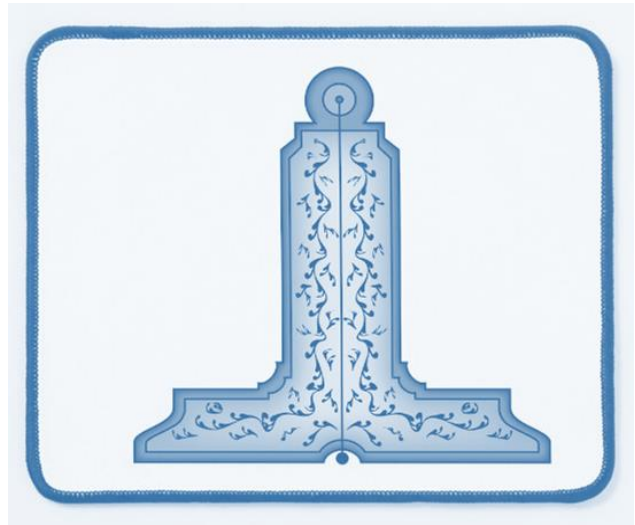
## **Did you Know ?**

- The first known speculative Freemason to be initiated is either Sir Robert Moray in 1641 or Elias Ashmole in 1646, depending on who you are talking to and where it took place. Arguably it was Sir Robert Moray who was the first to be initiated on English soil, when considering purely speculative Freemasonry, on Scottish soil it is believed there were quite a few before either of them.
- At the time he was raised in Highland Park Lodge No. 382 in Los Angeles, California, John Aasen was eight and a half feet tall and weighed 536 pounds. Twelve craftsmen were required for certain parts of the ceremony. There were 1500 Masons present to observe the ceremony.

# The Level

The Level is a tool used in construction. Just about every mason hears the phrase 'On the Level' when they attend their lodge meeting. It is one of most basic ideas put forth in Freemasonry.

At its core on the level indicates an object is the same distance from a common surface no matter where you measure from. This is critical in construction to make sure a house or structure will stand. To prove floors do not slope and things will not roll or slide across the floor. Generally in construction when something is level, it has more to do with the ground on which it stands and gravity as a whole.



In Freemasonry a level not only refers to things of equal distance from a common surface, it refers to many other things. The first thing it refers to is what the phrase most commonly translates to outside of the fraternity. When someone is 'on the level' they are honest, they deal with someone fairly. This also can have another allusion most commonly held with one of the Cardinal Virtues of Freemasonry, Justice. The balance scale, which is a common symbol to indicate Justice, has a level as it's core element. With both sides being equal, a balance scale will be level across indicating both sides are equal.

The second thing, is it is a reminder we are all equal in the eyes of death, often referred to in masonry as the "Great Leveller." It means death comes for us all no matter what station we have attained in life, no matter what we attained as status in the fraternity, we will all look upon the face of death. It is a reminder for all of us we are no different from the person walking beside us on the street or standing next to us in our lodge room.

Third and most importantly, it is a reminder to Freemasons, no matter what we do inside the fraternity, no matter what position we hold or have held, we have a responsibility to our brothers and to the world to treat each other as equals. No one person is more important than another in the fraternity, even when someone briefly achieves the position of Most Worshipful Grand Master, the highest position and leader in any Grand Jurisdiction. All must be held to the same standards and all must be treated as equals.

It is for all these reasons most lodges will end their meeting with everyone standing on the same surface. It symbolizes we are all standing together equally and no one, no matter their position is exempted from standing shoulder to shoulder with their brothers. One of the best examples of on the level comes from an installation ceremony. In it is stated, "From the ranks you have risen and to the ranks you shall return." It is a reminder some of us may be called to lead from time to time, we must always remember we are still 'on the level' with our brothers

## Did you Know ?

Giuseppe Garibaldi, the Great Italian Liberator, was Grand Master of Italy who also held the title of "First Italian Freemason."

During World War II, Italy's tyrannical dictator Benito Mussolini removed all Masonic references from the great monument to Brother Garibaldi in Rome, replacing them with Fascist symbols.

After the war, authorities replaced the propaganda on the monument with the original Masonic pieces.



## THE BLUE OF THE MANCHESTER CITY

Manchester City Originally formed in 1880 and were then known as St Mark's in West Gorton playing in red and black colours. In 1887 they then changed the club name to Ardwick – an area close to West Gorton.

However, it is reported that in 1894 the club found itself in financial hardship and had to be rescued from bankruptcy by the then club secretary, Joshua Parlby.

The club adopted the name Manchester City at the same time the Masonic colours of pale blue shirts and white shorts.

Because of the lack of detailed records, there is no irrefutable proof that either Parlby or his predecessor Lawrence Furniss (also thought to have been closely linked Freemasonry) were Masons, but Bro Sidney Rose, a director from 1966 to 1986, becoming life president after he left the board, has no such doubts.

'It's always been my understanding,' says Sidney, a member of the Old Mancunians' Lodge, 'that the real founders of the club became involved in 1894 when there was some sort of financial crisis, and that they were Masons, or certainly had close Masonic connections.

'That was why they started playing in pale blue, the colours of Freemasonry.



## Food for Thought

It is not what we eat, but what we digest ...that makes us strong.

It is not what we earn, but what we save ...that makes us rich.

It is not what we read, but what we remember ...that makes us learned.

It is not what we profess, but what we practice ...that makes us Masons!

# FLASHBACK

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

No. 151

February 1992

### Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February the following two candidates :

**Stewart Graham      Iain Staff**

were passed to the Fellowcraft Degree by a small deputation of Reigning Masters, from both within and outwith the Province of Renfrewshire East, the common factor being that they are all resident in the Town of Barrhead. The degree team was, of course, headed by our own R.W.M. Bro Jim Renfrew, ably assisted by Bro Jim Harvey of Lodge Mosspark, No.1329 in Glasgow, Bro Livingstone Boyd MBE of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 in Neilston and Bro Peter McKay of Lodge Paisley St James, No.1116. There was to have been a fifth member of the team, but due to another Masonic commitment on the same night Bro Michael Dolan R.W.M. of Lodge Moorpark, No.1263 in Renfrew was unable to attend.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9-39pm**

**Attendance : 117**

At the Regular meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, the same two Candidates were raised to the high & sublime degree of a M.M. by the members of the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was a fine rendering of the Third Degree greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9-45pm**

**Attendance : 112**

### 100 Club

Our lucky winners for the month of February were as follows :

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February -

£10 : Bro Ken Hill

£5 : Bro John Livingstone WSW

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February -

£10 : Bro Brian Morton PM

£5 : Bro John Smith (Airport)

### Quip of the Month

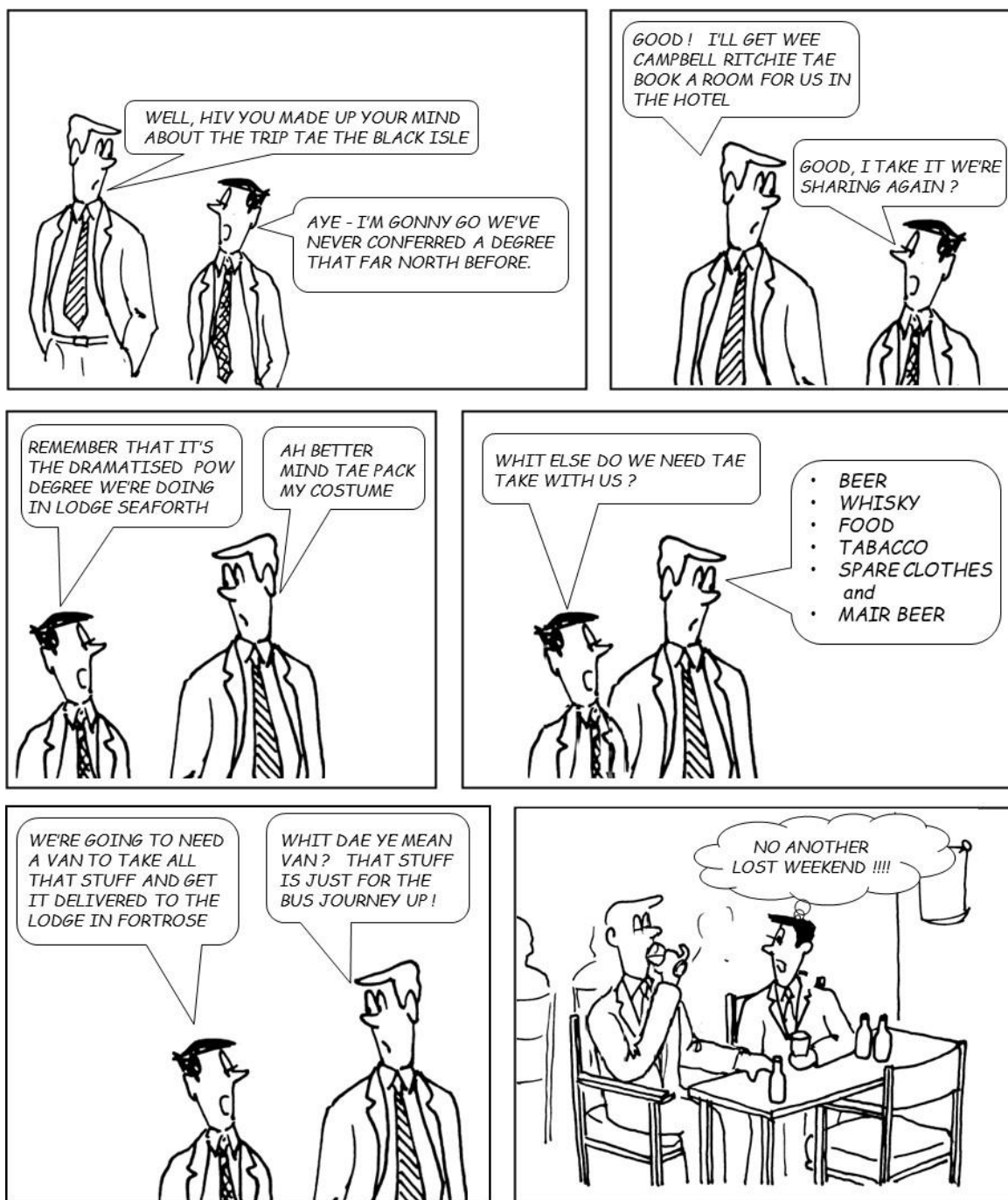
The following was heard at the Harmony following our recent visitation to Lodge Georgetown : Bro Nicol Hynd, a leading light in the Lodge Angling Club, on being asked by an interested neighbour if he was a member of any other Masonic Orders replied

**“....amongst other things The Mariners....”**

To which the wag quickly replied

**....”Ah aye, you must be one of the Ancient Ones ....” !!!!**

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW FEB 2025

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

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