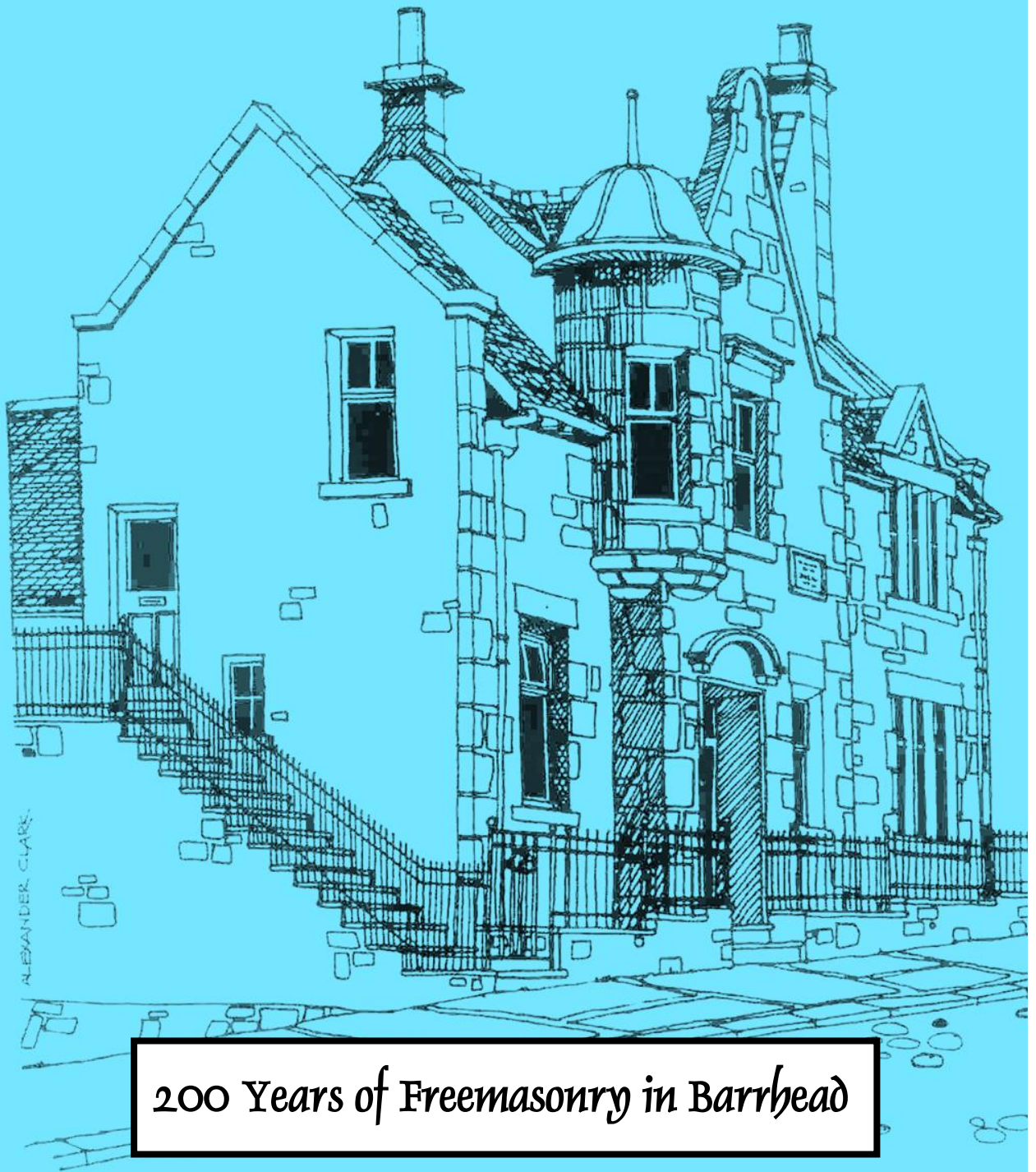


The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



200 Years of Freemasonry in Barrhead

February 2024

The Mallet

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

No. 471

Editorial



February 2024

o

Well, that's our big day over, and it is unlikely that many of us will live long enough to take part in the next *one* (although in 307 I wouldn't be surprised if we try and repeat the festivities every five years or so !!)

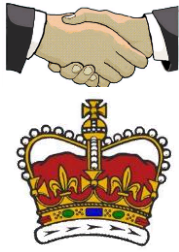
There is absolutely no doubt that a tremendous amount of hard work and meticulous planning over several years went in to ensure that everything was just right. The fruits of their labours were there for all to see in what was a thrilling and thoroughly enjoyable spectacle from start to finish, with quite a few trying to extend an already long day still further simply because they were enjoying themselves that much, they didn't want it to end.

The sight of 27 members of Grand Lodge in their finery, supported by more than a dozen office-bears from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East was a sight to behold as over 130 Brethren marched behind Bro Johnny Gauld's 'Caledonian Collective' pipes and drums around Allan's Corner and along the Main Street in glorious sunshine.

Perhaps the one thing that may have been a small disappointment on the day was the absence of many of 307's friends from the Sister Lodges. Unfortunately, due to fire regulations, we were greatly restricted in the numbers allowed to attend, and we were forced to limited the numbers attending by issuing instructions that admission would have to be by ticket only. There's probably no doubt that our numbers would have been swelled greatly, had we not had to observe the stringent fire restrictions.

Bro Dr Joseph John Morrow CVO CBE KC FRSE or 'Bro Joe' as he prefers to be known in less formal situations, excelled himself throughout the celebrations and brought a great deal of dignity, aided by enthusiasm to the occasion. The atmosphere was simply electric throughout the day, and you would have required to take a crowbar to many of our Brethren, if you had wished to remove the smile from their faces.

We will be externally grateful to Bro Bud Gauld PM and his hard-working Bi-Centenary committee for all their efforts. Bro Bud, a wise and canny freemason of long experience was undoubtedly the architect and inspiration of our successful, and never to be forgotten day, and we say 'Well done thy good and faithful servant'.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 5th March 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

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



Tuesday 19th March 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

*Fellowcraft Degree
By the 'Worthy Deacons'
Harmony*

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.

Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Special Meeting of the Lodge held on Saturday 3rd February, the Lodge held its Bi-Centenary celebrations. After an early start and the commemorative Photographs, the Lodge and its guests marched to Bourock Church and held a short rededication service taken by the Rev Pamela Gordon. Thereafter, all returned to the Lodge, where the Grand Lodge of Scotland, led by the MW Grand Master Mason – Bro Dr Joseph J Morrow CVO CBE KC FRSE and the GL Brethren carried out a superb ceremony.

The Brethren then retired to the Function Suite where a splendid dinner, with ample hospitality was enjoyed by all in attendance. The toasts were very good and the formal part of the evening was enjoyed by all. After the retiral of Grand Lodge, the entertainment was provided by Tam Cowan of Radio Scotland Fame, and the Brethren continued to enjoy what was an excellent evening till late.

Opened : 11am

Lodge Closed : 3.36pm

Attendance : 139

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 20th February, the Lodge performed its Dramatised Prisoner of War Degree before a packed house. Those taking part were in top form, with the balance of humour and seriousness just right.

Earlier in the evening, the Lodge received two deputations who both wished to make presentations to Union & Crown to mark our Bi-centenary.

The Companions of Rockmount RAC and Cryptic Council presented a fine 'Dining Jewel' to be worn by our Right Worshipful Masters at future harmonies. The Brethren of Lodge Randolph then presented a beautifully boxed set of 'Working Tools' to mark our 200th Anniversary. Details of both can be seen in the photographs below.

Thereafter the Brethren then retired downstairs to the Function Suite and enjoyed a busy harmony in each other's company.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.29pm

Attendance : 138



Bi-Centenary Gifts

Dates for your Diary



Saturday 2nd March

To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Lodge, there is a Rededication of Lodge Randolph, No.1434 by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East at 2pm. *(Brethren are welcome to attend the Rededication Ceremony, but it is invited guests only for the Harmony)*

Tuesday 5th March

Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East will pay the annual visitation tp 307.

Monday 18th March

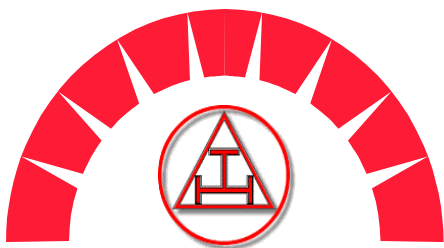
Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 19th 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 13th February, the Companions of Rockmount RAC played host to the Provincial Grand Chapter of Renfrewshire. The Deputation was headed by MEC Kevin Pollock, Provincial Grand Superintendent, and the companions of 367 were delighted to receive the praise of PGC for all their efforts over the previous year.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 12th March** at 7-30pm when it is expected that the Companions of Rockmount will be conferring an Excellent Master's degree upon a Candidate.

MEC Graham Manson MEZ and his Office-bearers extend a cordial invitation to all Companions, especially any visitors, to attend on that evening.

Food for Thought

"Keep your words soft and sweet - You never know when you may have to eat them"

The Big Day has Arrived (and Now Gone)

The Bi-Centenary of the Lodge was held on Saturday 3rd February, and after nine years of preparation, it is good to report all went well. Photographs were taken to commemorate the event and these will be hung in the appropriate places in the near future.

A large deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland and a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East were in attendance. The Brethren were lined up by the Grand Director of Ceremonies and paraded to the Bourock Church, led by a pipe band, where a short service was conducted by the Reverend Pamela Gordon with a reading given by the MW Grand Master Mason – Bro Dr Joseph John Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms, before the Brethren paraded back to the Temple where the Ceremony of Rededication was carried out by Grand Lodge.

At the after meeting, 118 sat down for dinner, including Mrs Mary Montague the Provost of East Renfrewshire. After the usual toasts etc. a cheque for £1000 was presented to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund with each of the principal guests – The Grand Master Mason, Grand Secretary, Provincial Grand Master, Provost Montague, Rev. Pamela Gordon and Bro Martin McLaughlan (who stood in as Organist on the day) were all given a specially labelled and boxed bottle of Malt Whisky. Everyone who sat down to dine were given a gift bag containing a boxed pen and torch, a specially labelled miniature of whisky, a mark token and five 'washers' which could be exchanged at the bar for drinks.



The members of the '200 for 200 Club' were also given a commemorative boxed pen and Bi-Centenary Jewel. After Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge had retired, those who remained were entertained by the well-known sports pundit – Mr Tam Cowan.

Over the Course of the day the excitement was palpable and all who made this very special day such a success, are to be heartily congratulated.

Lodge Union and Crown, No.307 200 years – Not Out !



Bro Bud Gauld PM

Are you a Master Mason?

"I have been a Mason for a year now," remarked the Young Brother to the Old Past Master. "While I find a great deal in Masonry to enjoy and like the fellows and all that, I am more or less in the dark as to what good Masonry really is in the world. I don't mean I can't appreciate its charity or its fellowship, but it seems to me that I don't get much out of it. I can't really see why it has any function outside of the relationship we enjoy in the Lodge and the charitable acts we do."

"I think I could win an argument about you," smiled the Past Master.

"An argument about me?"

"Yes. You say you have been a Master Mason for a year. I think I could prove to the satisfaction of a jury of your peers, who would not need to be Master Masons, that while you are a Lodge member in good standing, you are not a Master Mason."

"I don't think I quite understand," puzzled the Young Mason. "I was quite surely initiated, passed, and raised. I have my certificate and my good standing card. I attend Lodge regularly. I do what work I am assigned. If that isn't being a Master Mason, what is?"

"You have the body but not the spirit," retorted the Old Past Master. "You eat the husks and disregard the kernel. You know the ritual and fail to understand its meaning. You carry the documents, but for you they attest but an empty form. You do not understand the first underlying principle, which makes Masonry the great force she is. And yet, in spite of it, you enjoy her blessings, which is one of her miracles. A man may love and profit by what he does not comprehend."

"I just don't understand you at all. I am sure I am a good Mason."

"No man is a good Mason who thinks the Fraternity has no function beyond pleasant association in the Lodge and charity. There are thousands of Masons who seldom see the inside of a Lodge and, therefore, miss the fellowship. There are thousands who never need or support her charity and so never come in contact with one of its many features. Yet these may take freely and largely from the treasure house which is Masonry.

"Masonry, my young friend, is an opportunity. It gives a man a chance to do and to be, among the world of men, something he otherwise could not attain. No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises again the same man. At the altar something is taken from him never to return. His feelings of living for himself alone. Be he ever so selfish, ever so self-centred, ever so much an individualist, at the altar he leaves behind him some of the dross of his purely profane make-up.

"No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises the same man because, in the place where the dross and selfish were, is put a little of the most Divine spark which men may see. Where the self-interest was is put an interest in others. Where the egotism was is put love for one's fellow man. You say that the 'Fraternity has no function.' Man, the Fraternity performs the greatest function of any institution at work among men in that it provides a common meeting ground where all of us "be our creed, our social position, our wealth, our ideas, our station in life what they may" may meet and understand one another.

"What caused the Civil War? Failure of one people to understand another and an inequality of men which this country could not endure. What caused the Great War? Class hatred. What is the greatest leveller of class in the world? Masonry. Where is the only place in which a capitalist and labourer, socialist and democrat, fundamentalist and modernist, Jew & Gentile, sophisticated and simple alike meet and forget their differences? In a Masonic Lodge, through the influence of Masonry. "Masonry, which opens her portals to men because they are men, not because they are wealthy, wise, foolish or great or small but because they seek the brotherhood which she can give.

"Masonry has no function? Why, son, the function of charity, great as it is, is the least of the things Masonry does. The fellowship in the Lodge, beautiful as it is, is at best not much more than one can get in any good club, association, or organization. These are the beauties of Masonry, but they are also beauties of other organizations. The great fundamental beauty of Masonry is all her own. She, and only she, stretches a kindly and loving hand around the world, uniting millions in a bond too strong for breaking. Time has demonstrated that Masonry is too strong for war, too strong for hate, too strong for jealousy and fear. The worst of men have used the strongest of means and have but pushed Masonry to one side for the moment; not all their efforts have broken her, or ever will!

"Masonry gives us all a chance to do and to be; to do a little, however humble the part, in making the world better; to be a little larger, a little fuller in our lives, a little nearer to the G.A.O.T.U. And unless a man understands this, believes it, takes it to his heart, and lives it in his daily life, and strives to show it forth to others in his every act unless he live and love and labor in his Masonry "I say he is no Master Mason; aye, though he belong to all Rites and carry all cards, though he be hung as a Christmas tree with jewels and pins, though he be an officer in all Bodies. But the man who has it in his heart and sees in Masonry the chance to be in reality what he has sworn he would be, a brother to his fellow Masons, is a Master Mason though he be raised but tonight, belongs to no body but his Blue Lodge, and be too poor to buy and wear a single pin." The Young Brother, looking down, unfastened the emblem from his coat lapel and handed it to the Old Past Master. "Of course, you are right," he said, lowly. "Here is my pin. Don't give it back to me until you think I am worthy to wear it."

The Old Past Master smiled. "I think you would better put it back now," he answered gently. "None are fit to wear the Square and Compasses than those who know themselves unworthy, for they are those who strive to be real Masons.

Masonic Morsels

- Washington Chapter No.3 of Portsmouth, New Hampshire announced its meetings via the town crier, who received the equivalent of 8 cents each time he announced a Lodge meeting.
- Frederick A. Bartholdi, a Freemason, designed the statue of Liberty in NY harbor, and the Grand Lodge of NY laid the corner stone on August 5, 1885.
- Bernard Pierre Mangam, Marshall of France and a Senator, was appointed Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France and served from 1862 to 1865. This was rather unusual because he was not a Mason. He was appointed by Emperor Napoleon, III.
- The letters of the English word GOD are the first three letters of Hebrew words for beauty, strength, and wisdom. G in Gomez, O in Oz, D in Dabar.
- In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found a stone in a small chapel, dated 1517, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love & care, upon the level, and by the square."
- Francis Stephens, the Duke of Lorraine, received the first two Masonic degrees in 1731 in a special Lodge convened at The Hague, Netherlands, becoming the first known royal Freemason. Later he received the Master Mason degree in England.

Now you Know ?

How often have we sat at an E.A. Degree and watched the Candidate being invested and wondered about the terms the WSW uses during this delightful piece of ceremonial. In an attempt to enlighten some of our readers, especially the younger ones, we have managed to put together some details :



The Golden Fleece : Many will be familiar with the ancient fable of the Golden Fleece and the heroic adventures of Jason and his Argonauts, who sailed through many perils to finally capture the miraculous prize. Unfortunately ancient mythology neglects to keep us informed of what became of our ancient heroes and their prize.

Our ceremonial actually refers to the Order of the Golden Fleece which was an Chivalrous Order of Knighthood established in Flanders (modern day Belgium) in the mid 15th century by Philip the Bold Duke of Burgandy. The fleece was selected as its badge, because wool was the staple product of that region. It has always been considered

as one of the most illustrious orders in Europe.

Today the order is still very much in existence, although it has two separate branches – one Spanish, and the other Austrian with King Juan Carlos himself the head of the Iberian branch.



The Roman Eagle : In ancient Rome the majestic Eagle was adopted as a symbol of Rome's military might. It had been traditionally believed to have brought the symbols of earthly power to King Tarquinius Priscus and was adopted in 104 B.C. as the military emblem of the Legions throughout the Empire. Originally made of simple wood, it soon began to be cast in bronze or silver with expanded wings and was carried by the Centurion. It symbolically became the

rallying point for the troops in battle and was without doubt to the citizens of Rome the ensign of Imperial Power



The Order of the Garter : An order of knighthood, it is the most ancient and illustrious in the world. Originally instituted by Edward III in 1348, it was confined to the King, Prince of Wales and 24 Knight Companions, although the numbers have since expanded to allow additional "Royal Knights". Each Knight has a private stall in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle where his banner and personal coat of arms are permanently displayed during his lifetime. If, however, a Knight breaks his vow, he is expelled and his banner turned towards the wall – not fit to be seen.

The origin of the emblem of the Order, a blue garter, is obscure. It is said to have been inspired by an incident which took place whilst the King danced with Joan, Countess of Salisbury. The Countess's garter fell to the floor and after the King retrieved it he tied it to his own leg. Those watching this were apparently amused, but the King admonished them saying, '*Honi soit qui mal y pense*' (Shame on him who thinks this evil). This then became the motto of the Order

Thus our humble apron can bear comparison to some of the oldest decorations of both ancient Rome and modern Europe.

BITS & PIECES

- We gather that Bro Bud Gaulds elder daughter – Amanda is studying hard for her Doctorate. We wish her every success as she carves out a fine career in Education.
- On a similar note, congratulations to Amanda's elder son – Daniel, who recently graduated almost at the very top of his RN Officer's Basic Training course at Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, a remarkable achievement as the competition is very fierce. He now sets out on a career as a RN Officer and we wish him well.
- We hope that Bro Ross Aitken WJW is enjoying his current absence from the Lodge. H and his good lady are enjoying a cruise in the Indian Ocean, followed by a stay in Mauritius. (It's a hard life !!)
- Wasn't it great to see so many visitors at our last meeting. The hidden bonus was the attendance of almost 60 of our own Brethren on that same evening.
- We are reliably informed that tickets for our forthcoming 'Sportsman's Dinner' in April are now sold out, with a waiting list growing by the day.
- It was heartening at our last meeting to see Bro David Law (now in his mid 60s) jumping in immediately to get extra chairs and carry them in to the Lodge Room when we ran out of seats.
- We're led to believe that Bro Callum Maclsaac has moved to a new job with British Rail Engineering. He's certainly getting lots of valuable experience.
- We gather that Bro Paul Stewart has been elected to a second year as Captain of Fereneze Golf Club.
- We hear that Bro Donald Murdoch is making a fine recovery from his recent heart attack. He's had a couple of stents inserted and hopes to be out and about very soon.
- 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 22nd June at 1.30 for 2.00pm. Tickets are available for any 1434 Office-bearer (of which there are many within Union & Crown!!).
- We're grateful to all the Brethren, for their generous donations of that much needed commodity – A4 Paper. Without it there would be no Mallet each month.
- It is good to hear that Bro Ian Blair PM has been given the all clear after his serious health scare last year.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 27 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 BOULTON

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 n' 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.

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

3rd February £100 : **Mrs Elaine Webb** £50 : **Bro Vic Chapman**

20th February £20 : **Bro Stewart Gray PM** £10 : **Bro Jim Boulton**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is taking names for this year, which commenced immediately after our Annual Installation.

A Secretary's Lament

If a Secretary writes a letter, it is too long !

If he sends a postcard, it is too short and un-Masonic.

If he speaks at a committee meeting, he is butting in,

If he keeps silent, he is a shirker and not interested.

If he offers a suggestion, he is a know-all.

If he has no suggestion, he is useless.

If the attendance is poor, he should rally up the members.

If he does this he is a pest and an interfering pusher.

If the meeting is a success, the committee gets all the praise.

If it is a failure, the Secretary bets the blame.

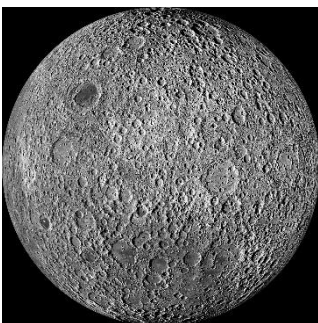
If he asks for good advice, he doesn't know his job.

If he doesn't, he is swollen headed and self-important.

As ashes to ashes go, and dust to dust

If the others won't do it, then the Secretary must !

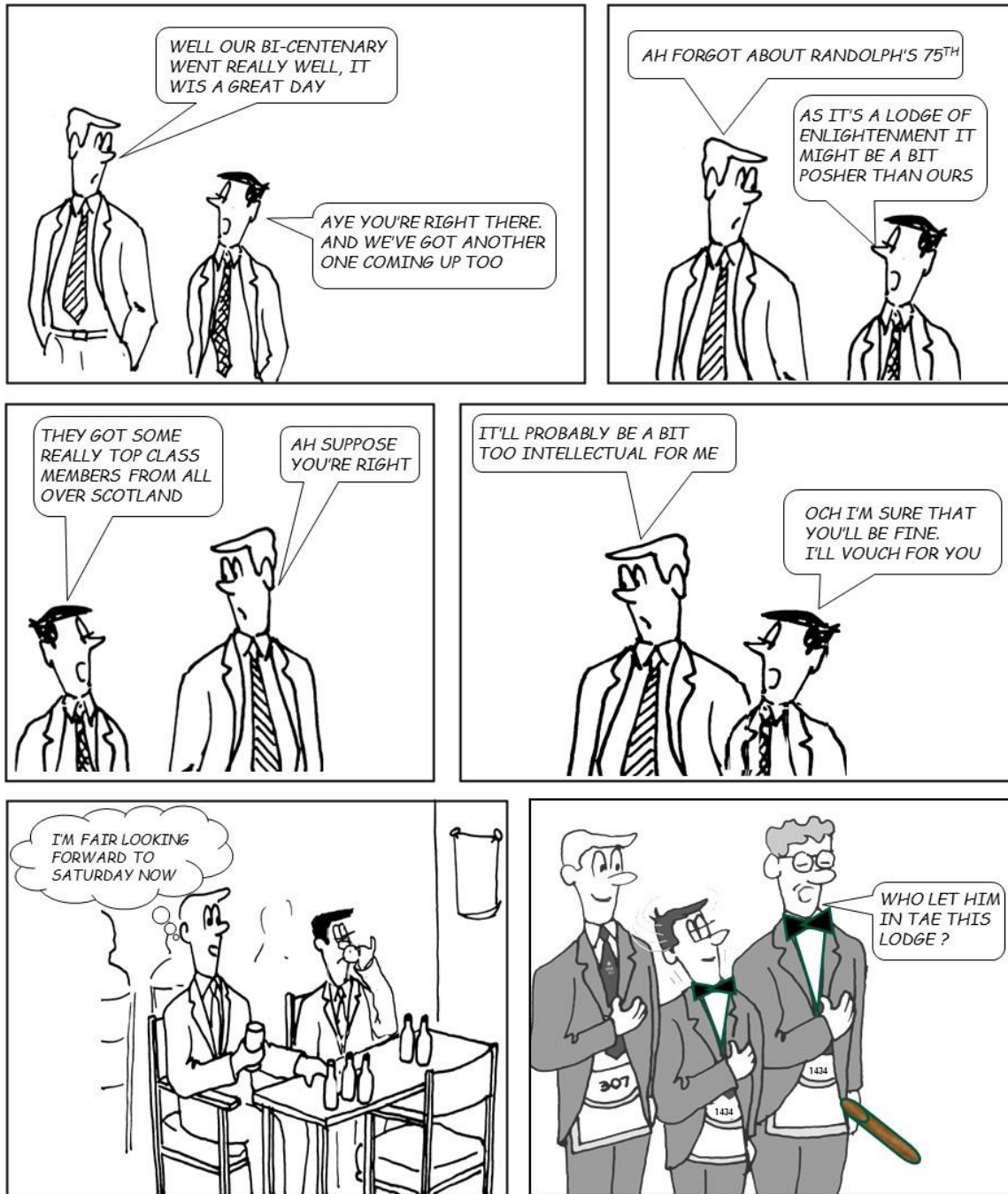
Moon Lodges



One hundred fifty years ago in the United States there were nearly 3,000 Masonic lodges that can be described as "Moon Lodges"; but by 1972 there were fewer than 500, today fewer than 350 .

These lodges met on or near the day of the full moon for very practical reasons; the brethren had light to travel by night. With the advent of electricity, street lights, and the automobile, the reason for meeting on such nights became unnecessary.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW FEB 24

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>