

Dark Times

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Govan's Governance

Dark Times staff writers

In a sudden turnaround from the past year, Govan has been thrown into turmoil after one of the key elements of its previous stability was removed, threatening to bring the rest tumbling down like a house of cards with the bottom card removed.

It seems that the reason for Govan surviving the riots of last year relatively unscathed was down to the tight grip of the underworld held by one Dennis McClusky. As well as being the dominant criminal force in the area, McClusky was also a police officer stationed in Govan, and the dual role gave him a unique ability to ensure that order was maintained in the area, if not law.

The usual elements were in place; protection rackets, drug dealers, territory patrols, and all centred upon McClusky. However, despite his fearsome reputation, McClusky was attacked, shot three times in the chest on his own streets. Taken to the Southern General Hospital immediately, he was operated on, and all three bullets were removed successfully.

McClusky appeared set to make a full recovery, however shortly after the initial

attack, he died abruptly of post-operative complications. While news of his demise filtered through the criminal world, a standoff began over who would inherit McClusky's legacy. Russians, Chinese and the two major

Glasgow crime families, all showed an interest in taking the territory, passively at first, but growing in intensity.

Over the past few weeks, numerous assaults and eventually, murders, have been attributed to the conflict. More gun deaths have occurred this month than the preceding two years combined, corpses being found in some

cases, eye witness reports alone in others.

In the same month, two newspapers ran stories relating to the Govan based football club Rangers FC. Both claimed a prevalent drugs culture, flourishing under the noses of the club itself, one even claimed it was able to purchase cocaine



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from a boy of around 14 years old. The papers called into question the vigilance of the club themselves, together with the security company responsible for maintaining order within the football ground.

All in all, Govan is looking increasingly unstable, and the question which must be asked at the moment is; will things require to get much worse before they can begin to improve? Or can a stability be enforced upon the area before matters progress that far?

The Glory of Elysiums

Viscount Charles Augustus Aldworth

Elysium.

A place of wonder and interest. A place of safety. A window into bygone ages. Somewhere to remind us of our origins, a handle hold on humanity. The difference between us and *others*. We venerate humanity and hold it dear. For all our own reasons of course.

The Elysium is a place where we can all meet and discuss things on our mind, and let the dangers of the outside world wait for us at the door. The difference between us in the Camarilla and those elsewhere is that we see ourselves as part of humanity. The next step, the overlords, life after death, the guardians; whatever your own personal take on the situation matters not, we are utterly and irrevocably linked. Of course I'd imagine not everyone would agree with me, in fact many even reading this in the very room in which you now sit will perhaps argue the point. And of course humanity at large will undoubtedly argue most strongly that they have nothing to do with us. And if we have done our duty properly then that should be the case. Thus we have Elysiums, a place where we can bask in Humanity, be reminded of our own mortal days, an escape into times long gone.

Of course our Elysiums have a practical purpose in the night to night running of our entire Empire. They serve as a meeting place and forum for the

Crown to pass down what they need, and a place for us all to heed the words. But the Elysiums are so much more than that, we could hold such meetings in a stuffy office and have edicts passed around on photocopied memos. Elysiums are the heart and soul of the Camarilla. Without them we would loose our grip, the beast would consume us faster and we would fall, leaving *those others* to sweep us up and everything would be at an end...

One should feel safe in Elysium. For the Camarilla as a whole recognises the importance of them, the Pax Vampirica, we hold our parties and our debates here, along with our art displays and recitals. Violence is a trouble left at the door, lying warm, ready to be picked up on leaving. Any who break this covenant of ours will be harshly punished, sadly it is but one of the few ways we can maintain order. We live in danger of our Elysiums being overrun, targeted by outside forces such as the Sabbat, as was the case in this fair city not too long ago, and other stranger elements that we must make doubly sure that we do not ruin all we have strived for from the inside. If we lose the Elysiums we are in danger of loosing ourselves.

I hold the Elysiums as dear in my heart as I do the six traditions that we govern our unives with. What use are rules in a barbaric society of monsters with not a flicker of humanity in their souls? And what use are the Elysiums, a beacon of humanity if we have no rudder guiding us towards them?

I am very proud to hold the Elysiums of Glasgow in safe keeping, not just for the Prince, but for all of us. Lest we forget, without someone at the helm, both the beacon and the rudder are but nought.

If one is tired of Elysiums, one will be surely tired of unlife.

Viscount Charles Augustus Aldworth,
Keeper of Elysium

Barony Race Hots Up

Eve Harrington-Mitford

This month the race for the eastern barony of Glasgow Fief has reached a new level. Only two months remain until Prince Rotheschilde decrees who is to take responsibility for this area. There are four main candidates who have made their interests known, these are myself, Eve Harrington-Mitford, Ancilla of the Clan Gangrel, Mary Jezabelle, Ancilla of the Clan Malkavian, Christine, Ancilla of the Clan Toreador and Anatos, Neonate of the Clan Brujah. Of course, there may be others from inside or outside the fief who have not yet shown their hands.

It seems crass to use this venerated publication to declare my own virtues and qualifications for this position, so I will say only this. There are those who call me a childe, but if one considers what I have achieved in so short a time then imagine what I could achieve in the eastern barony.

Mary Jezabelle is a good candidate, she is an experienced and well-liked fief-member who's antics keep us all amused on a regular basis.

Christine is an odd candidate for a barony, as she spends very little time within Glasgow, preferring instead the bright lights of Paris. She has not publicly declared her interest, instead choosing to rely on secret manipulations to gain support. Her current plans include inviting a prestigious guest to visit Glasgow Fief, and also rubbing my own reputation through this very publication. Of course, Christine's schemes might be more successful if she were to execute them with a little more secrecy and skill. Christine claims that I nearly caused a massacre at a party before my elders. I was surprised to hear this claim, so I contacted Elder Alexander Drummond, at whose party this is alleged to have taken place for his perspective. My own recollection is that I acted to prevent violence from a young kindred present, thus preserving the peace of the party. Mr Drummond himself has praised my courageous and innovative actions, and is clear that no party of his has ever come close to a massacre.

Christine's own actions at this time were to flee in terror, a choice appropriate for an inexperienced neonate but less that one would expect from a potential Baron.

Anatos is another unlikely candidate. As the only neonate in the running, he is courageous indeed. His best qualification is his close association with Heather Jackson, Scourge of Glasgow, his worst that he has a history of renegeing on agreements. This is something I experienced myself last year after hiring him to undertake a robbery on my behalf, in which he obtained only a small fraction of the expected goods, having been thwarted by the first sturdy lock. He, of course, did not return the payment he had received from me in exchange.

In the remaining months it remains to be seen what the candidates will do to attract Prince Rotheschilde's attention. I'm sure they will all have something exciting up their sleeves, I certainly do.

Eve Harrington-Mitford
Ancilla of Clan Gangrel

Society matters

Dr Robert Douglas Hume

Well Ladies and Gentlemen,
What an absolutely fascinating month this has been, very eventful! It seems everyone has had some gossip and tales to tell me this month, so allow me to begin telling my tales.

Obviously the most prominent topic has been the search for the new Baron of the East. My learned friend in London, Margery, has cast some aspersions upon those who would take up the mantle of Baron. I find myself unable to agree with her observations; after all, the title appears to carry the benefit of domain over a quarter of the city. This is a prize which many Kindred would kill for. At least metaphorically... one hopes!

It seems many were surprised by my declaration of Mary Jezabelle as a particular favourite, although why this might be, I cannot imagine. She

is after all, a long standing Ancilla, with strong links to Glasgow. Potentially her spat with London a year or so ago, which resulted in her granting a spree of minor boons, will count against her, that or perhaps her legendarily flighty nature (anyone remember the infamous “dance-off” at Drummond’s party?)

The Prince is certainly minded of these things, having been heard to remark upon the preferential treatment of her “shinies” and her unpredictability, that she might destabilise the system by not playing the game as intended. Mary countered that while some might find her capricious, she is on friendly terms with the Kindred of Glasgow. Time will tell if this assertion has the desired effect.

Another Ancilla appears to have joined the hunt also, with Christine of Paris making her designs upon the East known. With her strong ties to Paris, and having been well received at this year’s Winterball, she certainly holds the standing to become Baron. Additionally, she has recently struck a deal with one of the Barons to ensure that said Baron will not stand in her way in taking the East. Despite being more recently arrived than the other contenders, Christine has taken one large step towards the East, it must be questioned if there are others as yet unrevealed. I look forward to seeing how her campaign unfolds – assuming she will risk the attentions of Clan Brujah...

Meanwhile, it seems Glasgow awaits the opinion of the Barons of the North, West and South; the Prince is believed to hold their opinions first and foremost as they must work with the Baron of the East. The contest would appear to have become a four horse race; in addition to Christine and MJ,

Eve Harrington-Mitford and Anatos have been touted as potentials.

What will the Barons make of rumours that the scourge, Jack, has been intimidating Kindred of Glasgow, including the Barons themselves, into supporting Anatos for the East? This is an accusation Jack denies hotly, claiming anyone who believes that needs their dashed head examining. (I may have censored that last sentiment a little!)

Anatos does have something of a violent reputation though, his involvement in the

Saints & Sinners

Come and indulge yourself, join Mammon and Asmodeus in the opening night. We have everything to tempt you into sin, do not despair, save your gluttony at our bars, lust after our dancing angels. Forget about work, party yourself slothful. Dance with all the hot guys and girls, have your mates look on with pride or envy.

Come back again and again, we don't mind greed here!

10PM-4PM 17/4/10

Saints & Sinners
Cambridge Street, Glasgow

R'n'B, Hip Hop, Indie Rock, House, Dance, Up Tempo Funk, Classic Soul and more!

Free Entry for all the Beautiful People!
All Drinks £1

Diablo's Creation

torporing and temporary disappearance of Tobias Weaver, depriving Glasgow of its Keeper of the Masquerade for some months. Perhaps this predisposition suits him to rule the East of Glasgow, but perhaps the other Barons would prefer a more measured attitude...time will tell!

Given Jack's protestations of neutrality, it must be questioned why she was recently witnessed summoning Christine to a meeting, wherein she threatened to break Christine's legs. Was this intended to drive off competition to Anatos, or was there another reason behind her actions? Perhaps it relates to the discovery by the Viscount that Jack was behind the delivery of old issues of the Dark Times which reflected negatively upon Aldworth. Anatos would no doubt benefit from such an influential ally, I'm certain this will be something he will try to assert as soon as possible if it is true.

Finally turning to Eve, an up and coming Ganrel Ancilla by most measures, but largely unknown to the wider Kindred community. That may change soon though; certainly Drummond's party brought her some attention. During the aforementioned "dance-off," Eve was credited with either calming or escalating matters with Jeb, another Gangrel who found himself unable to control the appearance of his claws.

Eve also appears to have benefited from her clanmate Angus' connections with the newly returned Cruithni, offering to trade information on how to contact the Border Prince. Perhaps she was able to trade with Niall Ferguson, the Primogen of Manchester who attended Court in Glasgow, seeking information on the new Prince. Either way, it appears Eve's star is rising, but is it rising quickly enough?

Phew, well...that largely completes the news of the Baronies! I don't know if I have any more energy to write more gossip and news! Although, isn't it interesting that Manchester has been seeking ways to turn back the Border Prince? Apparently there have even been boons over

Prince Carter offered in exchange for anyone who can achieve this, most interesting indeed! Quite a prize for the right person...

Well, a busy month indeed, I hope next month will be equally eventful, I live (metaphorically) for such times! Please remember to send me your rumours and gossip, and I hope to see you all soon.

Until then, farewell and happy hunting,

Robert

Monthly Business Update

Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni

Top 5 Dos and Don'ts of Business Networking

Business networking events can be some of the most awkward and unproductive trials of the small business owner. Try out some of the following hints and see how they turn networking into interesting, informative and ultimately a crucial tool for your business success!

5. **DON'T** lose track of any information you learn - record who you talked to, what their interests and specialties are and how to contact them
4. **DON'T** rely on luck
3. **DO** refer your contacts to other people in your network and they are likely to reciprocate
2. **DON'T** assume that online networking is any easier than offline. Both take time and effort to build relationships
1. **DO** follow up any contacts you make with a personal email or phonecall

Government News

Employer find for having no Compulsory Insurance – The Health & Safety Executive has warned employers that it will take action against them if they are found not to have compulsory insurance to protect their staff following a court

action on 12 November 2009 that resulted in a Cambridgeshire retailer being fined a total of £100,000 for two offences plus costs.

HM Revenue & Customs

Updates to Spirits production in the United Kingdom Notice - This notice has been amended to reflect changes to requirements and procedures introduced by the Beer, Cider and Perry, Spirits, and Wine and Made-wine (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

More information can be found on the HMRC website: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/>

Market Update

Commodities

Brent Crude Oil Futures \$/barrel	81.26 Up 5.15
Forex Gold Index \$/oz	1111.25 Down 1.25
White Sugar Futures \$/m tonne	503 Down 166
Feed Wheat Futures euros/m tonne	98.5 Up 3.5

Stock Market

London: FTSE 100	5710.66 Up 356.14
Frankfurt: Dax	6156.85 Up 558.39
Paris: Cac 40	4000.66 Up 291.86
New York: Dow Jones	10895.86 Up 570.6

By Rosina Provanzano-Giovanni
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Untitled submission

Well dear readers, what cant we say about the domain of Glasgow? After Prince Rothschild's announcement of splitting the city into Baronies, we have seen kindred both band together and race against the clock to become the final Baron. The Eastern Barony, some say is worthless and holds nothing but the dregs of Glaswegian society, being only fit for kindred who revel in that equivalent social class. However, it seems to be a highly coveted spot amongst certain members of the domain. Already we have been given names of three of the contenders for the title of Baron of the East.

It will come as a surprise to you, the readers then,

that not all of these contenders are the stereotyped class of kindred labelled with being suitable for the position.

As I mentioned previously, kindred in Glasgow seem to have decided to work in cohort, to stabilise their domain. Several of whom, dear readers, you will recognise. The Viscount, Charles Augustus Aldsworth, to name one, supplying a local sports entertainment establishment with heightened security, to battle the disruption of the kine drain on the cities income. Such as with a young Brujah, who has also aided in the supply of extra security to one of the local establishments. It seems, between the pair, they may yet reduce the violent conduct and misbehaviour of the less educated and civilised kine within these establishments. If only more followed their fine examples.

We have more reports of various ways of contacting the self proclaimed "Prince" Cruithni. A Gangrel by the name of Eve-Harrinton Mitford is acting in a very mercenary like manner, reports are that she is offering a means of contacting Cruithni for the price of a boon! Good business or bad form, that, dear readers is for you to decide.

I must end now, having said more than my lot for this eve, the night deepens and dawn grows ever closer. I bid you all, adieoux.

BM.

Great Britain By Night

Margery Houndsworth-Stone, Clan Toreador, Ancilla, Harpy of London

March has been an exciting month all round. With March the 15th marking the second annual tax collection of Queen Anne. Whilst last years affair was all open and public, in the current climate of constant paranoia about attacks from Severn there were no such festivities.

From what I have heard her vassals have kept roughly in line with last year's tribute. I heard

Prince Wallace of Birmingham has once again provided 5 kindred to Queen Anne, and once again it is suspected that most of those are anarchs or undeclared individuals.

What York and Manchester have provided I have no detailed information about, but I have heard that Manchester has asked for London's aide in the matters arising between Manchester & Liverpool and Cruithni's new domain.

For Queen Anne's leadership over the other domains to stay solid she now needs to show that she can actually live up to the claim that she can provide a safer Briton and a stronger Camarilla.

Of course at the same time it needs to be said that according to the prevalent rumours Cruithni has not threatened anything within a hundred miles of Manchester or Liverpool. If he was pressing on Preston then the story would indeed be somewhat different. Still it remains interesting to see what will come out of that situation.

Next I like to discuss the exile of Nathan Kyte, the Malkavian who recently torpored Damian Thomson in a sanctioned duel, has apparently been declared a destabilizing influence on London. He was given the choice to get bound to our monarch or to depart the domain. Interestingly enough he chose exile but managed to obtain a couple of boons over an ancilla in Glasgow during his negotiations.

If we combine that with the news from Edinburgh that he has also managed to obtain a boon over another ancilla in Glasgow, both of which are heralded as prime candidates for the fourth domain prince Rothschild has offered up a very interesting picture begins to form. Is he interested in trying to make an outside bid for the position itself? Is he simply buying real-estate he hopes will rise in value soon?

In any case, it appears that ancilla Kyte's eyes have set themselves onto Glasgow and I am sure my clan mates up there will ensure that ancilla Kyte receives the reception and welcome he deserves.

Let it be known that Nathan Kyte, formerly of London, ancilla of the Camarilla has obtained two debts over Mary Jezabelle, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla from Lady Anne Bowesley, Prince of London, elder of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that François de Bourbon, of Glasgow, elder of the Camarilla is further indebted to Julius Montgomery, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla.

Let it be known that Nathan Kyte, formerly of London, ancilla of the Camarilla has obtained a debts over Eve Harrington-Mitford, of Glasgow, ancilla of the Camarilla. (Information provided by Lady Eleanor, Harpy of Edinburgh, elder of the Camarilla).

**Dark Times is accepting submissions.
Send in writing to the address below:**

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