

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 68

AUGUST 2011

Editorial

Welcome to this the 68th edition of the Patter.

We start off this edition with a bit of bad news – Grand Secretary, Brother David M Begg has suffered a slight stroke and is currently in hospital. I'm sure all readers will join with me in wishing David a full and speedy return to good health.

It has been a busy time since the last edition with lots happening – especially the Installation of our new Provincial Grand Master, Bro William Ross. The day of the Installation was first class, a good Deputation from Grand Lodge headed by the Grand Master Mason, excellent representation from the neighbouring (and beyond) Provincial Grand Lodges and every one of the twelve Lodges in the Province represented. After the Ceremony we all enjoyed an excellent meal and equally excellent speeches. It was truly a day to remember. May I take this opportunity to wish Bro Ross and each and every Commissioned and Elected Office-bearer a very happy, successful and enjoyable term in office.

With kindest regards to all.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The next meeting of Grand Lodge will be on Thursday 27th October.

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The Annual Installation and Festival of St Andrew will take place on Thursday 24th November 2011. This year, the Festival will move from its normal venue to the Corn Exchange. Lodge Secretaries are now in possession of the booking forms – get your tickets booked sooner rather than later for what looks to be an excellent day and evening. The cost has been kept at £50 and the other good news – the bar prices at the Corn Exchange are much better than the Sheraton!!!

* * * * *

The Grand Master Mason is travelling to Kuala Lumpur in September to install the new District Grand Master – a very good friend of this Province, Bro Dr Dunstan Fernandez. The Province will be well represented at the Installation with Brother Ian Fraser, Brother Morris Downie and me in attendance. We will take the best wishes of the Province with us to Bro Dunstan.

Provincial Grand Lodge

I have indeed been greatly honoured by the Brethren of the Daughter Lodges to receive their unanimous support in my Nomination and Election as Provincial Grand Master and I look forward to a fruitful term in office along with my Commissioned Office – bearers.

During these past five years Brother W Ramsay McGhee has led the Province in a positive manner and has also benefited from your loyal support in all that he has achieved. May I on your behalf thank him for all his effort.

The Installation Ceremony so efficiently carried out by the Grand Master Mason, Bro Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont and the Grand Lodge Deputation was a most humbling experience for me and I have no doubt an everlasting memory.

I am most grateful for all the help and assistance from the many brethren who contributed in the making of such a successful day. (Too many to name individually). The bar arrangements were in the capable hands of my Depute Grand Master Brother Robin Cattanach and his team from Mother St. Duthus No. 82 and much appreciated by those in attendance. We had a most successful raffle so well organised by Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Morris Downie and ably assisted by Brethren Ronnie Cooper and David Pringle. My thanks have also been expressed to Mr Sonny Rhind and his Staff at the Averon Centre and Julie and her Staff at Swift Catering for their kindness and help towards the event.

Since my Installation as Provincial Grand Master, I have had the pleasure to represent the Province at the Installation of Brother Tom Davidson as Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Middle Ward in Hamilton and likewise I attended the Centenary Celebrations of Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter No. 364 in Stornoway.

The Provincial Quarterly Meeting is scheduled to be held in Lodge Fingal No 318, Dingwall, on Wednesday, 24th August, commencing at 8.00 pm. A good attendance of Brethren would be appreciated.

Thanks again for all your help and support.

Fraternally yours

William Ross

Provincial Grand Master

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From The Provincial Almoner

As you will all be aware I changed office at the Provincial AGM and am no longer Provincial Grand Almoner. That particular Office was one I held dear and enjoyed carrying out for my 8 years in Office. This Office is only possible with the information passed by Brethren regarding those who are ill or in hospital or grieving or suffering in any way and I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all who kept me up to date over the years. I would urge all to keep up the good work of keeping Almoners at all levels informed. The post has been taken up by Brother David McMaster PM of Lodge Fingal who I know will carry out the job in a most proficient manner. I wish David well and I know he would appreciate your continual support. Once again my sincere thanks to all.

Jim Tait

Substitute Provincial Grand Master

It was indeed an honour to be asked to fulfil the roll of Provincial Grand Almoner and to compile my first report for the Patter as such. Whether or not I can achieve the standards set by my predecessor remains to be seen. Fortunately, since taking up the post in May the duties have not been too difficult.

George Robinson from Lodge Averon continues to make good progress in his recovery from serious injuries sustained in a road accident. I recently visited George MacLeod from Lodge Fortrose in Raigmore Hospital but he is now home having been discharged a week last Friday.

I've also been in regular contact with Donald George Ross from Lodge St. Duthus and his daughter, Kerry, is currently at home, and although on oxygen most of the time is not doing too badly at present.

It should also be mentioned that David Begg, Grand Secretary, recently suffered a stroke and was in hospital in Larbert but is now home. A card has been sent to him conveying the best wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

I'm sure you'll join me in conveying our best wishes to them all.

I would like to ask that should any of you need to contact me regarding my duties as Almoner please feel free to do so, by telephone or e mail, at any time.

David MacMaster,

Provincial Grand Almoner

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Well Brethren I am sorry to say that there is not much news coming from No 82 this time as everything is very quiet during the close season.

We had one meeting on the 14th May when we went up to Lodge St Peters No 284 to conduct a second degree for the benefit of Brother Mark Moodie, the son of Brother William Moodie and the grandson of Brother Sinclair Wares who is the chef when we go to Thurso. I think that he makes a better job of making dinner for us every time we go up to visit.

Anyway we had a good trip up and everything went well. We met some old friends and also met some new ones.

After a short harmony we travelled merrily home to rest for the next few months so we can recharge our batteries

Jain Sinclair

Secretary

Black Isle Cycle Challenge

Next year's event will take place on Saturday 28th April 2012 – so please get the date into your diaries and support this major event for Highland Hospice. We need as many Stewards as possible.



LADIES PAMPER NIGHT

To be held in the Seaforth Club,
Station Square, Fortrose
On Friday 26th August
From 7.30 onwards
Only £5
for a great night out for the girls

There is the story of a Minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is - it's still out there in your pockets."

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

It's Saturday 8th August and the weather is first class as it is Carnival Day in Stornoway and we are having our annual open day in the Lodge which if last year is anything to go by should be a bit of a crowd puller.

Last night we had a visitation of 14 brethren from Lodge Thistle No. 270 from West Calder led by RWM Rab Smith reciprocating our visit to them last February. One of their past masters, Tom Paton, is an officer of Lodge Fortrose and this how the connection came about. We worked a 3rd degree followed by an excellent harmony. They arrived on Thursday night and Tom is taking them on tours to various parts of the island. They are staying with us until Sunday.



Donald Finlayson PM Lodge The Gael No. 609 presented us with a banner from his lodge and gave an interesting talk about the origins of his lodge 134 years ago today and how many of the original members were members of Lodge Fortrose, indeed the first RWM was a member of 108. They will be visiting us on 30th September and working a 3rd degree.

On 20th July we had our annual visit from the Chernobyl children and we must thank the various businesses and societies in the town who were so kind to these unfortunate kids.



Now that we have a ferry sailing on Sundays it is hoped that in future our 3 day May visitation week may change to Thursday, Friday & Saturday thereby giving our mainland brethren a better opportunity to visit by taking less or even no time off work!

The children with their leader after having their faces painted.

Donald MacLeod PSPGM

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Lodge Fortrose 108 cont.



Once again Lodge Fortrose played host to a group from the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline. The twelve children and their escorts enjoyed four days as guests of the Lodge who took them on various activities, on Wednesday, after they came off the ferry the kids visited the Helicopter and then returned to the Lodge for a Barbeque prepared by the Stornoway Round Table. On Thursday the party went fishing on Loch Clachan in the morning and in the afternoon they were taken out in the Lifeboat and then to Coll beach for fun on quad bikes. The supper that evening was supplied by the Church Street Chip Shop, after which they were joined by staff from Body and Sole who made up the girls nails. On Friday morning there was a visit to the Ness play park before an afternoon of fun at the Kart track, they then visited the Studio Alba before returning to the Lodge for a Christmas dinner. On Saturday before they left the kids went for a walk the Castle Grounds. All week the breakfasts were supplied by Mackinnon's Bakery and the buses were donated by Hebridean Transport. Lodge Fortrose would like to thank all those who supplied good free of charge and the volunteers who helped out.

Bro Rod Huckbody

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

As the season comes upon us again and our recess comes to an end, with us all refreshed and ready to go (I hope) I would just like to highlight the following points.

The first meeting of our Lodge will be on Wednesday 21st September 2011 when we plan to work a third degree with our candidate being Br. Kieran Hill. Kieran's work does not always make his attendance possible but I know he is making every effort.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th October and the business of that meeting will be determined at our September meeting. Our Meeting of 16 November will be our A.G.M. and nomination of Office Bearers, but I would ask our own members not to be worried about attending, because if you do not wish to hold office then there will be no pressure. Your presence is more important for the good and welfare of the lodge. Our last meeting of 2011 will be our installation which will be held on Wednesday 21 December 2011 with the list of Office Bearers being determined at the November meeting.

All these meetings will be held within our Lodge room in Duke Street, Cromarty commencing at 7.45 p.m.

Notification of all these meetings will be circulated prior to each meeting but this is just to give all early notification for insertion in your diary. We will look forward to seeing as many members and visitors as we can get and a warm welcome will be given to all. I know I am speaking on behalf of R.W.M. Brian McGroarty and all office bearers when I say this as we look forward to our season ahead.

James A Tait PM
Secretary.

Lodge Fingal No 318

Lodge Fingal No 318 Sponsored Walk and Barbeque – “Beat the Ben” - Proceeds to Marie Curie

The above event took place on Saturday, 4 June 2011, as planned. The weather on the day, being one of the finest days this year, was excellent for walking.

A team of sixteen walkers took part including members of Fingal, wives of same and friends. A bus, which Spa Coaches kindly donated free of charge, uplifted the walkers at 8 am from Lodge Fingal and conveyed them to the start point at Garbat, near Garve. A few photographs were taken and the walk was on.

As the walk progressed the sixteen became spread out as they headed to the summit. First to the top was PM Rory Mackenzie, followed by PM Donnie Gunn. Rory now known as the Fyrish Stag trained by walking up and down Fyrish and Donnie now known as the Road Runner by running along the corridor of his workshop chasing Mary.

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At the summit, most of the walkers had their lunch, or should I say one had a family sized pork pie, and then made their way back down the mountain towards the bus. All making the summit and back to the bus by 3.30 pm, some saying this would be their first and last Munro. One of the walkers heeded the safety advice given before the walk, (to wear suitable clothing and footwear), and completed the walk in safety shoes and boiler suit with a logo thereon, the only articles missing being the high visibility jacket and safety helmet. He's now known as "Dickie".

On returning to the Lodge one or two thirsty souls went to check out the Fingal Bar prices while the remainder made their way to respective addresses to freshen up and change their boots. Whilst most of us were at home putting on the aftershave and perfume, John the chef at the National Hotel, Dingwall, was at the rear of the lodge preparing the BBQ. This was a tremendous spread provided by the National, supplemented by a donation of mouth watering burgers and sausages from Cockburn's Butchers, Dingwall. Many were seen to go back for seconds. The meal concluded with a sweet provided by one or two wives. An excellent "scoff" was had by all. A certificate made up by Brother Angus Beaton was thereafter presented to all the walkers present, by yours truly; one or two were unable to make the presentation for a variety of reasons. One poor soul was so tired on returning home he had a bath to ease his aching joints, sat on the bed to dress and fell asleep. It was a "good night Irene" from him. One of our female walkers mentioned on Face book the following day that she had just climbed Ben Wyvis and was highly satisfied with herself. She promptly thereafter received a question from a well known Caithness Brother, who read what she had posted, asking her, "What did Mrs Wyvis say about that?" I should mention that all the walkers received, or will, receive a certificate. Only two had been up the mountain before and it was a tremendous achievement by all. At least two of the party had undergone major surgery for illness during 2010.

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After the certificates were presented, entertainment was provided by our own well known talent and musician Brother Ramsay McGhee, however, Canadian barn dance's and strip the willow's were not in demand and slow waltzes etc were the order of the day, sore feet, knees and legs being the hindrance.

Overall it was a successful day enjoyed by all those who took part. It is estimated that well over £2,000 has been raised for Marie Curie.

I would like to thank all who sponsored walkers, gave donations and assisted in any way. Special thanks to Spa Coaches, Cockburn Butchers, National Hotel and Brother Ramsay McGhee.

It is highly gratifying to know that even when "times are hard" we "the people" are always ready and willing to support a good cause and help those less fortunate than ourselves, brotherly love being a strong bond. To all those hard working nurses of Marie Curie I say "thank you" for your dedication.

All walkers who read this should remember signing the form of indemnity, I thereby refuse to accept any liability for this article.

Bro Colin Mackintosh.

Saturday May 28th. Visit of St. Peter's Operative No. 284 to work a FC^o for Bro John MacKenzie, at 4pm. Present were 17 brethren, 11 visitors and a deputation of 15 from St. Peter's. There was a harmony at 6.30 with the catering by Bro Sean Kennedy of the National Hotel, to which 30 sat down. Wee jig at 8.30 by Bro Charlie Wilson. PM James Moodie of St. Peter's, phoned on Monday May 30th to thank for the very harmonies meeting on Sat passed. Suggested that Fingal should return the visit on Saturday April 28th 2012, as the season would be just finished, and that this would not be in summer recess, with the Ladies be present this time of visit. Made

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provisional arrangements with the Royal Hotel, Thurso at a cost of £30 / head. So get in touch too book your BED.

Saturday June 4th. Beat the Ben. Charity event. Which was organized by Bro. Colin Mackintosh, proceeds of the walk to go to Marie Curie. Monies to date amounts too £3,159 which Bro Mackintosh is most grateful for all the kind donations he has received. This far exceeds his target of about £2,000.

Left the Lodge @ 8.15 back at 16.05



Some 16 participated, with 8 Fingalians, and 8 guests of these, 4 were ladies.

Henry Cameron, Andrew Henderson, Ally Gault, D. Gunn, Hamish Milne, Trevor White, Rory MacKenzie, Roy MacKenzie, Frank Greathead, John Hanson, Colin Mackintosh, Colin McPhee, June Beaton, Anne Curran, Margaret Mackintosh, Anne Reid.

Roy Mackenzie did these calculations on a machine called Garmin Etrex.

Climbed a height of 3431ft

Walked 9.45 miles in 4hrs 12 mins.

Rested for tea breaks, 2hrs 45 mins.

[just a fun event].

Meaning of BEN WYVIS

Big green slope—terrible hill.

Our RWM Bro. Andy Henderson can safely vouch for this, as he could not make the Barbie or the jig. The LEGS gave in.

6.30 had a barbecue by Sean Kennedy, at the lodge, with 34 present. 8.15 till then time - had a wee jig by Bro Ramsay McGhee on the accordion.



Open Day July 9th Had our annual event, starting at 11a.m. to 2p.m. between various stalls etc took in a sum of £420. Barbecue at 6.30 by Bro. Sean Kennedy of the National Hotel, and to finish off the day Bro. Charlie Wilson hit the high notes, to get the party in the dancing mode.

Hope you are all having a good summer recess.

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary.*

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A Master's Homily

In preparing this contribution I was reminded, while editing a lecture scheduled to be given at the November 2011 meeting in Fingal and not taking anything away from the lecture, of a phrase "life in the community".

We, in the province, from reading previous issues of the 'Patter' are all too familiar with the fantastic efforts made by all daughter lodges in establishing the lodge as part of life in their particular community.

There will be a report elsewhere in this edition of the 'Beat the Ben' conquest but, during a very recent visit to the Inverness College I came across something which I hope will whet the appetite of others contemplating community fund raising via the following observations about Munro's and their appeal.

Ben Wyvis, Glas Leathad Mor; 1046m; M83; *Ben Wyvis is from the Gaelic fuathas, meaning perhaps hill of terror. Glas Leathad Mor means big greenish-grey slope.*

Ben Wyvis (the name applies to the whole range) is a solitary hulk of a mountain shipwrecked far to the east of other northern hills. The highest summit, Glas Leathad Mor, is a high level ridge with two impressive corries on its eastern face, and long uniform grass slopes sweeping up from the dark forests on the west. Its isolated position makes it a good viewpoint. Despite the vast plantings of the Garbat Forest, the approach from the west is still the one most used.

Park off the A835 road from Garve to Ullapool just south of the Allt a' Bhealaich Mhoir, 1/2 km south of Garbat, and follow the good footpath on the north bank of that stream. There is a gap between trees and river. A forestry road crosses the route at about the 200m contour, but the path continues heading up towards the Bealach Mor. There are additional plantings and above these simply turn uphill to ascend An Cabar (946m), the end prow of the Wyvis ridge. The summit lies 2 km north-east along a soft mossy ridge of delightful walking.

The quickest descent is to return by the route of ascent. Alternatively, a traverse of the mountain can be made by continuing down the north-north east ridge and climbing Tom a'Choinnich (955m). Descend its grassy west south-west ridge to the Allt a'Gharbh Bhaid and follow this stream downhill to the point where it flows into the Garbat Forest. Go south along the fence for about 1/2 km to a gate, then descend west down a break in the trees to a track leading to Garbat.

When Sir Hugh Munro published his first Tables of the 3000-ft mountains of Scotland in 1891 he could have had little idea of the influence that he was to exert on later generations of hill-walkers. He could hardly have expected that his own name would become synonymous with these mountains, nor could he have foreseen the numbers of climbers who, some 120 years later, would be perusing his work and using his Tables as an inspiration for their hill climbing activities such as those of the Fingalians and their friends a couple of months ago on Saturday, 4th June 2011.

The publication of the Tables must have acted as a stimulus to early climbers to ascend as many of the Munros as possible. The first to achieve the complete list, the first Munroist, was the Reverend A.E. Robertson, who in 1901 after what he himself described as 'a desultory campaign of ten years' climbed his last Munro, Meall Dearg on the Aonach Eagach.

Besides Ben Wyvis budding Munroists might want to consider others in the area such as Beinn Dearg, Ben More Assynt, Slioch, Liathach, Sgurr na Lapaich, Carn Eighe and/or S. Fhuaran!

Andrew M. Henderson
RWM Lodge Fingal

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

This Tuesday (9th August) the Lodge is delighted to welcome as its guest speaker Bro Thomas F Jessop, Substitute Grand Master and Chairman of the Information and Communications Committee who will be speaking about the work of his Committee.

The RWM, Bro Charles MacAulay extends a very warm welcome to members and visiting Brethren to this the final meeting for 2011.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

Hello Brethren

I hope and trust that you all enjoyed the summer recess and that you are all returning refreshed for the start of the new season.

The Special Meeting that was proposed for Monday 5th September with the Brethren of Lodge St John 37, Forres coming over to work a Degree has been postponed until later in the season. The new date (probably a Saturday) will be announced as soon as it has been confirmed.

The first Regular Meeting to be held on Monday 19th September will be a Business Meeting for Lodge Seaforth Brethren only.

There will be a Seaforth Social Club Meeting on Monday 22nd August at 7.30 pm – it is requested that as many Seaforth Brethren attend as possible.

And finally Brethren as is advertised elsewhere in the Patter, could I encourage Brethren from all over the Province and beyond to send your wives, girl friends, partners, mothers, sisters or whoever over to Fortrose on Friday 26th August to enjoy a Ladies Pamper Night. Entry is only £5 and there will be all sorts to enjoy including manicure, Indian Head Massage, make-up, foot massage, natural beauty products, jewellery, scarves, handbags, greetings cards, tombola the Lodge Seaforth Grand Draw will be made that night also. Give your women folk a good night out in the Black Isle and send them along to the Pamper Night

Cochrane Donald P.M.

Lodge Averon No 866

The first meeting of the new session will be held on Thursday 13th October.

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Lodge Ness No 888

As this has been close season, not a lot has been happening. We had our usual summer barbeque which was a great day and well attended. The music this year was provided by PM Stirling's niece and nephew, "assisted of course by PM Stirling and PM D Ross" and this was thoroughly entertaining. Chef for the day was Bro Dixon, as of yet there has been no reports of food poisoning and the festivities went on well into the evening.

The other event of interest was the Installation of PG Master, Bro W. Ross. This was well attended with quite a few Ness Brethren made the ceremony. Unfortunately I could not wait for the harmony but I believe this was enjoyed by all and all at Lodge Ness wish Bro Ross and his office bearers a successful and enjoyable term in office.

As I missed the last patter, I feel that I should add that back in March, we held our ladies night. This was a very enjoyable night and was a combined event with Lodge Averon and I feel that this combined event is the way to go as the event is better attended and increases the harmony enjoyed between the Lodges.

Raymond Morrison P.M.



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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Hi Brethren

Hope you have all enjoyed the summer recess. We in Lodge Rosehaugh look forward to welcoming you all to our meetings in the new session, the first of which will be on Friday 7th October.

Keith Patience, PM

Secretary

Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

In Aultbea, on Saturday 27th August 2011, there will be an Open Day in the Lodge Rooms which proved quite successful and interesting last time out in February 2010, as there were a good number of folk, including yourself and your good lady, who took the time to come in and familiarise themselves with the friendly ambience of the locality.

Much of the same is guaranteed again with light refreshments by the 'joint 140 years of togetherness pair of RWM Barrie Whitwell and his good lady Anne' being provided during the afternoon from midday to 4 pm. The brethren of Lodge Loch Ewe No.1551 look forward to welcoming all within the province who can make it along on the day to what is a very vibrant lodge and locality as can be witnessed by the hospitality on offer and the contributions, over the years since its inception, to both Provincial Grand Lodge fundraising and also benefiting the local surgery and sponsorship of a young lady to far-flung shores.

PM Billy Brown continues to go from strength to strength on his road of recuperation - it must be something to do with that wonderful fresh air which abounds so much in the area!

Kind regards,

Andy Henderson

Almoner

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

Well now here we are slowly moving towards the 6th month of the year and yesterday 29th May I joined the Provincial Lodge for their annual ceremonial "Lodge of Sorrow" conducted by Bro the Reverend Bill Niven supported by the Provincial Master, Ramsay McGhee and his Office Bearers. It was indeed a very interesting ceremony with all speakers endorsing the solemnity of the meeting, and when the roll was called the silence when their was no reply touched the hearts of all present and I am sure we all retired to the club rooms for a cup of tea, with our own individual thoughts and memories of departed Brethren.

The Tennis from France is now well on its way and the first game today was great to watch between Nadal and Lubicic and the score in no way reflects on the quality of play and although the crowd at times gave them the slow handclap I do not think they deserved such treatment final score 7/5 6/3 6/3 for Nadal.

The second game today was Andy Murray v Victor Troicki at the end of play first day although Murray was down two sets he pulled it back to two sets each consequently they required to play a final set the next day and so we arrive at the final game and although Murray won he did not get it all his own way final score three sets to two. He now plays his next game today Wednesday first June against I Chela again another good game to watch

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but possibly a bit one sided Murray played Chela seven times and won six so he really was expected to win final score 7/6 7/5 6/2 for Murray so that assures him of a place in the Semi Final but once again the final of a grand slam eludes him as he was beaten well and truly by Rafael Nadal by three sets final score 6/4 7/5 6/4.

It's now Saturday the 4th of June and I commenced the day by going to the British Legion's annual coffee morning, plus a number of stalls selling a variety of goods, also a bottle stall that always attracts steady business, the turn out was slightly down on previous years but those present enjoyed their cup of tea/coffee and meeting old friends and all monies were for the Legions funds. I spent the afternoon in front of the telly moving from between watching the Ladies tennis final in the French open and the Rugby between New Zealand's Barbarians and Wales. The tennis was well worth watching the game between N/Li and F Shiavonie went to a tie/break and N/Li came out on top by winning both sets 6/4 7/6. The Rugby was a great game with end to end play with the Barbarians having most of the play. At half time the score was Wales 14 Barbarians 19. Within minutes of the second half it was Wales 21 Bars 19 then the score line continued 28-19 28-24 28-29 so the Barbarians then leading by one point when they were presented with a try plus a kick to win by three points final score Wales 28 Barbarians 31. For me, it was a wonderful afternoon in the front of the Telly.

And now I arrive at the Gents Tennis Final in the French open and once again a game well worth watching. The two players in the final were Nadal and Fedderra - both excellent players they could not place the ball better by hand but of course there has to be a winner Nadal won the first two sets with quite narrow margins 7/5 7/6 then Fedderra won the third set 5/7 and prospects looked good for them going into a tiebreak however Nadal won the fourth set to claim the championship for 2011.

The Britain's Got Talent Program was very entertaining and although I was sorry that the young boy Ronan Parke lost it was good to see that a Scotsman Jai McDowall was the winner. At least the young boy is guaranteed a future in singing and hopefully we will be hearing more of them both. As a point of interest I felt that McDowall lacked in dress code, jeans and a T/shirt not a true representation for Scotland perhaps we will see him sooner rather than later in the Kilt.

The Tennis I watched today was the game between Andy Murray and the Serbian Tibsarevic and it really was a great game and again the score takes nothing away from the entertainment Murray won both sets to go through to the quarter Finals.

It's now Saturday 11th June and another big day on the Provincial Lodge's calendar - the installation of our now immediate past PGM Ramsay McGhee's successor. It was a full house in the Averon Centre High Street Alness with all twelve Lodges in the Province represented, The meeting was well organised and very smoothly executed it was a pleasure to witness the Grand Master and his Director of Ceremonies at work and I can say without fear or favour you could travel the world and not witness an equal or better installation. I have no doubt our new Provincial Master William Ross will be proud to be the recipient of this Perfection Personified installation. I was sorry I did not wait for the meal and following Harmony but I did meet two Brethren I have not seen in years Brothers John Brockie and Peter Nieto

My final report on the Tennis from Queens Court in London is on the two players who qualified Andy Murray and the French-man Tsonga another excellent game with Murray going on to win the cup for the second time the score being 3-6 7-6 7-2 6-4. The score tells it all Murray only lost the first game.

Our first meeting for the Allan Wilson Lodge was well attended - surely proving that a daytime Lodge has caught on. We had over fifty in the lodge and forty one at the meal. We also admitted one Affiliate plus an installation ceremony - a full morning meeting that was enjoyed by all.

Just a quick resume of the Tennis of winners and losers as to date Murray v Gimeno Traver sets 3-1 Federer v Kikushkin 3-0. Dtokovic v Chardy 3-0 these names are as difficult to spell as to pronounce.

The only Tennis result I have for today is that Andy Murray has gone through to the third round beating his opponent in three sets 6/3 6/3 7/5 so he will now start meeting much stronger players

The only Tennis worth reporting on today was the game between Soderling V Hewitt Soderling although he was down two sets to nil he went on to win by three sets to two some achievement against the highly rated Hewitt, other games as we close the first week in the Tennis are Roddick out by Lopez score 0-3 Jubicic lost to Murray 1-3 and Nadal white washed Muller 3-0. The first game for the second week at Wembley was Andy Murray v Gasquet even after going to a tie/break in the first set Murray went on to win by 3 sets to nil and he now looks as if he will reach the final. Other familiar names going through today were Nadal and Federer. Federer is now out of the Tennis he was unexpectedly knocked out today by Tsonga so things are now hotting up Murray also went through today beating F Lopaz in three straight sets.

It's now Saturday 2nd July and my report on Tennis to date, it is now confirmed that Ojokovic will be world number one as and from Monday the 4th July. The last two games were excellent and very difficult to pick out

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who will be the winner on Sundays final - the two results Ojokovic 3 T Songa 1 A Murray 1 Rafael Nadal 3 a big shock for all Murray followers. Sorry I did not give you a full report on the Ladies Tennis but I did see the Final today and it really was a corker the winner was Petra Kvitova and the runner up was Maria Sharapova Don't ask me their nationality. And now all the excitement of the men's Tennis over and although I felt Nadal deserved to win alas he was the Runner Up - final score Rafael Nadal 1 Novack Djokovic 3 however both were paid handsomely. Winner received one point one million pounds and runner up six hundred and fifty thousand pounds not bad for two weeks work or pay the tax paid on the total would do me.

The months are slipping by and we are now into the second week of July and our second meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson. As always a well attended meeting with the majority travelling from the midlands, a very interesting lecture was delivered by Brother Bob Fullerton from Inverness on St John of Jerusalem same was well received by all present.

The Carnegie Challenge Cup in the Rugby today was really worth watching with end to end play, and the final score certainly does not reflect on the quality of the game, at half time the score was Wigan 22 Warrington 0 and then in the second half Warrington Warriors went flat out and within 15 mins it was 22-20 it then went to 28-20 and from then on Wigan took over as follows 28-24 32-24 38-24 and finally 44-24 Wigan worthy winners.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

"On Saturday 14th May 2011, Brothers Morris M Downie; Ronald Cooper and David Pringle made their annual pilgrimage to the Installation meeting of Lodge Saint Andrew No. 1794 in St Georges, Grenada.

The Installation was again being carried out by their IPM Bro. Daniel Nicolas who re-installed Bro. Daniel Roberts into the chair of the Lodge. The Installation was carried out in a most professional and dignified manner much to the enjoyment of everyone present. The singing on the day was absolutely excellent to the taped music provided, with a brother standing on the floor of the lodge conducting the audience.

The Saturday before, I was present in Lodge St Andrews No. 601 in Ardersier and when the RWM Bro. John Mackenzie heard of my sojourn to Grenada to visit Lodge Saint Andrew No. 1794. He requested that I pass on their fraternal greetings and present the master of the Lodge with a Mark Penny and Mark Key Fob, which I had the great pleasure in doing on behalf of the Ardersier brethren. It was great meeting up with the brethren from Grenada again and the brethren from the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad & Tobago & Grenada. The District Grand Master Bro. Stanley I. Marcus wished to be remembered to the brethren from this Province in this, his last year in office as DGM.

Grateful thanks to all the brethren from Grenada for the brotherly love and comradeship who went that extra mile to make our stay a very enjoyable one. In fact a special thanks to Hanna - Daniel Nicolas's partner who kindly cooked Sunday roast for us, which was really enjoyable before retiring to Garfield's Beach Bar right on Grand Anse Beach for after dinner drinks, a swim and to watch the sun go down. What a most beautiful sight and experience.

Morris.

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Royal Arch

VISIT TO THE SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

Saturday, 21st /Sunday 22 May.

Once again it was my pleasure to meet at Edinburgh Airport, ME Companion Tom Frost, Past Depute First Grand Principal, and ME Companion Grahame Smith, Grand Scribe E as we embarked on the first leg of our visit to Israel. On this occasion we are accompanied by Isobel Smith and my own wife Joan.

This visit has been undertaken in response to a very kind invitation from the First Grand Principal, ME Companion Chaim Henry Gehl who had previously attended our Vernal Equinox Celebrations in 2010.

Following the short journey to Heathrow we departed on a British Airways flight and about 5.30 a.m. arrived at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv. Immigration Control, Baggage Reclaim and Customs were completed with ease and it was an absolute delight to be met by Mrs Gehl (Ahuva) whose memorable warm welcome made us feel very much "at home". A reasonably short journey to the luxurious Grand Beach Hotel was our introduction to a relatively modern city.

We were given an opportunity to relax for a few hours and we then received a further welcome from ME Companion Gehl who then introduced us to several distinguished guests from Germany, Finland and Hungary Grand Chapters. Several are old friends and a leisurely lunch provided us with an opportunity to further cement these relationships.

Early in the evening we were taken to a very exclusive restaurant for a welcoming dinner. It is now becoming abundantly clear that "food" plays a significant part in Israeli hospitality and warning signs at the temptation to over indulge are beginning to register.

Monday, 23rd.

A bus tour of Tel Aviv and Jaffa proved to be both interesting and enjoyable. While expanding rapidly as a modern city Tel Aviv continues to display examples of excellent planning.

Early in the afternoon we left Tel Aviv to travel to Jerusalem and on arrival there we were taken to King Solomons Quarries (Zedekiah's Cave) where we were to attend a Festive meeting of Holy Land Royal Arch Chapter No 8 whose Companions worked a Mark Ceremony. Eight Candidates were advanced in the presence of approximately 100 Companions. The working was of a very high standard and being able to be present in such appropriate surroundings was a privilege and a truly memorable and unforgettable experience. The evening concluded with a most enjoyable Festive Board.

Tuesday, 24th.

A visit to the ancient historical city of Caesarea where our constant tour guide Ahuva Gehl's riveting explanation of the history enabled us to picture the scenes prevalent in those bygone days. We later enjoyed lunch at the very modern and well managed Tishbi's Winery.

During the afternoon the Companions attended a Festive Meeting of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Israel. For me, personally, this was to be one of the most moving and memorable occasions of my Masonic career. Having accepted an invitation to address the Companions present I also had the distinct honour of having the rank of Honorary First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Israel conferred upon me by ME. Companion Gehl.

Prior to the conclusion of the Meeting I received a further honour from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, M.W. Bro. Nadim Mansour who presented me with a framed Certificate to certify that Seven

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Trees have been planted in the Masonic Forest in Jerusalem by the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel in honour of my visit. A most enjoyable Festive Board followed.

Wednesday 25th

A tour of Jerusalem had been arranged and after an hour's drive from Tel Aviv, with Mrs Gehl continuing as guide, the visitors were able to view the many places of interest. A unique and memorable experience.

Another evening was spent enjoying more of the wonderful hospitality bestowed upon us by our hosts who entertained us to an unforgettable Farewell Dinner at one of the many "open air" restaurants located at the harbour area.

Thursday 26th

As the "Scottish" contingent were remaining for an extra day ME Companion Gehl arranged for a local tour guide to be at our disposal for the whole day. What an exceptional guide he was and gave us a remarkable insight into the importance of the many places we visited including The Baptism Site, Lake Galilee, The Golan Heights and Nazareth. On our arrival at Nazareth we were met by the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Nadim Mansour who very kindly entertained us to dinner.

Friday 27th

A 5 a.m. departure from the hotel, strict security checks at the Airport and soon we were on board our flight to Heathrow en route to Edinburgh where we arrived on schedule. This gave Grand Scribe E and me sufficient time to travel to the west to conduct the Centenary Re-Dedication Ceremony of Baron of Renfrew Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and Council No 114.

CROMARTY FIRTH RAC.

At our final meeting of the season which was the conferring of the RA degree on Comp D Matheson from Lodge Averon, we had the honour of The First Principal of the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, The First Principal of the Provincial Chapter of Ross, and past First Principals of Ross. Ian Fraser, Donnie Sutherland, Angus Ross, Robin Cattanach, Dougie Macleod.

R. W. Morrison



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Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter No 364

On Saturday 25th June we celebrated the centenary of the Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter no 364 and it proved to be an excellent weekend. Most Excellent Companion Ian Fraser headed a deputation from Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter and Grand Superintendent Donnie Sutherland headed the provincial visitations which included a number of provinces outwith our own. Companion Sandy Matheson gave an excellent and humorous talk on the history of the chapter, interspersed with snippets about local well known brethren and companions from 100 years ago, to a packed lodge room on the Friday night.

St Clement RAC No 244 –

The next meeting will be the Installation meeting on Friday 28th October. A warm welcome is extended to all Companions.

HIELAN SHED

We're looking forward to the 3rd of September and a visit from the Squaremen to Stornoway.

Donnie Macleod



The Squaremen meeting at Nairn on 6th August

Knights

Just a reminder that the September meeting at Alness at 2.30pm Saturday K H S open and close by Ross 1st part St Fergus 2nd part Inverness and commandery Gordon's spread the word as I sending to email list only

Raymond