

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 71

MAY 2012

Editorial

Welcome to the 71st edition of the Patter.

Since the last edition, Lodge Secretaries will all have received a letter regarding a Seminar to be held in Perth on 20th October. This event is an important one which I would commend to all Lodges.

The main thrust of the Seminar will be to promote the practice of "Oral History" – in other words being able to record the thoughts, reminiscences and memories of the older Brethren in particular in order that a meaningful history of the past (both Masonic and social) can be captured. At the Seminar, the various protocols that have to be observed will be explained and we will examine how we can best obtain equipment to enable the process to take place throughout Scotland. It would be really great if every Lodge in the Province could be represented. This is an innovative and exciting piece of work that all Lodges can effectively be part of.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The next Communication of Grand Lodge will be on Thursday 14th June at 14.00 hours in Freemasons' Hall 96 George street, Edinburgh.

On Saturday 9th June Grand Lodge will be in Perth for the re-Installation of Bro Ronald W A Forbes as Provincial Grand Master of Perthshire East.

Two weeks later, the venue will be the Corn Exchange in Cupar, Fife where Bro Rev Andrew E Paterson will be installed as Provincial Grand Master of Fife and Kinross.

The inaugural Dr Denis Townhill Memorial organ recital will be held in Grand Lodge on 22nd June at 6.15 pm. Grand Organist, Simon Nieminski will be one of three Edinburgh organists participating. Tickets are available at £5.

A Dinner to celebrate the enormous contribution Lord Elgin has made to Freemasonry will be held in Grand Lodge on 6th September. Tickets priced at £50 will be available shortly.

From the Provincial Grand Master:

It is difficult to realise that in a few weeks time, I will have been your Provincial Grand Master for a full year. It has been an enjoyable and interesting year and I am most grateful for the support and encouragement that I have received from so many Brethren within our Province and also from many other areas.

As we move towards the remaining few Provincial Visitations to the Daughter Lodges, may I warmly thank all those faithful members of the Provincial Grand Lodge who have accompanied and supported me on these visits. This support is greatly appreciated.

In my last report in the Provincial Patter, I referred to the Honorary Grand Rank conferred on Brother Murdo Allan MacKenzie, Past Master of Lodge St. Martin No 1217. Sadly and suddenly on Sunday 19th February 2012, Brother Murdo Allan MacKenzie passed to the grand Lodge Above at the early age of 59 years. A loss so deeply felt by many Brethren and more particularly those in Lodge St. Martin No. 1217. Lochbroom Free Church in Ullapool was filled to capacity for his funeral service which was so passionately conducted by his minister, Reverend Alasdair MacLeod.

As many of you know my chosen Charity is Blythswood Highland Foodbank and the donations received to date from the Daughter Lodges has greatly exceeded my expectations. These donations have been much appreciated by the Highland Foodbank co-ordinator and should you have any further items for collection, please advise me accordingly.

Having attended a Meeting of Grand Committee last week I would draw your attention to two events – the organ recital and the Dinner for Lord Elgin both of which are detailed in the Grand Lodge column opposite.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow is scheduled to be held on Sunday 27th May 2012 at 3.30pm within Lodge Ness No. 888 Invergordon.

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The Provincial Quarterly Communication and Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th May 2012 at 8.00 pm within Lodge Fingal No 318 Dingwall.

The Communication is open to all Master Masons in good standing but especially reigning Masters and Wardens who have a duty to represent their respective Lodges at such meetings. A good attendance of Brethren on both occasions would be greatly appreciated.

I trust that you will all have an enjoyable summer break, and return fully refreshed for another interesting session within our fraternity.

William Ross
Provincial Grand Master

From The Provincial Almoner

It is with great sadness that I commence my report for the May 2012 edition of the Provincial Patter with reference to the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Past Master Murdo MacKenzie, Lodge St Martin. Murdo was an outstanding member of the Craft but in particular of his Lodge and also of the Ullapool community. Also, with great sadness, we record the passing of Liz Rose, wife of Past Master Sandy Rose, Lodge Rosehaugh, and Cathy MacLennan, wife of Past Master Roddie MacLennan, Lodge Seaforth. Our sympathies and condolences go to their grieving families. Appropriate cards have been sent to the families.

A number of the Brethren of the Province have had health problems since my last report and some have been hospitalised over recent weeks. Past Master Sandy Rose was in Raigmore but is now home and recovering well. Past Master Malcolm McGougan, Lodge St Duthus is due to go in to Raigmore shortly and Past Master Rev Bill Niven is currently recovering in Raigmore after major surgery. Jimmy Greig is another who has been in Raigmore recently but he is also home and recovering. Joan MacLennan, wife of Past Master Donald MacLennan, Lodge Rosehaugh has also been in Raigmore recently and is now home. The regards of the Brethren of the Province have been forwarded to all.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on any matter which you feel requires my attention.

David MacMaster,
Provincial Grand Almoner
Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

You are young, my son, and, as the years go by, time will change and even reverse many of your present opinions. Refrain therefore awhile from the setting yourself up as a judge of the highest matters.

—*Plato*

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

For up to the Minute information and back copies of the Provincial Patter – access the Provincial Website on - <http://www.pgrossandcromarty.org.uk/>

Black Isle Cycle Challenge

May I convey my sincere thanks to all Brethren who assisted in the stewarding of the BICC. It was once again an outstanding success and that was in no small measure due to the input from Brethren throughout the Province. Almost 500 cyclists participated on what was a gloriously sunny Black Isle day.

Another major fund raising event in the Hospice Calendar is the “**Brain Game**” which, this year, will take place on Friday 9th November in the Iron Works, Inverness. It would be great if we could see a Provincial Team taking part for the first time or indeed if any of the Lodges wished to take part that would be tremendous. Entry forms can be had from Linda MacDonald or Amanda Burt at the Hospice on 01463 243 132 or through myself.



Caption Competition –

Well – not much creativity out there – the PGM did not have to fret and worry over the magnitude of the response – in fact he didn’t need to do any judging at all – there was only one entry from Bro Bob Fullerton. Lodge Old Inverness Kilwinning St John’s No 6.

Well done Bob and thanks for entering.

The winning caption – “Who’s drying then”

What we call conscience, in many instances, is only a wholesome fear of the constable.

–*Christian Nestell Bovee*

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Well Brethren we are now in hibernation and won't waken until the lovely princess hits us on the head with the gavel or such like.

Our first meeting in February was our Past Masters Third Degree for the benefit of Brother K Patience. The Past Master this year was DJ Patience who was assisted by Past Masters AJ Waugh as Senior Warden, RC Cattanach as Junior Warden, HD Fraser as Senior Deacon, HR Patience as Junior Deacon and D Macrae as Inner Guard.

Our next two meetings were Mark Degrees - one on 20th February for Brother K Patience and one on 5th March when we had our official visitation of the PGL for Brother D Horton.

On 19th March we had a mock EA degree and on 2nd April we had another mock degree for the second degree with one of our older members, Ross Campbell, taking the place of a candidate. It is good for practice but we would prefer new candidates. It seems that most of the Lodges are suffering the lack of new blood. We can only hope that we will soon see the end of this dearth of candidates.

On 16th of April we held our Annual Divine Service which this year was again conducted by the Rev Susan Brown from Dornoch Cathedral. It was very well attended by quite a number of family members and some coming over from Fortrose as our organist for the night was our very own Ramsay McGhee who was in good form. There were visitors from five different Lodges. The theme for the sermon was taken from Marks Gospel and centred round the Lord falling asleep in the fishing boat when a storm blew up and the rest is history. There was also participation among the congregation!!!

At all these meetings we had visitors some evenings more than others, but as we visit the other Daughter Lodges in the Province (and beyond) it is nice to see them return the compliment. Anyway it is good to partake of the lovely harmonies which we all enjoy at all the various Lodges we visit.

Well Brethren that seems to be all that I have to say at this time. I hope that you all have a nice break and come back in the fall refreshed and raring to go.

One last bit is to invite ALL to our visitation of Lodge St Peters No 284 on Saturday the 5th of May. The meeting commences at 6 pm. They will be travelling down from Thurso (St Peters is my Mother Lodge so I will have to be on my best behaviour that day). I will be emailing the secretaries a week or two before hand - just to remind you.

See you soon.

Jain Sinclair
Secretary

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

On Saturday afternoon 11th February in Lodge St Clement's 1353, Tarbert, Inverness-shire, Fortrose Lodge carried out a third degree on two candidates. One, Rory McGillivray belonged to Fortrose Lodge and the other, Roddy Coles, a member of St Clement's.



As you can see from the picture there was a good turnout with our own PGM Billy Ross coming with us on the coach along with the RWM and Brethren from Lodge Laxford and their DPGM Roy Maciver. Brethren representing Averon and St Martin were also at the meeting along with Brethren from Lodge Drumossie. The money paid by Brethren from these visiting lodges that stayed at Graham McLellan's B&B on Kenneth Street was donated to the Western Isles Kidney Fund along with the cash raised at the raffle held after the 100th anniversary of RA Hebrides.

The evening continued with a tremendous buffet provided by some of the lodge ladies and accordion music from the well known local Ian Angus.

The Lodge has worked a mark and two first degrees in the last two months.

At the quiz and curry night held on 21st April over £700 was raised which is to be donated to Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Donnie MacLeod
PSPGM

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi All

I am not a great believer in going over past events in great detail but the event I am going to mention is one that I feel should be recorded in the "Patter" as a memorable event in our Province.

It started with me meeting up with Bro Jim Robertson from Lodge St John, Stoneyburn No 1186, in the Province of Linlithgowshire at some Masonic Meeting. He said he would like to get in touch with someone in Robertson's Lodge in our Province regarding his Lodge coming up to work a degree in Cromarty. I told him I was Secretary and I was sure they would be welcome and we exchanged the usual details. Later in the year I again met up with Jim at Grand Lodge and the usual, we said we would need to sort something out for 2012. However in February 2012 Jim 'phoned me and said they would like to come up and work a degree at our February meeting. He said that the reason for the urgency was that his Grandson Scott Robertson was in the chair but due to come out later in the year and they would like to do a degree while he was still in office.



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Robertson's Lodge No 134 / cont

As we were only scheduled to work a mock degree, a call to RWM David Franklin and some others resulted in us changing our Billet to suit Lodge St John. When you read what follows you will realise that we were really glad we did.

On the evening of Wednesday, 15 February 2012, the Deputation from Lodge St. John No 1186 in the Province of Linlithgowshire arrived in Cromarty under the leadership of their RWM Bro Scott Robertson. He was accompanied by Reigning Masters Bro Daren Drummond Lodge St John, No 374 (Fauldhouse) and Bro Alan Baker, Lodge Kirkton Hall No1614. There were 12 other Brethren in the Deputation from Lodge St John 1186. RWM David Franklin welcomed them into our Lodge before handing over the Gavel of Authority to their RWM Bro Scott Robertson.

Scott introduced his degree team and their own volunteer candidate PM David O'Neil of Lodge St. John, No 374 and said they would be working a 2nd Degree. He then gave a brief history of the Robertson family's relationship with Lodge St John, Stoneyburn.. This lodge has a series of Past Masters all with the surname Robertson and all related and thus wanted to work a degree in our Lodge before Scott relinquishes the chair later in the year. It should be noted that RWM Scott Robertson was 22 years of age and had been in Freemasonry for 4 years when he went into the chair. (I think there must be a record there) yet his confidence and fluency was an inspiration to us all. They then worked an excellent 2nd degree with some variations to the workings in our Province but with the same end result. Scott gave thanks for the honour of being allowed to work a degree in our Lodge before handing back the gavel to David who presented a Robertson's Lodge tie to the candidate.

At the close of the Lodge a Harmony took place with a chance to talk and have a wee refreshment with I know many friendships being made before the Brethren got into their cars and made their way back safely to Linlithgow where, incidentally they were working the same degree in their own Lodge in the week that followed.

Our Lodge was most grateful for the support we were given by Brethren throughout our own Province who had visited us and met up with our visitors. This included our Provincial Grand Master, Bro William Ross who gave a warm welcome to our St John visitors and praise to our own Province for the support given.

During the Harmony RWM David Franklin presented the St. John Brethren with a Robertson's Lodge Water Jug to mark the occasion which was a memorable visit indeed.

Our Lodge is now going into recess for the summer with our next meeting being on Wednesday 19 September 2012 at 7.45 p.m.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer break.

Yours fraternally

James A Tait PM
Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318



Regular meeting dated Tuesday February 14th a lecture was given by PM John Noble, with the subject being Masonic Stamps. There were 20 brethren present, and 8 visitors. The lecture was well received and appreciated by the Brethren.

March 13th was our annual Provincial visit, with the workings for the night being a mock EA degree. We had 14 brethren present, and 7 visitors. The candidate for the night was the ever faithful Bro Charles Gow. RWPGM Bro William Ross was accompanied 13 provincial members. At the conclusion of the meeting the PGM gave a glowing report on the working of the degree

April 10th was a mock FC degree, with Bro David Brett being the candidate. There were 20 brethren present, and 16 visitors.

On April 21st Fingal, was invited up to St. Peters Operative Lodge No 284. The RWM was accompanied by 8 Brethren and 4 ladies. The programme for the day was a meal in the lodge at 4pm, cooked by Bro Sinclair Wares and his team, (comprising his daughter and son-in-law Bro William Moodie) the ladies thanked kindly for the meal and looked forward to the shin-dig after the meeting. The Lodge was tyled at 6pm upstairs. After the opening, the Deputation from Lodge Fingal was introduced. There was then a dedication ceremony for the new Lodge carpet, this was acquired from Millennium Mark Bro Alex Huskie at a cost of £3,000 pounds. During the ceremony, Fingal's name was mentioned, as they had contributed to some of the costs, over the years and the Master of St. Peters thought it appropriate that this ceremony be held in the presence of Fingal. The working for the night, was a FC degree for Bro Rosie. At the 1st Rising RWPGM of Caithness Bro Donald James Chambers, stood up and remarked how well the degree was worked and also mentioned the lecture on the tracing board by PM Bro Rory MacKenzie, how well the manner in which he put the lecture over. The Lodge was closed in due and ancient form. Photos were then taken, to mark the occasion. Men then retired downstairs for the shin-dig, to meet up with the ladies. Some of us don't remember going back to the Royal Hotel that night or was it morning, a good time was held by one and all.

Friday March 16th was our annual Ladies Night Dance - what can be said!!! Bro Sean Kennedy ex proprietor of the National Hotel (please come back).

Events Logie Lounge: Saturday May 26th there is to be a Mr & Mrs competition, with an Italian Theme buffet, catering by Bro David Ross.

Some dates for your dairy: Fingal Saturday May 5th sees the visit of the Highland Shed where they will be working a degree at 3pm. At 6pm Lodge St. Peters will be working a degree in Lodge St. Duthus.

On Saturday May 12th Inverness College of the Rosicrucian Society are to visit Lodge St Peters, led by our Celebrant RW Frater W Ramsay McGhee, to work a Zelator Grade.

On Saturday November 17th Morton Lodge No 89 will be having their 250th re-dedication service. As the ceremony will be conducted by Grand Lodge, this is your chance to see IPPGM Bro Ramsay McGhee do the business.

On behalf of the RWM Bro Andrew Henderson, Office Bearers and the brethren of the Lodge, may we wish you a restful recess.

That's all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary.*

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The Installation of Bro Jonathan Hill as RWM of Lodge Allan Wilson will take place at 11.30 am on Tuesday 12th June with the Lodge Seaforth premises, Station Square, Fortrose.

Bro Hill is a well known figure in the Province, a Past Master of Robertson's Lodge and of course one of the top musicians in the area.

We all look forward to his leadership of the Lodge and he would be delighted to see as many Brethren as possible at his Installation.

For those Brethren who are now retired, Lodge Allan Wilson offers the option to come along to a Lodge meeting during the late morning and thereafter enjoy excellent Harmony over lunch.

A warm welcome awaits you at 851.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

Hello once again from the Black Isle. It is frightening how quickly time flies. Another three months gone and another "Patter" to look forward to.

Our last official meeting of the season is on Monday 21st May when Lodge Averon, 866 will be visiting us to work a FC Degree on their own Candidate, Bro Kyle Gordon. The Lodge will tyle as usual at 8.00 pm when all Brethren will be welcome.

On Saturday 23rd June we will have a visit from Lodge John O' Groat No 1333 and they too will work a FC Degree.

Our new season starts off on Monday 17th September. We hope to have a lecture organised for this meeting – more information to follow in the August "Patter".

I hope that you all enjoy the summer and that the weather will be much improved on last year.

I am also looking forward to the Lodge Allan Wilson meetings during the summer.

Cochrane Donald P.M.

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Some Interesting And Strange Masonic Trivia – received from Bro Bomi Mehta, PDGM, India

On August 23, 1879, Lodge #239 of France held a meeting in a balloon flying over Paris, at which time a candidate was initiated.

On his famous solo flight across the Atlantic, Charles Lindbergh wore a square and compasses on his jacket as a good luck piece. He was a mason.

When the great Obelisk of Alexandria (Cleopatra's Needle) was moved to New York in 1880, there were discovered certain emblems on the original foundation and pedestal. One is clearly a square, causing some to conclude that Masonry existed in ancient Egypt. This issue is still open to debate.

The largest Master's chair is in Ophir Lodge #33 Murphy's, CA. It is 15 feet long and can seat the Master, living Past Masters, and visiting dignitaries.

In 1892, the tallest building in the world was the Masonic Temple at Randolph and State Streets, Chicago, IL

Brother William Brockmeier (1866-1947) of St. Louis conducted 5586 Masonic funeral services.

(Taken mostly from "The Truth is Stranger than Fiction," By Bro. Alphonse Cerza, Masonic Service Association, 1934.)

This month a new website appeared in the Province at www.lodgeaveron.co.uk. The titular domain name makes it easy for any Brother within the Province to find Lodge Avern. Similarly anyone from further afield will find the Lodge in Google or Bing.

The website was conceived last month and is already up, running and jam-packed with superb ideas thanks to its webmaster Bro. Donnie Mathieson. Even a quick glance at the website (you may end up taking a longer look) will make it patently obvious that dedication and creativity are at work here and that Donnie has spent many, many hours not only figuring out how to create the website and design the screens; but also filling a large number of pages with interesting content and ideas to generate revenue for Lodge charities. Well done Donnie!

While building the site Donnie needed a few Masonic "graphics", two of which proved difficult to source; namely the Wardens' Pillars. You can download two of these specially commissioned images from the Provincial website at: http://www.pglrossandcromarty.org.uk/masonic_images.html

The image copyright belongs to the Province and the images are therefore free for use by anyone using them to show Freemasonry in a good light. A link to or mention of PGLORAC would be and appropriate "thank you" for use.

Bro Ron Miller (Lodge Kyle 1117)

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Lodge Averon 866

On Saturday 18th February the members of Lodge Averon 866 held their annual Senior Citizens party within Ardross Alness Bowling Club. George Robinson, Right Worshipful Master, cordially welcomed the assembled guests and thanked them for coming along in what, was atrocious weather conditions. Bro. Rev. Bill Niven said grace and when he had finished gave his usual "war cry" of, "Let battle commence".

The "Musical Masons" then struck up. The band was Bro. Jim Tait, Bro Donnie Ross, Bro Tommy Stirling and Paul Stirling. The piper was PM Bro. Calum MacKenzie.

The Brethren then served the soup, sandwiches, tea/coffee, cakes and biscuits. They also made sure that nobody was without refreshment at any time. The dancing commenced and there were a few nifty movers on the floor. On entry each person was given a raffle ticket and at the end everyone got a prize. During a band break we were entertained by six girls from Anne Noble School of Dancing. They performed two different sets of dances. The girls had a very appreciative audience.

At the close George Robinson thanked, Ardross Alness Bowling Club, the musicians, the dancers, the members' wives who made the soup, sandwiches baking etc and helped to serve them, the members who took the guests to and from the party and the Senior Citizens for making it such a good afternoon. It was brought to a close with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne...

The lodge website is now up and running, thanks to Bro. Donnie Matheson and Bro Ronnie Miller RWM Kyle. We have a fund raising initiative ongoing as well - it's very simple - just visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lodgeaveron/> to register and shop with over 2000 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more. Whenever you buy something, the retailer makes a donation to Lodge Averon 866. They've helped other causes raise over £2,000,000 so it really does work. Support Lodge Averon use "easy-fundraising" too. It won't cost you a penny extra to shop through easy-fundraising and you can even save money with special offers and voucher codes.

We have been very fortunate to have had a candidate for all our meetings. We managed to confer a MM degree on an Australian Brother who was over for George's wedding to Carol. All the members wish them health and happiness for the future. We are now closed for the summer but we are going to Seaforth on 21st May to carry out a 2nd degree. We will take one of our own candidate's who is eligible.

Henry MacInnes
PG Chaplain



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Lodge Ness 888

We have had a good start to the year with two candidates taking their three degrees in sequence, giving us a degree for each meeting and another two candidates coming for their inquiry this week and, if all goes well, that will busy us up for the start of the new season.

In March we held our Ladies night, in conjunction with Lodge Averon. This joint venture has proved to be a success for both Lodges, with Bedhead providing excellent music and the outside caterers providing a first class buffet and the bowling club being an excellent venue



We are now looking forward to the summer BBQ and the Fyrish hill race on 18th August. The race is a charity event, and open to all to raise money for their own Lodge or charity of their own choice and the RWM is putting up £100 for the Lodge of the first MM home. The race will be followed up by a BBQ at the Lodge to which all are invited with their guests. Sponsorship forms are available from Gavin, Derek or me.

R. W. Morrison.
PM - Secretary.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

A dreich Saturday was brightened up considerably when the Corporation o' Squaremen of the Heilan Shed No6 arrived in force at Lodge Kyle. 4 new candidates were put through the degree by the Worthy Deacon Andrew Fraser and his team and all the while the shed members enjoyed a wee refreshment. The Captain o' the Gerd was most strict of office and his fines together with the raffle raised a considerable amount of money for charity. The Worthy Deacon presented the RWM (below) a cheque for a hundred and forty pounds to be donated to a charity of Lodge Kyle's choosing. It should be noted that despite the Strathcarron road closure causing transport difficulties for a few Squaremen and candidate; they managed to circumvent the chaos by arranging their day around the Train Timetable. As always it was a great pleasure for Lodge Kyle to have the Squaremen over and hope to see them all again in the near future. It goes without saying that we appreciate their visits and the hard work that goes into the raising of funds.

We also had a new candidate who went through his First at the last meeting which was well attended. Visitors from Lodge MacDonald of Sleat were in attendance and it was great to see our "neighbours" in the Lodge. Our new member Bro Wilson is of a younger age group and he is already a breath of fresh air in a Lodge that is only a year off 100 years old which brings us neatly to the Lodge Kyle Centenary celebrations in 2013.

Freemasonry began officially in Kyle almost 100 years ago when a delegation from "Provincial" consecrated the Old Drill Hall in Kyle of Lochalsh on 1st May 1913 and a few years later on September 22nd 1933 the current building was erected. The Craft in Kyle has survived the 1st and 2nd World wars and yet despite the coming of the age of TV and the Internet which attempts to command all our free time and attention, Freemasonry in Kyle of Lochalsh is still alive and well.

We have set a date for our Centenary celebrations of Saturday 25 May 2013. The Brethren of the Lodge greatly look forward to this historic occasion and the fact that we will hopefully be graced by the presence of Grand Lodge.

As they say ... Watch this space for further details!



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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Our latest candidate Graeme Brindle went through his Fellow Craft Degree at our February meeting and his Master Mason degree at our March meeting. We had hoped to welcome Lodge Seaforth over to work a Mark degree for our April meeting but due to a number of unfortunate circumstances found our potential candidates unavailable so plan B came into force and we enlisted Bro Andy Henderson to help us out again and he came along with his Lecture on the Ballot. It was disappointing that we recorded one of the poorest attendances at Lodge Rosehaugh since many a year particularly so when we also had a brother from England making a special trip to our Lodge where his grandfather- James Sutherland- was Initiated on 4th January 1929. Bro Alisdair Macdonald PM from Peterborough had visited a few lodges in Scotland and although he had visited Avoch before this was the first time at Lodge Rosehaugh. The RWM presented Bro Macdonald with the customary lodge tie and we also were able to photocopy his grandfather's entry from our petition book.

Our final meeting before the summer recess will be on the 4th May when we will be working and EA degree for Andrew Hickey. The following day we head down to Glasgow to the annual 1212-1219 meeting which this year is being held in Lodge Stepps No 1213.

Our annual ladies night took place on Saturday 19th March in our lodge function room with 34 attending and as normal a very good evening was had by all.

We held a soup and sweet day as a fund raiser for Anna Patience from Inverness who is the Granddaughter of PM David Patience of Rosemarkie. Anna has cerebral palsy and goes to London for therapy. The funds raised will assist her in the ongoing costs. At last count we had reached £1030. We were well supported as normal by the ladies in the village some with no connection to the lodge at all. We will have an update and hopefully a presentation photo in the next edition of the patter.

To conclude we unfortunately have a couple of obituaries. Liz Rose wife of Bro Sandy Rose sadly passed away peacefully on 12th March 2012 following a period of prolonged illness. Her funeral service was held on Friday 16th March 2012 at the Inverness Crematorium which was very well attended. The Brethren wish to pass on their sympathies to Sandy and the family. Sandy has also suffered health problems since and was in hospital for a short period. He is now back at home and is improving.

Bro Dick Anderson passed to the Grand Lodge above on the 3rd April 2012. Dick came up to the Black Isle about 20 years ago and stayed for a period in Fortrose before getting a sheltered house in Gowans place in Avoch. He was well known in Avoch and Fortrose and a bit of a character enjoying the social scene! Our Lodge records show that he joined Heart of Midlothian Lodge No 832 in 1962 and then affiliated to Hilsea Bastion 8245 EC in Portsmouth in 1981. He affiliated to Lodge Rosehaugh in 1994 proposed by Bro Hugh Macintosh PM and Seconded by Bro Roddie Cade PM. I understand Dick was a paratrooper in Arnhem at the start of World War 2 and spent many years in the Army. When he was in health he would be leading the men at the war memorial in Avoch on armistice Sunday. He was particularly well remembered in times of argument in tapping three fingers on his left arm (indicating sergeant's stripes) basically to say don't mess with me. Dick's funeral service was held at Church of Scotland in Fortrose on Wednesday 11th April where a good representation of family made the journey from Edinburgh to join the good turnout of mourners. Dick was a good character and his final act was to leave a money donation behind the bar at the Tavern for the funeral wake.

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

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Lodge St Martin 1217

Lodge St Martin lost one of its stalwart members when Bro. Murdo Mackenzie PM passed away suddenly at home on Sunday, 26th February 2012. Bro. Murdo will be missed by Brethren both far and wide and our thoughts are with Murdo's wife and family.

On Saturday 21st April 2012, Bro. George Ferrier passed away after a long illness; the funeral will be held in the Church of Scotland, Mill Street, Ullapool on Wednesday 2nd May 2012. Our thoughts are with George's wife Agnes and their four children at this difficult time.

The Lodge will hold its last meeting of the season on Tuesday 15th May where a Mark Degree will be worked and all Brethren are cordially invited to attend.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

Although there has been a lot of emphasis on the splendid achievement of Ross County FC on their ascension to the SPL (and they are well supported by many fans in Wester Ross) we are not without our own little bit of history in Aultbea in that last Thursday 26th April 2012 our latest candidate Bulgarian national (and quite fluent English speaker) Vladimar Vladivaros attained his Mark Master degree at the hands of a very formidable team in the persons of the RWM Barrie Whitwell, WSW Gibby Hassell, WJW Michael Longley, PM (MO) Billy Brown, Andrew Henderson, Almoner (SO), Kenny Charles Mackenzie PM (JO), SD Danny Forbes PM, JD Duncan MacLennan PM and Treasurer Allan MacCrimmon PM.

Vlad's enthusiasm for his long awaited rise to his latest rank among us was well noted in his general conversation before the working of the degree in that he was asking about the 'next steps' on the ladder! More power to his elbow and may the enlightenment ahead of him encourage those of his mentors and brethren to guide him well in his quest for knowledge among us.

I was greatly disappointed to miss out on the PGL visit on 12th April as I had had an altercation with a car door earlier that morning impairing my vision and ability to drive, not to mention the outflow of blood and subsequent headache incurred / endured. However, from reading the transcript of the three lectures, kindly given to me by WSW Gibby Hassell I found the content totally captivating and worthy of further development, hopefully to the wider field, within the Province.

On the health front we have a couple of office bearers currently undergoing treatment at the moment in Ken McMorran DOC and Organist awaiting surgery in Raigmore – Ken was scheduled to be admitted on 27th April but this has been rescheduled for Tuesday 8th May; also attending Raigmore is Dennis Aldrich our Substitute Master and we wish both success with their treatments and speedy recoveries and participation among us once more.

Andrew M. Henderson
Almoner

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The Sinclair Bruce Diary

My first report for this Edition is about the quarterly communication of the Provincial Lodge which I attended within the premises of Lodge Seaforth. It was, as expected, a business meeting with a fairly comprehensive agenda. All items were fully discussed and passed in the usual manner, the evening concluded with an abundance of stovies expertly cooked and served by one of our younger members, Brother Danny Bisset. On the following Friday it was the installation of masters and officers of the Guild Lodge held in its usual venue Lodge Averon, another well attended meeting and all Masters and Officers firmly and happily placed in their respective offices for the ensuing year.

And so to sport - Rugby - the first game I viewed was none other than England versus Italy. It was a very interesting game and so difficult to pick the winner with the score at half time - Italy 6 England 5. However, the second half was certainly much livelier with England slowly adding to their score final score England 19 Italy 15. A close game always makes good watching. The France versus Ireland game was cancelled due to the pitch being water logged and finally, and sadly, Scotland lost to Wales by 27 points to 13.

I have just returned from the Rosicrucian Society where we worked three grades numbers 2, 3, and 4 executed as normal by three Celebrants and their Exponents. The evening's work went very well with eight receiving their second, three their third and one their fourth Grade. The evening concluded with tea/coffee and a selection of sandwiches and after a full evenings business we were back home at 10.15 pm.

It's now Saturday 25th Feb and two of the games in the six nations Rugby I viewed were excellent. The first game was Ireland versus Italy, a game that could have gone either way with the score at half time 17 to 10 in Ireland's favour. However the second half was really all Ireland who went on to win, by 40 points to 10. The next game was a real thriller with scores as follows - England 3 Wales 0 then 3/3 6/3 6/6 at half time 9/6 and so on to the second half 12/6 12/9 12/12 and finally 12/19. I expected to see England winning by a wide margin but the Welsh were most consistent and deserved the extra 7 points, so let's hope Scotland will be the winners in tomorrow's game against France.

I now believe that Wales having three wins, qualify for the Triple Cup. I now also know that I should not refer to a kick after a try - I should call it a conversion! So we learn as we go on in life. It was my intention to make a full report on the Scotland versus France game but it would only depress readers as once again they lost by 23 points to 17. As a small consolation the reporters say they are improving!

The game I viewed today was between France and Ireland. The first half was really entertaining with Ireland playing their hearts out and getting the run of the ball. The score at half time was in their favour but the second half saw France upping their game and within 10 minutes it was France 14 Ireland 17 and although Ireland put on the pressure they just could not score, so the game finished as a draw seventeen points each and I think France goes through on aggregate.

And now it's back to the football and the game between Manchester United and Spain's Athletic Bilbao. It was another very interesting game with two equally matched teams. At half time against the run of play Man U were down 2-1, and although they played their hearts out they lost by 3 goals to 2.

And now on to the Scottish Cup and the game between Hearts and St Mirren, Hearts got the ball in the net within minutes of kick off only to have it written off by the Referee as offside. However within five minutes of the second half Hearts got a goal to go one up and from then on it was Hearts all the way pushing on for a second but they just could not score and St Mirren got a scrappy goal to finish the game at one each.

And now back to the Rugby between Wales and Italy. A really fast game at the start, with scores that tells the story 3/0 0/3 3/0 3/0 for Wales to go up to 9/3 from then on it was Wales all the way to finish Wales 24 Italy 3. The game between Ireland and Scotland started well for Scotland and with the score at 0/6 prospects looked good but that's as far as Scotland went - final score Ireland 32 Scotland 14.

The next game was France v England a very evenly matched game that is reflected in the score - France 22 England 24.

And now it's back to football and the European cup the first game was AC Milan v Arsenal score 4-0 honours to Milan then Manchester City 2 Portugal's Porto 1. The return game between Chelsea and Italy's Napoli, Chelsea won by three goals to one and finally today Thursday 15th March an excellent game to watch with two equally matched teams Athletic Bilbao 2 Manchester United 1 so that's Man U out of Europe.

It's now Saturday 17th March and a big day in the Rugby game beginning with Italy v Scotland a very scrappy game with neither side putting on a good show with the score at half time three each. However after 10 minutes into the second half it was 10/3 then 10/6 and finally 13/6 and Scotland receiving the wooden spoon - you cannot get lower than that! The next game Wales v France and the winner would earn the grand slam a great

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game and although France were first to score three points from there it was down hill score at H/T 10/3 then 10/6 13/6 13/9 and finally Wales goes on to win the Grand Slam score 16/9 and so on to the third game when we witnessed England v Ireland score 30/9 enough said.

Monday 16th April Lodge Seaforth joined Lodge St Duthus for their annual Divine service. As expected there was a good turn out and the preacher, The Rev Susan Brown presented a light hearted but very sincere sermon after which we retired to the outer room and enjoyed a nice Tea with an abundance of sandwiches and biscuits.

May I conclude my contribution to the 71st edition by some comments on the weather April was a very cold and rainy month and the forecast for May is even more rain than April - so much for climate change.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

LETTER FROM MALAWI

Dear Ramsay,

Thank you for your e-mail of 13th April. Since the sad demise of the late President I am pleased to report that the signs here are very positive for a speedy return to normal development and economic growth.

The news regarding replacement tools is great. Thank you and we await confirmation of shipment in due course. I can assure you that with the co-operation of Cassidy, control of the new tools will ensure they enjoy a longer life!

We are indeed delighted to learn of Bro Rev Andrew's forthcoming installation and will send a note nearer the time. Please advise his e-mail address.

Our next big event is the Installation of Bro Graham Swart of Lodge Viphya No 1571 on Saturday week, 5th May. Which means it's a year since you performed the 2011 Triple Ceremonies for us - how time flies!

Warmest regards Ramsay, from us all in Malawi,

Gordon

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Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada

On Saturday 11th February 2012 the new District Grand Master, Bro. Adrian Carlton Franklin, was duly installed into office by the Grand Master Mason, Bro Charles Ian Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont, within the Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port Of Spain, which was turned into a Masonic Lodge for the occasion. He was assisted in the Installation by Grand Secretary Bro. David Begg.

The Installation was carried out in an excellent manner and the Installation was very well attended by the Lodges in the District and further afield.

In the evening A Banquet was held in the same location, this time transformed into a very large dining-room.

The Installation was attended by The Proxy District Grand Master and Past Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, Bro. Morris M Downie, who was accompanied by Bro. David Pringle Hon. Member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty and Bro. Ronald G. Cooper, Hon Sen. Warden of the Province and acting in his role as Grand Steward.

The speeches after the meal were of a very high standard as was the entertainment provided by a local singer.

The New District Grand Master and his team of organisers have to be congratulated on a very well organised week-end of events and indicated his intention to travel north after the Grand Lodge Installation in Edinburgh to visit his many friends in the Province of Ross and Cromarty.



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Royal Arch

SIERRA LEONE & GHANA

Tuesday, 20th March, 2012.

Accompanied by M.E. Companion Grahame Smith, Grand Scribe E and M.E. Tom Frost, Past Depute First Grand Principal, and following the advice of our travel agent who suggested that an overnight in Paris would enable us book the most suitable flights we met at Edinburgh Airport prior to departure. After the relatively short Air France flight we were able to relax for an overnight stay in the convenient and modern Novotel Hotel at Charles de Gaulle International Airport.

Wednesday, 21st March.

After a midmorning departure from Paris and a very comfortable flight of approximately seven hours we arrived at Lungi International Airport where we were met by our Grand Superintendent for Sierra Leone, M.E. Companion Johnson and the First Principal of Highland Royal Arch Chapter No.366 (S.C.) along with several other senior Royal Arch Chapter Office Bearers. We received a very warm welcome and were quickly assisted through Immigration and Customs prior to being conveyed by road and ferry to the very comfortable Kona Lodge Hotel.

Thursday, 22nd March.

In spite of valiant efforts by our travel agent to obtain visas to enable us to visit Ghana unforeseen administrative procedures prevented their issue prior to our departure from Scotland but after several last minute telephone calls and numerous E-mails between Edinburgh, Freetown and Accra we were reasonably optimistic that the appropriate documentation would be completed satisfactorily.

Consequently our first port of call today was at the office of the Ghana High Commission in Freetown. After the customary "form filling", interview and photographic session we were duly granted the necessary visa. Relief.

The main purpose of our visit to Sierra Leone was to conduct the Re-dedication Ceremonial of Highland Royal Arch Chapter No 366. In the presence of a large number of local Companions and distinguished visitors the ceremony was duly carried out within Georgaclang Masonic Temple. A quite outstanding formal banquet, with ladies present, followed the actual ceremony.

Friday, 23rd March.

A midmorning departure from Freetown, a return ferry crossing to Lungi International Airport and by late afternoon we were once again airborne, courtesy of Kenya Airways, on the two hour flight to Accra. Walking down the aircraft steps I was delighted to see our Grand Superintendent Designate, M.E. Companion Lt Col Mensah Gbedemah along with another senior companion waiting to greet us. We were very warmly welcomed, ushered into the VIP Lounge and thereafter the necessary Immigration and Customs procedures were completed with the utmost speed.

A luxury saloon car and driver had been provided for our use during the short stay in Ghana and we soon arrived at the luxurious La Palm Royal Beach Hotel. Having stayed in this accommodation on a previous occasion I looked forward to the comfort of this establishment for the following two nights.

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Saturday, 29th March

After having made arrangements to hold a short rehearsal we spent about an hour or so with several of the senior office bearers of the District and in the mid afternoon assembled at the Achimota Masonic Hall, Accra to conduct the Installation Ceremony.

In the presence of a large number of Companions, including the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ghana, the Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter (E.C) and the Grand King of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter (I.C), M.E. Companion Lt. Col Mensah Gbedemah and his commissioned Office Bearers were duly installed. Following the Ceremony we adjourned to a local military Officers Mess where we enjoyed another sumptuous banquet.

Sunday, 25th March.

All too soon our short stay in Ghana was coming to an end but not before we were entertained to lunch at a local hostelry where we were joined by several senior District Office Bearers, other guests and ladies. This proved to be a most fitting finale to our visit. An evening departure, an overnight flight to Amsterdam and thence to Edinburgh.

A very short but most worthwhile and memorable visit to two of our African Districts. In both countries I found Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry to be in good heart with Chapters being well attended. In Sierra Leone our Companions are well supported by their English Constitution counterparts while in Ghana our members enjoy the support of both the English and Irish Constitution Companions.

Ian Fraser

1st Grand Principal, Supreme Royal Arch Chapter

St Clement RAC No 244 –

The April meeting was held in Fortrose in order that wheelchair access was available for EC Sinclair Bruce. He was not aware of the fact but the reason that the members of the Chapter wanted him to be present was that he had been awarded a Distinguished Service Diploma from Supreme Grand Chapter. When the 1st Principal, Fred Fraser asked that EC Bruce be presented to the Chapter and explained why, Sinclair was genuinely taken aback and surprised. The presentation of the Diploma was a joint effort carried out by the 1st Principal, Fred Fraser who was ably assisted by the PG Superintendent, Donald Sutherland and by the 1st Grand Principal, MEC Ian Fraser all of whom spoke in very fitting terms about Sinclair's contribution to the Chapter. After the presentation, EC Bruce responded to the presentation in a very eloquent and sincere manner which the Companions duly acknowledged in the customary manner.

At the conclusion of the meeting all present enjoyed soup and sandwiches beautifully prepared by the Eilean Dubh Restaurant, Fortrose.

Cromarty Firth RAC No 310.

Once again we have come to the end of a very successful season and an excellent end to Fraser's period in the chair with degrees being worked for almost every meeting. Fraser has had an excellent period as Z and with the help of the Scribe marshalled the Chapter well.

We now look forward to October, when companion Thomson will be installed into the chair and we hope that he has a period as successful as his predecessor. It appears that he will be well supported as some of the younger companions are coming forward and offering to take office and seem to be prepared to support the Chapter.

Raymond Morrison.

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Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter No 364

We are in the fortunate position of having candidates and are able to work degrees at our meeting's, however we are struggling to even get a quorum to hold Ark and Cryptic meetings despite changing our meeting time to a Saturday afternoon for the convenience of our mainland companions.



Donald Graham 1st Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter, The Hebrides, presents a cheque for £700 to Angus Mackenzie, Chairman of Western Isles Kidney Patient Association. The money was raised from a raffle held during the Chapter's Centenary Celebrations. Also in the photograph are Graham MacLennan and Martin James.

Donald MacLeod

Supreme Grand Chapter Meetings – 2012

Half Yearly Convocation – 15th June 2012 in Freemasons Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh

Half Yearly Convocation – 21st December 2012 in Freemasons Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh

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PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

The last meeting of this session was held on 27th April. This meeting was also the election of office bearers. John Robertson was elected Venerable Preceptor and will be installed at the next meeting which will be on 26th October.



The 50th anniversary celebration of the district was held in Stornoway on 10th March and was very well attended by the members from throughout the North as well as representatives from the other Scottish districts. MEC Ian Fraser also attended in his capacity as 1st Grand Principal. The rededication ceremony was carried out most efficiently by the Most Eminent and Reverend Grand Master David Niven. A first class temple grade was also carried out by VP Ian Macaulay and his officers.

Donald MacLeod

Happiness is not achieved by the conscious pursuit of happiness; it is generally the by-product of other activities.

—Aldous Huxley

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Rosicrucian Installation

On Monday 9th April Ramsay McGhee was re-installed into the Chair of the Inverness College of the Rosicrucian's by RW Senior Substitute Magus J Stewart Wood. The ceremony was conducted with great dignity and solemnity by Stewart Wood and all present were delighted that he had been able to travel north and conduct the ceremony in his own inimitable style.

The ceremony took place in Lodge Seaforth where, after the meeting, the Fraters enjoyed some good old fashioned stovies expertly made by the Eilean Dubh Restaurant.

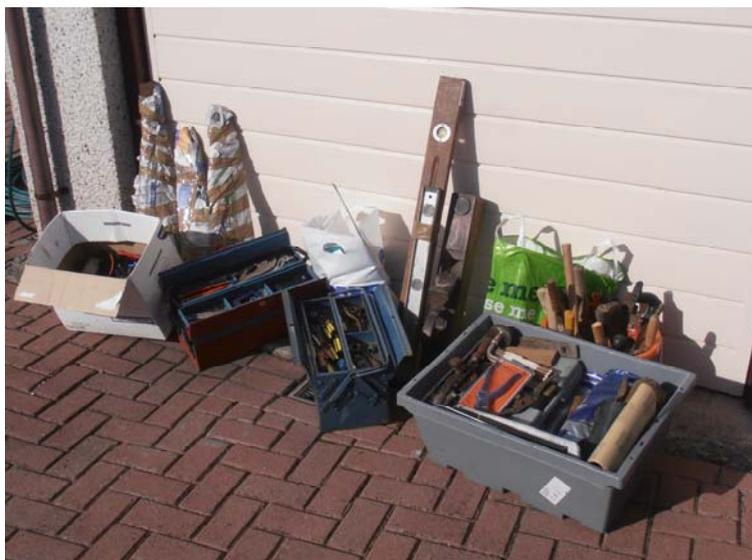
After the meal, the evening concluded with the usual Toasts and Responses.

All in all it was a most enjoyable and memorable evening.

Tools for Malawi



The appeal for woodworking tools for the Mountain View School in Malawi is gathering pace. I'm delighted to report that we are amassing a fair amount of tools all of which we hope to get off on a container early in the summer. However, we can take as many tools as you can donate – if anyone has any useable good quality used (or new) woodworking tools that you no longer require, please get in touch and I'll be delighted to collect them from you.



Some of the tools already collected by our own Brethren and by the Brethren of Fife and Kinross. There are still at least three uplifts to make that I know of so we are doing extremely well.

Ramsay

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The Squaremen

5th May – Lodge Fingal – DINGWALL – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

2nd June – GRAND SHED VISIT – GORDON TERRACE – INVERNESS 3:00 p.m. sharp

7th July – Robertson's Lodge – CROMARTY – bus leaves Inverness 13:00

4th August – Lodge St Andrew – ARDERSEIR – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

1st September – Lodge Laxfod - DURNESS, meeting 6:00 pm – bus leaves Inverness 13:00

This will be an overnight stay (all those wishing accommodation to notify the Boxie before Grand Shed visit in June)

The Heilan Shed No. 6 held their Installation Meeting on Saturday 3rd March 2012 within the upstairs section of the Masonic Club, Inverness. The Worthy Deacon, Bri. Andrew Fraser was duly installed by Auld Deacon, Bri. Derek Milne, in a proficient manner. He was ably assisted by Auld Deacon Bri. James Dowie and associates.

The annual disbursements were made to charities which amounted to £450 in total and the cheques were presented at the close of the meeting.

A cordial invitation is extended to all Squaremen by the Worthy Deacon to attend any of the scheduled meetings.



At the meeting in Kyle, four candidates were initiated and, at the end of the day, the Squaremen left a cheque for £140 for distribution to a worthy cause by the Kyle Brethren. Photo shows the cheque presentation to the Master of the Lodge, Bro Ronnie Miller with Andrew Fraser doing the honours and Derek Milne looking on.