

Meetings 2014-15

* 02.09.14

Passing

* 16.09.14

Nomination and Election of
Office Bearers and
Passing by Lodge
Cumberland Kilwinning
No 217

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock
Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – September to April

RWM Bro Alan D Beck *Westhaven* 44 Denholm Street Greenock PA16 8RJ (07739514242)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 2nd September

Our next meeting on Tuesday coming is a Passing on Bro Campbell Snoddy. No XII will work the Degree

Our Previous Regular Meeting Tuesday 15th April

The brethren of No XII conferred a Mark Degree upon Bro Don McVinnie and Bro Ian Dyer. Again there was a good attendance and reigning Masters Bro Willie Lawson of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, Bro Marshall North, RWM of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175, Bro Gerard Robertson, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, Bro Andrew Piggot, RWM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 and Bro Hugh Docherty, RWM of Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 joined the RWM in the East. The degree team was: **Master Overseer** Bro Bob Bain PM **Senior Overseer** Bro Alistair Glenly PM **Junior Overseer** Bro Ken McDougall PM **Prayer** Bro Albert MacLean BB **Obligation** RWM Bro Alan Beck **Secrets** Bro KK Morrison PM **The Lecture** Bro James P Livingstone PM **Working Tools** DM Bro Allan MacFeate **Badge and Jewel** Bro Martin Anderson WSW **The Charge** Bro Bob Bain PM. Bro KK Morrison PM was Conductor for the umpteenth time and discharged his duties in his usual accomplished manner



Bro John Keogh

It is with a heavy heart that I report the sad and doleful tidings of the untimely passing to The Grand Lodge Above of Bro John Keogh, Junior Deacon of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII. On Sunday June 8th. Bro John was a affiliate member of No XII, and a relatively new one at that, having joined us only in October 2013 from his mother lodge, Lodge Galen No 1285 in Glasgow. Nevertheless Bro John's contribution, not just to No XII but also to the Province of Renfrewshire West through his frequent visiting, was significant. Proposed by president of Stewards Bro Tony Buckley, and seconded by Bro Iain White PM, John took office only a couple of weeks after his affiliation and filled the post of Junior Deacon admirably. After our last meeting on Thursday 5th June, a special meeting involving the Initiation of 5 candidates, Bro John waxed lyrical about the number of candidates who had been initiated at the meeting and also how proud he was to have become a member of No XII. He also spoke of his desire to assume the Chair in the future.

John had organised No XII's visit to Bologna in June and his last words to me were 'If I don't see you before, I'll see you in Bologna on Friday – can't wait!' Just 3 days later, Bro John passed to The Grand Lodge Above leaving a lot of sad friends and brethren behind.

At his funeral, Greenock Crematorium was packed with mourners and I had the honour of laying a sprig of acacia at the head of Bro John's coffin which also bore his apron.

He leaves behind his partner of some 10 years, Laura, and her two children Emma and Kyle.

Bro Alan Beck RWM

Goan Evening Saturday 20th September 2014

RWM Bro Alan Beck organized a very successful Cajun buffet at Greenock Wanderers Rugby Club on Saturday 3rd May. It was a sell out and the man in charge was Chef Gary Lewis. Gary is a champion Cajun Chef having won competitions in Las Vegas. He is now Bro Gary Lewis, having been initiated into No XII at the Summer Meeting in June. The next social event will be a Goan night from Gary, again in the Rugby Club. Names to RWM Bro Alan Beck please.

Honorary Membership for Kenny Morrison PM

On Thursday May 22nd I was honoured to lead a deputation of office bearers of No XII into the Masonic Temple in John St, Gourock to witness a Passing conferred by Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan 1425. What I, and almost all the NoXII brethren knew (I say almost all, as one brother was totally in the dark) was that Bro Kenneth K Morrison (the brother who was in the dark) was to be awarded honorary membership of 1425 ... a quarter of a century after it had been agreed by the lodge members ! Around that time Bro Kenny had twice stepped in at the last minute as an installing master to assist the lodge in its ceremony of installation when PMs of 1425 had been forced to call off at very short notice due to illness. 1425 had agreed, all those years ago, to award Bro Kenny an honorary membership for his kind services ... but it never happened ... until now.

The look on Bro Kenny's face as one of the brethren whom he had installed into his first office a quarter of a century ago, Bro Jim McLelland DoC, attended to his special duty, was a real picture of surprise. Bro Jim marched over to Bro Kenny sitting in the West and asked him to accompany him to the edge of the carpet. Bro Jim then presented him to the RWM Bro Joseph Fogarty, himself a member of No XII, for any mark of his favour and Bro Joe invited Bro Kenny to advance to the altar and proceeded to oblige him as an honorary member.

After the Obligation, Bro Kenny spoke of the pride and joy he felt and thanked the lodge for the great kindness and generosity it had shown in bestowing the honorary membership upon him. He also recalled the phone calls he received on the occasions when he had been asked to step in and said he had been more than delighted to assist a Sister Lodge in its hour of need.

After the meeting Bro Kenny was warmly congratulated by all the brethren in attendance and an excellent Harmony was enjoyed by all.

Bro Alan Beck RWM

Special Meeting Thursday 4th June 2014

Having come to the recess of my second year in the chair there was still one meeting left which I was looking forward to greatly. Over the last couple of years, NoXII has held a special meeting in June. It started in 2012 with a meeting to celebrate the diamond jubilee of HM The Queen, and in 2013 we held a PMs' degree with one candidate - both of these degrees had been very successful and had drawn very large attendances. This year we were in the very fortunate position, for the first time since 1983 of being able to initiate five candidates in the one evening.

I had decided once again to ask the PMs of the lodge to confer the degree for a couple of reasons: firstly it's Good to see the "auld yins" dust the cobwebs off and perform the ritual and secondly ...they are the only ones who would have a clue what to do with five candidates !

I was delighted to be able to welcome a total of 142 brethren into the lodge on that evening. This included a deputation of nine reigning masters led by RWM Bro William Lawson of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No68. After RWM Bro Willie and the other masters had joined me in the East it then gave me particular pleasure to welcome the deputation of RWPGM Bro James P Livingstone who, along with several office bearers and brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West, was accompanied by RWPGM Bro Alasdair Henderson of the Province of Glasgow, RWPGM Bro John Millar of the Province of Renfrewshire East and the IPPGM of the Province of Ayrshire, Bro Archibald Chalmers.

After the Bro James S Adams gavel had been surrendered to the PGM, Bro Livingstone warmly welcomed all the brethren from without the Province of Renfrewshire West and spoke of the upcoming events in celebration of the 275th Anniversary of the commission as the first ever PGM in the Scottish Craft of Bro Alexander Drummond PM of NoXII. The significance of this has never been lost on me during this year as I, and every other RWM of NoXII since 1739 wear his 275year old jewel at every meeting.

After the return of the gavel it gave me great pleasure to in turn present it to Bro Kenneth Morrison PM who was entrusted with conferring the degree on the five candidates. It was a great delight to present the Adams gavel to Bro Kenny: he was a very great friend of the late Bro Jim Adams and also the most experienced Freemason in our lodge - the gavel couldn't have been in safer hands!

The degree was conferred expertly by the following brethren:

RWM - Bro Kenneth K. Morrison PM
WSW - Bro Murray Thomson PM
WJW - Bro Hector Macphail PM
SD - Bro Kenneth C. MacDougall PM
JD - Bro Robert J. Bain PM
IG - Bro Alistair Glenny PM

Prayer - Bro Alistair Glenny PM
Obligation - Bro Kenneth K. Morrison PM
The Secrets - Bro Robert J. Bain PM
The Apron - Bro Murray Thomson PM
The NEC - Bro Hector Macphail PM
Working Tools - Bro Ian Ross PM
The Charge - Bro Kenneth C. MacDougall PM

Special mention must go to JD Bro Bob Bain who conducted the five candidates around the floor with great a plumb - no mean feat.

At the end of the degree the new brethren, Bros Snoddy, Lewis, Nelson, Frizzel and Frizzel were congratulated by the Conferring Master, the RWPGM and myself and Bro Kenny then returned the gavel. On behalf of the visitors RWM Bro Lawson congratulated Bro Kenny and his team and extended warm fraternal greetings.

At the traditional harmony afterwards the usual Masonic toasts were observed and each candidate in turn spoke in gratitude of the work of the evening undertaken on his behalf. President of Stewards, Bro Tony Buckley once again laid on a fantastic spread with lasagne and chips or chicken curry with rice and at least eighty brethren stayed behind to sample the fare. The singing was also excellent with Bro Ian Macpherson PM, Lodge The Princes 607, Bro Robert Shaw PM and Bro John Henderson both Lodge Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle 275 and Yours Truly all being persuaded to wobble the wallies in song.

All in all a most memorable evening and a real highlight of my time in the Chair of NoXII which is rapidly drawing to its close. **Bro Alan Beck RWM**

No XII in Italy!

Every time I write one of these reports it always seems to involve me sitting somewhere, having a drink, before my travelling companions arrive. This time I'm to be found in one of the bars in Glasgow Airport, nursing a cold Peroni and waiting on the RWM and IPM (the rest of the group having flown out that morning). This should have been a very simple journey, Glasgow - Amsterdam - Bologna. It proved to be anything but. The flight to Amsterdam was on schedule and we arrived in Amsterdam with enough time for some food and a small libation. On checking the departure boards at Schipol Airport we saw the dreaded word "DELAYED". Not to worry, we could have another beer and watch some of the football. About an hour later we were told that our flight was cancelled and we'd now have to rebook for tomorrow. Thanks to the work of the RWM we managed to get booked on an early BA flight to Bologna via Heathrow. All that was left for us to do was to collect our bags and head to the hotel, all the time trying to ignore the jealous feelings welling up towards the Brethren already in Bologna and, by some of the text messages, having a great time.

The next day's travel proved to be much more successful (thanks, in part, to being rushed through security at Heathrow) and we arrived in Bologna only a little behind schedule. After a quick taxi ride we arrived at the hotel, checked in and then headed to our rooms for a quick shower, change into our kilts and head out to the meeting.

Whoever thought wearing kilts on a blistering hot summer's day in Bologna was a good idea was totally out of their mind. It must be said though, we did look good! From the moment we arrived at the temple we were made to feel incredibly welcome by the Italian Brethren. The installation itself was wonderful, made even

better by the spectacular surroundings. We were piped in by Bro Hector Macphail PM and that certainly made our entrance that bit more special.

Even though the meeting was conducted in Italian (obviously) we all managed to follow what was happening. I think because of the language barrier however, the differences in the ritual were much more apparent. Many nationalities were represented that day, but it was only when our RWM gave the Salutations from the Foreign Constitution Lodges did you realise just how many Brethren had travelled from all over the world to attend.

The Italian hospitality extended right through the meeting and into the dinner where, after a lovely meal and some very nice wine, we were entertained by some very amusing speeches and even more amusing translations!

The meeting may have ended but Alan, Bob and I had some serious catching up to do. We all headed back to the hotel to change and find somewhere to watch Italy v. England in the World Cup.

Bros. Tony Buckley and Barry Banks may have been disappointed by the result but I doubt any of us were disappointed by the hospitality we received that night.

Bro Allan Glen WJW



**Bros Tony Buckley, Allan Glen
and Alan Beck in Bologna**

The Alexander Drummond Masonic Ball - Friday 30th May 2014

The Alexander Drummond Ball took place on Friday 30th May 2014 at 7.00pm in the Greenock Town Hall. It formed part of the Provincial Grand Lodge's 275th Anniversary celebrations, which commemorated the appointment of Bro Alexander Drummond, RWM of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, as the first-ever Provincial Grand Master of the Scottish Craft. This formal event, for Freemasons only, along with their spouses/partners, had a superb 4 course meal, raffle and dancing until midnight to the fabulous 17 piece Capitol Big Band. The Ball was for Masonic brethren and partners. It was the first Masonic Ball in the area for decades and No XII took 4 tables – that is, 20 brethren and their partners. It was a fantastic evening and in addition to a great deal of fun being had, over £1500 was raised for Charity.

Reports on Visits

- The Anchor Lodge of Research No 1814 on 4th April 2014 (Lecture) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, WJW Bro Allan Glen, Bro H MacPhail PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and Bro Eddie McGill
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 on 7th April 2014 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck and Bro Iain White PM
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 8th April 2014 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro John Keogh, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Joseph Fogarty, HM Bro James Strachan, HM Bro Neil Forbes, HM Bro Kenneth McRae and HM Bro James Miller
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 9th April 2014 (Passing Exemp.) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Kenneth Morrison
- Lodge Montgomery Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 9th April 2014 (Raising) – attended by Bro Eddie McGill and Bro Dougie Rankin
- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 on 10th April 2014 (Entering) – attended by Bro Eddie McGill, Bro David Stevenson, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae, HM Bro James Strachan and HM Bro James Lever
- Lodge The Gael No 609 on 10th April 2014 (Pipers' Degree) – attended by Bro Iain White PM who also had the pleasure of presenting The Working Tools
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 11th April 2014 (Passing) – attended by Bro Eddie McGill, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae and HM Bro Sandy Reddy.
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 14th April 2014 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro James Strachan, HM Bro Iain MacLeod and HM Bro Kenneth McCrae.

From the old minute books of No XII

The items this time relate to the Provincial Grand Master Bro Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart and his proposed demission of office. There seemed to be great consternation at this thought and appeals were made to him to reconsider. Reconsider he obviously did, for Bro Sir Hugh continued as RWPGM until 1942!

Friday 28th February 1908

Bro RL Scott, RW Master, in the Chair

Grand Lodge Circular Expiry of Commission of PGM

A circular from Grand Secretary was read intimating the expiry in May next of Bro Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart's Commission as Grand Master of the Province of Renfrewshire West. In connection therewith it was stated that Prov. Grand Lodge will meet shortly to consider the matter and it was agreed the RWM and Wardens of the Lodge should strongly support a recommendation for the re-appointment of Bro Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart for another term.

Friday 6th March 1908

Bro RL Scott, RW Master, in the Chair

Petition to be presented to Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart PGM

The RWM stated that the meeting was called principally called to consider a communication from Prov. Grand Secretary regarding the expiry of Bro Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart's Commission as Prov. Grand Master which office he desires to retire from. It was unanimously agreed that bro Sir High's retiral at this time would be a great loss to Freemasonry in the District and the Brethren resolved to present a Petition to him asking him to reconsider his situation.

Iain White PM
30.08.14

Views expressed by individuals within XII Talk do not necessarily represent the views of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII. Unless otherwise stated, Bro Iain White PM is the author of all material.