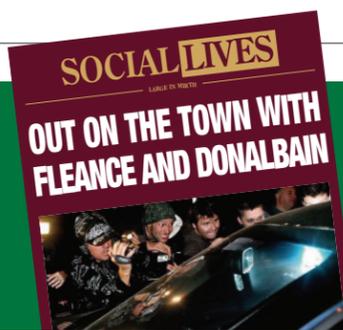


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From RBD to G&T: where a banker's daughters lets her hair down



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# DUNSINANE REJECTS “INSULTING” BIRNAM TAKEOVER

by WEIRD SISTERS

THE ROYAL Bank of Dunsinane has categorically rejected an audacious £17bn takeover bid.

Rumours of a swoop by an undisclosed party have been swirling around since the beginning of the week.

*City Times* can now exclusively reveal that the bid for a controlling stake of this venerable City institution came from lowly Birnam Bank. The news is bound to send shockwaves around the Square Mile.

Dunsinane's fiery Head of Equities, Macbeth, claimed that he had “never heard of” Birnam Bank. In an impromptu statement given immediately after negotiations ended, he described the attempted takeover as “a f\*\*\*ing joke”, “insulting”, and “f\*\*\*ing ridiculous”.

Non-executive Director Banquo was more moderate in his choice of words. “After reviewing an offer from one of our competitors,” Banquo announced, “the executive committee of RBD quickly concluded that the offer utterly fails to recognise the value of this bank.”

Banquo was asked whether Dunsinane would have given more consideration to an offer from one of its larger rivals. He responded, “RBD is in robust health. We are not



Royal Bank of Dunsinane: cherry ripe for the picking or a rotten apple?

seeking now – nor do we intend to seek in the future – partnership with any competitor, whatever its size or calibre might be perceived to be.”

Speculation that a bid was imminent caused a sharp rise in Dunsinane shares. The price jumped 14 per cent to a record high of 321.6 pence yesterday but fell back today after the bid was rejected.

Despite Banquo's assurances, it is widely known that all is not well at Dunsinane. Its share price has fallen steadily since the summer, and its retail branches have been performing poorly on the High Street. In response, entrenched CEO

and Chairman Duncan has dug his heels in ever more deeply.

Typically, Duncan himself was unavailable for comment this morning. His no-show will do nothing to quell rumours that Dunsinane is on the brink of collapse.

The Birnam bid was spearheaded by its young female CEO, Siward. “RBD's risk management in recent months has been catastrophic,” her statement read. “The bank is not just severely under-capitalised but at serious risk of insolvency.”

In response, Macbeth described Siward as “jumped up” and “f\*\*\*ing delusional.”

## Lady Macbeth Wields the Knife

by MIDNIGHT HACKS

“THE ONLY sound you hear is the clack-clack-clack of trembling knees.” That's how a former Royal Bank of Dunsinane employee described the effect his “very scary” ex-boss Lady Macbeth has when she swishes into the room.

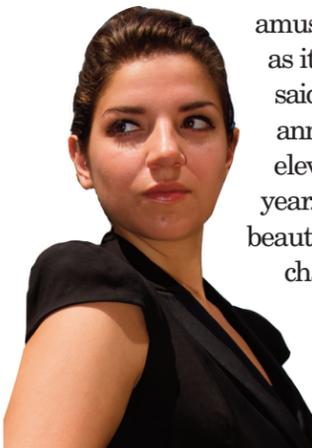
As if to cement her fearsome reputation, Dunsinane's Operations Director this morning informed staff at RBD's retail banking head office that 850 of them will face the axe.

The job cuts come as part of what Lady Macbeth has called “re-engineering for efficiency”. A further 250 junior and mid-level employees will be put to the sword in the bank's retail division, mainly in Asia.

“Nobody likes to be the bearer of bad news,” Lady Macbeth told *City Times*, “but these are difficult times across the financial industry, and if Dunsinane is to retain its current strong position, we simply cannot afford to carry dead wood.”

Lady Macbeth has enjoyed a meteoric rise to power since joining Dunsinane in the summer of 2009 as PA to chief trader Macbeth (whom she married in 2010). A series of promotions culminated earlier this year when CEO Duncan asked her to oversee operations across all departments of the bank.

“The public image of Lady Macbeth as some kind of dark sorceress amuses her as much as it does us,” Duncan said when announcing her elevation earlier this year. “She is very beautiful, perfectly charming, and now a valued member of the executive committee.”



Lady Macbeth: “Scary”

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