



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of London.
Held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London
on Thursday 12th July 2018**

Processions

The meeting commenced at approximately 13:45hrs with the Provincial Band 'marching in' the first Procession formed of Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and other Distinguished Brethren.

The second procession entered Provincial Grand Lodge formed of Right Worshipful Brethren and Past Senior Members of the Province, accompanied by the banners of the Time Immemorial Lodges of the Province.

The third Procession consisted of the Provincial Officers for 2017-2018. After they had turned inwards the Provincial Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother David Fredrick Ashbolt entered Provincial Grand Lodge and took his seat on the dais. After which the Provincial Grand Officers took their seats.

Delegations

The fourth Procession consisted of the Nonagenarian members of the Province.

The fifth Procession was a delegation of Worshipful Masters of the Province.

The sixth Procession was a delegation of Worshipful Commanders of the Province.

The seventh Procession was a delegation of newly Advanced Brethren of the Province.

The eight & final Procession was a delegation bringing the Travelling Keystone into the meeting.

To Open Provincial Grand Lodge

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form at 14:07hrs.

To salute the Provincial Grand Master

The Provincial GDC called the Brethren to order to salute the Provincial Grand Master with Seven.

To receive the Pro Grand Master M.W. Bro Raymond John Smith

The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master entered the Lodge & having taken his seat was saluted with eleven and he then thanked the Brethren for their warm and fraternal Salutation.

Welcome Distinguished Guests

The PGM introduced all the Distinguished Brethren attending the meeting which was followed by the Brethren of the Province of London giving them all a warm welcome.

R.W. Bro Chris Radmore PGM of Hertfordshire responded on behalf of all the guests.

In Memoriam

The names of all those Brethren of the Province who had passed away in the preceding year were printed in the Order of Proceedings, the Provincial Grand Chaplain mentioned the Senior Brethren

who had passed, followed by prayers which were offered by the Provincial Grand Chaplain. Finally "Abide with Me" was sung by the assembled brethren.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on 13th July 2017 included in the Summons booklet were taken as read and confirmed as a true record of the proceedings.

Roll of Provincial Grand Officers

The Provincial Grand Secretary confirmed that all the Provincial Grand Officers were present with the exception of those unavoidably absent by reason of sickness or other pressing emergencies.

Roll of Lodges

The Provincial Grand Secretary also confirmed that all of the 99 Provincial Mark Lodges and 80 Royal Ark Mariner Lodges were represented.

Report of the Provincial Grand Secretary

The Provincial Grand Secretary's report was included in the Order of Proceedings and he advised that he had nothing to add.

Report of the Provincial Treasurer and Accounts

The Provincial Grand Treasurer's report and the audited accounts for the year ended 31st August 2017 being included in the Order of Proceedings, the Provincial Grand Treasurer then went on to say "R W Provincial Grand Master, I would not have had anything to add to my report, but as the Provincial Director of Ceremonies told me that I could not do so, I will. Whilst the accounts speak for themselves, the brethren will notice that a donation of £32,174 was made to fund three blood bikes. This is from our general fund, and not our benevolent fund, thereby making good use of funds that would otherwise lie idle in the bank and setting a lead for the Mark Benevolent Fund to follow nationwide. The brethren should also be aware that a number of Mark and Royal Ark Lodges have been consecrated recently, and this adds greatly to the membership of our wonderful Province, and at the same time does no harm to my income and expenditure account. Neither of these have happened by chance. They stem from the manner in which you lead this Province, and whilst this item is about our accounts, I would ask the brethren to put their hands together to acknowledge your inspirational leadership.

A proposition by W. Bro. Harvey Roland Provincial Grand Senior Warden, seconded by W. Bro. Howard Markham Provincial Grand Junior Warden to approve and adopt the Accounts was passed by the Brethren.

Report of the Provincial Grand Almoner

The Provincial Grand Almoner's report was included in the Order of Proceedings and he advised that he had nothing to add.

Report of the Provincial Grand Charity Stewards

The Provincial Grand Charity Stewards' report was included in the Order of Proceedings and W. Bro. Atillio Grandani advised that he had nothing to add.

Elections

There being only one nomination in the Order of Proceedings for Treasurer: V.W. Bro. Stephen Fenton was re-elected.

The only nominations received were as shown in the Order of Proceedings for Account Examiners: V. W. Bro. Peter Cornish and W. Bro. Geoffrey Aldridge were re-elected.

To elect a trustee of the Provincial Benevolent Fund: W. Bro Richard Higginson was re-appointed.

Appointment of Account Examiners for the Provincial Benevolent Fund It was proposed by W Bro

Derrick Silver Provincial Grand Registrar & seconded by W Bro Logan Subramaniam Provincial Grand Master Overseer to re-appoint BSG Valentine Accountants Ltd. as Account Examiners of the Provincial Benevolent Fund. The Proposition was duly carried

Donations

V.W.Bro Stephen Fenton Provincial Grand Treasurer proposed and W.Bro. Derrick Silver Provincial Grand Registrar seconded that the sum of £5,000 be donated to the personal list of the Provincial Grand Master for Sussex in support of the 2019 Mark Benevolent Fund Festival; the proposition was carried. The PGM then presented a cheque to R.W. Bro Martin Wilson who gave a suitable reply.

Appointment and Investiture of a Deputy Provincial Grand Master

The PGM informed the Brethren that it was his intention to re-appoint W. Bro Thomas Quinn as his Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

W. Bro Thomas Quinn was saluted with five & gave a suitable reply.

The PGM informed the Brethren that it was his intention to re-appoint W. Bro Hugh Edwin Henry Hobson, W. Bro Clifford Mark Sturt and W. Bro Timothy John Joseph MacAndrews to be Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. The PGM announced that V.W. Bro Jerry Gangadeen had today stood down as APGM after five years. The PGM then indicated it was his intention to appoint W. Bro David Lucas PGJD as APGM. The Escort was formed & retired then re-entered with the APGM Designate. The Provincial Grand Secretary then read the Patent of Appointment.

The PGM having formally introduced the APGM Designate, the Chaplain gave the benefit of prayer. The APGM Designate then took the Solemn Obligation of an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, was Invested & given the Patent & BoC.

Having taken his seat, the APGMs were saluted with five, W. Bro David Lucas then thanked the Brethren for their salutation on behalf of all the APGM's.

Appointment & Investiture of Provincial Grand Officers

The PGM appointed and invested his Officers for the year, after which he gave promotions and first appointments to Past Rank to a further 103 Brethren. The PGM was also pleased to appoint 8 brethren to PProvGStwd.

Presentations

The PGM made the following Presentation:-

PGM's Merit Award to Abraham Obadiah PGJO

Silver Pin Awards for Perfect Advancement Ceremony to:-

W. Bro Tom Quinn DPGM

V.W. Bro Gordon Trew PGJO

W. Bro Nicholas Dodd Worshipful Master of Bon Accord

W. Bro Hendrik Huthoff Worshipful Master of Highgate

W. Bro Henry Adams Worshipful Master of Macdonald

The Desmond Bowditch Purse was awarded to Aegean Mark & was collected by Antonious Antoniou the Worshipful Master.

The PGM gave some background to the final presentation to the memory of our dearly departed R.W. Bro Michael Lawson & his second love Dogs.

Provincial Grand Lodge was Called off at 15.56hrs

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies escorted Mrs Judi Lawson & her lifelong friend Mrs. Sue Fenton, together with Miss Anna Lawrence – Trust Manager of the Dogs for Good Charity, who made a presentation to those assembled of the good work that the charity undertakes.

Provincial Grand Lodge was called on at 16.17hrs

Provincial Grand Master's Address

Brethren it has already been a long day so my address to you today will be short, Well fairly short.

Firstly I would like to thank all of you for turning up today in such large numbers; this support makes today the success it always is, and long may it continue. Always difficult to get it right but based on the number dining of 572 there are probably in excess of 800 in the Grand Temple this afternoon.

I would like to congratulate those members who have received an honour today, Brethren we do not just give out these honours. Like Grand Rank they have to be earned and I know that all of you have worked hard for your Lodges and the Province, and long may that continue.

I would like to thank all of last year's active officers and Past Wardens for the support they gave to the many full team visits that I made, some of you made every visit which shows how dedicated you are to the Province.

Also I thank our Past Provincial Officers, most of you have supported our Delegation visits and for this I thank you.

Once again over 90 of our Lodges have received such visits and if you look at the photographs on the web site you will see how much everybody enjoys them.

The good news for this year's active officers is that we have a full calendar of visits scheduled for the coming year starting with a Full Team Visit to Meridian Lodge on the 19th September, so please check the Provincial web site for the full list.

How nice it was to see our special Processions coming in to the Temple, our Masters, Commanders, Advancees and Nonagenarians have always supported this meeting and for that I thank each and every one of you.

This year we had the travelling Keystone coming into Provincial Grand Lodge, it is hoped that the Keystone will in the next year visit many of our Lodges, so if you want to receive it please ask.

Our Province is in good heart and we are still growing, this year alone we have advanced 166 new Mark Men and elevated 107 into the Ram and This with 142 joining members into the Mark and 82 into the Ram means that we now have over 5200 members across the 2 orders, in addition we have consecrated 2 more Mark Lodges and 1 Ram Lodge,

We are of course not standing still as we have at least 2 more Mark Lodges and 3 more Ram Lodges to consecrate in the coming year. This will take us to 101 Mark Lodges and 83 Ram Lodges, I believe this is a record for a Mark Province and I have all of you to thank for making these numbers possible. If you have never attended a Consecration we will be consecrating our Golfers Lodge the Albatross with 46 Founders on the 24th September and our Scouting Lodge the Ralph Reader Lodge on the 13th October both at Mark Masons Hall. All of you are welcome to attend. Talking of the Scouting Lodge how many of you have been a Scout, Cub, Sea Cadet or like Wes Hollands a Girl Guide, or at least I am told he tried to join on at least 2 occasions. Brethren Scouting and Masonry share the same values in life and I would ask you to consider being a Founder of the Ralph Reader Lodge, being a founder is in my opinion one of the biggest honours in Masonry as your name will be on the warrant in perpetuity. Sadly W. Bro. Tony Harvey who is Mr Scouting and the Primus Master of the Lodge cannot be with us today as he is attending his daughter's graduation. There are however several of the founders present and these you can identify by the red kerchief they are wearing, going forward it is intended that these red kerchiefs will be worn at all of their meetings, any Brother who wants to be a founder needs to let one of these brethren know and they will present you with your kerchief today, and if you ask then nicely they will show you how to tie the special knot. Details of the Lodge are available on the tables outside and on the dining tables tonight in the form of a tri fold leaflet and surprise, surprise that tri fold leaflet incorporates a Petitioners form.

Brethren I am proud of the fact that you are still leading from the front when it comes to supporting the Mark Benevolent Fund, many of you proudly wear your MBF collarets and Jewels and of course your Festival Badges at the Festive Boards, Brethren I do not consider these as part of your Masonic regalia because they are Charity adornments, it is not compulsory for you to wear them but it does raise the profile of the MBF. I have said before if we could just encourage 50% of all Mark Brethren to take one of the Festival Badges we would raise enough money to buy a mobile chemotherapy unit or 6 St. Johns Ambulances out right, and of course by wearing them, most importantly you lift the profile of the MBF even higher, a Fund that we can all be proud of. London is doing its bit we have over the

last 3 years taken over 3700 badges, Speaking of badges the Sussex badges are now available at the unbelievably low price of £10-00. Honest Paul Cutts will be circulating at the Festive Board with them, no pressure but as you can wear them for a full year it only works out at 19p per week. Once again, we have taken 1000 badges as a starter so myself and the chains will always have one to sell you on our visits.

Before I finish I would like to thank all of the Officers who work so hard to make this Province the success it is. Alan White and his secretariat team, Stephen Fenton our Treasurer who in spite of his role in a smaller order looks after our money so well, Wes Hollands and his team of DC's who accompany myself and the chains on their many visits, Chris James and his Photography team who attend most of the Delegation visits to take the pictures and get them on the web site so quickly, and of course Richard Criddle, Andy Bull and the rest of the team who look after our web site and year book and keep them up to date.

A special thank you to our Pro Grand Master for attending today, he does of course wear 2 hats at this meeting one as the Pro GM and one as the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, we do thank you sir for your continued support for not only for the order in general but also your Province. Also, I would like to thank the DGDC one of our own, Matthew Hampson and the Grand Secretary for being here today. I am sure he has made lots of notes and I can expect a phone call in the morning. Love the tie!!

I see we have a large contingent of the Mowers here again and I thank them for the 4-figure donation they recently made to the MBF for the Province of Sussex Festival. Their generosity knows no bounds.

I can assure them that there will be pineapples on the table tonight, but the chef again said no to the baked hedgehog.

I would like to thank the band who always make this meeting so special, their leader Eddie Thompson is always ready to try something new and no request is too much trouble.

Lastly, I thank all of you, the members of this wonderful Province for supporting this meeting today, each and every one of you like the band is instrumental in making London Mark so very successful and special and long may that continue.

God bless you all.

The Pro GM M.W. Bro Raymond John Smith Addressed Provincial Grand Lodge

M.W. Bro Raymond informed the Brethren that one of today's attendees V.W. Bro Roy Bedford had completed 60 years' service to Mark Masonry. Having spoken about V.W. Bro Roy who had been Deputy Provincial Grand Master, when the Pro GM was PGM of London, the Grand Secretary R.W. Bro Ryan Williams Grand Secretary, read the Celebratory Certificate follow which the Pro GM presented the Certificate to V.W. Bro Roy.

To Collect Alms

Alms were collected and raised £3228.44 (plus Gift Aid where appropriate) in aid of the Provincial Benevolent Fund.

To consider any other business

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that he had received apologies from a number of Provincial Grand Masters, Brethren from other Provinces and Brethren of this Province, all of whose names have been duly recorded. All have sent their best wishes to you and all present.

It had been agreed with UGLE that we may leave our Regalia etc in the Robing Rooms, these items must be collected by 8:30pm

Brethren, we are dining in the Grand Hall of the Grand Connaught Rooms. Dinner will commence at 5:30pm. Seating plans have been placed at the entrance of the hall. The main Reception will be in the Balmoral Suite, where there is a cash bar. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master will receive his invited guests to a **TICKET ONLY** reception in the Drawing Room. If there are any brethren who have not booked to dine, but now wish to do so, will they please book in at the Help Desk, which is situated outside the Dining Hall.

Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, I have nothing further to bring before this Provincial Grand Lodge.

There being no further business to be brought before Provincial Grand Lodge, it was closed in due form at 16:45hrs. All present then joined in singing the National Anthem followed by Jerusalem as the closing Hymn, after which the PGM retired in Procession.

After the Receptions were finished more than 570 Brethren dined together in the New Connaught Rooms, where the customary toasts were honoured.

Alan J White, PGJD,
Provincial Grand Secretary
July 2018