

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

Held at Croydon District Masonic Halls, Oakfield Road, Croydon, Surrey, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## There were present

RW Bro Ian N Clark, Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Richard Baker, PGJO, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Christopher W Eley, PGSD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and W Bro John V C French, PGStwd, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Ray Hussey, Past Provincial Grand Master and other members of the Past Executive, plus 14 Provincial Grand Masters, 2 other RW Brethren, 10 Deputy and Past Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, 11 Assistant and Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, 40 other honoured guests and 190 Surrey Mark Masons, all of whose names and ranks have been duly recorded – a total of 248 Brethren, of whom 177 dined.

At 10.50am, a procession of distinguished visitors from other Provinces together with members of the Past Executive entered the Temple. The Past Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Ray Hussey, was escorted into the Temple.

The Provincial Grand Master then entered in procession with the Provincial Grand Officers of the Year.

**1-** At **11.00am** Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer. The Provincial Grand Master was saluted and welcomed all present.

## 2- Welcome to Distinguished Guests of the Province

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master welcomed the distinguished guests of the Province and expressed his hope that all our guests would enjoy the hospitality of the Province. The Surrey members then showed their appreciation with enthusiastic applause.

## 3- Minutes 2016

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon VW Bro Richard N Baker, Deputy Provincial Grand Master who proposed that the Minutes of the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, having been published on the web site and available at the Secretary's table, be taken as read, confirmed and adopted. This was seconded by W Bro Christopher W Eley, Assistant Provincial Grand Master and confirmed by the members.

## 4- In Memoriam

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Chaplain to read the names of the brethren of the Province who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above since our last Provincial meeting.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, W Bro Louis Keats, read the following names and then offered a prayer:

Passed	First Names	Surname	Lodge	Nr
17/01/17	Irwin Cyril	Jewell	Percy	114
20/10/16	John Wilford	Sivill	Weyside	442
20/04/16	John Henry	Hawkins	St Andrews	806
19/10/16	Geoffrey Edward	Chippis	Northern Heights	989
27/11/16	Colin Henry	Harrison	Northern Heights	989
15/10/16	Anthony Charles	Batcheler	Stoneleigh	995
26/06/16	David Alan	Finnimore	Woodgrange	1111
31/05/16	Samuel Francis	Price	Woodgrange	1111
12/02/17	Kenneth Geoffrey	Twitchen	Surrey Installed Masters	1219
18/09/16	Barry Thomas	Gifford	Addiscombe	1320
04/03/16	Kenneth William Charles	Harwood	Addiscombe	1320
05/05/16	Leslie Marlon	Rodger	Comites Sigillorum	1352
12/11/16	Michael Arthur	Falkner	Table Fellowship	1841
22/03/16	Robert Anthony	Peak	Cranleigh Centenary	1917

The Brethren then sang the hymn "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended"

## 5- Roll of Active Provincial Grand Officers

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Secretary to call the roll of the active Provincial Grand Officers. The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that with one exception, who had sent his apology and reason for absence, the active Provincial Grand Officers were in attendance.

## 6- Roll of Lodges

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Secretary to call the roll of Lodges in the Province. The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that all the Lodges in the Province were today well represented.

## **Newly Advanced**

Seven newly Advanced Brethren were presented and welcomed to the Province by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master. Specially commissioned lapel pins and a drinks voucher were handed to each new MMM present, to mark their attendance at the Annual Meeting.

## **7- Travelling Keystone**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to ascertain that the Travelling Keystone had been brought to Provincial Grand Lodge and to cause the Worshipful Master of Noel Mark Lodge No.505 to return it.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master commented that the Travelling Keystone had been prepared by W. Bro. John French, assisted by V W Bro Bob Tuthill, as an initiative to encourage Visiting and promote the exchange of goodwill and fellowship between Lodges in the Province. It had been presented to Bond of Friendship Lodge No.1576 in November last year, at its launch, and since then had been claimed by Percy Mark Lodge No.114, Hiram Lodge No.13 and then Noel Lodge No.505. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies ensured that the Keystone was placed on the Secretary's table.

Secretary's note: The Travelling Keystone was then presented to Pleydell Bouverie Lodge No.955 at the Festive Board afterwards, as this Lodge that had the most members dining.

## **8- Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Treasurer for his Annual Report. The Provincial Grand Treasurer had pleasure in submitting his Annual Report and the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016, which were printed in the recent Surrey Overseer and available on the Provincial web site.

There being no questions, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Senior Warden for a proposition.

The Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W Bro Graham Walder, proposed that the Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016, as printed in the recent Surrey Overseer and available on the Provincial web site, be taken as read, adopted and entered in the minutes. The proposition was seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden, W Bro John Massey, and carried.

## **9- Charitable Donations**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival this year is being hosted by the Province of Berkshire on the week-end of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July and that we would be pleased to support it. RW Bro Richard Olliver, Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Berkshire was presented with a cheque and he thanked the Brethren for their support and generosity.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then announced that the Mark Province of Surrey is pleased to continue to support the Craft Province of Surrey as they host the 2019 Festival for the RMBI. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then presented a second Instalment to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Derek Barr, who also thanked the assembled Brethren for their continued support and generosity.

## **10- Provincial Grand Registrar's Report**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Registrar for his Report. The Provincial Grand Registrar had pleasure in submitting his Report, which was printed in the recent Surrey Overseer, and to which he had nothing further to add.

## **11- Provincial Grand Secretary's Report**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Secretary for his Report. The Provincial Grand Secretary had pleasure in submitting his Report, which was printed in the recent Surrey Overseer, and to which he had nothing further to add.

## **12- Provincial Grand Charity Steward's Report**

In the absence of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for the Charity Stewards' report. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies reported that he had pleasure in submitting the Provincial Grand Charity Stewards' report, which was printed in the recent Surrey Overseer and to which there was nothing further to add.

## **13- Election of Provincial Grand Treasurer**

The Provincial Grand Master announced that only one nomination for the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer had been received, that being W Bro Graham R Best, FCA, with no other nominations, he declared W Bro Best duly elected. He asked that his sincere thanks to W Bro Seeley as outgoing Provincial Treasurer, after 11 years of service to the Province; and to the auditors be recorded.

## **Annual Dues-**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Treasurer for his report in respect of the Annual Dues payable to Provincial Lodge. The Provincial Treasurer confirmed that the charge to

members payable this September (2017) will remain at £6 for both Mark and RAM degrees. He also advised that he is not proposing to increase the dues for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 which are payable on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

#### **14- Election of the Audit Committee**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Senior Warden for a proposition in respect of the Audit Committee. The Provincial Grand Senior Warden proposed that W Bros Louis M Keats, W Bro Michael Bushby and Bro David Cawte be elected to the Provincial Audit Committee for the ensuing year: The proposition was seconded by the Provincial Grand Junior Warden and carried. The RW Provincial Grand Master appointed W Bro Keats to be chair of the committee.

#### **15- Appointment of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.**

The RW Provincial Grand Master announced that he was delighted to re-appoint VW Bro Richard N Baker, PGJO as Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the ensuing year, with thanks for his continued support throughout the year.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master was then saluted.

#### **16- Re-appointment of Assistant Provincial Grand Master.**

The RW Provincial Grand Master then re-appointed both W Bro Christopher Wenham Eley and W Bro John Vaughn Christopher French, as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, with thanks for their support and all that they continue to do on behalf of the Province.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters were then saluted.

#### **17- Appointment and Investiture of brethren receiving Provincial Grand Rank**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master called upon the Provincial Grand Registrar to read the names of those Brethren appointed to and promoted in Mark Provincial Grand Rank and those receiving Provincial Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners.

The Provincial Grand Secretary read the names of:

38 Brethren appointed to active rank	36 invested
17 Brethren promoted in past rank	15 invested
4 Brethren appointed to past rank	3 invested
15 Brethren appointed to ProvRAMGR	11 invested
A total of 74 Appointments	65 invested

At the conclusion, the Brethren of the Province of Surrey below the rank of Provincial Grand Officer saluted the newly appointed Provincial Grand Officers with three, under the direction of the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

#### **18- Provincial Grand Master's Address**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. This address is also published on the web site.

#### **19- Charity Collection**

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master announced that the Charity Collection would be donated to the Surrey Mark Benevolent Fund. During the collection, the Hymn "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven" was sung. The collection raised £1,100.

#### **20- Any Other Business**

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that he had received apologies for absence, and best wishes for a happy meeting, from RW Bro Brynley Bevan, Past Provincial Grand Master, and from many other distinguished Brethren from this and other Provinces.

#### **21- Closing**

There being no further business, Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form at **12.50pm**

The first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master retired in procession with his Executive, followed by the distinguished guests, under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, while the Provincial Grand Organist played "Land of Hope and Glory".