

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
Held at Croydon District Masonic Halls, Oakfield Road, Croydon, Surrey,
on Saturday 17th March 2018

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, PGJD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Ray Hussey, Past Provincial Grand Master and other members of the Past Executive, plus 14 Provincial Grand Masters, 12 Deputy and Past Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, 10 Assistant and Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, 40 other honoured guests and 224 Surrey Mark Masons, all of whose names and ranks have been duly recorded – a total of 300 Brethren, of whom 240 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 2017

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 18th March 2017, 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:

| Died | First Names | Surname | Lodge | Number |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 20/08/17 | John Kenneth | Rudd | Hiram | 13 |
| 01/12/17 | Gwynfor David | Williams | Percy | 114 |
| 28/12/17 | Solomon Athanasius James | Pratt | Croydon | 198 |
| 21/09/17 | Brian Frederick George | Stapley | Weyside | 442 |
| 18/05/17 | Anthony | Deitch | Rose | 534 |
| 28/02/18 | Vincent | Hawkins | Pleydell Bouverie | 955 |
| 14/03/17 | Bernard | Peck | Stoneleigh | 995 |
| 03/03/17 | William Maurice | Bolton | Camberley | 1131 |
| 18/09/17 | Michael | Wilson | Manor of Bensham | 1167 |
| 20/12/17 | Brian Harold | Owen | Welcome | 1237 |
| 06/12/17 | Norman | Douglas | Coulsdon | 1268 |
| 14/10/17 | Stephen Charles | Briney | Redhill | 1285 |
| 22/06/17 | Kenneth James | Todd | Addiscombe | 1320 |
| 05/01/17 | Michael Graham | Davis | Warlingham | 1321 |
| 20/02/17 | Kenneth Thomas William | Harrison | Warlingham | 1321 |
| 01/10/17 | Stanley Edward Norman | Nye | Warlingham | 1321 |
| 21/12/17 | Robert Wilson | Graham | Comites Sigillorum | 1352 |
| 14/10/17 | Terence Charles Ernest | Barden | Bond of Friendship | 1576 |
| 30/05/17 | Albert Edward Peter | Jones | Fratres Calami Aerariique | 1704 |
| 13/06/17 | Terence Victor | Harris | Table Fellowship | 1841 |
| 02/03/18 | Paul Bernard George | Bowles | Table Fellowship | 1841 |

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 a Past Worshipful Master of Ditton Mark Lodge No.1857 to return it. It was brought into Provincial Grand Lodge by W Bro Martin Baker, PProvGSwdB.

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 2016. 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 Richmond Lodge No.808 at the Festive Board afterwards, as this Lodge that had the most members dining (15).

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 31st August 2017, 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 Trevor Sadler, proposed that the Provincial Grand Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2017, 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 David Wills, and carried.

9- Charitable Donations

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, W Bro Richard Wileman, who also thanked the assembled Brethren for their continued support and generosity.

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master then announced the award of the Provincial Scrip Purse to the Lodge which had been the most active in its charitable efforts throughout the year. W Bro Andrew Fox, the Worshipful Master of Noel Lodge No.505 was duly escorted to the East to receive the presentation from the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, to loud acclaim from all present.

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

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward reported that he had pleasure in submitting his 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.

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 (2018) 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 1st September 2018 which are payable on 1st September 2019.

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 Andrew G Sales, 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 Sales 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 and he responded.

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 and W Bro Eley responded.

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 | 38 invested |
| 42 Brethren promoted in past rank | 31 invested |
| 12 Brethren appointed to past rank | 7 invested |
| 16 Brethren appointed to ProvRAMGR | 14 invested |
| A total of 108 Appointments | 90 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, a copy is attached to the minutes.

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 Charity Collection raised £1,135.00

A further £420.00 was raised, for the Surrey Mark Benevolent Fund, through the raffle at the Festive Board of a Special Cake very generously made and donated by VW Bro Jerry Gangadeen, PGMO, AProvGM (Lon).

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".

RW Bro. I. N. Clark, Provincial Grand Master