



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER HELD AT
SOUTHPORT THEATRE & CONVENTION CENTRE 11th OCTOBER 2018**

OPENING

The Provincial Grand Chapter was opened in due form and with solemn prayer by the M E Grand Superintendent, assisted by the Second Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Barry Jameson and the Third Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Ian Higham at 2.30pm.

DEPARTED MERIT

The M E Grand Superintendent said "Companions, since our Provincial Meeting in October 2017, many of our colleagues both in Grand Rank and Provincial Grand Rank have departed this life and have been called to higher service. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of those we have lost. Would you please stand with me for a moment in respect of departed merit."

WELCOME

The Grand Superintendent welcomed the Distinguished Guests from other Provinces:

From the Province of Yorkshire West Riding EComp Stewart Carley, Grand Superintendent, EComp David Boyle, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Francis Testo, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Craig Bannister, Assistant to the Pr.Grand Principals, EComp Frank Taylor, Assistant to the Pr.Grand Principals.

From the Province of Northumberland EComp Ian Craigs, Grand Superintendent, EComp Brian Rudd, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, EComp Fred Dye, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

From the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland EComp William Bewley, Grand Superintendent, EComp Peter Mason, Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp Glynn Titterington, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Philip Dixon, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Keith Beaumont, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra.

From the Province of the IOM EComp William Ashton, Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp Philip Taubman, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Raymond Platt, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal.

From the Province of Cheshire EComp Robert Bramley, Deputy Grand Superintendent, EComp Philip Rowland, Second Provincial Grand Principal, EComp David Williams, Assistant to the Pr Grand Principals, EComp Nicholas Simpson, Asst. to the Provincial Grand Principals, EComp Michael Leese, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra.

From the Province of North Wales EComp Wynford Davies, 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, EComp Rev Canon Raymond Bayley, 3rd Provincial Grand Principal.

From the Province East Lancashire EComp Albert Mulhearn, Assistant to the PrGrand Principals.

From the Province of Derbyshire EComp Roger Till, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra.

APOLOGIES

The Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra announced the receipt of apologies from 48 Grand Officers and 156 Provincial Grand Officers and 96 other Companions.

MINUTES

To put for confirmation the Minutes of the Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held at Southport on 12th October 2017 which can be viewed on the Provincial Website.

RE-APPOINTMENT of DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

EComp Renton, the last 12 months seem to have flown by since I first appointed you DepGSupt and you have certainly achieved a great deal in such a short space of time. Your considerable work with the Forward Plan for the RA in this Province has been unrelenting, and your work on the University Scheme for the RA has been exemplary. This has resulted in East and West coming together and all joining Palatine Chapter in East Lancashire, which is only the fourth chapter to be affiliated to the University Scheme. You will very shortly be installed as First Principal of that Chapter on 22nd October and it gives me great pleasure to re-appoint you as Deputy Grand Superintendent.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF SECOND PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL

EComp Jameson, I appointed you as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal at this convocation last year. You are a highly-experienced mason in both the Craft and RA, and this, together with your considerable business acumen has been invaluable over the past 12 months. You too will join Paul Renton in Palatine Chapter later in the month and will become one of his Co-Principals when you are installed as Joshua. Your considerable skill sets have had a very positive effect in Cabinet, and I have no hesitation in re-appointing you 2nd Provincial Grand Principal.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE THIRD PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL

EComp Higham, you have now completed two years as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal and are continuing to serve with distinction and dedication and together with the other members of the Cabinet, have continued to make a positive impact on the Royal Arch in this Province. I am therefore delighted that you have agreed to continue in office for another year and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to re-appoint you as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal.

RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPALS

Companions, today I announce the retirement of EComp Ian Cuerden. Ian, you have served as one of my Assistants for the last 5 years, throughout which time you have carried out your duties with both dignity and thoroughness, and this coupled with a great sense of humour has made it a pleasure to work with you and I wish both you and your wife Doreen a long and happy retirement.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPALS

Following the retirement of Ian Cuerden as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, I intend to appoint EComp Michael Threlfall to succeed him as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals. Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, is Comp.Threlfall in attendance? [REPLY.]

PROVINCIAL DC (PAUL HESKETH) FORMS A DEPUTATION

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, you will form a deputation and present Comp Threlfall before me. *AtoPrGPs designate is escorted into Provincial Grand Chapter.*

GRAND SUPERINTENDENT ADDRESSES COMP THRELFALL

Comp Threlfall you became a Freemason in 1976 when you were initiated into Stanley of Preston Lodge and was installed as Master in 2004. You have held the office of Prov.Membership Officer for almost 7 years, during which time I appointed you PrSGW of the Province in 2015.

You were exalted into Jubilee Chapter in 1978 and attained the Chair of First Principal in 1995. You are a hard-working and highly-experienced Freemason and your practical hands-on approach to Freemasonry, will compliment the considerable talent of forward-thinking masons that already exists within the RA Cabinet.

However, I must formally ask you if you are ready to accept the Office of Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals. Response was in the affirmative. It is therefore with great pleasure that I appoint you as an Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals with particular responsibility for three bustling Groups, they being the Wigan and District Group, the Leigh Group and the Preston Group. *Applause.*

APPOINTMENT TO GRAND RANK

Companions, I am delighted to announce the following Grand Rank appointments and promotions, conferred at the meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter on 26th April, and could I ask you to withhold your applause until I've concluded reading the names :

First Appointments to the Rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer

Peter Greathead
Colin George Jenkins
Charles Peter Lockett
Neil MacSymons
John David Ogden
Malcolm Warren

Promotion to the Rank of Past Grand Sword Bearer

Paul Andrew Renton

Promotion to the Rank of Past Assistnat Grand Sojourner

Samuel Frederick Robinson
Norman Alan Thomas

ACCOUNTS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES FUND AND THE BENEVOLENT FUND

The Provincial Grand Treasurer, E Comp Neil Latham, presented a report on the finances of the Province.

VOTE OF THANKS

EComp David Randerson, PGStB, AtoPrGPs proposed a vote of thanks to the Provincial Grand Treasurer for all the work he has done. This was warmly received and acknowledged in traditional West Lancashire fashion.

TO ELECT THE PROVINCIAL GRAND TREASURER FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Companions, Comp Neil Andrew Latham has been nominated as Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year, Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, are there any other nomination? The Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra confirms no other nominations.

Then in the absence of any other nominations, the Grand Scribe Ezra declares Comp Neil Andrew Latham, a Chartered Accountant, elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

FEES

The Provincial Grand Treasurer was pleased to announce that in consequence of the significant cost savings that continue to be made in the Provincial Office, and to endeavour to encourage new membership, there will be no increase in the annual dues. Consequently, under Provincial By-Law 8(a)(ii) the annual dues for 2017 will remain at £3.00 plus VAT, payable in arrears in January 2019.

CHARITY COLLECTION

Companions, there will now be a Charity Collection in aid of the 2021 Festival.

ADDRESS BY THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

It has given me the greatest pleasure to welcome all our distinguished guests here this afternoon and I really do hope that they will enjoy their time with us and take back to their Provinces many happy memories of our meeting

I am so pleased to be back in Southport once again and delighted to see so many West Lancashire Companions here to share in our Provincial Convocation. I offer a warm welcome to you all, many of you may be here for the first time and I hope that you will enjoy the experience.

I trust that many of you have availed yourselves of the PSA testing, that the Province has made available to all Companions prior to this Convocation supported as always by the WLFC. Masonry continues to donate huge sums of money into research into Prostrate Cancer and if our efforts have saved just one brother, and extended the lives of many others, then I hope you agree it has all been worth it.

So far this masonic year, the members of Chapter of Hope No.2697 meeting in Eccles, have celebrated their Centenary and it was a pleasure to attend the celebrations last week, accompanied by my Provincial Team.

This season there will be two further Chapters celebrating 100 years.

We will be visiting :

Hesketh Chapter No.950 on 27th March and

Marquis of Lorne Chapter No.1354 on 17th May, and I am sure that we all offer our congratulations to these Chapters for reaching this astonishing landmark.

The Masonic Bikers, fittingly known as the `Sons of the Widow` have recently become members of Skelmersdale and Waterloo Chapter, which was on the point of surrendering its Charter. Happily,

the numbers are now increasing and the Chapter is thriving. If you have an interest in motorcycling, then I'm sure the members would be more than happy to hear from you.

Companions, my Deputy Grand Superintendent and the RA Cabinet continue to push forward with initiatives to promote and develop the Holy RA. They have constructed a strategic plan which has at its core, the concept of developing the Royal Arch as a high - quality experience of Freemasonry with an emphasis on clarity and enjoyment - enjoyment Companions being my continued emphasis.

In terms of promoting the RA in this way they have recently circulated to Group Chairman a Good Practice Guide for Chapters. This focusses on four elements: so important for the future of the Holy Royal Arch

Attracting new members which must be one of our highest priorities for the Royal Arch to move forward in the 21st Century. It is enjoyable, it is vibrant, it is stimulating and more important it completes our Freemasonry.

Our ceremonies and the retention of members is vitally important for all our Chapters. The recently introduced Enhanced Ceremonies together with several other initiatives, Talking Heads, Joint Convocations and Provincial Team visits now appear to be working extremely well in a large number of our Chapters. This is offering our Companions a variety of interesting convocations, enabling greater enjoyment and more importantly, ensuring our Exaltees have a wonderful experience when joining our Chapters.

Festive boards and social events are the theme of enjoyment must be extended to both of these very important aspects of our RA masonry and will assist Chapters to encourage Brethren to join us.

Planning for the future is something we must all attend to for very obvious reasons. As we are only the current custodians of our Masonry here in West Lancashire and we all want to leave a legacy for our successors to enjoy.

Currently 43% of the Brethren in this Province are members of the Holy RA. So, in the coming months, let us see if we can make that 50% for next year's Provincial Grand Chapter meeting. It is do able and you Companions, together with the Royal Arch leads in our Craft Lodges can make that difference.

I do hope that all Chapters will use this Good Practice Guide, when it is published, to examine their own practices and to work with their Group Executives, especially their RA Lead, to ensure that we do indeed make the RA a high - quality experience for all our members and build upon our future together.

In order to compliment this quality experience for both Craft and Royal Arch Masons, during the summer months, I authorised an independent ground-up review of our Website. This brand-new site is almost complete and some of the new pages will be projected on the wall throughout dinner. It really does show off our Province to be the largest and the best - leading from the front and by example. I'm confident you will approve Companions.

Now Companions, I must make mention of the West Lancashire 2021 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Firstly, I thank all those Companions and Chapters who have already pledged towards the Festival and would ask those of you who have not yet done so to consider doing so as soon as possible. Our Festival is for a very short 4 - year period and we are now half way through.

This Province has an enviable reputation of Charitable giving and I have no doubt that this Festival will show that once again West Lancashire is at the forefront of everything that is good about Freemasonry. I trust that every Companion will support this Festival to the best of their ability. May I say how thrilled I am to see so many of you wearing our Provincial tie and indeed, wearing your Festive Jewel with pride.

I wish to inform you of two very special events planned for 2019 to enable us to support the 2021 Festival. On Saturday April 6th at the Blackpool Winter Gardens we are to hold a Charity Star Studied Concert 'A Night with the Stars' Tickets for which are now on sale. The concert is headlined by :

WBro Jim Davidson, Anita Harris and Mick Miller and promises to be a sell-out. Tickets will also be available to the general public, but we have reserved the principle parts of the Opera House for freemasons and our families so, as they say book early to avoid disappointment.

In February, March and May 2019 our very own IRON MAN EComp Peter Taylor, Prov. Grand Scribe Ezra, is to take part in Taylors Sponsored Trilogy, which will consist of two running races, namely the Great North Western Half Marathon in Blackpool and the Coniston 14 and finally in May the Southport Triathlon. Peter is hoping that all Freemasons within the Province and beyond will sponsor him for just £1.00 per event that's just £3-00 or more if you see fit. So let's do it Companions. (it will be worth it just to see him out of breath with a painful expression. Not sure about the lycra though!!)

Talking of sporting prowess, I'm delighted to announce the formation of West Lancashire Freemasons Rugby Football Club (Union that is) with our very own Deputy Grand Superintendent Paul Renton as the Honorary President.

For many years, Paul was a Referee Development Manager for the RFU, so our team will be in safe hands.

The brother and companion responsible for the day to day running of the team is Gary Hacking, who is a member of Greenhill Lodge and Coronation Chapter of West Houghton. The Team is now registered with the RFU and Wigan RUFC has very kindly agreed for the Team to use their ground for training. Thankyou Gary for all your hard work in bringing this Team together and I look forward to watching the first fifteen playing in the very near future. An Inter-Provincial match perhaps with one of our neighbours!?

On your behalf Companions I would like to express a big thank you to the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra Peter Taylor for the huge amount of work that he and his staff , Diana , Violet , Andrew , and the many volunteers, have put in, to not only making this meeting such a success, but for all the work they have carried out during the year.

To EComp Paul Hesketh the ProvGDC. and all his Deputies, for their contribution to today's ceremonial and for all you have done during the past year in carrying out your many duties around the Province.

To David Barr, who is retiring today as the Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah and all the Acting Officers of the past year. I hope you have thoroughly enjoyed yourselves and that you have been able to attend many Chapters during your special year. And last, but by no means least, to all those Excellent Companions who have represented me at the many RA Installation Convocations throughout the year, my personal thanks for your continued loyalty and support.

Finally, may I thank those Companions from the Ormskirk and Bootle Group of Lodges and Chapters who have looked after us all so well here today. For stewarding this meeting, taking care of security and ensuring that we have been able to enjoy our Convocation. Grateful thanks also to the Southport Group for the loan of their masonic furniture.

All these companions will no doubt still be working whilst we are enjoying ourselves at the bar and the banquet.

Companions thank you for your attendance here today, continue to enjoy your RA masonry and may the TALGMH Bless you all.

THE INVESTITURE OF PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS

Companions, we now come to that special part of our proceedings, when I invite those Companions who have been appointed and promoted in Provincial Rank to come forward so that I might invest them.

This investiture recognizes the important achievements of each celebrant, so please continue your good work in the future.

I shall rely upon you to help in encouraging members of the Craft to join this beautiful degree and then, once they have been exalted, to help in mentoring and supporting them through their fascinating journey as Royal Arch Masons.

Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, will you please read out the names of those who have been appointed and promoted.

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies will you please arrange for them to be presented to me for investiture.

ACTING OFFICERS

Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra

P. M. Taylor

Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah

D. R. Case

Provincial Grand Treasurer

N. A. Latham

Provincial Grand Registrar

J. N. Dent

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

P. A. Hesketh

Provincial Grand Sword Bearer

A. J. Barton

Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar

A. W. A. Bartlett

Provincial Deputy Grand Scibe Ezra

A. S. Ridal

Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

D. S. Thomas M. I. Bell M. A. Barton

Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer

P. J. Whalley

Provincial Grand Almoner

E. Hart

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

P. J. Preston

Provincial Principal Grand Sojourner

M. T. Jones

Provincial 1st Assistant Grand Sojourner

M. J. Greenhalgh

Provincial 2nd Assistant Grand Sojourner

D. Mc. Southward

Provincial Grand Standard Bearer

A. C. Cassells

S. K. Lyon

C. D. Perfect

D. Skett

Provincial Grand Organist

D. K. Tattersall

Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

D. T. Anderson

I. Boardman

A. A. Hayton

D. A. Spear

Provincial Grand Steward

D. T. Atkinson

J. Browne

J. K. Clulow

D. D. Coulson

J. B. Dearden

J. Hardman

B. W. Honey

C. D. Larder

J. D. Lee

P. R. Pemberton

J. H. Selley

S. A. Senneck

C. Walpole

G. A. Wiltshire

Provincial Grand Janitor

P. Maxwell

FIRST APPOINTMENTS**Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer**

J. Dell

C. B. Dickinson

J. M. Greenall A.

Roberts

M. H. Ryder

K. E. Wilson

Past Provincial Principal Grand Sojourner

P. H. Baines

G. Caulfield

S. Haynes

P. A. Liptrot

C. Sherman

S. G. Wadsworth

Past Provincial Assistant Principal Grand Sojourner

C. B. Carr

D. R. Elston

L. A. Robinson

P. Schofield

G. Wilman

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Scibe E

K. A. Beardmore

D. J. Brighthouse

R. H. Cohen

N. E. Griffiths

E. J. Main

R. Parker

R. D. Stringer

J. Trueman

J. V. Waine

M. T. Williams

Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer

J. E. Ashton

A. H. Astin

A. H. B. Jones

D. Moore

R. K. Norris

J. K. Robinson

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

J. E. Baldwin

H. N. Emmett

G. Greenwood

S. Jackson

B. Magan

A. C. Stansfield

G. A. Thomas

P. A. Thompson

M. D. Wilkinson

PROMOTIONS

Past Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra

E. B. Fallows

J. E. Selcoe

Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah

RP Andrews-Morris

W. K. Atherton

R. G. Boardman

S. W. Bolton

M. Brown

T. P. M. Burgess

D. M. Cook

M. F. Copland

P. A. Dunne

R. Mc. Durkin

C. P. Fenn

E. Gavan

R. W. Gibson

K. E. Jones

R. K. Lamb

P. Ledson

P. J. Lonican

J. R. Nevinson

J. E. Ogden

R. Parker

N. C. Pedder

D. R. Rawcliffe

A. G. Rimmer

T. D. Rimmer

S. Smith

D. K. Tattersall

J. F. Whittall

A. J. Wilson

Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer

A. E. Armitage

R. Ashton

I. F. Banks

R. Brookes

D. J. Brown

S. C. Browne

A. R. Gifford

K. Greenall

A. R. G. Gregg

G. Jackson

D. S. Parker

T. P. Pattullo

J. A. Powell

T. Prew

A. E. Procter

P. E. Ryan

G. B. Sinden

H. S. Sykes

P. L. Trelore

D. J. Wood

Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer

A. J. Clare

P. D. Gridale

A. Jolley

J. F. Lomax

R. S. Mason

J. M. Parker

I. Thomas

C. R. Wass

W. K. Wilson

H. T. Youdan

Past Provincial Principal Grand Sojourner

R. T. Bird

K. Dickinson

A. R. Haslam

E. J. Heffernan

A. Jervis

E. W. Kos

R. G. Mason

D. W. Matts

D. J. Sullivan

J. A. Topping

S. Wood

M. T. Youdan

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Sojourner

D. B. Benson

M. B. Brown

G. R. Calcutt

J. Cartwright

C. P. Evans

M. J. E. Hilton

M. J. Milner

S. M. Sime

D. I. W. Smith

K. M. Wood

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

P. G. Gaskin

ATTENDANCE REPORT

To ask for an attendance report. In Blue file that AR gave back to PMT.

INVITATION

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent enquired of the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra whether there was an invitation to host the next meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter. The Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra reported that he had received an invitation from the Ormskirk and Bootle Group of Lodges and Chapters to host the Meeting here in Southport on Thursday, 9th October 2019.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent enquired if there was any further business to be brought to the meeting. The Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, confirmed that there was no further business to be transaction.

CLOSING

There being no further business, the Provincial Grand Chapter was closed in due form, following which, the first verse of the national Anthem was sung.

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