

ELECTION OF TYLER (and JANITOR)

There is often misunderstanding with regard to the rule which makes provision for the election of the Tyler of a Lodge.

As with Treasurers, Tylers are strictly controlled by the Book of Constitutions. This is because they have access to the assets and possessions of the Lodge. Hence the safeguards implied in the necessity to **elect** the Tyler and the second clause of Rule 113 which provides for the summary dismissal of an elected Tyler.

The default position, therefore, required by the *Book of Constitutions* is that a Lodge's By-Laws can only say that a Tyler shall be elected.

Nevertheless, it is sometimes the case that a Lodge decides that it wishes one of its members to be appointed Tyler (and of course the Brother in question cannot then be paid for his services). Rule 113 permits this to happen, and while the summons for the Election Meeting **must say** '*To elect a Tyler*', at that meeting a Brother may rise and propose that *on this occasion* the Lodge *appoint* a Tyler from among the membership rather than elect a Tyler who is not a member.

This must be done every year that a Lodge wishes to appoint rather than elect a Tyler. It cannot permanently replace the default position.

Therefore, the only wording in a Lodge's By-Laws which is acceptable is '**Subject to the provisions of Rule 113 of the Book of Constitutions, the Tyler will be elected by a show of hands at the meeting in**'. This wording provides the opportunity for the Lodge to apply either alternative method of having a Tyler.