



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER HELD AT
SOUTHPORT THEATRE & CONVENTION CENTRE 9th OCTOBER 2019**

OPENING

The Provincial Grand Chapter was opened in due form and with solemn prayer by the M E Grand Superintendent at 2.30pm.

DEPARTED MERIT

The M E Grand Superintendent said "Companions, since our Provincial Meeting last year, 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 Pr. Grand 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 18 Grand Officers and 94 Provincial Grand Officers and 46 other Companions.

MINUTES

To put for confirmation the Minutes of the Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter held at Southport on 11th October 2018 which can be viewed on the Provincial Website.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

“EComp Renton, you have now completed 2 years as my DepGSupt and you have certainly achieved a great deal over this period. Your considerable work with the Cabinet in raising the profile of the Royal Arch has been very encouraging. The association with our sister Province in East Lancashire continues to flourish and you are currently First Principal of Palatine Chapter in East Lancashire, which was only the fourth chapter to be affiliated to the University Scheme. I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months and it gives me great pleasure to re-appoint you as my Deputy Grand Superintendent.”

RE-APPOINTMENT OF SECOND PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL

“EComp Butterfield, as I only appointed you as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal 6 weeks ago, I think I should give you a bit more time to make an impact, which I have no doubt you will do during your tenure in office. It therefore gives me great pleasure to re-appoint you as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal.”

Companions, I invested Comp Butterfield as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal at the Installation Convocation of his own Chapter. Unfortunately, his predecessor, EComp Barry Jameson was unable to be present on that occasion.

Comp Jameson you have served and continue to serve this Province with great distinction, having been an AtoPrGP since 2014 and latterly as my 2nd PrGP. You occupied these offices with dedication and enthusiasm and advantage to the Royal Arch Province and I have much pleasure in investing you with this collarette of a Past 2nd Provincial Grand Principal. I look forward to working with you in your new capacity as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.”

RETIREMENT OF THE THIRD PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL

“Companions, today EComp Ian Higham retires as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, following 13 years in high office in both the Craft and Royal Arch. Unfortunately, Ian he cannot be with us today, but I wish to record my thanks and those of the Province, for his dedication and commitment over a long period of time and wish him well in his retirement.”

CEREMONY OF OBLIGATION AND INVESTITURE OF 3RD PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL

“Companions, following the retirement of Comp Ian Higham, I intend to appoint EComp the Rev Canon Godfrey Ian Hirst as his successor.”

The MEGS enquired of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, if Comp Hirst was in attendance. The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies then formed a deputation and escorted Comp Hirst into Provincial Grand Chapter.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENT ADDRESSES COMP HIRST

“Comp Rev Canon Godfrey Ian Hirst, you became a mason in 2004 when you were initiated into Semper Fidelis Lodge No.4428. You are currently the Provincial Grand Chaplain and hold the rank of PAGChaplain.

You became a Royal Arch Mason in 2007, when you were exalted into Semper Fidelis Chapter No.4428 and served as First Principal in 2014.

Your vast experience in the Church of England as a senior Canon, together with your endearing personality, have made a significant impact in the Craft, not to mention your wonderful orations at the many Centenaries we have attended together.

I know that all these qualities will now benefit the Royal Arch and you are more than qualified to become Third Provincial Grand Principal, but I must ask you in this Provincial Grand Chapter if you are willing to take on the duties and responsibilities of that office.”

Comp Hirst confirms that he is willing.

Then I will, following your obligation, proceed to invest you

I call upon the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra to read the Patent of Appointment.

MEGS addresses Comp Hirst “I would now ask you to kneel on both knees, rest the Volume of the Sacred Law on your left hand, place your right hand upon it, and recite your Obligation.”
Seals Obligation on VSL.

“You will now rise and advance to the pedestal so that I may invest you.”

RE-APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPALS

“I am pleased to report that all of my Assistants have indicated that they wish to continue in their important key roles within the Province. I thank you individually and collectively for all your help and support and I am delighted to re-appoint you.

Could you please stand as I call your names, and may I ask you Companions to show your appreciation with applause when I have completed the list: Comp Sam Robinson, Comp Tony Hall, Comp. Colin Rowling, Comp Duncan Smith, Comp Michael Threlfall and Comp Barrie Crossley.

Thank you very much indeed.” *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

Malcolm Raeburn Alexander
Andrew John Barton
Stephen William Bolton
Neil Andrew Latham
Geoffrey Malcolm Porter
David Stuart Thomas

Promotion to the Rank of Past Grand Scribe Nehemiah

Peter Mason

Promotion to the Rank of Past Assistant Grand Sojourner

David Harrison
Bryan Sydney Henshaw

INTRODUCTION OF MARK HUMPHREY

“Companions, I would now like to introduce Comp Mark Humphrey, who was exalted into the Royal Arch quite recently and for the next few minutes is going to share his experiences thus far.” Companion Humphrey then related his experience in the Royal Arch and a few nuggets from *Solomon*.

REPORT ON THE FINANCES OF THE PROVINCE

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

VOTE OF THANKS

Excellent Companion Colin Rowling PGStB, AtoPrGPs proposed a vote of thanks to the Provincial Grand Treasurer for his exceptional work. 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? *PrGSE 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 2019 will remain at £3.00 plus VAT, payable in arrears in January 2020.

CHARITY COLLECTION

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

ADDRESS BY THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

“I am delighted to see so many Companions here this afternoon and I extend a warm welcome to you all.

This year I have invited newly exalted Companions to join us at this meeting and I am very pleased indeed to welcome all of them. Although small in number, due to work and family commitments, nevertheless you are all more than welcome and I really do hope that you have enjoyed the proceedings so far and that you will continue to find the rest of the afternoon both stimulating and interesting.

Some of you will recall that last year I informed you that 43% of our membership in the Province were Royal Arch Masons and suggested that it would be good if we could increase this percentage to 50 %. I have to report that we have not achieved that figure, in fact, although we have had many Exaltations across the Province, we have also lost a number of Companions, many of whom having been called to higher service. However, I fully support my colleagues in the Royal Arch Cabinet in their desire that the Royal Arch in West Lancashire should strive to be a high quality experience of freemasonry with an emphasis on clarity and enjoyment. I strongly believe that RA ceremonies should be learnt rather than read, that the ceremony of exaltation should be enhanced in line with the guidelines of the Province, and that its delivery should be shared among as many members of the Chapter as possible.

In terms of clarity of understanding, UGLE has provided us with a great resource - Solomon. I urge all Chapters to consider building ‘nuggets’ of information from Solomon into their agendas - either within their actual meetings or at the Festive Board. These nuggets can easily be delivered in a few minutes by any member of the Chapter, thereby promoting a better and more complete understanding of our wonderful Order.

I’m delighted to tell you Companions that our new Third Provincial Grand Principal, The Rev Canon Godfrey Hirst, is to take to the recording studios! Not with his singing voice as a member of the Provincial Choir, but to record the passages of scriptures selected for the Installation of the three Principals. I anticipate that his recordings will be available via the Provincial website in order to aid the comprehension, pronunciation and delivery of these passages.

Companions, I continue to be impressed with the work of the Royal Arch Cabinet, who, under the leadership of my Deputy Grand Superintendent, Paul Renton, continue to do their level best to make the Royal Arch experience in West Lancashire, the best it can possibly be. Their efforts, made on your behalf, are unrelenting and they really are worthy of the success that will, with your continued support, undoubtedly come. Thank you all.

This meeting marks the retirement of EComp Ian Higham as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal. Unfortunately he is unable to be with us today, but I would like to thank him for his commitment and support to the Province, and to me, over 14 years. I wish him and his wife Valerie, a happy, healthy and long retirement.

During this masonic year we have had many enjoyable visits to Chapters around the Province and I have had the honour of attending some Centenary Celebrations and congratulate Hesketh Chapter, the Chapter of Hope and the Marquis of Lorne Chapter on attaining their Centenaries.

Now, I hope that many of you have availed yourselves of the PSA testing available to all attending this Convocation, thanks to the generous funding from our West Lancashire Freemasons' Charity. You should, as early warning is a wonderful thing, as my dear friend and Deputy PGM knows only too well.

Companions, I must make mention of the West Lancashire 2021 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. I thank all those Companions and Chapters who are already supporting the Festival and would ask those of you who have not yet done so to consider it as a matter of urgency. Our Festival is now halfway through and we only have 2 years left to run. With your assistance and patronage, we can demonstrate that the Companions of this Province are committed to support not only our West Lancashire Charities, but the hugely important work of the Masonic Charitable Foundation and may I say how thrilled I am to see so many of you wearing our Provincial tie and indeed **WEARING YOUR FESTIVAL JEWEL WITH PRIDE.**

On your behalf Companions I would like to thank a number of our Provincial Team, my deputy Paul and all the A to the PGP's for their sterling work, the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra , Peter Taylor, and his staff , Diana , Violet , Andrew , and many volunteers, for their work in ensuring the success of this meeting, and for the work they undertake during the year for the Royal Arch.

Ex Comp. Paul Hesketh retired as the ProvGDC, during the year due to health issues and I thank him for all the assistance he gave to the RA, and to his successor David Thomas together with all his Deputies, for their involvement in today's ceremonial and for what you have done during the past year in carrying out your many duties around the Province . David Case, retiring as Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah and all the Acting officers of the past year, I hope that you have all enjoyed yourselves and attended many Chapter meetings during your year of office. And to all those Excellent Companions, who have represented me at the many RA Installation Convocations throughout the year, my personal thanks for your continued support.

Finally, may I thank the Chairman and Companions from the Garston Group of Lodges and Chapters who have looked after us all so well today. For stewarding this meeting 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 be working long after we have vacated this room and 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

T. P. M. Burgess

Provincial Grand Treasurer

N. A. Latham

Provincial Grand Registrar

J. N. Dent

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

D. S. Thomas

Provincial Grand Sword Bearer

G. J. Rogerson

Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar

J. R. Rimmer

Provincial Deputy Grand Scibe Ezra

A. S. Ridal

Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies

M. A. Barton

B. Fitzgerald

Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer

R. I. Teesdale

Provincial Grand Almoner

E. Hart

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

P. J. Preston

Provincial Principal Grand Sojourner

B. G. Fletcher

Provincial 1st Assistant Grand Sojourner

A. H. Davidson

Provincial 2nd Assistant Grand Sojourner

R. L. Williams

Provincial Grand Standard Bearer

W.H.C. Hembrow

A. Johnston

D. Martindale

A. J. Morris

F. J. Parle

R. Routledge

Provincial Grand Organist

D. K. Tattersall

Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

V. Carte

W. Carter

A. R. Green

Provincial Grand Steward

A. L. Banks

J. W. Bates

U. D. Dholakia

B. F. Haslam

P. W. Heathcote

S. Hore

G. S. Hornby

P. J. Mann

P. M. Martin

A. N. Prowse

M. P. Rimmer

J. J. Roughley

A. E. Simms

D. Smith

B. Snape

J. R. Walkey

Provincial Grand Janitor

J. Finnegan

FIRST APPOINTMENTS

Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer

F. P. Kenyon

D. J. Lovell

R. E. Rhodes

Past Provincial Principal Grand Sojourner

B. L. Clark

R. Greenhow

D. Helm

E. E. Lloyd

Past Provincial Assistant Principal Grand Sojourner

R. M. Gosling

P. N. C. Kenny

R. Snape

E. T. Walsh

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E

M. Dunn

A. Ferguson

G. Irving

J. Rogers

P. Shuttleworth

G. D. Stephenson

K. Taylor

Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer

J. P. Cole

M. A. Cowsley

B. D. Crabtree

P. Green

M. Haines

B. Hopkinson

D. C. Lawn

I. A. May

S. E. Mitchell

H. J. Waddington

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

S. D. Blundell

S. Doyle

D. H. Lace

G. Mort

E. J. Sarti

C. J. Sharples

D. A. Stewart

W. M. Swarbrick

B. I. Taylor

PROMOTIONS

Past Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra

G. M. Bury

M. S. Gregory

Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah

D. J. Bowden

D. W. Boyes

G. Collier

A. J. Davies

T. Dickinson

P. Dodd

D. D. Durling

A. Green

E. S. Greenhalgh

P. W. Hampson

N. J. Higginson

J. D. Hine

R. H. Holt

B. Horabin

M. R. Howell

W. J. Jackson

J. J. Mason

J. T. McIntyre

A. J. Merrill

A. M. Mills

J. P. Murphy

T. J. Partington

D. W. Roughley

T. H. Tomlinson

R. I. Walker

H. E. Webster

J. T. Whitehead

Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer

P. Alderson

R. Bennett

S. S. Boyd

M. J. Cunliffe

R. J. Duff

T. Houldsworth

D. S. Jennings

L. P. Marsh

P. Maxwell

K. R. Oxley

J. Platt

J. J. H. Stephenson

A. Tittensor M. S. Yeo

Past Provincial Deputy Grand Sword Bearer

G. R. Bell W. H. Dunn D. Emmett

D. S. Fawcett A. Flint G. Halstead

S. J. McNee P. Neville D. E. Roberts

L. Speakman P. N. Walker P. Weller

Past Provincial Principal Grand Sojourner

J. Bates D. J. Caldecott B. Dewhurst

M. W. Harrison J. Hengler S. P. Hurst

P. M. Lower J. T. C. McIlwaine J. R. Nisbet

P. I. Powell S. J. Riley S. Roberts

R. W. Stafford K. Whittaker

Past Provincial Assistant Grand Sojourner

M. A. Connell W. N. Harwood N. D. Hodson

M. F. G. Jones P. A. Moore M. J. Wallis

ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra reported the attendance of 49 Grand Officers, 9 First Principals, 386 Provincial Grand Officers and 59 other Companions, a total of 503.

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, 15th October 2020.

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 transacted.

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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