

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Would Lodges please note that the Book of Constitutions treats fees and subscriptions separately, and differently.

FEES

In framing or revising By-Laws it should be noted that Grand Lodge continues to insist that fees (for initiation, joining and re-joining) must be stated as figures. By-Laws will not be approved which attempt to make fees variable according to decisions of the Lodge 'from time to time'. Nor will By-Laws be approved which attempt to set no fee for initiation, joining and re-joining.

Grand Lodge is aware that Lodges would not wish to set a fee level which might be considered a deterrent to candidates but the level of fee ought to be consistent with the dignity of the Craft and the value to a candidate of membership. The fee set ought at least to cover the costs of registration of the candidate with Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge, together with any tax thereon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, however, (that is to say the annual membership charge levied upon members) can regularly be specified with the phrase "*of such amount as the Lodge shall from time to time decide by resolution after notice on the summons.*" But only subscriptions can be dealt with in this way.

No By-Law will be approved which specifies a date other than the 1st day of a month as the due date for payment of subscriptions. (Setting some other day of the month can create considerable problems when calculating periods of time required by certain of the rules of the Book of Constitutions: for example, Rule 181.)

Under no circumstances whatsoever may the Lodge Charity Account be used to subsidise any element of a Brother's subscription, including his subscription to The Grand Charity.