

UNITED GRAND LODGE

OF

Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England

Quarterly Communication

Holden at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London
on Wednesday, the 12th day of June 2024

Present:

MW Bro J. Spence, <i>DL</i>	Pro Grand Master
RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder	Deputy Grand Master
RW Bro D.J. Medlock, <i>DL</i>	Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro A.S. Varley	Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro W.B. Duke	Metropolitan Grand Master for London
RW Bro J.J. Craigs	Provincial Grand Master for Northumberland
RW Bro P.G. Marshall	Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire
RW Bro W.C.M. Dastur	Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire
RW Bro C.L. Moore	Provincial Grand Master for Sussex
RW Bro J. Lockley	Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire
RW Bro J.M. Clark	Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire
RW Bro A.C. Howlett-Bolton, <i>OBE</i>	Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire
RW Bro N.H. Johnstone	Provincial Grand Master for East Kent
RW Bro J.M.W. Davis	Provincial Grand Master for Bristol
RW Bro D.M. Wheeler	Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire
RW Bro R.B. Pemberton	Provincial Grand Master for Shropshire
RW Bro M.T. Holland	Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire
RW Bro A.J. Ross	Provincial Grand Master for West Wales
RW Bro P.C. Kinder	Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire and Rutland
RW Bro N.C. Connolly	Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire
RW Bro K.M. Blackburn	Provincial Grand Master for Isle of Man
RW Bro P.L. Hall	Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire
RW Bro P.W. Tarrant	Provincial Grand Master for Essex
RW Bro D.G. Rowbottom	Provincial Grand Master for South Wales
RW Bro J.H. Newman, <i>OBE</i>	Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West Riding
RW Bro R.I. Frankl	Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire
RW Bro J.P. Thompson	Provincial Grand Master for Durham
RW Bro S.J. Wyer	Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire
RW Bro M.R. Constant	Provincial Grand Master for Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire
RW Bro Dr D. Chambers	Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, North and East Ridings

RW Bro M.F. Matthews	Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire
RW Bro D.V. Dyson	Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire
RW Bro R. Guthrie	Provincial Grand Master for Somerset
RW Bro J.C. Reid	Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire
RW Bro N.A. Ball	Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire
RW Bro I.R. Copestake	Provincial Grand Master for Derbyshire
RW Bro J.A.L. Berry	Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk
RW Bro N.K. Edwards	Provincial Grand Master for Bedfordshire
RW Bro M.R. Butler, <i>MBE, DL</i>	Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk
RW Bro N.J. Burger	Provincial Grand Master for Surrey
RW Bro Prof S.J. Tucker	Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire
RW Bro I.M. Davies	Provincial Grand Master for Gloucestershire
RW Bro O.A.W. Lodge, <i>TD, PSGW</i>	as Senior Grand Warden
RW Bro A.C.G. Moncrieff	Junior Grand Warden
RW Bro M.L. Ward, <i>PSGW</i>	President of the Board of General Purposes
VW Bro J.A.F. Thom, <i>KC</i>	Grand Registrar
VW Bro A.R.T. Marsh	Grand Secretary
VW Bro Lt Cdr P.R. Engeham, <i>RN</i>	Grand Chancellor
RW Bro J.M. Long, <i>TD, PSGW</i>	President, Masonic Charitable Foundation
VW Bro E.D.J. Goodchild	Deputy President, Masonic Charitable Foundation
RW Bro C.B. Hopkinson-Woolley, <i>PJGW</i>	Grand Director of Ceremonies
VW Bro M.A.J. Gurney, <i>DL</i>	Grand Sword Bearer
VW Bro P. Abbott	Grand Superintendent of Works
VW Bro the Rev Canon D.H.E. Mosford, <i>PGChap</i>	Deputy Grand Chaplain
RW Bro J.C. Whitaker, <i>DL, ProvGM, Hampshire and Isle of Wight</i>	Deputy President, Board of General Purposes
VW Bro G.F. Redman, <i>PGSwdB</i>	Deputy Grand Secretary
W Bro O.J. Coddington	Deputy Grand Secretary
W Bro T.P. Hawley	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M.H. Burrows	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro R.R. Montgomery, <i>PDepGDC</i>	as Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro B.N. Beverley	Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro P.G. Vossler	Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro P.J. Turner	Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro Prof G.R. Boys-Stones	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro J.J. Ash	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro Dr R. Bhalla	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro C.P. Noon	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro C.M. Hilditch	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro T.W. Leader	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro Dr T.C. Pakrashi	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro T.P. Spriggs	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro the Rev C.J. Bamforth-Damp	Assistant Grand Chaplain
W Bro the Rev J.R. Storey	Assistant Grand Chaplain
W Bro J.D.A. Smithdale	Assistant Grand Registrar
W Bro D.J. Hammond	Assistant Grand Registrar

W Bro S.E.R. Christie, PJGD	Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro B. Gait	Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro D.C.T. Roberts-Jones, PJGD	Assistant Grand Chancellor
W Bro G.W. Davies	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro W.P. Douglas	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M.J. Gurteen	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M.W. Hall	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M. Rankin	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro S.P. Taylor	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro R.B. Wood	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro D.A.P. Woodrow	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M. Bevan	Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro J.R. Whitfield, <i>MBE</i>	Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro N. Garavini	Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro J.A. Howarth	Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro C. Dobson	Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro J. Wong	Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro M.F.T. Beckwith	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro N.R. Harris-Cooksley	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro A.T.O-P. Aamodt	Grand Pursuivant
W Bro B. Handley	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro J.R.H. Hibbins	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro M. Shields	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro M.R. Radcliffe, PAGReg	Grand Steward
W Bro Dr D.K. Selwood, PAGDC	Grand Steward
W Bro S.J. Underwood, PAGDC	Grand Steward
W Bro R.M.D.M. Stone	Grand Steward
W Bro A.V.I. Robbins	Grand Steward
W Bro J.H. Wood, PSGD	Grand Steward
W Bro R.B. Coop	Grand Steward
W Bro Lt Col C.G.J. Head, PSGD	Grand Steward
W Bro Prof G.J.K. Darby	Grand Steward
RW Bro M.D. Estaugh, ProvGM, West Kent	Grand Steward
W Bro D.J. Cresswell, PAGDC	Grand Steward
W Bro G.R. Daly, <i>MVO</i>	Grand Tyler

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

RW Bro Sir David Wootton	Past Deputy Grand Master
RW Bro R.J. Race, <i>DL</i>	Past Deputy Grand Master
RW Bro D.K. Williamson	Past Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro G.P. Francis	Past Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro G. Jones, <i>OBE</i>	Past Assistant Grand Master

A large number of Past Grand Officers, qualified Past Grand Stewards, and the Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Master Masons of many private Lodges.

VISITORS

GRAND LODGE OF AUSTRIA

MW Bro Georg Semler Grand Master
RW Bro Johann Hauf Representative from UGLE

GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY

RW Bro Jack A.E. Ford Representative from UGLE

GRAND LODGE ALPINA OF SWITZERLAND

W Bro Norval Gough Representative from UGLE

YORK GRAND LODGE OF MEXICO

MW Bro Marco Tulio Reyes Grand Master
RW Bro Fermin Rodriguez Deputy Grand Master

GRAND LODGE “EL POTOSI” OF THE STATE OF SAN LUIS POTOSI

MW Bro Samuel Bacasehua Valenzuela Grand Master
VW Bro Jesús Emmanuel Mier Sánchez Grand Chancellor

GRAND ORIENT OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL

MW Bro Celito Cristofoli Grand Master
RW Bro Cassio F. Willrich Grand Secretary of Foreign Affairs

GRAND LODGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MW Bro Daniel Lewis Canon Grand Master
RW Bro Clifford Christopher Hope Senior Grand Warden

GRAND LODGE OF ESPÍRITO SANTOS

MW Bro Jorge Henrique Valle dos Santos Grand Chancellor

GRAND LODGE OF PARANÁ

MW Bro Christian Flores Grand Master
RW Bro André Feofiloff Grand Secretary for Foreign Affairs

GRAND LODGE OF SPAIN

RW Bro Josep Maria Albouy Assistant Grand Master

REGULAR GRAND LODGE OF SERBIA

MW Bro Lukas Rasulić Grand Master
VW Bro Tahir Hasanović Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations

Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer at 12.00 noon.

The MW Pro Grand Master was saluted.

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I am delighted to see so many of you here today – particularly Brethren in light blue. I am informed, I hope reliably, that there are 67 Master Masons present who are not members of Grand Lodge. We also have 152 Brethren from Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, 94 Brethren from Yorkshire, North and East Ridings and 35 Brethren from Northumberland.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of 13 March 2024 and of the Annual Investiture of 24 April 2024 were taken as read and confirmed.

ORDER OF SERVICE TO MASONRY

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: I now have a very pleasant duty to perform. It is to invest two Brethren with the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry, and I call on the Grand Secretary to read the first citation.

VW BRO KEITH RAMSAY SMITH, *TD*, PGSwdB

GRAND SECRETARY (VW Bro A.R.T. Marsh): Brother Keith Smith was made a Mason on 1 October 1962, at the age of 24, in Lodge of Fortitude and Old Cumberland, No. 12, one of the three Time Immemorial Lodges in London, and was installed as its Master in 1968. He has at various times been a member of nine other Lodges, has served as Master of three of them and is currently the Master of the Grand Stewards' Lodge. He was Exalted into the Royal Arch in Libera Fidelis Chapter, No. 2101 in Surrey in March 1971, and subsequently joined Prince of Wales's Chapter, No. 259 in London, becoming its First Principal in 1988.

Brother Smith was appointed to the office of Grand Standard Bearer in 1988, being promoted to Senior Grand Deacon in 1996. On the inauguration of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Chapter of London in 2003 he was appointed as one of the original ten Group Chairmen and was promoted the following year to the rank of Past Grand Superintendent of Works. He has twice served as Grand Steward for Grand Master's Lodge, No. 1 – in 2010 and 2018 – in which latter year he was promoted to his present rank of Past Grand Sword Bearer. He was first appointed to Grand Rank in the Royal Arch as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1998 and served as Grand Sword Bearer in 2004.

One of the last generation to do National Service, Brother Smith maintained his connection with the Territorial Army as it was then known, receiving in due course the Territorial Decoration. A stockbroker by profession, he served on the Board of General Purposes during the 1990s, and has been a member of numerous Committees, so that there are few aspects of the administration of English Freemasonry at a high level in which he has not had a hand during the last thirty or so years. His charm and tact have endeared him to so many Brethren, and he is held in high affection and esteem by all with whom he comes into contact.

(Brother Smith was invested)

(Loud applause)

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: I now call on the Grand Secretary to read the second citation.

RW BRO DR JAMES WALLACE DANIEL, PSGW

GRAND SECRETARY: A proud Kernowyon by birth (or, to us Emmets, a Cornishman) Brother Jim Daniel was made a Mason in Apollo University Lodge, No. 357, while an undergraduate at Brasenose College, Oxford in December 1961, just before his twentieth birthday and was Exalted into the Royal Arch in Apollo University Chapter, No. 357 in May 1964.

He is, or has been a member of thirteen other Lodges and Master of six of them, as well as a member of six other Chapters. Working for the British Council for many years, he gained experience of Freemasonry abroad, most notably perhaps in Sri Lanka, where he served as Master of St. George Lodge No. 2170 in 1975, and received the rank of Past District Grand Pursuivant! On retirement from the British Council, he took up the office of Grand Secretary General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite in 1989, a position he held for almost ten years.

He was first appointed to Grand Rank in 1990 as Assistant Grand Sword Bearer in the Craft and Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Royal Arch, being promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner in 1997 and, briefly, Deputy Grand Secretary in the Craft in 1998, before succeeding the late Cdr Michael Higham, *CVO, RN*, as Grand Secretary and Grand Scribe Ezra on 1 June 1998. Although he held the office of Grand Secretary for less than four years, he reorganised the Grand Secretary's Office and was instrumental in the formulation and implementation of the reforms to the governance of the Craft under the late Lord Farnham. So impressed indeed, was the Grand Master with his rapid and remarkable grasp of Masonic practice and history that he promoted him at the Quarterly Communication in March 2001 to the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden.

One of his particular interests as Grand Secretary had been Grand Lodge's External Relations, and he took that as the subject for his Inaugural Address when

he was installed as Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076 (the premier Lodge of Masonic research) in 2003. Since 2016 he has been one of the mainstays of the Board of General Purposes' External Relations Committee.

Soon after retirement in 2002, Brother Daniel moved with his wife Jenny to his native Cornwall, but in the years since then he has been by no means inactive in Freemasonry. In 2004 he was Master of Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, No. IV and its Grand Steward. From 2011 he served as its Secretary, an Office which he finally relinquished in 2022. He was promoted to Past Senior Grand Warden in 2013, and was the Prestonian Lecturer for 2017. He found time to work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Sheffield receiving the degree in 2011; the subject of his doctoral thesis being the Earl of Carnarvon, who was Pro Grand Master to Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, from 1874 till his death in 1890. He has also been active in other Orders of Freemasonry, with high rank in many of them, and is still one of the Substitute Governors of the Royal Order of Scotland. His continued involvement since he retired – like that of one of his predecessors as Grand Secretary, Sir James Stubbs – alone marks him out for distinction as one of the treasures of the English Craft, particularly because of his experience with Foreign Grand Lodges – and an encyclopedic brain which is regularly accessed and greatly appreciated by new Grand Secretaries.

(Brother Daniel was invested)

(Loud applause)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

On the Motion of the PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES (RW Bro M.L. WARD, PSGW), seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT (RW Bro J.C. WHITAKER, DL, ProvGM, Hampshire and Isle of Wight) the following report of the Board of General Purposes was taken as read.

To the United Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England

ANNUAL DUES

1.1 2025 The Board recommends, in accordance with Rule 269, Book of Constitutions, that the annual dues (including VAT) payable to Grand Lodge in respect of each member of every Lodge for the year 2025 shall be:

	£
In a Lodge in England and Wales that is unattached	74.00
In a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province	51.00
In a Lodge in a District	17.00
In a Lodge abroad not in a District	21.50

1.2 A Resolution to this effect appears at item 7(A) of the Paper of Business.

FEEES

1.3 2025 The Board recommends, in accordance with Rule 270, Book of Constitutions, that the fees (exclusive of VAT) payable for registration, certificates and dispensations should be increased in line with inflation to:

(a)	the Registration of	£
1.	A Grand Officer, present and past, on first appointment	159.00
2.	A Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master or a Metropolitan Grand Inspector (under Rule 60)	92.00
3.	A Deputy or Assistant Provincial or District Grand Master (under Rule 66)	92.00
4.	A holder of Overseas Grand Rank (under Rule 93)	39.50
5.	A Mason, inclusive of Grand Lodge Certificate (initiation, or joining from a Lodge not under the Grand Lodge), exaltation into the Royal Arch under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and Grand Chapter Certificate In a Lodge in England and Wales that is unattached	117.00
	In a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province	105.00
	In a Lodge in a District	67.00
	In a Lodge abroad not under a District	87.00
(b)	the replacement or amendment of a Grand Lodge Certificate	82.50
(c)	a Certificate for a Serving Brother	49.50
(d)	a Dispensation by the Grand Master	47.50
	a Dispensation by the Grand Master ‘nunc pro tunc’	95.00
1.5	A Resolution to put this into effect appears at item 7(B) of the Paper of Business.	

CONTRIBUTION TO THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

1.6 Under Rule 271 of the Book of Constitutions Grand Lodge must fix each year the annual contribution that is payable to The Masonic Charitable Foundation. It has been agreed to recommend that for 2025 the annual contribution will be £17.00 in respect of each member of a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province, or in England and Wales that is unattached. A Resolution to put this into effect appears at item 12 of the Paper of Business.

PRESTONIAN LECTURES

(i) 2023

*The 1723 Constitutions: The Indispensable Trowel;
Cementing America's Foundations*

1.7 The Lecturer, RW Bro A.R. Elias, PJGW (PGM of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia), has informed the Board that in addition to the three official deliveries to British Lodge, No. 8 (London); Durham Lodge of Installed Masters, No. 4441 (Durham); and Cornucopia Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards of Derbyshire, No. 9925 (Derbyshire), the Lecture was also delivered on two other occasions in the English Constitution, and seven under a recognised Foreign Grand Lodge. The Board desires to express its thanks to Bro Elias for the considerable time and effort he has spent in this connection.

(ii) 2024

*The Second Grand Lodge: The Grand Lodge of Ireland, the London Irish
and Antients Freemasonry.*

1.8 The Prestonian Lecturer for 2024 is VW Bro Dr R.A. Berman, PGSwdB.

1.9 Four official Prestonian Lectures for 2024 have been or will be given under the auspices of:

Lodge of Silent Temple, No. 126 (East Lancashire)
Cornish Masters Lodge, No. 3324 (Cornwall)
Oxfordshire Lodge of Installed Masters, No. 7770 (Oxfordshire)
London Grand Rank Association

(iii) 2025

1.10 The Board has submitted a nomination to the Trustees of the Prestonian Fund and they have appointed VW Bro His Honour Judge Simon Medland, KC, PGSwdB as Prestonian Lecturer for 2025. Bro Medland states that the title of his Lecture will be: "Our Friends in the North" A reflection on the growth of Freemasonry from its early proto-masonic beginnings in Chester, Cheshire and nearby Provinces.

1.11 Arrangements for the delivery of the Lectures to selected Lodges will be considered by the Board in November and applications are now invited from Lodges. Applications should be made to the Grand Secretary, through Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretaries.

1.12 The Board desires to emphasise the importance of these Lectures, the only ones held under the authority of the Grand Lodge. It is, therefore, hoped that applications for the privilege of having one of these official Lectures will be made only by Lodges which are prepared to afford facilities for all Freemasons in their area, as well as their own members, to participate and thus ensure an attendance worthy of the occasion.

RECOGNITION OF GRAND LODGES

Grand Orient of Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil)

1.13 The Grand Orient of Mato Grosso do Sul, in Brazil, was formed in 1979 by ten regularly constituted Lodges of the Grand Orient of the State of Mato Grosso (a Brazilian Grand Lodge not yet recognised by this Grand Lodge, but believed to be entirely regular and formed from a split in 1973 within the Grand Orient of Brazil). The Grand Orient of Mato Grosso do Sul's jurisdiction is limited to the State of Mato Grosso do Sul in Brazil, which it shares by treaties of intervisitation with the Grand Orient of Brazil (2018) and the Grand Lodge of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul (2019).

1.14 The Grand Orient of Mato Grosso do Sul has confirmed that it would have no objection to this Grand Lodge constituting new Lodges in its territory, under our District of South America, Northern Division.

Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil)

1.15 The Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Norte was first formed by Lodges of the Grand Orient of Brazil in 1967 as a federative Grand Orient under the Grand Orient of Brazil itself. By 1973 sixteen of its regularly constituted Lodges had voted to form themselves into the Independent Grand Orient of the State of Rio Grande do Norte, but in 2017 it changed its name back to the Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Norte. The Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Norte's jurisdiction is limited to the State of Rio Grande do Norte in Brazil, which it shares by treaties of intervisitation and co-operation with the Grand Lodge of the State of Rio Grande do Sul (recognised by this Grand Lodge on 14 September 2016) and the Grand Orient of Brazil.

1.16 The Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Norte has confirmed that it would have no objection to this Grand Lodge constituting new Lodges in its territory, under our District of South America, Northern Division.

1.17 Having shown that they have regularity of origin and that they conform to the Basic Principles for Grand Lodge recognition, the Board, having no reason to believe that they will not continue to maintain a regular path, recommends that these Grand Lodges each be recognised. A resolution accordingly appears at item 8 of the Paper of Business.

PRECEDENCE OF GRAND OFFICERS

1.18 The Board has given consideration to the order in which the Grand Officers rank under Rule 5 of the Book of Constitutions, and has concluded that the precedence at present accorded to the Deputy President of the Board of General Purposes does not adequately reflect the importance of his role. It accordingly recommends that Deputy Presidents of the Board, present and past, should rank immediately before the Deputy President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Notice of motion to amend the Book of Constitutions accordingly appears at item 11 of the Paper of Business.

MEETINGS OF LODGES ON SUNDAYS

1.19 It has been represented to the Board that in an era when there is a far greater diversity of religions among the members of the Craft than at any previous time in its history, the total prohibition on holding meetings of Lodges (and Chapters) on Sundays is no longer sustainable. The Board is aware that economic considerations may mean that for many venues it would not be viable to open for meetings on all seven days of the week. Having, however, given the matter due consideration, it has concluded that is nonetheless appropriate to grant power to the Grand Master (but only to the Grand Master) to give a dispensation for individual Lodges to meet on a Sunday. It envisages that such a dispensation might be for a single meeting or for all meetings of a Lodge. The Board does not, however, recommend that Christmas Day or Good Friday should cease to be prohibited days.

1.20 Notice of motion to amend Rule 139 of the Book of Constitutions accordingly appears at item 11 of the Paper of Business.

THE MASONIC DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

1.21 Following representations from various quarters, a comprehensive review of the Masonic disciplinary system was carried out during 2021 by the previous Grand Registrar, RW Bro the Rt Hon Sir John Chadwick, *ED*, PSGW. His findings and recommendations have been considered by a Working Party set up by the Board under the chairmanship of RW Bro Geoffrey Dearing, Past Provincial Grand Master for East Kent, the previous President of the Board. The seven members of the Working Party include present and past Provincial Grand Masters, members of the Board, the Grand Registrar and his Deputy, the senior Deputy Grand Secretary and Grand Lodge's in-house legal adviser.

1.22 The Working Party, in turn, has reviewed the various disciplinary provisions spread over different parts of the Book of Constitutions, and has made a number of recommendations designed to simplify and speed up the disposal of disciplinary cases, of which the principal ones are as follows:

- (a) That the relevant Rules covering disciplinary matters be combined into a single comprehensive Schedule arranged in a logical order, with cross-references to them, where necessary, elsewhere in the Book of Constitutions.
- (b) That Masonic offences and the powers of Masonic disciplinary authorities be more clearly defined.
- (c) That the quorum for an Appeals Court be reduced from five to three, with a consequent saving in time for the individual members of the Commission for Appeals Courts.
- (d) That recommendations for expulsion be reviewed automatically by a single member of the Panel of the Commission for Appeals Courts, so that those cases that will inevitably result in expulsion can be "fast-tracked".

- (e) That Appeals Courts be given clear powers to give case management directions in order to limit, among other things, the length of submissions, evidence and documents.
- (f) That the Panel for Clemency be abolished, and its function transferred to Appeals Courts, which will therefore in future have a wider responsibility in cases where expulsion is a likely outcome.
- (g) That “Masonic Conduct – Guide to Investigations”, commonly known as the “Red Booklet” be comprehensively rewritten in the light of experience and changes in the law since it was originally introduced in 1988.
- (h) That standard forms be introduced for the most common documents required during the disciplinary process.
- (i) That a comprehensive system of training be introduced to ensure that those who have the responsibility for administering the system at Metropolitan, Provincial and District level have an adequate understanding of the disciplinary process.

1.23 The Board has carefully considered, and has accepted, the recommendations of the Working Party, which it in turn recommends to the Grand Lodge. Notice of motion to amend the Book of Constitutions accordingly appears at item 11 of the Paper of Business.

AMALGAMATIONS

1.24 The Board has received reports that the following Lodges have resolved to surrender their Warrants:

- (a) Hemming Lodge, No. 1512 (Middlesex) in order to amalgamate with St. George’s Lodge, No. 140 (London);
- (b) Woodthorpe Lodge, No. 5645, in order to amalgamate with Commercial Lodge, No. 411 (Nottinghamshire); and
- (c) Bow Lodge, No. 7751, in order to amalgamate with City Wall Lodge, No. 6793 (London);

1.25 The Board accordingly recommends that the Lodges be removed from the register in order to effect the amalgamations. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 9 of the Paper of Business.

ERASURE OF LODGES

1.26 The Board has received a report that thirty-nine Lodges have closed and have surrendered their Warrants. The Lodges are:

- Upton Lodge, No. 1227 (London)
- Bayard Lodge, No. 1615 (London)
- Stuart Lodge, No. 1632 (London)
- Haven Lodge, No. 2022 (London)
- Surbiton Lodge, No. 2146 (Surrey)

Fordsburg Lodge, No. 2718 (South Africa, North)
 Chorley Wood Lodge, No. 3247 (Hertfordshire)
 Lister Lodge, No. 3599 (Warwickshire)
 Lodge Light in Arabia, No. 3870 (Surrey)
 Lodge of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men, No. 4273 (West Kent)
 Cubic Stone Lodge, No. 4720 (London)
 Corner-stone Lodge, No. 4941 (London)
 Viking Lodge, No. 5014 (Sussex)
 Faith and Works Lodge, No. 5079 (Staffordshire)
 Mersey Lodge, No. 5199 (West Lancashire)
 Cheyham Lodge, No. 5401 (Surrey)
 Radius Lodge, No. 5474 (London)
 Ellerray Park Lodge, No. 5620 (Cheshire)
 Homelyn Lodge, No. 6075 (Northumberland)
 West Watford Lodge, No. 6492 (Hertfordshire)
 Lodge of Venture, No. 6916 (Staffordshire)
 Colonnade Lodge, No. 7220 (London)
 Corinthian Lodge, No. 7251 (South Africa, North)
 Alexandra Commemoration Lodge, No. 7283 (Hertfordshire)
 Coronation Lodge, No. 7291 (South Africa, North)
 Omuteni Lodge, No. 7376 (Namibia)
 Ercei Lodge, No. 7436 (East Kent)
 Horse Ferry Lodge, No. 7727 (London)
 Fraternity Lodge, No. 7729 (South Africa, North)
 Round Table Lodge of Sussex, No. 7965 (Sussex)
 Lodge of Truth and Honour, No. 7990 (London)
 Taurus of Sussex Lodge, No. 8148 (Sussex)
 First Pride Lodge, No. 8447 (South Africa, North)
 Europa Point Lodge, No. 8581 (London)
 Ryton Lodge, No. 8988 (Nottinghamshire)
 Square Mile Lodge, No. 9352 (London)
 Linwood Lodge, No. 9632 (Warwickshire)
 Lodge of Daily Advancement, No. 9979 (Essex)

1.27 Over recent years, the Lodges have found themselves no longer viable. The Board is satisfied that further efforts to save them would be to no avail and therefore has no alternative but to recommend that they be erased. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 10 of the Paper of Business.

1.28 The number of members of Melchizedek Lodge, No. 9756 (Hong Kong and the Far East), as shown on its most recent Annual Return has fallen below five, and in accordance with Rule 188 the Grand Master has decided that the Lodge should be erased. The Resolution at item 10 of the Paper of Business accordingly includes that Lodge in the list of those for erasure.

IN MEMORIAM

1.29 The Board of General Purposes regrets to record the death of the following Present and Past Grand Officers reported up to 14 May 2024:

RW Bro D.A. Buswell, PProvGM, Leicestershire and Rutland

RW Bro A. Adedoyin, PDistGM, Nigeria

RW Bro Maj Gen A.P.W. MacLellan, *CB, CVO, MBE*, PJGW

RW Bro C.N.R. Brown, PJGW

VW Bro J.P. Layzell, PGSwdB

VW Bro M.H. Hart, PGSwdB

W Bro D.W. Old, PSGD

W Bro H.C. Farlow, PSGD

W Bro E.H.J. Moody, PSGD

W Bro F. Brewster, *CBE*, PSGD

W Bro F.J. Gillo, PSGD

W Bro W.P. Thompson, PSGD

W Bro W.A. Potts, PJGD

W Bro R. Richards, PJGD

W Bro G. Bedford, PJGD

W Bro M.G. Spencer, PJGD

W Bro J. Cole, PJGD

W Bro the Rev Canon B.G. Moore, PAGChap

W Bro the Hon Sir Jonah Walker-Smith, *Bt*, PAGReg

W Bro L.D. Berkeley, PAGDC

W Bro R.B. Blaxland, PAGDC

W Bro N. Pickles, PAGDC

W Bro W. Lockett, PAGDC

W Bro R.W. Simmons, PAGDC

W Bro D. Jackson, PAGDC

W Bro C.K. Huddleston, PAGDC

W Bro F.M. Williams, PAGDC

W Bro J. Hiller, PAGDC

W Bro H. Taylor, PAGDC

W Bro R.E. Westwood, PAGDC

W Bro J.E. Fretwell, PAGDC

W Bro M.R. Hart, PAGDC

W Bro K. Koso-Thomas, PAGDC

W Bro K. Norman, PAGDC

W Bro B.J. Privett, PAGDC

Death of Grand Officers (*continued*)

W Bro N.C.W. Liles, PAGDC
 W Bro R.A. Harvey, PAGDC
 W Bro D.A. Gurney, PAGDC
 W Bro B. Bristol, PAGSuptWks
 W Bro D.B. Birkumshaw, PGStB
 W Bro A.P.D. Bridges, PGStB
 W Bro J.G. Baylie, PGStB
 W Bro T. Tait, PGStB
 W Bro M.P. Cowen, PGStB
 W Bro G.W. Chevin, PGStB
 W Bro W.M. Stern, PGStB
 W Bro V.J. Spiller, PGStB
 W Bro J.A. Berry, PGStB
 W Bro T.G. Gould, PAGStB

EXPULSIONS

1.30 As required by Rule 277 (a) (i) (B), Book of Constitutions, the Appendix shows Brethren recently expelled from the Craft.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON
 14 May 2024

(signed) M. L. WARD
 President

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I do not believe that there is anything in the Board's Report that calls for special comment, other than the fact that you will have noticed the size of today's Paper of Business owing to a large number of proposed amendments to the Book of Constitutions dealing with Masonic discipline. This is the result of work led by my predecessor as President, RW Bro Geoffrey Dearing, and I would like to thank him and his Working Party for their hard work in producing a comprehensive set of amendments.

Following Royal Assent last month to the Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Act 2024, which quashed the convictions of Sub-postmasters caught up in the problems caused by the Post Office's "Horizon" computer software, I wish to remind Brethren of the powers given to the Board by the Grand Lodge in December 2022 to enable anyone who was expelled or resigned as a result of that miscarriage of justice to resume his Masonic activity. On behalf of the Board, I would welcome that information being shared by Brethren with anyone to whom it may apply, to enable him to make an appropriate application to the Board for restoration to the Craft.

MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I move that the Report of the Board of General Purposes be adopted and entered in the Minutes.

The Motion was seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT and was agreed to.

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, the Board's Report lists the names of those Grand Officers whose deaths were reported up to 14 May.

I now call on you to stand in memory of those departed Grand Officers and other members of Grand Lodge.

The Brethren stood in silence.

GRAND LODGE ACCOUNTS FOR 2023

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I now present the Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

2023 was, as the Board expected, a year with continued financial challenges. There were substantial further works to maintain the fabric of Freemasons' Hall, which will continue into the foreseeable future. Repairs to the Tower Entrance in particular were urgent. The utility suppliers have also passed on to us major increases in their charges.

The budget for 2023 incorporated these increases together with a below inflation increase in Membership Dues.

The Operating Deficit for the year of £1.1m was in line with our forecast.

The annual revaluation of our Property and Financial Investments resulted in a deficit of £2m which was in line with market conditions. This is a paper revaluation only and does not have any cash implications. Our balance sheet remains strong.

I would like to thank the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary and his team for their help and support through the challenges of the past year as we continue to maintain tight management of costs, the timing of major projects and increase our trading income from commercial opportunities at Freemasons' Hall.

If any Brother has any questions, I will do my best to answer them. In time honoured fashion, I would normally refer any questions put to me to the Grand Treasurer but unfortunately, he has fled the country this year!

(Laughter)

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: So are there any questions for the President of the Board? Now is your chance.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I move that the Report and Accounts of the Grand Lodge for the year ended 31 December 2023 be received and adopted.

The Motion was seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT and was agreed to.

ELECTION OF GRAND LODGE AUDITORS

On the proposition of RW Bro Philip Marshall, Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire seconded by RW Bro Richard Butler, *MBE, DL*, Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk, Crowe U.K. LLP, were re-elected auditors to Grand Lodge for the ensuing year.

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

AMENDMENT TO THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS

On the Motion of the PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES, seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT, the following amendment to the Book of Constitutions was approved:

Rule 270 (a) 5 amended to read:

“5. A Mason, inclusive of Grand Lodge Certificate (initiation, or joining from a Lodge not under the Grand Lodge), exaltation into the Royal Arch under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and Grand Chapter Certificate

(i) in a Lodge in England and Wales that is unattached

(ii) in a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province

(iii) in a Lodge in a District

(iv) in a Lodge abroad not under a District”

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

On the Motion of the PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES, seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT, the following resolutions were adopted.

(A) ANNUAL DUES 2025

“That in pursuance of Rule 269, Book of Constitutions, Annual Dues (inclusive of VAT) for the Year 2025 shall be payable by every Lodge in respect of each member as follows:

	£
In a Lodge in England and Wales that is unattached	74.00
In a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province	51.00
In a Lodge in a District	17.00
In a Lodge abroad not in a District	21.50

(B) FEES 2025

“That in pursuance of Rule 270, Book of Constitutions, fees (exclusive of VAT) shall be payable to the Fund of General Purposes during the Year 2025 as follows:

(a)	the Registration of	£
1.	A Grand Officer, present and past, on first appointment	159.00
2.	A Deputy or Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master or a Metropolitan Grand Inspector (under Rule 60)	92.00
3.	A Deputy or Assistant Provincial or District Grand Master (under Rule 66)	92.00
4.	A holder of Overseas Grand Rank (under Rule 93)	39.50
5.	A Mason, inclusive of Grand Lodge Certificate (initiation, or joining from a Lodge not under the Grand Lodge), exaltation into the Royal Arch under the Supreme Grand Chapter of England and Grand Chapter Certificate In a Lodge in England and Wales that is unattached	117.00
	In a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province	105.00
	In a Lodge in a District	67.00
	In a Lodge abroad not under a District	87.00
(b)	the replacement or amendment of a Grand Lodge Certificate	82.50
(c)	a Certificate for a Serving Brother	49.50
(d)	a Dispensation by the Grand Master	47.50
	a Dispensation by the Grand Master ‘nunc pro tunc’	95.00

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN GRAND LODGES

On the Motion of the PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES, seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT, the following Grand Lodges were recognised:

- (i) Grand Orient of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil
- (ii) Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

AMALGAMATION

On the Motion of the PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES, seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT, the following Lodges were removed from the register of the Grand Lodge:

Hemming Lodge, No. 1512 (Middlesex); Woodthorpe Lodge, No. 5645 (Nottinghamshire); and Bow Lodge, No. 7751 (London)

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

ERASURE OF LODGES

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES moved the erasure from the register of the Grand Lodge of the following Lodges:

Upton Lodge, No. 1227 (London); Bayard Lodge, No. 1615 (London); Stuart Lodge, No. 1632 (London); Haven Lodge, No. 2022 (London); Surbiton Lodge, No. 2146 (Surrey); Fordsburg Lodge, No. 2718 (South Africa, North); Chorley Wood Lodge, No. 3247 (Hertfordshire); Lister Lodge, No. 3599 (Warwickshire); Lodge Light in Arabia, No. 3870 (Surrey); Lodge of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men, No. 4273 (West Kent); Cubic Stone Lodge, No. 4720 (London); Corner-stone Lodge, No. 4941 (London); Viking Lodge, No. 5014 (Sussex); Faith and Works Lodge, No. 5079 (Staffordshire); Mersey Lodge, No. 5199 (West Lancashire); Cheyham Lodge, No. 5401 (Surrey); Radius Lodge, No. 5474 (London); Ellerray Park Lodge, No. 5620 (Cheshire); Homelyn Lodge, No. 6075 (Northumberland); West Watford Lodge, No. 6492 (Hertfordshire); Lodge of Venture, No. 6916 (Staffordshire); Colonnade Lodge, No. 7220 (London); Corinthian Lodge, No. 7251 (South Africa, North); Alexandra Commemoration Lodge, No. 7283 (Hertfordshire); Coronation Lodge, No. 7291 (South Africa, North); Omutena Lodge, No. 7376 (Namibia); Ercei Lodge, No. 7436 (East Kent); Horse Ferry Lodge, No. 7727 (London); Fraternity Lodge, No. 7729 (South Africa, North); Round Table Lodge of Sussex, No. 7965 (Sussex); Lodge of Truth and Honour, No. 7990 (London); Taurus of Sussex Lodge, No. 8148 (Sussex); First Pride Lodge, No. 8447 (South Africa, North); Europa Point Lodge, No. 8581 (London); Ryton Lodge, No. 8988 (Nottinghamshire); Square Mile Lodge, No. 9352 (London); Linwood Lodge, No. 9632 (Warwickshire); Melchizedek Lodge, No. 9756 (Hong Kong and the Far East); and Lodge of Daily Advancement, No. 9979 (Essex).

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, before we proceed to vote on this Resolution, I understand that W Bro Mark Sutherland, a member of Melchizedek Lodge, No. 9756 which is the subject of paragraph 3.27 of the Board's Report, has raised objection to the Lodge's erasure. Bro Sutherland is unable to be present today and has therefore asked that his objection be brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge. I now call upon the Grand Registrar.

GRAND REGISTRAR (VW Bro J.A.F. THOM, KC): MW Pro Grand Master, the Resolution to erase Melchizedek Lodge, No 9756 (Hong Kong and the Far East) was before the Quarterly Communication in December 2023 when it was stood over to permit the Lodge to make submissions that the MW The Grand Master should

exercise his discretion under Rule 188 of the Book of Constitutions to grant a dispensation to permit the Lodge to continue to meet.

The Lodge made submissions, and the MW The Grand Master has concluded that he should not grant a dispensation, and that the Lodge should not continue, but be erased under Rule 188.

W Bro Mark Sutherland, a member of the Lodge has contended by letters dated 29 May and 11 June 2024 that the refusal to grant a dispensation and the motion to erase are unlawful and contrary to the rules of natural justice and/or procedural fairness, and that reasons should have been given.

I have read and considered this correspondence and in my opinion there is no valid legal reason why the erasure should not proceed.

The Motion was seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT and was agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION

AMENDMENT TO THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I give notice that at the next Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge I will move the amendment to the Book of Constitutions standing in my name at item 11 of the Paper of Business.

(a) That the second sentence of the second paragraph of Rule 4 be amended to read:

“The Grand Lodge, while retaining authority to expel a Brother or to erase a Lodge, delegates its judicial and disciplinary authority to Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, the Board of General Purposes and Appeals Courts as hereinafter provided.”

(b) That in Rule 5 the existing items 44 (Deputy President of the Board of General Purposes) and 45 (Past Deputy Presidents of the Board of General Purposes) be renumbered as items 29 and 30 respectively and the existing items 29 to 43 be renumbered accordingly.

(c) That in Rule 18 “Deputy President of the Board of General Purposes.” be removed from its existing position and be placed immediately after “President of the Masonic Charitable Foundation.”

(d) That Rule 58 be amended to read:

“58. No motion for the erasure of a Lodge for misconduct, or for the expulsion of a Brother, shall be made, unless the Master and Wardens of the Lodge, or the Brother concerned, shall have been summoned to answer the complaint in person in the Grand Lodge, or to make answer in writing, as they or he may desire.”

- (e) That in Rule 74 the words “Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master” be deleted wherever they occur and the words “Disciplinary Authority” be substituted therefor.
- (f) That in Rule 74 the word “contumacy” be deleted and the words “contempt of Masonic authority” be substituted therefor.
- (g) That the wording (but not the headings) of Rules 75, 75A and 76 be deleted and the words “See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.
- (h) That Rule 127 (ii) be amended to read:
- (ii) If he comes within the provisions of this Rule by reason of his expulsion from the Craft or by reason of his resignation from the Craft under Rule 183A or the former Rule 277A, his right to attend any Lodge or Lodge of Instruction shall be forfeited.
- (i) That the first two paragraphs of Rule 139 be amended to read:
- Prohibited days for Meetings*
139. (a) In no case may a meeting of the Grand Lodge, or of any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge, or of any private Lodge be held upon
- (i) Christmas Day or Good Friday; or
- (ii) unless by prior dispensation of the Grand Master, a Sunday
- and the provisions of this Rule are subject always to those days being prohibited days for any such meeting.
- Meetings falling upon prohibited days or public holidays*
- (b) In case the specified day for the regular meeting of a Lodge shall fall upon Christmas Day, Good Friday, a Sunday, or a public holiday, then the meeting shall be held on such alternative day (being not more than seven days before nor more than seven days after the specified day) as the Master shall direct, save only that in the case of the specified day falling upon a Sunday or a public holiday the meeting may be held upon that day provided that it be not a prohibited day.
- (j) That in Rule 152 the words “Rule 179” be deleted and “Paragraph 4 of the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.
- (k) That the final sentence of Rule 164 (a)(ii) be amended to read:
- “If the Grand Secretary shall decline to grant a certificate, the Master may, if authorised by a resolution of the Lodge following notice on the summons, seek a ruling from the Board of General Purposes under Rule 184.”

- (l) That the final sentence of Rule 175 be amended to read:

In particular, a Brother who has been expelled from the Craft, who has resigned from the Craft under the former Rule 277A or to whom Paragraph 6 of the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions applies shall not be granted a Certificate.

- (m) That the wording (but not the headings) of Rules 179, 179A and 179B be deleted and the words “See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.

- (n) That in Rule 182(d) the words “Rule 185” be deleted and “Paragraph 15 of the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.

- (o) That paragraph (f) of Rule 183A be deleted and the words “See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.

- (p) That Rule 184 (and its heading) be amended to read:

“Masonic questions

184. Any Masonic question other than one coming under Rule 181 or Rule 182 which cannot be settled between the parties to it shall be reduced into writing and delivered as follows:

Under Rule 164(a) or not in Metropolitan Areas, Provinces and Districts

- (a) If in relation to a refusal by the Grand Secretary to grant a certificate under Rule 164(a)(ii), or a question arising in, or in connection with a member of, a Lodge in a place where no Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master has jurisdiction to the Grand Secretary, who shall lay the same before the Board of General Purposes.

In Metropolitan Areas, Provinces and Districts

- (b) Subject to (a) above if arising in, or in connection with a member of, a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area, Province or District to the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary, who shall lay the same before the Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master.”

- (q) That the wording (but not the heading) of Rule 185 be deleted and the words “See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.

- (r) That Rule 191B (and its heading) be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

“Notice

191B. (a) Every Brother must supply to Masonic authority an email address and a postal address to which notices or other documents may be sent to him (“an address for service”). The address may be that of the Brother concerned, or of someone authorised by him to receive service on his behalf.

(b) Every Brother must thereafter ensure that any change to an address for service, including revocation or variation of any authority to receive service, is notified forthwith to Masonic authority.

(c) for the purposes of this rule only, notification to Masonic authority is made when:

- (i) a Brother updates his Masonic record on the membership database operated by the Grand Secretary;
- (ii) two days after his Lodge Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother; or
- (iii) if he is not a member of any Lodge, two days after the Grand Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother.

(d) Any document within paragraph (e)(i) below must be in writing and bear the name of the person issuing it, but need not be signed, and will be sufficiently served if sent by email to an address for service which is an email address and if sent by post to an address for service which is a postal address. A document within paragraph (e)(ii) below addressed to a Lodge or all its members will be sufficiently served if the same conditions are satisfied, but insofar as such a document is sent to an individual Brother under the respective Rules it must be sent by post. Service may be proved by a copy of a sent email or a copy of the letter certified by the individual who posted it.

(e) The documents to which Rule 191B(d) above applies are:

- (i) any summons to any Lodge or Brother to appear before
 - (A) the Grand Lodge;
 - (B) the Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant;
 - (C) the Board of General Purposes;
 - (D) any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master (or any Brother nominated by him); or
 - (E) any Grand Inspector; or
- (ii) any notice or document to a Lodge or an individual Brother in connection with
 - (A) any motion under Rule 105(b) that the Master Elect be not installed;
 - (B) the removal of any Officer of a Lodge under Rule 120;
 - (C) the permanent exclusion of a Brother under Rule 181

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) to (e) above, if the Grand Secretary or any Lodge or Brother shall receive any such notice or summons

or document and shall proceed to act upon it as though it had been issued in compliance with those provisions he or the Lodge as the case may be shall not thereafter be entitled to treat it as invalid in reliance only upon the fact that it was not in compliance with those provisions.”

- (s) That the wording (but not the headings) of Rules 232 and 233 be deleted and the words “See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.
- (t) That the wording (but not the headings) of Rule 234 be deleted and the words “See now Rule 74” be substituted therefor.
- (u) That the wording (but not the headings) of Rules 235, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276 and 277 be deleted and the words “See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.
- (v) That Rule 277A and its heading be deleted and the words “Rule 277A was deleted in toto in September 2024” be substituted therefor.
- (w) That the wording (but not the headings) of Rules 278 and 279 be deleted and the words “See now the Schedule of Disciplinary Provisions” be substituted therefor.
- (x) That Rule 280 be deleted and the words “Rule 280 was deleted in toto in September 2024” be substituted therefor.
- (y) That the following Schedule be inserted immediately before THE CHARGES OF A FREE-MASON:

“SCHEDULE OF DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

Rule 4 provides that Grand Lodge, while retaining authority to expel a Brother or to erase a Lodge, delegates its judicial and disciplinary authority to Metropolitan, Provincial and District Grand Masters, the Board of General Purposes and Appeals Courts.

Disciplinary Offences

1. Every Brother has a duty not to:

- (a) commit an offence contrary to the criminal law of any jurisdiction to which he may for the time being be subject;
- (b) breach:
 - (i) any of the General Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Craft; or
 - (ii) any edict of the Grand Lodge from time to time reproduced in the most recent edition of *Information for the Guidance of Members of the Craft*; or
- (a) engage in activity which may bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

Sub-paragraph (a) shall also apply to any offence committed before initiation unless that offence was a spent conviction at the date of initiation or was fully disclosed on a candidate's application form before initiation.

Reporting Obligations

2. (a) A Brother who is convicted of:

- (i) an offence of a sexual nature or involving dishonesty or violence; or
- (ii) any criminal offence
 - (A) for which he received a custodial sentence (immediate or suspended); or
 - (B) in respect of which he was made the subject of a Community Order by a Court in the United Kingdom;

shall report the fact within 28 days to the Master of his Lodge, or (if he be unattached) to the Grand Secretary.

(b) A Brother who comes under a duty to report his conviction under Paragraph 2(a), whether or not he has complied therewith, shall not attend any Lodge or Chapter until his case is determined by the Disciplinary Authority unless he has the written permission of the Disciplinary Authority having jurisdiction over such Lodge or Chapter.

(c) The Master shall report to the Disciplinary Authority within 28 days:

- (i) the case of any member of his Lodge who is convicted of an offence falling within Paragraph 2(a); and
- (ii) any conduct or activity by a member of his Lodge which is likely to bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

(d) A Disciplinary Authority shall report to the Grand Secretary without delay:

- (i) all reports the Disciplinary Authority receives which were made under Paragraph 2(a) or 2(c);
- (ii) any other conduct or activity which, in the opinion of the Disciplinary Authority, is likely to bring Freemasonry into disrepute.

Duty to assist Masonic Authority

3. It is the duty of every Brother to comment or provide information in relation to a complaint or allegation of misconduct (whether such complaint or allegation is made against him or another Brother or a Lodge) if so required by any Disciplinary Authority or Appeals Court.

Power to Determine Complaint

4. (a) The Disciplinary Authority shall determine all cases of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Masons within his jurisdiction.

(b) Where more than one Disciplinary Authority would otherwise have jurisdiction over a case of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting an individual Mason or Masons the jurisdiction over the case shall be assigned in accordance with Paragraph 23.

(c) When exercising jurisdiction in a case of Masonic complaint or irregularity the Disciplinary Authority may:

- (i) Determine summarily that the case does not merit any action and dismiss the complaint;
- (ii) Proceed to determine the case himself; or
- (iii) Depute the duty of investigation and reporting to him upon the circumstances of the case to a Committee consisting of such Brethren of Lodges under his authority as the case may require for that purpose including if possible at least one legally qualified Brother. Within a reasonable period of receipt of the report of the Committee he shall determine the case and in doing so may accept or reject either in whole or in part the findings of the Committee and act either in whole or in part upon its recommendations or otherwise as he sees fit.

(d) The procedure adopted by a Disciplinary Authority determining the case himself under Paragraph 4(b) or by a Committee appointed under Paragraph 4(c) shall be fair and proportionate and be in accordance with the rules for the conduct of disciplinary cases from time to time prescribed, and any guidance given, by the Board of General Purposes.

(e) Findings of fact of the final Court of law or tribunal in relation to the matters under consideration shall be binding and not open to review by the Disciplinary Authority or any Committee appointed by him, or, on any subsequent hearing, by an Appeals Court;

(f) If the Disciplinary Authority concludes that a case of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Masons within his jurisdiction has been established he may:

- (i) impose no sanction;
- (ii) impose an admonition;
- (iii) impose the penalty specified by any applicable Rule;
- (iv) impose a suspension of fixed length;

(v) write to the Mason recommending that he resign within 28 days or such longer period as he may allow, failing which he will recommend expulsion; or

(vi) recommend expulsion or erasure.

(g) If the Disciplinary Authority imposes an admonition or suspension he shall forward a report of the case with all necessary particulars as soon as practicable to the Grand Secretary, unless in the case of an admonition the Disciplinary Authority considers the case of insufficient importance to require this to be done.

(h) If the Disciplinary Authority recommends expulsion or erasure he shall make a special report to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary shall thereupon cause the matter to be laid before an Appeals Court pursuant to Paragraph 17. A recommendation that a Lodge be erased or a Brother be expelled or invited to resign shall take effect as a penalty of suspension until such time as the question of erasure or expulsion shall have been decided by an Appeals Court or the Brother shall have resigned.

(i) The decision of the Disciplinary Authority shall be final unless an appeal be made under Paragraph 15.

Effect of Suspension

5. (a) A suspension may apply to a Brother's membership of a particular Lodge or Lodges or to all or some only of his Masonic privileges and such Brother remains liable for his subscription to any Lodge from which he has been suspended.

(b) Suspension shall be for a fixed period except as provided in Paragraphs 4(h) and 16.

(c) If a Lodge is suspended its members remain collectively liable to pay the Lodge's dues to the Grand Lodge or Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Lodge and each member is liable for his share of proper expenses incurred by the Lodge during the period of suspension.

(d) If new circumstances be proved to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Authority which imposed a penalty of suspension the suspension may be abbreviated or terminated.

Resignation in disciplinary circumstances

6. A Brother who has resigned at any time under Rule 183A and thereby avoided being the subject of Masonic disciplinary sanction shall not be entitled to resume any of the rights and privileges of a Freemason but shall be treated for all purposes as though he had been expelled from the Craft at the moment at which his resignation became effective save that it shall not be necessary for his name and the reason for his resignation to be reported to the Grand Lodge. For the purposes of this Paragraph

a Brother shall have avoided being the subject of Masonic disciplinary sanction if at the time he resigned:

(a) he had been notified formally or informally that Masonic disciplinary proceedings had been or were likely to be commenced against him and either such proceedings had not been concluded or any period of suspension imposed as a result of such proceedings had not come to an end;

(b) he had during the period of his membership of the Craft:

(i) a conviction for a criminal offence; or

(ii) been disqualified by reason of misconduct from the practice of his profession by the body regulating such profession

in respect of which he had not been notified formally or informally either that Masonic disciplinary proceedings had been or were likely to be commenced against him or that it was not intended to take disciplinary action; or

(c) circumstances existed as a result of which proceedings were subsequently commenced following which he was convicted of a criminal offence or disqualified by reason of misconduct from the practice of his profession by the body regulating such profession.

Appeals Courts

Functions of Appeals Courts

7. An Appeals Court shall hear and determine:

(a) Any Appeal against a decision of a Disciplinary Authority made under Rules 74, 182(b), 184 or Paragraph 4 or any appeal arising out of the refusal of the Grand Secretary to grant a certificate under Rule 164(a)(ii); and

(b) Any recommendation by a Disciplinary Authority for expulsion of a Brother or the erasure of a Lodge.

Constitution of the Commission for Appeals Courts

8. The Commission for Appeals Courts shall consist of a Panel appointed under Paragraph 10 and ordinary Members appointed under Paragraph 11.

9. No Brother shall be eligible for membership of the Panel or to sit as an ordinary Member if and for so long as he is a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, a member of the Board of General Purposes, a Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, Grand Superintendent of a Royal Arch Province or District or a member of the Committee of General Purposes of Supreme Grand Chapter.

10. The Panel shall consist of not less than five Brethren from which the presiding officer of an Appeals Court shall be chosen and shall be appointed as follows:

- (a) they shall be appointed annually by the Grand Master;
- (b) they may so long as they remain eligible be reappointed as often as the Grand Master may see fit; and
- (c) if a member of the Panel shall die or resign or become disqualified the Grand Master may appoint an eligible Brother to fill the vacancy.

11. The ordinary Members shall be appointed as follows:

- (a) Up to eight Brethren eligible to attend Grand Lodge, being either Masters or Past Masters of Lodges in Metropolitan Areas or Provinces or of unattached Lodges in England and Wales, shall each year be appointed by the Grand Master, to serve for a term of three years from the next Annual Installation of the Grand Master, provided that a majority of the Brethren appointed in each year shall be selected from among Brethren nominated from Lodges in Provinces. Nominations by members of any of the aforesaid Lodges who are eligible to attend Grand Lodge, containing the names of the several Brethren, the names and numbers of their Lodges and their Masonic rank, shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary on or before the last day in November.
- (b) Not more than one member of any Lodge shall be eligible, as such, for nomination as a candidate to be an ordinary Member; but this shall not prevent a duly qualified Brother, being a subscribing member of another Lodge, from being nominated in respect of his membership of such other Lodge.
- (c) If any ordinary Member shall die, resign, be removed from office, become a member of the Panel or become ineligible by reason of Paragraph 9, the vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a duly qualified Brother as soon as convenient after the Grand Secretary receives notice that a vacancy has occurred.
- (d) Ordinary Members shall be eligible for re-appointment after having served the term for which they were appointed.

Constitution of Appeals Courts

12. (a) An Appeals Court shall consist of one member of the Panel and not less than two ordinary Members.
- (b) Whenever it is necessary to constitute an Appeals Court the Grand Master or a Brother acting on his behalf shall select a member of the Panel to preside and the ordinary Members, save that the Brother selected to preside shall be entitled to nominate the other members of the Court. All questions shall be determined by a majority of votes, the presiding Brother in case of equality having a second or casting vote.

Case Management Powers of Appeals Court

13. An Appeals Court has the powers conferred upon Disciplinary Authorities by Rule 74 (to summon to produce documents) and must deal with the case that is before it in a manner which is

- (a) fair; and
- (b) proportionate.

14. For this purpose an Appeals Court has the power to give case management directions in any case before it in any way it thinks fit, including, without limitation, the power to:

- (a) impose limits on written submissions, evidence and documents, whether before or after their supply to the Appeals Court;
- (b) exclude any written submissions, evidence and documents not compliant with those limits;
- (c) exclude any issue from consideration;
- (d) impose limits on oral evidence (where such evidence is permissible) and argument;

and in exercising this power an Appeals Court shall have regard to any rules or guidance issued from time to time by the Board of General Purposes. Prior to the hearing this power may be exercised by the member of the Panel appointed to preside, and at the hearing it shall be exercised by the Appeals Court then sitting.

Appeals

15. Any Lodge or Brother directly affected and feeling aggrieved by a decision given under Rules 74, 182(b), 184 or Paragraph 4 may appeal against such a decision to an Appeals Court. The Board of General Purposes, subject to Sub-paragraph (i), may similarly appeal against such a decision if it is of the view that it is unduly lenient. For this purpose the following provisions apply:

- (a) The appeal must be made within three months after the decision appealed from or such, if any, longer period as the Grand Master may in his absolute discretion allow;
- (b) The appeal must be made in writing, and so long as a prescribed form is laid down in the Appeals Court Rules it must be made in that form;
- (c) The appeal must identify the particular grievance complained of and must be written in proper and respectful language, and if it is not, it will not be entertained and the Appeals Court may dismiss such appeal without further consideration;
- (d) The appeal must be sent to the Grand Secretary, to the maker of the decision and to the opposite party, if any;

(e) The appeal must be accompanied by copies of all relevant documents, but the nature and number of documents supplied must comply with:

(i) The Rules of Procedure for Appeals Courts; and

(ii) Any Guidance given from time to time by the Board of General Purposes.

(f) The Appeal must be served in accordance with Paragraph 22;

(g) Any penalty of suspension or exclusion shall remain in force pending the determination of the appeal; provided that, in the case of a suspension imposed for a fixed period, any member of the Panel may, if of opinion that the appeal has a reasonable prospect of success and that the justice of the case so demands, direct that the suspension be lifted until such time as the appeal shall have been determined.

(h) The appeal may be dismissed without a hearing if and in so far as the Appeals Court determines:

(i) that it seeks to raise any matter which has already been determined by a previous appeal, or could and should have been raised in a previous appeal; or

(ii) that it is vexatious or totally without merit; or

(iii) that it is otherwise an abuse of the procedures of the Appeals Court.

(i) In relation to an appeal by the Board of General Purposes the period stipulated in Sub-paragraph (a) shall be six months.

16. On any appeal to an Appeals Court the following provisions shall apply:

(a) the Appeals Court may allow the appeal only if satisfied that the relevant Disciplinary Authority erred in law or made a decision outside the range of decisions which could have been made by a Disciplinary Authority acting reasonably;

(b) the Appeals Court may in relation to the whole or any part of the decision under appeal:

(i) confirm the decision;

(ii) rescind the decision; or

(iii) vary the decision by substituting any sanction listed in Paragraph 4(f) (i–iv) or a penalty of erasure or expulsion, or a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft;

(c) before substituting a penalty of erasure or expulsion, or a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft, the Appeals Court must consider all the circumstances of the case in accordance with Paragraph 19;

(d) the decision of the Appeals Court shall be final and binding on the parties to the Appeal and the maker of the decision and they shall be notified thereof by the Grand Secretary as soon as practicable.

(e) A direction under (b) above that a Brother be invited to resign shall take effect as a penalty of suspension until the Brother shall have resigned. If he fails to do so within 28 days the direction shall take effect as an order for his expulsion.

Erasure and Expulsion

17. (a) Whenever the Grand Secretary shall receive a report from any Disciplinary Authority recommending the erasure of a Lodge for misconduct or expulsion of a Brother, he shall subject to (b) below cause it to be laid before an Appeals Court .

(b) A member of the Panel shall review every recommendation for erasure or expulsion before it is laid before an Appeals Court and if satisfied that the only possible outcome is erasure or expulsion he shall direct the Grand Secretary to inform the Master of the Lodge or Brother concerned by letter that from the date of the letter such Lodge shall thereupon be erased or the Brother expelled from the Craft as the case may be.

18. The Appeals Court is for this purpose not an appellate court but exercises an original jurisdiction and must deal with the case in one of the following ways:

(a) If the Appeals Court shall be of opinion that the recommendation should proceed it shall direct the Grand Secretary to inform the Master of the Lodge or Brother concerned by letter that from the date of the letter such Lodge shall thereupon be erased or the Brother expelled from the Craft as the case may be;

(b) The Appeals Court may substitute any penalty authorised by Paragraph 4(f(i-iv)) or a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft, with the consequences set out in Paragraph 16.

(c) The Appeals Court may dismiss the case.

19. Before imposing a penalty of erasure or expulsion, or making a direction that a Brother be invited to resign from the Craft the Appeals Court must consider all the circumstances of the case, including without limitation any mitigation related to the matters giving rise to the penalty or direction, to their background, or to the history, qualities and future prospects of the Lodge or Brother concerned to the intent that any matter which might previously have been advanced on a plea for clemency shall, if advanced, be considered by the Appeals Court.

20. The decision of the Appeals Court shall be final and binding on all the parties.

Suspension or Expulsion from the Royal Arch

21. All sentences of suspension from Royal Arch privileges passed on a Companion by the Grand Chapter or other competent authority in the Royal Arch shall, unless such authority declares to the contrary, suspend such Companion as a Brother from the equivalent privileges in the Craft. All sentences of expulsion by the Grand Chapter shall automatically expel from Craft Masonry.

Notice

22. (a) Every Brother must supply to Masonic authority an email address and a postal address to which notices or other documents may be sent to him (“an address for service”). The address may be that of the Brother concerned, or of someone authorised by him to receive service on his behalf.

(b) Every Brother must thereafter ensure that any change to an address for service, including revocation or variation of any authority to receive service, is notified forthwith to Masonic authority.

(c) for the purposes of this Paragraph only, notification to Masonic authority is made when:

- (i) a Brother updates his Masonic record on the membership database operated from time to time by the Grand Secretary;
- (ii) two days after his Lodge Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother; or
- (iii) if he is not a member of any Lodge, two days after the Grand Secretary receives the updated data from the Brother.

(d) Any document within (c) below must be in writing and bear the name of the person issuing it, but need not be signed, and will be sufficiently served if sent by email to an address for service which is an email address and if sent by post to an address for service which is a postal address. Service may be proved by a copy of a sent email or a copy of the letter certified by the individual who posted it.

(e) The documents to which (d) above applies are:

- (i) any summons to any Lodge or Brother to appear before
 - (A) the Grand Lodge;
 - (B) the Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant;
 - (C) the Board of General Purposes;
 - (D) any Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master (or any Brother nominated by him); or
 - (E) any Grand Inspector; or
- (ii) any notice or document to a Lodge or an individual Brother in connection with
 - (A) any summons under Rule 74;
 - (B) any disciplinary proceedings or any dispute falling within the provisions of Paragraphs 4 or 15; or
 - (C) any appeal under Paragraph 17.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a) to (e) above, if the Grand Secretary or any Lodge or Brother shall receive any such notice or summons or document and shall proceed to act upon it as though it had been issued in compliance with those provisions he or the Lodge as the case may be shall not thereafter be entitled to treat it as invalid in reliance only upon the fact that it was not in compliance with those provisions.

Jurisdiction

23. For the purpose of determining which Masonic authority has jurisdiction over any Lodge or any individual Brother the following provisions shall apply:

(a) A Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master shall have jurisdiction over every Lodge comprised within his Metropolitan Area, Province or District, notwithstanding that on any particular occasion it may be temporarily meeting by dispensation outside the geographical boundaries of his Metropolitan Area, Province or District. Save to the extent that jurisdiction shall have been conferred on a Grand Inspector by his patent the Board of General Purposes shall have jurisdiction over every other Lodge.

(b) Save as provided in (e) below every Brother who is a subscribing member of a Lodge shall fall within the jurisdiction of the authority having jurisdiction over such Lodge and, in the event of his being a member of more than one Lodge, he shall fall within the jurisdiction of each such authority.

(c) Save as provided in (e) below a Brother who is no longer a subscribing member of any Lodge shall fall under the jurisdiction of the authority having jurisdiction over the Lodge of which he was most recently a member and if there be more than one such Lodge, the Lodge among them of which he had been longest a member.

(d) A serving Brother shall for the purposes of this Rule be treated as though he were a member for the time being of each Lodge which he serves.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) and (c) above, in any matter directly connected with the proceedings, affairs or conduct of a particular Lodge the Masonic authority having jurisdiction over that Lodge shall have exclusive jurisdiction even if any Brother concerned may not be a member of a Lodge within the jurisdiction of that authority. For the purposes of this paragraph the proceedings of a Lodge shall include any occurrence, whether preceding or following a meeting, on the premises (or any facility forming part thereof) in which the Lodge meets or dines.

24. Where more than one authority has jurisdiction over a Brother by virtue of the provisions of Paragraph 23(b) the authority within whose jurisdiction he resides, or nearest to which he resides, shall primarily have jurisdiction and no other authority shall take any step towards assuming jurisdiction without first obtaining the consent of that authority.

25. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 23, where a Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master or a Grand Inspector, having identified all the material circumstances, is of the view that those circumstances would lead a fair-minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility that a determination by him in accordance with those provisions would not be impartial, he shall refer the investigation (or further investigation) and determination of such case to another Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Master, nominated by the Board of General Purposes; provided that in a case arising in a District or Lodge under a Grand Inspector the Board may, in its discretion, nominate a Past District Grand Master (of that or another District) for such purpose.

(b) Such other Masonic authority nominated by the Board shall proceed in all respects as if the complaint or irregularity were in respect of a Lodge or individual Mason within his own jurisdiction (or former jurisdiction). Any determination, order or report that he may make shall take effect as though it had been made by the referring Disciplinary Authority.

26. Where the Board of General Purposes is the Disciplinary Authority, in case of any charge or complaint affecting a member of the Board or a Lodge to which he belongs, such member shall withdraw while the Board considers its decision.

Disciplinary Proceedings Rules

27. The Board of General Purposes may from time to time make rules for the conduct of disciplinary proceedings and for the procedure to be observed and such rules shall be observed by every Disciplinary Authority and Appeals Court and be binding on all parties. Provided that any rules binding on Appeals Courts ("Appeals Court Rules") shall not take effect until:

(a) the Board has communicated to the members of the Appeals Court Panel a draft of its proposed rules, alteration or rescission; and

(b) the Board has considered and had due regard to any comments by the Panel.

Definitions

28. In this Schedule and, where the context requires, in the General Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Craft

(a) "Appeals Court" means a court constituted in accordance with Paragraph 12.

(b) "Appeals Court Rules" has the meaning given in Paragraph 27.

(c) "Disciplinary Authority" means for any matter the Masonic authority identified as having jurisdiction over that matter in accordance with Paragraph 23.

Transitional Rules

29. In this Paragraph the “Effective Date” shall mean 12 September 2024, “Old Provisions” shall mean those Rules in the Book of Constitutions in force immediately before the Effective Date and the “New Provisions” shall mean those Rules and Paragraphs in force from the Effective Date. The following transitional provisions shall apply:

(a) All pending disciplinary processes which complied with the Old Provisions before the Effective Date and which were conducted by or on behalf of:

- (i) a Disciplinary Authority;
- (ii) a subject of the disciplinary process or a recipient of a Summons from a Disciplinary Authority; or
- (iii) an Appeals Court or the Grand Secretary,

shall be valid and may be relied upon as having satisfied the New Provisions.

(b) Any plea for clemency which at the Effective Date:

- (i) has been made and is outstanding; or
- (ii) could have been made under Rule 277(a)(i) of the Old Provisions notwithstanding that it is made in compliance with that Old Provision on or after the Effective Date,

shall be heard by a Panel for Clemency convened in accordance with the Old Provisions.

Note: Paragraphs 1(a) and 1(c) restate the equivalent Old Provisions and so may form the basis for disciplinary proceedings after the Effective Date where the offence or activity occurred before the Effective Date.”

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION 2025

On the Motion of the PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES, seconded by the DEPUTY PRESIDENT, the following resolution was adopted.

“That in pursuance of Rule 271, Book of Constitutions, there shall be payable to The Masonic Charitable Foundation in respect of every member of a Lodge in a Metropolitan Area or a Province, or in England and Wales that is unattached, for the year 2025 a contribution of not less than £17.

(No payment is due in respect of members of Lodges overseas)”

PRESENTATION

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren the next item is to receive a presentation from RW Bro Russell Race.

RW BRO R.J. RACE, *DL*, PDepGM: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, when I was asked by the President of the Board to give a brief talk about Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter, I agreed with some trepidation – both because I had been quite close to events at its formation in 2003 and also, as our late Queen remarked, ‘Recollections can vary’! This does not therefore, purport to be a definitive record of events; that history remains to be written in the future. Having started my Masonic life as a Provincial Mason and still enjoying active participation in Provincial units, but also being a London Mason of many years standing, I hope that my thoughts on London Masonry may be considered dispassionate and reasonably balanced.

London’s position within UGLE is undoubtedly a significant one because of the antiquity of many of its Lodges, the geographical position it occupies and the fact that over the years some 15–20% of UGLE’s membership derives from London units.

Nearly 21 years since the inauguration of Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter at the Royal Albert Hall in October 2003 may be an appropriate point at which to assess its contribution to our Order. We should not, of course, forget that many London Masons have joined since that date, and therefore know little, if anything, of what came before Metropolitan Grand Lodge was formed.

The historic vote in March 2003 to approve the formation of Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter was by no means the first occasion on which such a change had been mooted. Pre-1914 the concept was seriously considered, but the inevitable disruption caused by the Great War put a stop to that; again, some 30 years before the successful vote, the then Pro Grand Master was keen for the issue to be raised at the Board but little progress was made. Over the years, suggestions had included not only a single Metropolitan Grand Lodge, but indeed, four Metropolitan Grand Lodges dividing London into quadrants. Thank goodness we didn’t go down that route.

Administratively, before the inauguration, London reported to the Board whilst the day-to-day administration was carried out by a team within the Grand Secretary’s office. Successive Assistant Grand Masters also had a role, as being responsible for London. Lord Farnham and The Earl of Eglinton and Winton, as successive Assistant Grand Masters, chaired a working party designed to improve the quality of Freemasonry in London, but it was undoubtedly the drive of The Marquess of Northampton which saw the project through to its successful conclusion, ably assisted by David Williamson, the then Assistant Grand Master and Michael Lawson

and by Rex Thorne, the Chairman of London Management, and his deputy, Brian de Neut.

As one speaker in the 2003 debate noted “London Masons will, for the very first time, have their own distinctive voice in the high counsels of Masonry and a Metropolitan Grand Master to speak on their behalf, and whose voice will be listened to.” I think that has been the case over the years.

The consultation period was lengthy and resulted in a number of amendments to the original proposals, not least the retention of London’s unique honours system. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that the proposal to form Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter when it came to the Quarterly Communication in March 2003, did not meet with the entire approbation of those present! I well remember sitting in the front row, as an active Grand Steward of the year, keeping my head well down, and just hoping for a successful vote, as by then I was destined to move from being the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in East Kent to become the first Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, under Lord Millett. As the minutes record, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by a substantial majority.

The Inauguration itself, on 1 October that year, required almost as much detailed planning as the prior consultation, with its lengthy ceremonies, and a lunch in between, to organise in the stunning but complex surroundings of the Royal Albert Hall. It was a baptism of fire for the newly appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies, a certain Jonathan Spence. A day that I am sure he remembers with pleasure and pride.

Since 2003, there have been several administrative changes in order to more closely align the needs of London Masons, their Lodges and their Chapters to the organisation serving them. London’s unique system, with Chairman and Deputy Chairman has gone – one of whom we have seen ennobled today, well done Keith – to be replaced with a more conventional format encompassing Deputies, Assistants, Inspectors and now, Assistant Inspectors, the aim being to ensure that London is a compact piece of Masonry wrought in the form of a single entity, rather than encouraging separate fiefdoms. Like many others, London Masons have been somewhat adverse to change over the years, so such amendments that have been made since 2003, have been evolutionary rather than revolutionary in nature. Interestingly, the use of the term “Inspector”, which was deemed totally unacceptable in 2003, is now accepted without demur. There are a few London Lodges which, quite deliberately lie outside the bailiwick of Metropolitan Grand Lodge, notably the Time Immemorial Lodges.

Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter have, from inception, held joint executive meetings and London is, and I know will continue to be, fully aligned with ‘one organisation, one journey.’ Relations with neighbouring Provinces have been good, and there is considerable cross fertilisation of ideas for

improved ritual practice. It is particularly pleasing to see how many of the initiatives in the Royal Arch have been taken up not only in London, but more widely.

On the charitable front, London Lodges were already pulling together before 2003 in, for example, the Assistant Grand Master's Appeal for the new Masonic Samaritan Fund, which raised at that time (1990s), a staggering figure of nearly £11m. Since then a number of excellent causes have benefited in a substantial way from the generosity of London Masons – the Cyberknife at Barts Hospital, mobile platforms for the London Fire Brigade, and continuing support for the London Air Ambulance to name but a few; and of course the annual appearance at the well publicised Lord Mayor's Show.

All Masonic areas, from the smallest Province or District, right up to Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter themselves, require and deserve efficient administration, and before I conclude I wanted to pay tribute to the loyal staff and volunteers of Metropolitan who, from personal experience, have done an outstanding job for London members. Many have served right through from London Management days to today and we all owe them a great deal of gratitude.

So, in summary, have Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter fulfilled their aims of the last 20 years? Are London Masons better served than they would otherwise have been? My answer is a very positive 'yes' – both in terms of much greater feeling of identity which London Masons now have, and the opportunity which they have to serve in a coordinated way – be it through holding office in Metropolitan Grand Lodge or Metropolitan Grand Chapter, contributing to charitable causes or playing a positive and active role in their communities.

As London enters a new era under Warren Duke, we all wish him, his executive, and all of those who contribute so positively to London Masonry, a happy and thriving future.

(Loud applause)

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Bro Russell, thank you very much indeed and I am very glad that you drew to everyone's attention, your antecedents in a very distinguished Province.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, the Grand Master has made the following appointments:

W Bro Nicholas Wilson, PAGReg as Provincial Grand Master for, and Grand Superintendent in and over Cumberland and Westmorland, in succession to RW Bro William Bewley, who retires on 15 July. Bro Wilson will be installed the following day.

VW Bro Mathew Joseph, PGSwdB as District Grand Master, and Grand Superintendent in and over Madras, in succession to RW Bro Theophilus Devagnanam with effect from a date in February 2025 to be arranged.

WELCOME

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I would like on your behalf to welcome some distinguished visitors from overseas who are with us today.

From the Grand Lodge of Austria, we have, MW Bro Georg Semler, Grand Master, he is accompanied by RW Bro Johann Hauf, our representative at that Grand Lodge;

from the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, RW Bro Jack Ford, our representative at that Grand Lodge;

from the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland, W Bro Norval Gough, our representative at that Grand Lodge;

from the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, MW Bro Marco Tulio Reyes, Grand Master, he is accompanied by RW Bro Fermin Rodriguez, Deputy Grand Master;

from the Grand Lodge “El Potosi” of the State of San Luis Potosi, MW Bro Samuel Bacasehua Valenzuela, Grand Master, he is accompanied by VW Bro Jesús Emmanuel Mier Sánchez, Grand Chancellor;

from the Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul, MW Bro Celito Cristofoli, Grand Master, he is accompanied by RW Bro Cassio F. Willrich, Grand Secretary of Foreign Affairs;

from the Grand Lodge of Western Australia, MW Bro Daniel Lewis Ganon, Grand Master, he is accompanied by RW Bro Clifford Christopher Hope, SGW;

from the Grand Lodge of the State of Espírito Santos, RW Bro Jorge Henrique Valle dos Santos, Grand Chancellor;

from the Grand Orient of Paraná, MW Bro Cristian Flores, Grand Master, he is accompanied by RW Bro André Feofiloff, Grand Secretary for Foreign Affairs;

from the Grand Lodge of Spain, RW Bro Josep Maria Albouy, Assistant Grand Master;

and

from the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia, MW Bro Lukas Rasulić, Grand Master; he is accompanied by VW Bro Tahir Hasanović, Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations

From our own Constitution, we have, Brethren from the following Districts:

Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean; Cyprus; Eastern Archipelago; Ghana; Gibraltar; Hong Kong and the Far East; Nigeria; Trinidad and Tobago.

from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, the Pro Grand Master, RW Bro John Prizeman, PJGW;

from the Supreme Council 33°, the Sovereign Grand Commander, VW Bro John Boyington, PGSwdB;

from the Great Priory of Knights Templar, the Grand Master, VW Bro Paul Clement, PGSwdB; and

from the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, the Grand Master, VW Bro Kessick Jones, PGSwdB.

I have had no notice of any other distinguished visitors from overseas or from within our constitution. However, I extend on your behalf a very warm welcome to all Brethren who have travelled a long distance to be with us today.

(Applause)

PRO GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, it is very good to see so many of you here today, notwithstanding the other attractions available on a very fine summer's day! You can see this was written more in hope than expectation.

(Laughter)

I always think of this Quarterly Communication as something of a transitional moment in the rhythm of the Masonic year. This is the first Communication after the Annual Investiture and therefore the first occasion when the new Grand Officers of the Year, under the careful tutelage and watchful eye of the Grand Director of Ceremonies and his team of Deputies, discharge their duties in Grand Lodge. I think we can all agree, Brethren, it has been a very encouraging start and bodes well for the rest of their term of duty.

It is also our last Communication before the summer and a time for reflection on recent developments and how we, as a Grand Lodge, might respond. In particular, I am referring to a small number of critical articles in the press recently which are both ill-informed and, in some cases, deliberately and wilfully prejudiced. You are all familiar with the usual myths, misconceptions, and innuendos which are trotted out and it is a matter of profound regret that they continue to be used so readily by a few journalists.

More recently there have been two recurring themes from different journalists. The first is the claim that Freemasonry in this country is a male only activity and therefore inherently wrong, non-inclusive and misogynistic. The second is, once again, a focus on the alleged lack of transparency relating to Freemasonry and yet another push to require full declaration of our membership almost in all circumstances.

Brethren, we have all had enough of this fake narrative and we should state clearly and unambiguously what Freemasonry is. We have a proud tradition as a secular, non-religious, non-political, lawful, and law-abiding activity in the United Kingdom, as it is elsewhere in the world. Freemasonry is proud of its history of inclusivity, and for the last three centuries we have welcomed members from all walks of life, regardless of religion, ethnicity, sexuality or socio-economic background. Across the world, most nights, in Freemasons' Lodges, these groups of people come together to enjoy their Freemasonry, united in their commitment to our core values, which this Grand Lodge articulates as Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service.

These values are based on long-established Enlightenment values and Freemasonry has fundamental ideals including liberty, tolerance, constitutional government, and a meritocratic society. Our members are strongly encouraged to play an active and positive role in the communities where we live, through service by giving our time, skills, and expertise to local organisations, as well as supporting financially local charities.

You are all aware, Brethren, that in this country there have been for more than a century two Grand Lodges where membership is exclusively for women. These Grand Lodges adhere to the same principles and values I have already mentioned. We are fortunate that we enjoy a positive and constructive relationship with both the Women's Grand Lodges, as do they with us, and we co-operate, and indeed co-ordinate, on those matters which are of common interest to us all for the good of Freemasonry.

We are also all firmly agreed that none of us wishes to extend that co-operation to the work done within our Lodges. We all wish, as do our members, for our Lodges to remain exclusively male or female. This is no different from almost every major sport in this country. It is also consistent with one of the fundamental rights previous generations fought to maintain for us all, that of Freedom of Association.

In order to establish this beyond any reasonable doubt, I am delighted to tell you that a joint statement of the three Grand Lodges will be issued this afternoon confirming this position. This is a first for both the Women's Grand Lodges and the United Grand Lodge of England, and I am sure we will continue to build on this approach as we stand up to the misrepresentation and prejudice from which Freemasonry so often suffers.

I now wish to address the perennial issue of the demand for a declaration of Masonic membership. Freemasonry is, of course, usually the only organisation selected for such demands, all naturally, in the name of transparency.

As many of you will know, in 1799 the Government of William Pitt the Younger, in the face of the turmoil arising from the wars with Revolutionary France, passed The Unlawful Societies Act. This Act banned a number of radical, even subversive,

societies but Freemasonry was not banned. Instead, an obligation was placed on every Lodge to provide a list of its members to the Clerk to the Local Magistrates each year. This requirement remained in force for almost 170 years until it was abolished, as being unnecessary and authoritarian, in 1967 as part of the Criminal Justice Act introduced by the then Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins.

I think it appropriate we should all remember this part of our history when faced by demands for a blanket declaration of membership, which should be seen as both unnecessary and oppressive. Especially as, nowadays, it is often only Freemasonry where this is deemed to be necessary, whereas in the more immediately perilous circumstances of 1799 it was decided by Parliament to be unnecessary.

We should all remember that such demands would breach existing, long-established legislation in the United Kingdom and, indeed, elsewhere. Freedom of Association and a right to a private life is protected for Freemasons just as it is for individuals who are members of trade unions, political parties, religious organisations, the Round Table, football, rugby or even golf clubs. I can assure you, Brethren, we will be robust in tackling all such attempts to discriminate against Freemasons.

Brethren, you may have noticed that I am concerned, not to say angered, at yet another wave of ill-informed articles, pushing well-worn and plain wrong myths, prejudices, and often malicious innuendos. My fellow Rulers and I are determined we will be firm in dealing with them. We all will support strongly the Grand Secretary and the Communications teams as they respond to any more ill-informed or prejudiced articles. Enough is definitely enough!

Brethren, notwithstanding all of this, I think we are in very good heart with a real enthusiasm around the organisation. I wish you all a very pleasant summer.

Thank you, Brethren.

(Applause)

The Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer at 12.53 p.m.

The first verse of the National Anthem was sung.

RECORDED ATTENDANCE AT THE GRAND LODGE

Grand Officers (including Present Grand Stewards)	460
Masters, Wardens and Past Masters	673
Master Masons not qualified as Wardens	63
Visitors	18
Total	<u>1214</u>

APPENDIX

EXPULSIONS FROM THE CRAFT

The following list shows Brethren expelled from the Craft with the Lodges (Chapters) of which once a member.

Name	Lodges (Chapters)
23 March 2024	
Warlie Aquino	L6833
Gary Ronald Barber	L558, L5329 (C558)
Gary Charles Connery	L9315
Mark Raymond Hall	L1741, L4632 (C85, C1587, C441)
Duncan Mark Hanrahan	L452, L5188
Shahab Hashtroudi	L4397, L2559
Gareth Douglas Rogers	L1547, L4584 (C4438)
Alexander Paul Verschueren	L4448 (C4448)
Trevor Andrew Way	L9609

LIST OF NEW LODGES FOR WHICH WARRANTS HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY
THE MW THE GRAND MASTER SHOWING THE DATES FROM WHICH
THEIR WARRANTS BECAME EFFECTIVE

DATE OF WARRANT/ NO. AND NAME OF LODGE	LOCATION	AREA
<i>8 March 2024</i>		
10052 Rock Music Lodge	Alfreton	Derbyshire
10053 Tenbury Wells Summer Lodge	Tenbury Wells	Worcestershire
10054 Gambrinus Lodge	Chester-le-Street	Durham
<i>25 April 2024</i>		
10055 Diocesan Schools Lodge of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Hong Kong and the Far East