

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 46 November 2015



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

"Freemasonry has to be a Quality Experience"

In the Oxford Dictionary Quality is defined as "the degree of excellence" or "general excellence". To my mind, it should be synonymous to Freemasonry, for if our Order is to attract the respect that its principles so richly deserve we really do have to make absolutely certain that every single candidate, without exception, has a top quality experience. We have to ensure that every single member has confidence in the manner in which his Brethren apply their principles. We have to ensure that every single Masonic family member is enriched by the positive impact that Freemasonry has on their lives. We have to make certain that every person doing business with or interacting with a Freemason feels suitably comforted by the experience. To really achieve our ideals, in every conceivable manner, Freemasonry has to be a quality experience.

But what does this all really mean and what sort of expectations are we imposing on our members?

Let's start off by sharing a few quotations.

- * Excellence is not an act, it's a habit! *Aristotle*
- * The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavour. *Vince Lombardi*
- * Quality is never an accident. It's always the result of intelligent effort. *John Ruskin*
- * Be a quality example. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected. *Steve Jobs*

The way I see it, the new applicant should be exposed to a quality experience right from the time that he first makes contact with us. Our Brethren need to be properly prepared to answer his questions and to suitably inform him about our Grand Lodge and the Order overall. The application process has to be clear

and professional. The forms and material presented to the candidate must reflect the high standards that we set and he must be kept regularly updated on the progress being made in processing his application.

Clearly, his initiation is likely to leave a very long-lasting impression on our new member. Remember, "you never get a second chance to make a good first impression" and it is absolutely essential that this working be of a high standard. We simply can't have Brethren wandering around the Temple reading badly out of ritual books - it's the candidate's evening and he's entitled to a Quality experience! The festive board must be well prepared for and properly run and the toasts presented with sincerity.

These same principles, incidentally, must apply through all of our new Brother's degrees and we should also take note that there is never, ever a moment when it is in order for a senior Brother to start shouting instructions or corrections at more junior Brethren during the course of the ceremony. If errors need to be corrected, this should be done after the working in a discreet and inoffensive manner. It's the candidate's special night, Brethren, and we must always keep this in the front of our minds.

Within the Lodge we need to make very sure that we promote the principle of Brotherly Love and do whatever we can to ensure that there is always the harmony and ambiance which so enriches our time together. Remember, Brethren, that we promised to treat others as we wished them to treat us and we need to make very sure that we live by this principle.

Freemasonry is, above all things, a way of life. For it to have any real meaning, we have to live by the principles that we teach and promote and be an example to others by the manner in which we conduct ourselves. Should we do so, we will inevitably enrich the lives of our family, our business colleagues and, indeed, everybody that we come into contact with.

I have often heard it said that if the whole world lived by Masonic principles, most of the conflicts would disappear. I sincerely believe this but it starts with us, Brethren, and by our conduct we have to set the standards that we'd wish others to aspire to.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM
Grand Master**



Excellent Installations by First-Timers!

During the course of the past few weeks 3 Grand Lodge callouts afforded me the real privilege of attending installations all of which were performed by installing Officers who had never before performed our Installation ceremony.

The first was Lodge Fidelity in Port Elizabeth. While Dawie Rote who went into the chair, is an experienced Past Master, this was the first time that Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Wor Bro Keith Hutton, had been given the opportunity to perform the installation ceremony. As everybody present would agree, Keith handled it with reassuring confidence and a thoroughly memorable ceremony and festive board was enjoyed by all in attendance. Keith was assisted by Wor Bro Louis Wolsinck who also made us proud. My visit to the Eastern Cape was a generally most successful one and I have come away excited by their plans and the people assigned to implementing them.



The Wor Master and Officers of Lodge Fidelity



The Wor Master and Lodge Officers with the Grand Master and GL and PGL Officers

At an August AGM Southern Division installed 2 new Assistant PGMs, Wor Bros Tommy Hardiman and Evangelos Doucas. Both were quickly assigned installations to attend to and both excelled. They are renowned ritualists and both lived up to the high expectations that the Brethren had of them. In both cases they had well respected Brothers to install but this most certainly didn't deter them in any way.

Wor Bro Tommy Hardiman was first and he had to reinstall Wor Bro Llewellyn Lloyd-Jones as Master of Lodge Marina. Tommy's working included a most thought provoking address and his contribution was generally very well received.

The Lodge's new Master is a committed and experienced Brother who is also the Caretaker / Caterer at Lodge de Goede Hoop. Llew sets high standards and this was evident in the working.

Wor Bro Evangelos Doucas performed the installation of Bro Rodney Potter at Lodge Hiram. A most excellent working included a very stimulating address and Evangelos lived up to the reputation which preceded him. The Board of Installed Masters was performed by Wor Bro Andre Engelbrecht

The new Master was well prepared and created high expectations. The Lodge manages Ted's House and Rod is an extremely effective Treasurer.



Wor Bros Kevin Sampson, Andre Engelbrecht, Rod Potter Evangelos Doucas and VW Bro Ron Smith

Who says you cannot have a Potjiekos Competition in the rain?

Lodge First United held their annual Potjiekos competition on Saturday 19 September. While the elements were not in favour of any outdoor activity; with constant rain and wind keeping most people indoors, the Brethren of Lodge First United were not going to let that stand in the way of their fundraising efforts and the opportunity to build brotherly love and harmony by socialising with their families.



The venue was the King's Park Archery club; who supported the Brethren having the event take place on their premises through Wor Bro Basil de Kock. Ironically, the rain brought everybody together in a spirit of fun and laughter underneath their tents and gazebos. Teams went to a lot of effort to decorate their stalls according to their theme and team name, and some pots were of very high quality. Even the more average pots were made with a lot of determination and effort.

The zebra neck pot made by Bro Ashley Collier's team was judged best pot. Team Bokkies with Bro Henry Selzer and Bro Johan van der Merwe's family, won a very deserved prize for demonstrating the best team spirit.



The overall champions, however, were the Hunters, headed by Wor Bro Basil de Kock himself. They scored the most combined points for their considerable efforts in decorating their stall, wearing their hunter's outfits. They also made an excellent blouwildebees pot and showed great team spirit.

The ladies and children of Wor Bro's Trevor Marcus and Colin Matthee went to a lot of trouble walking around in the rain, selling drinks to everybody that was willing to contribute to the fundraising effort. Even Mr Henk Uys, a candidate that has not been initiated yet, spent the whole day at the venue getting to know everybody.

Much needed funds were raised but more importantly, it was a significant team building effort and displayed all the Masonic virtues we enjoy and expect from Lodge members.

“What is Freemasonry” in Nelspruit.

On Saturday 24 October 2015, the PGM of the Northern Division, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver took his ritual team the 300 odd kms to Nelspruit to perform a “What is Freemasonry” working for the Brethren and their guests at Lodge Jock of the Bushveld. The working was conducted with great dignity by Wor Bro Gavin Mackintosh and was well received by the members of the public; two of whom had travelled from Johannesburg to be present.

The team included Provincial Officers, a Grand Lodge Officer, Master Masons, an Apprentice and a Fellow Craft and all of the participants stayed overnight at a local B&B.

After the Lodge formalities, they were joined by the Brethren of the Lodge and enjoyed a spirited social function late into the evening.



Wesley Welthagen and partner, Alan v/d Vyver, Anthony Frazer.

The trip had two objectives. Firstly, it was a focussed effort to assist a Lodge which is endeavouring to recruit new members. Secondly, it was an opportunity to cement the fraternal and social relationships between the Brethren of the Province. There is no doubt that a Province that “plays together, stays together”. Freemasonry has to be “fun” and socialising in a relaxed environment certainly goes a long way to allowing the Brethren to get to know each other. Any team works together so much more effectively when they know each other's strengths and capabilities and there is no better way to establish this knowledge than “*sharing time together in the pursuit of promoting the Order and enjoying harmless fun*”.



The party in full swing.

The camaraderie that has been developed in the Provincial team through social interaction shows up in the execution of their Masonic ritual and workings. This in turn inspires the members of the Lodges and promotes pride in our noble Order.

Losie Diamond (No 22) Koffiefontein.

The annual Losie Diamond installation took place in Koffiefontein on Saturday 31 October 2015. The PGM, RW Bro Alf Bronner was there to receive the Grand Lodge delegation led by the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM who was accompanied by the Deputy GM, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, Assistant GM, RW Bro Vic Muhlenbeck, Past PGM RW Bro Peter Wilkinson OSM, 3 Johannesburg based Grand Lodge Officers and 4 from Central Division.

The Presiding Master, Wor Bro J Fourie read an impressive report that showed that, with good leadership and vision, challenges that appear to be insurmountable to the faint hearted, can be overcome. This small Lodge is growing fast and have, within the last year, initiated 3 new members and have 3 more candidates waiting their turn.

Koffiefontein is no longer in the main stream and is now a mainly farming community. In the past it had a rail head, a large diamond mine and a prison that was used during World War 2 to house members of Ossewabrandwag and Italian Prisoners of War.



MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, VW Bro Heimo Schaum, RW Bro Jacques Markantonis and RW Bro Manny Ramos.

A monument to its more illustrious past is seen at the entrance to the town in the form of a Traction Engine and trailers that would have been revolutionary technology one hundred years ago.

Anyone for Koffie?



In the old days, I am told that the water used to run from the kettle into the cup. The town derives its name from the strong coffee that was brewed by the riders plying between the coast and the diamond diggings.


With cream?



The Lodge building dates back many years and, with the help of the ladies, has been cleaned up and extended recently to provide a very practical facility.



The Wor Master and Brethren of Lodge Diamond, with Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and other visitors..



HeynekeTours

Registration Number: 2002 / 031211 / 23

Masonic Tour to Israel
"In the Footsteps of Freemasonry"

Join the Grand Master on this wonderful tour during
 September 2016

Please contact Henda Heyneke on +27 (0) 11 764 2783, Cell: +27
 (0) 83 256 6682 or on heyneketours@telkomsa.net for more
 information on this tour and other arrangements.

Almoners Corner.

Sadly, a number of Brethren have spent time in hospital this month with heart problems. Wor Bro Auret Weir (Lodge Peace and Harmony) was readmitted after his recent surgery. He is now home and making good progress. Wor Bro Braam van Zyl (Lodge St Jan) and Wor Bro Jan Venter (Losie Johan van Riebeeck) have both experienced challenges and, happily, both are making steady progress.

Wor Bro Deon Smit (Lodge Simon van der Stel) lost his wife to cancer. Adri was not only a real Masonic wife but also the Masonic mother of son Tiaan. Brethren, our deepest condolences are extended at a time when words are never enough.

Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner is only as effective as the information he receives. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, be sure to phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

kleinville@gmail.com



Exploring our Foundations

Most of our Brethren are aware that Freemasonry was introduced to South Africa with the consecration of Lodge de Goede Hoop in Cape Town on 2 May 1772. This was under the Grand East of the Netherlands and, for the next 190 years all our Lodges were Netherlandic. Over the next few issues we will introduce you to the extraordinary leaders - the South African based Deputy Grand Masters of the Netherlands.

Remarkably, there were only ever 9 of them and they served between 4 and 43 years each - an average of 18 years. They were special men and made a great impact on the development of our Freemasonry and of our country, South Africa.

Let's start by naming them for you :

- 1800 Jacob de Mist
- 1804 Sir Johannes Truter
- 1847 Sir Christoffel Brand
- 1874 Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr
- 1893 Rev David Faure
- 1897 Prof Charles Lewis
- 1904 Conrad Christian Silberbauer
- 1945 John Rose DSO
- 1957 Colin Graham Botha

*The Temple
 de Goede Hoop
 (consecrated 1803)*



Editor's Note : In this edition we include contributions from all 5 of our Divisions! Let's make this the norm!