
R.A.O.B.



Grand Council

News round

News from R.A.O.B. Grand Council
Provinces

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Down Your Way, A Monthly Review of Province Life.

From Bro Roy Lale R.O.H.
Roving Reporter for the Newark Province

The Sir Robert Lodge, No 1816

The Lodge night of April 24th started off as an ordinary night, but turned out to be an extraordinary one as we were paid two visits, the first one was from three Nottingham Brother's in Bro Alan Mallatratt R.O.H. Bro Steve Radlett K.O.M., Nottinghams Grand Primo, and Bro Ken Hilton R.O.H. their Vice Knight Commander.

The second visit was paid by several Brothers from the Skegness Province. The purpose of this visit was to present services rendered jewel to Bro J.Turner-Johnson R.O.H. in recognition of his services to the Skegness Province.

Bro Turner-Johnson became an affiliated member of the Sir Robert lodge in December 2004, having left the Skegness Province to take up residence in North Leicestershire. His delight in meeting his erstwhile colleagues from Skegness was obvious to all present.

Bro Bert Hemming R.O.H. the Worthy Sitting Primo of the Sir Robert Lodge invited the General Secretary, Bro Ray Cooke R.O.H. to occupy the Royal Chair for the purpose of presenting the jewel to Bro John, this Ceremony being carried out to the mutual satisfaction of all present (Thanks Ray).
A very convivial evening followed with abundant grazing.

Editors note, thank you for that Bro Roy and thanks also to the Brethren of the Sir Robert Lodge for a most entertaining evening. 'I also noted that Bro Ken Hilton

was looking a little sheepish during the evening, or was he just feeling dog ruff!

Further copy from Sir Roy Lale R.O.H.

Further to our recent telephone conversation re the unidentified photographs of Past Grand Presidents.

I had another look at them. You mentioned in your news letter the name of Bro Eric Johnston who was Grantham's President in 1977.

Bro Johnston was a fairly young President who was a particular friend of mine, as I served with him on the Provincial Rally Committee for some years and I don't recognise him from the photo. Or have we had two Eric Johnston's as President? These photos are becoming an enigma.

Editors note. Blimey Bro Roy, I have been called one before now, but didn't guess that I would ever be the cause of one! No, we only ever had one E.T.J.

Good though, in' it.

Congratulations and many thanks to: -

Bro P.Izzard R.O.H of the Sidley Del La Warr Lodge, No 2089. Sussex East Province. Awarded a Certificate for 25 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Bro John Bishop R.O.H of the Wyvern Lodge, No 1757. Luton Province. He was fortunate to be at Conference and was awarded a Certificate for 25 Years Loyal Service to the Order, by the Grand President Bro Michael Fielding R.O.H.

Bro G.P.Lucas R.O.H. of the Alexandra Lodge, No 69, Grimsby Province. Awarded a Certificate for 50 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Bro C.H.Izzard R.O.H. of the Sidley Del La Warr Lodge, No 2089. Sussex East Province. Awarded a Certificate for 50 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Bro G.T.Hancock R.O.H. of the Woden Lodge, No 343. South Staffs Province. Awarded a Certificate for 50 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Well done those Brethren, Could you be on next years list!

Thought for the day, if mathematically you end up with the incorrect answer, try multiplying by the page number!

Work smarter not harder and be careful of your spelling!

Sark Province

"Many thanks for all the good wishes, cards, letters and gifts which I received during my stay in hospital. They made a tedious and sometimes unpleasant stay much more tolerable and I was very grateful for them. Thank you, Brenda Gurden (Sark)

So glad to hear that you are on the mend Brenda, we all wish you well and some of us will be visiting you and the Island in the not too distant future. Kindest regards!

Skegness Province



The above photograph shows Members of the original Ludensian Knights Chapter No 13, just after the war, circa 1945. This Chapter was originally within the old Louth Province, but because of the unusual circumstances of that closure, the Chapter was allowed to continue under its original dispensation in the Skegness Province, which was of course formed to keep the affected Lodges in compliance. The Knight Commanders Collar was pre 1900's and because of that, the companions quite rightly decided that it should be preserved. As a consequence the Collar was donated to the museum in 1995.

Bolton Province

I would like to thank the Grand President, the members of the Executive, members of the Knights Chapter and all the brothers who made the journey to a small hostelry in Bolton to attend my raising to KOM.

I knew it was going to be a special day when my son Thomas woke me up with a colourful if slightly unusual card he had created for the occasion. At the same time Sue my Buffess was barking the time at me in ten-minute intervals like a demented coo coo [clock. In](#) between checking and double-checking I hadn't forgotten anything. At 11.30 am on schedule we all got into the car to take me to the venue on I looking down to discover my horror that the trousers to my dinner jacket didn't match, well hay ho I thought if that is all that goes wrong today can cope with that.

Now what I am about to tell you will sound so unbelievable but yet is true. I promise. At 12.00 we were informed the Knight Commander had been taken ill and could not attend Bro. C Iddon stepped in phew!! Then we heard the Knight Director of Ceremonies could not attend due to a family commitment again a good Brother Stan Crowther of the Stockport province filled the breach.

All things going well, next thing one of my sponsors Bro. L Murphy ROH had been taken to hospital this task was taken over by Bro. R Routledge who didn't know he had also been volunteered for the guard of honour. Now because of all the reshuffles we were in need of a Knight of the Jewel and Knight of Peace and the Grimsby Province came to the rescue.



Congratulations to Bro Malcolm with his good Lady Sue

Now surely we could get on with the ceremony I could now enter with my sponsors, oh no I couldn't a member of the guard of honour had collapsed and an ambulance was called. One of my guard of honour who will remain

nameless commented it would be easier to raise the titanic what was he trying to inferring. After having to postponing my raising on more than one occasions in the past 12 month due to various reasons I was at this point considering putting my coat on going home and try and raise the titanic but the arrival of some of the ladies including Sue put paid to that with her words of comfort "don't you dare let me down " plus others remarks I couldn't possibly repeat

So in true buffalo style we soldered on and finally I was raised to KOM well now it is all over I wonder had I been to worried that there might have been a few hiccups surely not we all celebrated with a pint or two and enjoy a lovely buffet provided by the pub. Bro. H. Ramsden who collapsed is recovering and I would like to thank all the brothers who stepped in at the last moment without a moment's hesitation to help make the day run smoothly!!!!!!!

A special thanks to the lads from Snodland, who trailed up on Saturday to educate us in the Southern drinking custom and sample some northern hospitality. For those of you who have not yet had the pleasure of drinking the southern way this is how it goes drink four pints Guinness sit down fifth pint lay head on table sixth pint look at pint longingly phone taxi go back to B B leave pint on table the Bolton way is slightly different but then that's another story. Now I did say it was unbelievable or what

Bro M.Maloney K.O.M.
Grand Lodge Secretary

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?
 Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough?
 Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
 Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?
 Why do they use sterilised needles for death by lethal injection?
 Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
 Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?
 Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
 And my own personal favorite...
 If someone with a split personality threatens to commit suicide, is it a hostage situation?

Lincoln Province



Some of the Members of the Newport Lodge visited the children's ward, asking the ward sisters if there was anything they required for the ward. They were 'dumbfounded' after we explained who we were and what we were all about. The list was as long as your arm. One item was a football table for the conservatory area, previous ones had fallen to pieces. That evening one was sourced, the next morning it was bought. It took a van to collect it, but it was the 'Rolls Royce' of tables, the nurses were over the moon.

From left to right, Bro R.R.Routledge R.O.H. The Grand President, Bro J.Jeffs R.O.H. A nurse. Bro M.Gartland, Bro M.Bailey and Bro D.Harrison. Our thanks to the Grand President.

Bro Ray Routledge R.O.H.
Grand Lodge Secretary.

Sark Report

On a cool but sunny Friday, 6th May, our rocky outpost of Buffaloism was pleased and honoured to welcome our Grand President, Brother John Jeffs R.O.H. and his lady, Josie, accompanied by the Grand Primo of the Worcester Province, Brother Peter Normandale R.O.H. and his wife, Annie. They had, they assured me, had an enjoyable sea crossing, so we stood down the voluptuous blonde paramedics and the four stretchers and concentrated on giving them the more relaxing Sark treatment of a horse and carriage ride out to dinner for the evening, returning the same way merrily and much later under the stars. On Saturday someone – okay me – had misunderstood that the Presidential party were staying over the Monday evening, which is our normal Lodge night, and had arranged a special Lodge Meeting in honour of the visit. The Grand President was invited to take the Chair, where he demonstrated the sense of humour for which he is famous. It cost some of us a fortune.....
 The Province had arranged an al fresco lunch on the Sunday - (you all know al - a little Italian guy – lovely suntan) – and sixteen or so of us engaged in a sort of musical chairs to stay out of the cold shade and get in the warm sun. It was a pleasant day nevertheless, and later in the evening two of our distinguished visitors discovered

the delights of Calvados, something which has apparently never reached Worcester Province.

So now it was Monday and Lodge Night yet again. In fairness it did give Sark a second chance to extract any remaining small change from our guests. At least that was the original idea. Then someone put Brother Peter in the Chair and suddenly it was we who were paying through the nose. When he said that he was returning in September we unanimously begged him to stay in Redditch.....

Tuesday morning departure came all too quickly and it was exceptionally unfortunate that our guests could not stay to join in the celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of Sark's Liberation from Occupation. There were Chelsea Pensioners, representatives of many branches of the British Legion and all sorts of other organisations, some survivors of Force 135 who liberated Sark in 1945, all pouring off the boat.

What was of especial interest for we Buffs was the parade of around thirty Standard Bearers representing the Royal British Legion from all over the U.K. and the islands, the R.N.L.I., St. Johns Ambulance Service, The Royal Observer Corps and, leading the procession into the Church for the Service, our own Buffalo Standard carried by Bro. Ross Henry R.O.H. in full Highland dress for the occasion.



He had been practising the required manoeuvres diligently with our local British Legion Standard bearer for a few weeks beforehand, and later during the celebrations there was a flag-bearers competition where he received a Highly Commended for his efforts.

The rest of us lesser mortals in the Buffs had agreed with trepidation to organise childrens races. Supervised by

Brother Dave Melling K.O.M., this rapidly descended into mayhem and all had a good time.

Bro. Geoff.

Forthcoming Raisings to Date

Grimsby Province

Bro L.A.Loftus will be raised to the R.O.H. by the Alexandra Lodge, No 69 at the R.A.O.B. Club, Cleethorpes Road, Grimsby. On Saturday the 23rd July For further details ring 01472 598933.

Nottingham Province

Bro L.Kirk will be raised to the R.O.H. by the Brave Old Oak & Friendly Lodge, No 108 on Sunday the 31st July. For details ring 0115 8 775328

Bro M.Sisson will be raised to the Roll of Honour on Sunday the 7th August by the Sherwood Lodge, No 2158. For further details ring 0115 8 775328

Brighton Province

The Battle of Waterloo Lodge, No 2168, will be raising Bro F.Boakes to Knight of the Order of Merit on Saturday the 8th of October 2005. No further details as yet.

Worcestershire Province

The Castle Lodge, No 1833 will be conferring the Roll of Honour upon Bro K.Robeson on Saturday the 15th October 2005. No further details as yet.

Luton Province

The Farley Lodge, No 1697, will be conferring the Roll of Honour upon Bro S.M.Minchin on Saturday the 19th November 2005. No further details as yet.

Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "lisp"?

What is the speed of darkness?

Are there specially reserved parking spaces for "normal" people at the Special Olympics?

If you send someone 'Styrofoam', how do you pack it?

If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

If it's true that we are here to help others, what are the others doing here?

Do married people live longer than single ones or does it only seem longer?

Bristol Province

The Grand Primo for Bristol 2004 the RT. Hon T. Rees, together with Officers of the Bristol Grand Lodge, presented Bob Coburn, the Head Teacher of Claremont School, with a cheque for £1000. The Brothers of the Bristol province raised the sum of £1000 via an appeal by the Grand Primo through several social events.

Claremont School is a special school for children with physical difficulties and associated learning difficulties. The money will be used to take the children (5 and 10 year olds) to a specially adapted adventure centre in Cornwall where they can take part in activities such as canoeing, abseiling and accessing the adventure playground.



more information at www.claremontspecial.uk.org/

Editor, Well done Bristol Province, keep the good news coming in.

Conference News



Congratulations to Bro Michael Fielding R.O.H.
The Grand President 2005

Bro Michael in attaining the office of Grand President has previously served for fifteen years as the Grand Council Treasurer and followed with a further year as the Vice Grand President. A well-deserved honour and we wish him well in his year of office.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Membership, to give thanks to the retiring Grand President for 2004, Bro John Jeffs R.O.H. He is not a well man but he has been an example to us all, in how to conduct yourself as the Chief representative of this Grand Council.

It is very pleasing to report that Conference was an occasion for the coming together of Members for the benefit of all, Both Officers and Delegates went home with a feeling of goodwill, knowing that they had worked as a team in unifying this Grand Council into a body of like minded Brethren. My thanks to all concerned.

Sadly, we must end on a solemn but not a sad note, on Thursday the 16th of June, we were informed that Bro Alec Pitt R.O.H. the Grand Lodge Secretary and Delegate to the Province of Cambridgeshire, had died following his return home on the Wednesday evening. We were all stunned by the news and our hearts went out to his Family.

His funeral was held on Friday the 24th of June at the Cambridge Crematorium and there was in excess of 80 persons in attendance.

His family and friends spoke well of him, his Son Steve, commenting that he had never known his Father say a bad word about anyone. Followed by his Son Stuart, who asked us not to be sad that his Father was gone, but to celebrate the life he had lead.

He evoked a smile from everyone when commenting about his father being fifteen minutes late for his own funeral, due to a delay in traffic. After all Bro Alec always wore a wry smile as he arrived late everywhere.



Winners all, left to right Bob Bees, Men's Bowls. Allison Bees, Ladies Bowls, The Grand President Bro Micky and Sandra Cooke, Ladies Putting.