The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas



M.III.Comp. KESSICK JOHN JONES Grand Master

R.III.Comp. His Hon. IAN DOUGLAS GAVIN ALEXANDER, KC Deputy Grand Master

> R.III.Comp. PAUL ANTHONY NORMAN Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

> > Mark Masons' Hall 86 St James's Street London, SW1A 1PL

> > > 20 March 2024

Dear Sir and Companion

The Annual Assembly of Grand Council will be held on **Tuesday**, **16 April 2024**, **at 12.30 p.m.** in the Grand Temple **at Freemasons' Hall**, **60 Great Queen Street**, **London**, **WC2B 5AZ**.

All Select Masters are invited to attend.

Active Officers of the year will enter in procession and have a reserved seat in the temple providing they have given notice beforehand of their intention to attend.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies requests the attendance of the Deputy and Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies, Grand Captain of the Guard, Grand Conductor of the Council, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Steward, Grand Manciples, and the Grand Sentinel at the rehearsal commencing at 10.30 a.m.

By command of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Yours faithfully and fraternally

D.M. Heath

V.III.Comp. Daniel M. Heath, Grand Recorder

AGENDA

- 1. To open Grand Council.
- 2. In Memoriam.
- 3. To propose that the Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Grand Council held on Tuesday, 18 April 2023, as circulated with the summons for this meeting, be taken as read, approved and adopted.
- 4. To propose that the Minutes of the Special Sesquicentennial Assembly of Grand Council held on Tuesday, 3 October 2023, as circulated with the summons for this meeting, be taken as read, approved and adopted.
- 5. To propose that the Report of the Executive Committee for the period ending 31 December 2023, as printed in **Appendix A**, be taken as read, approved and adopted.
- 6. To receive the Report on the Financial Statements of Grand Council for the twelve months ending 31 August 2023, as printed in **Appendix B**.
- 7. To elect and proclaim the Most Illustrious Grand Master.
- 8. To appoint, obligate, invest, install and proclaim the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master.
- 9. To appoint, obligate, invest, install and proclaim the Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.
- 10. To elect the Grand Treasurer.
- 11. To appoint and invest Grand Officers for the year 2024/2025.
- 12. To appoint two Companions to serve on the Executive Committee of the Order. The following will be appointed in accordance with Regulation 118(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations:

R.III.Comp. C. G. Lewis, Dist.G.M. for Middlesex R.III.Comp. N. T. Woodward, Dist.G.M. for North and East Yorkshire

13. To elect two Companions to serve on the Executive Committee of the Order. The following have been nominated in accordance with Regulation 118(i) of the Constitutions and Regulations:

R.III.Comp. V. J. Driver, Dist.G.M. for London R.III.Comp. D. G. Sanderson, Dist.G.M. for Cumberland & Westmorland

- 14. To elect professionally qualified and registered auditors in accordance with Regulation 20 (iii) of the Constitutions and Regulations.
- 15. The Most Illustrious Grand Master will address Grand Council.
- 16. To transact any other business regularly brought before Grand Council.
- 17. To close Grand Council.

Appendix A

Report of the Executive Committee for the period ending 31 December 2023

1. Membership

During the twelve months ended 31 December 2023, 270 new members have been admitted into the Order.

The total number of subscribing memberships in the Order as at 31 December 2023 was 6,108.

2. Obituary

The Executive Committee announces, with deep regret, that the death of the following Grand Officers was reported in the year ended 31 December 2023:

R.III.Comp. David Hartley, P.Dist.G.M. (Somerset and Wiltshire)

R.III.Comp. Ronald Webster, P.Dist.G.M. (South Africa)

R.III.Comp. Keith Barry Jackson, P.G.Chan.

- R.III.Comp. Capt. Eidwin Frederick Mullan, P.G.Chan.
- R.III.Comp. Sidney Edward Ernest Tuck, P.G.Chan.
- R.III.Comp. John Henry Brayford, P.G.Coun.
- R.III.Comp. Joseph Sidney Honniball, P.G.Coun.
- R.III.Comp. John Norman George Howitt, P.G.Coun., G.Treas.
- R.III.Comp. Louis Maurice Keats, P.G.Coun.
- R.III.Comp. Peter Gerard Kok, P.G.Coun.
- R.III.Comp. Michael John Louis, JP, P.G.Coun.
- R.III.Comp. Michael Henry Roalfe, P.G.Coun.
- R.III.Comp. Gordon Alexander Trew, P.G.Coun.
- V.III.Comp. Michael James Edmonds, P.G.Lect.
- V.III.Comp. The Rt Hon. Shane Hugh Maryon Gough, P.G.Lect.
- V.III.Comp. William Jack Hagger, P.G.Lect.
- V.III.Comp. Arthur March, P.G.Lect.
- V.III.Comp. William Alec Brown Sherlock, P.G.Lect.
- V.III.Comp. Leonard Henry Stewart, P.G.Lect.
- Ill.Comp. Revd Trevor John Walker, P.Dep.G.Chap.
- III.Comp. Michael Robin Bailey, P.G.Capt.Gd.
- Ill.Comp. Henry Horsfall Bland, P.G.Capt.Gd.
- Ill.Comp. Peter John Curtis, P.G.Capt.Gd.
- Ill.Comp. Alfred John Day, P.G.Capt.Gd.
- Ill.Comp. David Gareth Gait, P.G.Capt.Gd.
- Ill.Comp. John Patrick Green, P.G.Capt.Gd.
- Ill.Comp. John Samuel Nicholl, P.G.Capt.Gd.
- Ill.Comp. Brendan Maxwell Cronin, P.G.Cond.C.
- Ill.Comp. John Healey Gilbert, P.G.Cond.C.
- Ill.Comp. James Henry Harris, P.G.Cond.C.
- Ill.Comp. David John Nicholas, P.G.Cond.C.
- Ill.Comp. Major Robert Norton Wilkinson, TD, P.G.Cond.C.
- III.Comp. William John Belfitt, P.A.G.D.C.
- Ill.Comp. Col. Ramalingam Harindran, P.A.G.D.C.
- III.Comp. Herbert David Milroy, P.A.G.D.C.
- Ill.Comp. Godfrey Bennett Pyke, P.A.G.D.C.
- III.Comp. Ian Ronson, P.A.G.D.C.
- Ill.Comp. William Geofrey Howard Thomas, P.A.G.D.C.
- III.Comp. Harry Spencer Twelvetree, P.A.G.D.C.

- Ill.Comp. Frederick Sebert Anderson, P.G.Swd.B.
- III.Comp. Roger William Bishop, P.G.Swd.B.
- III.Comp. Harvey Charles Easton, P.G.Swd.B.
- III.Comp. Robin Fagence, P.G.Swd.B.
- Ill.Comp. Geoffrey Hewitt, P.G.Swd.B.
- Ill.Comp. Roland Victor Johnson, P.G.Swd.B.
- Ill.Comp. Kenneth Oswald Hubert Rollins, P.G.Swd.B.
- III.Comp. William Slater, P.G.Swd.B.
- III.Comp. Kenneth William Smith, P.G.Swd.B.
- Ill.Comp. Brian Stephen Thompson, P.G.Swd.B.
- III.Comp. Donald Adams, P.G.St.B.
- III.Comp. Eifion Bowen Jones, P.G.St.B.
- III.Comp. Edwin David Fisher, P.G.St.B.
- III.Comp. Barry Howarth, P.G.St.B.
- III.Comp. Walter Pritchard, P.G.St.B.
- III.Comp. Peter John Stockting, P.G.St.B.
- III.Comp. Anthony Peter Stratton, P.G.St.B.
- III.Comp. Hugh Johnstone, P.G.Stwd.
- III.Comp. Clive Pogue, P.G.Stwd.
- **2a.** The Executive Committee also note, with deep regret, that the death of the following Grand Officers was reported between 1 January and 20 March 2024.
 - R.III.Comp. Michael George Spencer, P.G.P.C.W., O.S.C.M.
 - R.III.Comp. Timothy Hancock, Dist.G.M. for Oxon, Berks. & Bucks.
 - R.III.Comp. Roger Joseph Ernest O'Brien, P.Dist.G.M. (Kent)
 - R.III.Comp. David Geoffrey Russell Hunt, P.G.Coun.
 - R.III.Comp. Bernard Wayne, P.G.Coun.
 - V.III.Comp. Raymond William Hudson, P.G.Lect.
 - V.III.Comp. Paul Alexander Oldfield, P.G.Lect.
 - III.Comp. Michael James Leslie Whelan, JP, P.G.Capt.Gd.
 - III.Comp. John Mills Edwards, P.G.Cond.C.
 - III.Comp. Capt. Herbert Charles Farlow, P.G.Cond.C.
 - III.Comp. David Anthony Gurney, P.G.Cond.C.
 - Ill.Comp. Derek Howard Rollason, P.G.Cond.C.
 - III.Comp. John Speirs Wallace, P.G.Cond.C.
 - III.Comp. Godfrey Bedford, P.A.G.D.C.
 - III.Comp. Brian Fraser Muir, P.A.G.D.C.
 - III.Comp. Austin Peter Oakley, P.A.G.D.C.
 - III.Comp. Dr MC Black, P.G.St.B.
 - III.Comp. Alan James Dunce, P.G.St.B.
 - III.Comp. Christopher John Sanderson, P.G.St.B.

3. Appointments

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has been pleased to make the following appointments at his pleasure:

Ill.Comp. Gary Michael Peard, P.G.Swd.B., to be District Grand Master for DEVON & CORNWALL in succession to Jan Alexander Olszewski, with effect from 8 July 2023.

Ill.Comp. Geoffrey Catterall, P.G.Cond.C., to be District Grand Master for LANCASHIRE in succession to Robert Simon Curtis Mitchell, with effect from 17 February 2024;

III.Comp. William Emrys Jenkins, to be District Grand Master for SOUTH WALES in succession to Gwilym Haydn Jones, with effect from 2 March 2024.

III.Comp. William Agnew Caughie, G.Swd.B., to be District Grand Master for SURREY in succession to David John Blackburn, with effect from 23 March 2024.

4. Warrants of Constitution

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has been pleased to grant Warrants for the following Councils:

Lancashire Council of Anointed Kings Council No. 344 – Lancashire Deva Victrix Council No. 346 – Cheshire and The Marches

5. Warrant of Confirmation

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has been pleased to issue a Warrant of Confirmation to Kessick John Jones Council No. 337 – Durham.

6. Charter of Recognition

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has been pleased to issue a Charter of Recognition to Grand Master's Council No. 1 in recognition of the Council's Time Immemorial status. The Council will be known as Grand Master's Council (T.I.) with effect from 3 October 2023.

7. Jubilee Warrant

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has been pleased to grant a Jubilee Warrant to Worcestershire Council No. 109 (Wyvern) on completion of fifty years continuous working.

8. Warrant in Abeyance

The Grand Master's Council noted and approved the request for Victoria Council No. 206 (Warwickshire) to be placed in abeyance for a period of no more than three years, with effect from July 2023.

9. Dispensation to Resume Working

The Grand Master's Council noted that a dispensation to resume working had been issued to William Gillhespy Council No. 319 (Durham) with effect from 5 March 2024.

10. Grand Honours

Recommendations for the award of Grand Honours must be submitted to the Grand Recorder no later than **15 November 2024**.

11. Fees and Annual Dues

In accordance with Regulation 141 it has been agreed that the standard rate of registration and other fees payable by Councils to Grand Council for the financial year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 shall be set out as follows:

WARRANTS

For a Warrant of Constitution For a Warrant of Confirmation For a Celebration Warrant	at cost
PATENTS For a District Grand Master	at cost

DISPENSATIONS

To install a Companion as Master (not properly qualified)	£30.00
Other Dispensations	
Dispensation (Nunc Pro Tunc)	

Any request for Dispensation received less than 21 days before it is required will be treated as a Nunc Pro Tunc Dispensation and charged accordingly.

REGISTRATION

Annual Dues (1 September 2024 and due from 31 August 2025)	£33.00
Annual Dues – Installed Masters' Council	£16.50
Registration on Reception or a Joining Companion from another Constitution	
not previously registered (TBC: 50% reduction – 2024/2025) £15.00	0 or £30.00
Registration of a Joining Companion previously registered	
(TBC : 50% reduction – 2024/2025)£11.50	
Founder member of a new Council being a Companion previously registere	d£8.00
Duplicate, replacement or amended Grand Council Certificate	£30.00

All Fees shown are inclusive of Value Added Tax at the current rate of 20% payable by Councils and Companions in England and Wales. Fees pertaining to members in the European Union will be advised accordingly.

12. Demonstration of the Degrees of the Order

Information about the 2024/2025 Demonstration of the Degrees of the Order will be notified to District Recorders following the meeting of Grand Council.

13. Administration

The Registrations department should be informed of deaths, resignations or changes of address of Grand Officers as soon as they occur via **Keystone Online**.

District Grand Recorders, Inspectorate Recorders and Recorders of Unattached Councils are requested to send correspondence by email where possible and address other communications either to the Grand Recorder or the most appropriate member of MMH staff by name, depending on the nature of the communication. Communications should only be marked 'Private & Confidential' by exception. All such communications should be sent to:

Grand Council of RSM Mark Masons' Hall 86 St James's Street London, SW1A 1PL

> 20 March 2024 V.III.Comp. Keith Young, President of the Executive Committee V.III.Comp. Daniel M. Heath, Grand Recorder

To support the RSM 150 Appeal scan QR code to make a donation



Appendix B

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Members of the Executive Committee of The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES

The Custodian Trustees of The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters who served during the year, and to the date of signing this report, unless otherwise stated are:

H Gould, OBE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee of The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters are as follows.

- The day to day management of The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters.
- The management of the finances of The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters in order to be able to discharge any financial liability that they may correctly incur.
- The installation of the correct policies and procedures in order to monitor and control all financial transactions that they deem necessary.

The Executive Committee is also required to ensure that the future commitments of The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters are considered and that appropriate provisions are made.

The members of the Executive Committee of The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters are:

His Honour I D G Alexander, *KC* D J Blackburn (Appointed 18 April 2023) His Honour K C Cutler, *CBE* (Appointed 18 April 2023) V J Driver (Appointed 18 April 2023) J Harvey (Retired 18 April 2023) G H Jones, *CStJ* (Retired 18 April 2023) K J Jones R S C Mitchell (Appointed 18 April 2023) J H Newman, *OBE* (Retired 18 April 2023) P A Norman G D Seeman T M Sharpe (Retired 18 April 2023) N T Woodward K Young

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters seeks to invest to provide funds for special events and ceremonial meetings.

In accordance with this aim, the funds are managed by J M Finn & Co Ltd. The Investment Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, reviews the funds on a regular basis.

AUDITOR

Crowe U.K. LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Executive Committee on 23 February 2024 and signed on its behalf.

K Young PRESIDENT

D M Heath DEPUTY GRAND RECORDER

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME		
Investment Income	471	400
Bank Interest	44	0
	515	400
EXPENDITURE		
Investment Managers Fees	83	92
Operating Surplus for the year	432	308
Realised & unrealised gain/(loss) on Investments	(1,377)	(2,603)
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(945)	(2,295)

Notes:

The following sums were received into The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons General Fund by way of dues, fees etc. from the members of The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters during the year ended 31 August 2023.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Annual Dues	148,177	101,390
Registration Fees	5,392	4,283
Warrants (at cost)	190	190
Fees of Honour	10,872	12,510
Dispensations	1,158	938
Year Book	3,636	3,576
Excellent Masters	4,318	5,263
Silver Trowel	6,594	7,838
	180,337	135,988

The notes on page 11 form part of these financial statements.

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS BALANCE SHEET 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	f	2023 £	2022 £
INVESTMENTS Investments at Market Value Historic Cost £14,420 (2022: £13,888)	4	_	17,175	18,164
CURRENT ASSETS Sundry Debtors				
Cash at bank		3,259	-	3,215 3,215
CURRENT LIABILITIES Creditors		<u> </u>	_	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			3,259	3,215
TOTAL ASSETS			20,434	21,379
Represented by:				
CAPITAL FUND				
Balance at 1 September 2022 (Deficit) / Surplus for the year	5	21,379 (945)	-	23,674 (2,295)
BALANCE AT 31 August 2023			20,434	21,379

These results have been audited as part of the overall group audit of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. The auditors, Crowe UK LLP, have confirmed that in their opinion, these results are consistent with the figures included in the GLMMM financial statements for which they gave an unqualified report on 29 January 2024.

G L Flight Acting Grand Treasurer

Date: 23 February 2024

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. ENTITY INFORMATION

The Grand Council Of Royal And Select Masters is an unincorporated association and operates from Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, applicable to small entities.

(b) Investments

Listed investments are measured at fair value through income and expenditure, and are reported at their market value at each balance sheet date.

(c) Debtors and creditors

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price less any impairment. Short-term creditors are measured at transaction price.

3. CORPORATION TAX

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters has received dispensation from HM Revenue & Customs to be treated as dormant with respect to untaxed income. No tax is payable on income received gross up to a specified level.

4. INVESTMENTS

5.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Quoted at Market Value	17,175	18,164
Historic Cost	14,420	13,888
CAPITAL FUND		
	2023	2022
Balance at 1 September 2022	21,379	23,674
(Deficit) / Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account	(945)	(2,295)
Balance at 31 August 2023	20,434	21,379

Notices

- 1. GRAND COUNCIL SUMMONS—Recorders of Councils are required to forward copies of this summons to T.I.M.s and to all other Companions who may wish to attend the Annual Assembly of Grand Council.
- DINING—Companions will dine together after the Annual Assembly at approximately 3.15 p.m. in the Grand Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5DA.

Companions wishing to dine may make reservations via the online dining facility on the Grand Council website:

https://www.markmasonshall.org/rsm-events/royal-select-masters/grand-council

Group reservations may also be made via email to: **rsmsupport@mmh.org.uk** provided a completed dining form is attached which includes full debit/credit card details for payment of the requisite dining fee, or by sending a completed reservation form, together with payment of the dining fee of £58 / £60.50 (cheese & biscuits) to Masonic Support Services on or before **Tuesday, 2 April 2024**.

Reservations may be cancelled, without incurring a charge, up to 7 days prior to the meeting, after which fees will not be refunded.

4. WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA—To keep up to date with events in all Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall go to:

www.markmasonshall.org https://www.facebook.com/GLofMMM/ https://www.instagram.com/markmasonshall https://twitter.com/MarkMasonsHall https://www.youtube.com/@markmasonshall86

- KEYSTONE ONLINE—All documents relating to the administration of Districts/ Inspectorates and Councils are available in the document store on Keystone Online. Recorders are advised not to save copies to a PC or District/Inspectorate website but to always use the latest version in the document store.
- 6. MASONIC CHARITIES—Information and downloadable forms for all the Masonic charities administered from Mark Masons' Hall can be found on the Grand Council website: www.markmasonshall.org
- 7. HOSPITALITY AT MARK MASONS' HALL—The Carvery at 86 St James will be open on selected weekdays and is available to all Freemasons, their family and friends. Booking in advance is strongly recommended as the Carvery is very popular and is, on occasions, fully booked for private functions. Members of the 86 St James Loyalty Scheme will receive advance notification of opening dates by email.

Reservations may be made via email: info@86stjames.com or Tel: 020 7747 1180.

To coincide with the UGLE Quarterly Communications at Freemasons' Hall, we can guarantee the Carvery Restaurant will be open on the second Wednesdays in March, June, September and December. Advance booking is required and you can be seated between 12 noon and 2.30 p.m., finishing at 4 p.m.

A variety of hot and cold sandwiches is also available in the bar on weekdays from 12 noon to 4 p.m. The bar opening times will be 11.30 a.m. until 10.30 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

Further information is available on the 86 St James website: http://86hospitality.info

8. PUBLICATIONS AND REGALIA—Publications and regalia for all Orders can be purchased from the shop at Mark Masons' Hall and via our website:

www.shopat86.co.uk

The shop opening hours are 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (Monday to Friday). Orders may also be placed by email: **regalia@mmh.org.uk** or Tel: **020 7747 1191**.