

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF WILTSHIRE

150th Anniversary Keystone Province



Minutes, Reports and Accounts

Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

Thursday 20 June 2024

Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 6

Summary Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for Wiltshire held at the Melksham Assembly Rooms, Wiltshire, on Thursday 15 June 2023

On a warm, early summer's day, the brethren assembled were seated at 10:40am in a pleasant air-conditioned environment within the Melksham Assembly Rooms. The visiting Right Worshipful Brethren entered in procession, followed by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Stephen Lee, accompanied by his Active Provincial Officers and Past PGM's and DepPGMs of the Province.

In attendance were 135 brethren of which 18 were Right Worshipful Brethren.

The opening Hymn was sung and Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form at 11:00 am. The Provincial Grand Master then welcomed a delegation from the Royal Ark Mariners of the Province.

The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and other Right Worshipful Brethren were saluted and all responded appropriately.

The Provincial Grand Master then introduced 56 visitors from 19 Provinces and Mark brethren who were senior members in various other companion orders. They were all given a very warm "Wiltshire Welcome".

The Provincial Grand Chaplain read out the names of 19 members of the Province who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above since the previous Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting. Following which, the brethren stood to order as the Provincial Grand Chaplain offered prayer for the departed brethren.

The circulated minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held on the 16th of June 2022, were accepted and confirmed.

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that all the Officers were accounted for and also stated that all Mark & RAM Lodges were represented.

The Provincial Grand Secretary confirmed that the Treasurer's Report and examined Provincial Accounts had been circulated and published within the Reports booklet. The accounts were proposed and seconded by the Provincial Grand Wardens and confirmed by the brethren.

The Provincial Grand Secretary and Provincial Grand Almoner confirmed that their respective reports were included within the Reports booklet. The Provincial Grand Master thanked the Provincial Grand Almoner, W.Bro. Nigel Dalby, for his discrete and caring work behind the scenes.

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward stated that his report and examined accounts are contained with the Reports booklet. The Provincial Charity Accounts were proposed and seconded by the Provincial Grand Wardens and confirmed by the brethren.

The Provincial Grand Master confirmed that during the May 2023 General Purposes Committee meeting, it was agreed that a donation be made of £1,000 to each of the Provinces of West Yorkshire and Cheshire towards their MBF Festivals.

The Provincial Grand Master reported that he had only received one nomination for the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer in the person of W.Bro. P Morgan. He therefore declared W.Bro. P Morgan re-elected. The Provincial examiners for the year were re-elected in the persons of W.Bro. M Johns and Bro. G Hunt with grateful thanks for their efforts during the past year.

The Provincial Grand Master reappointed W.Bro. S Bridge as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Wiltshire.

The Provincial Grand Master invested and re-appointed Active Provincial Grand Officers, those receiving Past Rank, Promotions and Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed Provincial Grand Lodge. He was very grateful for the support today and thanked all who had prepared for the meeting. He thanked all the retiring officers for their support at Installation and Team Visits. He congratulated all those that he had invested in both the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees and looked forward to their company during the months ahead. He congratulated all those that had been honoured on promotion or appointment to Grand Lodge and Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank. He went on to say that we should continue to support our Craft Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters and to use the Magic of the Mark material to inform prospective brethren of our wonderful companion order. In terms of supporting our own Mark and Royal Ark Mariner lodges, he said the Province are willing, subject to notification, to provide brethren to assist at meetings and where there are gaps in Summons, to provide interesting and engaging talks. He thanked the lodges and the brethren for their ongoing support of the Mark Benevolent Fund. Following the soft launch of Wiltshire 2032 MBF Festival earlier in the year further information would follow. Finally, he wished all present a healthy and safe summer and that the Great Overseer of the Universe will bless and guide us all until we meet again. The address was met with acclamation.

The Provincial Grand Secretary reported that apologies and best wishes had been received from brethren outside of and within the Province, and these would be recorded.

A joint invitation was received from the Wiltshire Keystone Lodge of MMM No. 178 and Elias de Derham Lodge of MMM No. 443 to hold the next Annual Provincial Meeting on Thursday 20 June 2024 under their respective banners. These were gratefully accepted.

Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form. A retiring collection was made amounting to £849.66. This will be added to the Provincial Grand Charity Fund.

The meeting was closed at 12.15pm followed by a reception and lunch at 1pm.

W.Bro. Ray Pipe

Provincial Grand Secretary

Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 9

Provincial Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to submit my report and the accounts for the year to 30th April 2024.

General Fund

The General Fund has a deficit for the year of £330.60. This is in the main due to the net cost of the PGL Meeting in June 2023 being £2,586.80. However, other receipts, being dues from lodges, surplus on officers' dinner and honour fees, help to reduce the impact of this large cost. The deficit is lower than the previous year.

As of the 30th of April, the General Fund has £11,171.60 in reserves.

Contingency & Discretionary Fund

The Contingency & Discretionary Fund has increased by £842.15 in the year. This is mainly due to an increase in regalia sales, which increased from £370 to £754. Many thanks to Merv Johns for all his efforts in the recycling of the regalia. Also tie sales were much higher than in previous year, with revenue of £235 compared to only £40 last year.

The Contingency & Discretionary Fund supported the Chaloner Lodge Mark open evening in the year and the Provincial Grand Master is open to doing similar events with other lodges in the Province in the future.

Following a discussion with the Provincial Grand Master, it was agreed to invest £15,000 of the Contingency & Discretionary Fund into an interest bearing 1 year fixed term account with Lloyds Bank.

As of the 30th of April, the Contingency & Discretionary Fund has £21,886.92 in reserves.

Charity Fund

Following discussions with the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, it has been agreed that the accounts for the Charity Fund will be prepared and reported on by the Provincial Grand Treasurer, to assist the Provincial Grand Charity Steward. The year-end has been extended from 5th April to 30th April to align with the rest of the accounts for Provincial Grand Lodge.

For the Period from 6th April 2023 to 30th April 2024 the Charity Fund has received donations and gift aid totalling £3,097.24 and has donated £3,000 to two PGL MMM Festivals during the same period, being £2,000 to Cheshire and £1,000 to Oxfordshire.

This delivers a small surplus for the period of £97.34.

As of the 30th of April, the Charity Fund has £12,835.69 in reserves.

I would like to thank Merv Johns and Geoff Hunt in their time for examining the accounts.

I would also like to thank both the Provincial Grand Master and Nigel Poole for their assistance in transitioning the records and accounts to me following the sad passing of Peter Morgan.

Bro. Adrian Wheeler
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 9

Provincial Treasurer's Accounts – General Fund

Provincial Treasurer's Accounts - General Fund

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2024

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
INCOME		
Provincial Dues Mark & RAM	2286.00	1987.00
Honour Fees Mark & RAM	560.00	660.00
PGL Meeting	2010.00	1820.00
Officers Dinner Surplus	131.00	10.00
Sundry	0.00	10.00
	4987.00	4487.00
EXPENDITURE		
Website	212.74	180.58
Insurance	85.00	85.00
PGL Meeting	4596.80	4306.79
Postage	0.00	30.18
PGL Wilts Reference Book	851.00	851.00
Stationery	72.20	266.88
Grand Lodge Visit Chaloner	0.00	40.00
Sundry	-0.14	0.00
	5317.60	5260.43
(Deficit) for the Year	(330.60)	(773.43)

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Prepayments	46.51	47.00
Bank Account	11285.09	12220.20
	11331.60	12267.20

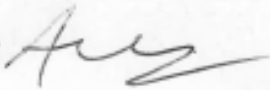
LIABILITIES

Accruals	160.00	0.00
	160.00	0.00
	11171.60	12267.20

REPRESENTED BY

Receipts In Advance	780.00	1545.00
General Fund	10722.20	11495.63
Deficit for the Year	(330.60)	(773.43)
	11171.60	12267.20

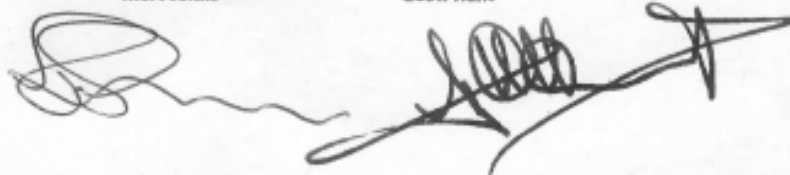
Adrian Wheeler FCCA
Prov G Treasurer



Examiners

Merv Johns

Geoff Hunt



Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 9

Provincial Treasurer's Accounts – Contingency & Discretionary Fund

Provincial Treasurer's Accounts - Contingency & Discretionary Fund

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2024

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
INCOME		
Sale of Ties	235.00	40.00
Regalia Sales	754.00	370.00
Coffee at PGL	0.00	40.00
Mark Sunday Lunch	1704.00	2340.00
Sale of Festival Badges	<u>1000.00</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
	3693.00	3790.00

EXPENDITURE

Festival Badges	1000.00	1000.00
Mark Sunday Lunch	1540.00	2271.60
Almoners Expenses	190.85	36.70
Chaloner Mark Open Evening	120.00	0.00
Sundry	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>
	2850.85	3318.30
Movement of Funds	<u>842.15</u>	<u>471.70</u>

BALANCE SHEET

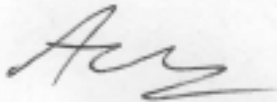
ASSETS

Debtor	0.00	200.00
Bank Account	21686.92	20644.77
Almoners Float	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
	21886.92	21044.77

REPRESENTED BY

Accumulated Fund	21044.77	20573.07
Movement for the Year	<u>842.15</u>	<u>471.70</u>
	21886.92	21044.77

Adrian Wheeler FCCA
Prov G Treasurer



Examiners

Merv Johns

Geoff Hunt



Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 9

Provincial Treasurer's Accounts – Charity Trust Fund

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF WILTSHIRE CHARITY TRUST FUND

Registered Charity Number 291454

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH APRIL 2024

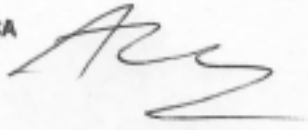
INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
INCOME		
Donations from Lodges	666.00	240.10
Donations - Other	160.00	28.00
Collection at PGL	849.66	1365.00
Raffle at Provincial Lunch	400.00	540.00
Gift Aid	526.53	816.25
Interest Received	495.05	159.42
	<u>3097.24</u>	<u>3148.77</u>
EXPENDITURE		
PGL MMM Surrey Festival	0.00	1000.00
PGL MMM West Yorkshire Festival	0.00	2000.00
PGL MMM Cheshire Festival	2000.00	0.00
PGL MMM Oxfordshire Festival	1000.00	0.00
Wiltshire Air Ambulance	0.00	200.00
Stroke Association	0.00	200.00
	<u>3000.00</u>	<u>3400.00</u>
Movement of Funds	<u>97.24</u>	<u>(251.23)</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Lloyds Bank Current A/c	481.41	545.79
Lloyds Bank Deposit A/c	3617.60	3455.98
CIOF Deposit Fund	8736.68	8736.68
	<u>12835.69</u>	<u>12738.45</u>

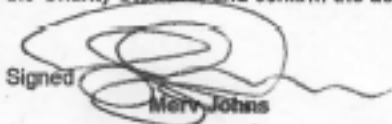
Prepared by: **Adrian Wheeler FCCA**
Prov G Treasurer



Examiners Report:-

We the undersigned having been appointed examiners, report that we have examined the books of account, statements and records maintained by the Charity Steward and confirm the accounts and balance sheet, as presented, are in accordance therewith.

Signed




Merv Johns

Date

24 MAY 24

Signed



Geoff Hunt

Date

24 MAY 24

Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 10

Provincial Almoner's Report

Dear Brethren,

Please find my annual report as acting Provincial Almoner.

Over the past twelve months, we have sadly lost some very respected Brethren. Their passing is deeply felt within our community. I am pleased to report that in all cases, the funerals were well attended, not only by Masons in general, but particularly by members of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner lodges.

In addition to remembering those we have lost, I would like to extend my recognition and best wishes to our Brethren who are currently facing serious or long-term health issues. Your support and understanding have provided comfort and strength to those in need, and I hope that this spirit of compassion continues to aid them in their recovery and management of their conditions.

The Lodge Almoners have worked diligently to keep me informed regarding the health and wellbeing of their members through their reports, which I gratefully appreciate. I would ask anyone who knows of a brother who is in difficulty, to inform their lodge almoner or myself directly. I can then initiate the appropriate enquiries with the Masonic Benevolent Fund (MBF) to explore potential avenues of assistance.

Furthermore, the MBF is also capable of extending its support to non-Masonic causes or local charities. If you are aware of any organisations in the local area that could benefit from assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will work with the Provincial Charity Steward to take the necessary steps to arrange for support where it is needed.

In times of illness and bereavement, small gestures can offer great comfort. As such, I have continued to send out get-well and condolence cards on behalf of the Province to our members and their partners. These tokens of our care and concern are a reminder that they are not alone and that they are in our thoughts during difficult times.

I thank all the Lodge Almoners for all their hard work; may we continue to look after each other and assist those Brethren in ill health or difficulties. Please keep me informed if you identify any needs or situations that require our collective support.

Thank you, Brethren and Mark Well,

W.Bro. Colin Ayton

Acting Provincial Grand Almoner

Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 11

Charity Steward's Report

On behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, I would like to thank the brethren of the Province for their continued support for charitable giving.

During 2023 Lodges distributed a total of £5,684 to local charities. Prospect Hospice, Dorothy House and Julia's House all received much needed donations following a sharp fall in revenue. Food banks in Devizes and Warminster were recipients of your support, along with many more charities both large and small. Three hundred pounds was donated to the Mark Benevolent Fund (MBF).

The Provincial Mark Charity Fund continued to acknowledge the importance of the MBF by supporting the Mark Province's in Festival. Donations of £2,000 were made to Cheshire, hosting the 2024 Festival, and £1,000 to Oxfordshire, hosting the 2025 Festival. This year a further £1,000 along with monies raised from the sale of their Festival badges will be donated to Oxfordshire. Next year the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight will receive £1,000 for their 2026 Festival.

The MBF Festivals differ greatly from the Masonic Charitable Fund (MCF) Festivals. The MCF Festivals come around on a regular basis commencing approximately seven years after the end of the previous Festival. In Wiltshire, our two previous MBF Festivals were in 1960 and 1995, and our next Festival will be in 2032. Most Mark Masons will only witness one MBF Festival. Hence, we need to make the most of the time prior to the 2032 Festival dinner which is scheduled for 3 July 2032. Remember the Festival is to be enjoyed with friends and family and should not be a mill stone around our neck.

Further details for the Festival will be published on the Mark website and through the Newsletters.

During our Festival period we will likewise receive reciprocal support from the other Provinces just as we support them each year.

MBF Individual Honorifics

Any sum above a minimum of £10 will be credited as requested and aggregated towards a Festival fund. The appropriate jewel or collarette will be issued when qualification is achieved. Individual honorifics start with a Life Governor at £100 through to Grand Patron Diamond for a cumulative donation of £5,000. If you are a UK taxpayer Gift Aid applies.

MBF Lodge Honorifics

Listed below you will see the current level of honorific achieved by each Lodge together with the amount the Lodge would need to donate to the MBF to receive the next level award.

Any further help or guidance on the above please do not hesitate to contact me or your Lodge Charity Steward.

Lodge	Name	LodgePatronStatus	Lodge amount	Required for next level	Next level
0178	The Wiltshire Keystone	Gold Award	4972.34	3527.66	Diamond
0401	Swindon Keystone	Diamond Award	0	0	
0443	Elias De Derham	Gold Award	6564.54	1935.46	Diamond
0599	Chaloner	Gold Award	5164.1	3335.9	Diamond
0853	Radnor	Grand Patron	3043.86	456.14	Gold
0971	Geoffrey Short	Gold Award	6660.66	1839.34	Diamond
1035	Lansdowne	Gold Award	5825.15	2674.85	Diamond
1110	Warminster	Diamond Award	0	0	
1143	Border	Diamond Award	0	0	
1460	Wiltshire Installed Mark Masters	Gold Award	7516.39	983.61	Diamond
1531	St. Aldhelm	Diamond Award	0	0	
1599	The Kennet	Gold Award	4678.67	3821.33	Diamond
1843	Wiltshire Downs	Patron	1156	894	Grand Patron

Lodge	Name	LodgePatronStatus	Lodge amount	Required for next level	Next level
0178	Wiltshire Anchor	Grand Patron	2131.7	1368.3	Gold
0401	Goddard	Patron	800	200	Grand Patron
0443	Elias De Derham	Grand Patron	2440	1060	Gold
0971	Concord	Grand Patron	1500	2000	Gold
1035	Lansdowne	Gold Award	5500	4000	Diamond
1110	Warminster	Patron	300	700	Grand Patron
1460	Reginald W. Short Installed Command	Grand Patron	3180	2395	Gold
1843	The Stuart Parry	Grand Patron	2335	2365	Gold

W.Bro. Ian Priest

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

Reference to 2024 APM Agenda Item 12

General Purposes Committee Minutes – Zoom Meeting – 7pm 21 May 2024

Attendees

R.W.Bro. S. Lee	Provincial Grand Master - Presiding
Bro. A. Wheeler	Provincial Grand Treasurer
W.Bro. R. Pipe	Provincial Grand Secretary (Produced meeting minutes)
W.Bro. S. Finn	Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. C. Robbins	Incoming Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro. N. Poole	Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary

Mark Representative	RAM Representative
M0178 W.Bro. J. Day	R0178 W.Bro. S. Botham (Absent)
M0401 W.Bro. C. Webb	R0401 W.Bro. T. Baker
M0443 W.Bro. S. Jenkins	R0443 W.Bro. I. Gibson for P. McCarthy
M0599 W.Bro. P. Lane	R0971 W.Bro. S. Finn
M0853 & M1460 W.Bro. R. Moore	R1035 W.Bro. C. Watling for K. Alley
M0971 W.Bro. R. Penny	R1110 W.Bro. R. Chalmers
M1035 W.Bro. D. Bristow	R1460 W.Bro. M. Johns (acting Scribe)
M1110 W.Bro. R. Chalmers	R1843 W.Bro. R. Whitehead for L. Baldry
M1143 W.Bro. R. Whitehead for L. Baldry	
M1531 W.Bro. M. Johns for P. Brygan	
M1599 W.Bro. B. Cowley	
M1843 W.Bro. I. Gibson	

AGENDA

1. Welcome

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. S Lee admitted the attendees into the Zoom meeting prior to the GPC meeting which formally commenced at 19:00. The PrGM welcomed the attendees and stated that the primary purpose of this meeting was to receive and review Lodge reports for the year, outline activities and initiatives for the coming year and set the foundations for the upcoming PGL meeting on the 20 June 2024.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

W.Bro. S Bridge (Deputy PrGM); W.Bro. I Priest (Provincial Grand Charity Steward); W.Bro Larry Baldry (M1143&R1843); W.Bro. P Brygan (M1531). W.Bro. P. McCarthy and W.Bro K. Alley(R1035). Apologies received from W.Bro. C. Ayton (Acting PrGAlmoner) post meeting.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

- There were no matters arising and it was agreed that this item should be removed from next years GPC meeting agenda.

4. Report of the Provincial Grand Treasurer

The Provincial Grand Treasurer, Bro. Adrian Wheeler was welcomed to the meeting by the PrGM as this being his first report since taking on the accounts part way through the year following the passing of W.Bro. Peter Morgan. A significant change being implemented this year was the reformatting of the accounts and to encompass the Charity accounts within his Provincial Treasurers remit. The General, Discretionary and Charity account Income and Expenditure balance sheets were presented during the meeting with an explanation of the key elements. The Provincial Treasurer stated that the accounts are scheduled to be presented to the account examiners later that week and the signed copies of the three accounts would be available prior to the Provincial PGL meeting on the 20 June 2024.

There being no comments or clarifications, the Treasurer's accounts, subject to being approved by the examiners will be submitted for adoption at the Provincial PGL meeting on the 20 June 2024.

5. Report of the Provincial Grand Almoner

Unfortunately, the acting Provincial Grand Almoner, W.Bro. Colin Ayton did not attend the Zoom meeting.

With the absence of the acting Provincial Almoner the PrGM:

- Complemented Colin Ayton for his excellent work that he has undertaken in the background on behalf of the Province and its members
- Indicated that during the year to date 6 brethren had passed
- Mentioned that he was scheduled to undertake a home visit along with the DepPrGM and Provincial Secretary to undertake a field promotion to W.Bro Nigel Dalby

The Provincial Secretary stated that the Almoners report would be shared prior to the forthcoming PGL meeting.

6. Report of the Provincial Grand Charity Steward

Unfortunately, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro. Ian Priest, was unable to attend the Zoom meeting. The PrGM stated that the Charity Steward is working with the MBF to ascertain each lodge MBF honorific status.

The Provincial Secretary stated that the Almoners report would be shared prior to the forthcoming PGL meeting.

7. Status of Provincial Membership

In previous years this item was called the Registrar's report.

The PrGM stated that he has been keeping track Lodge membership during the year. The core data being extracted from Keystone Online. There can be some variation between these numbers depending when Resignations are fully processed. Membership is on a relative even keel and the ratio of Royal Ark Mariner and Mark members remains very similar compared with the past few years.

The Provincial Secretary reinforced the importance of Lodge Secretaries and Scribes to keep Keystone Online updated as this is the primary source of membership data within our Province.

Membership Report 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 plus to 5th June 2024

Name of Lodge	Members 01-Sep-22	Advanced Elevated	Joined	Died	To Hon. Member	Excluded	Resigned	Members 31-Aug-23	Variance	Variance this year	Members 05-Jun-24
Wiltshire Keystone Mark	27	1	0	1	1	0	2	24	-3	0	24
Swindon Keystone Mark	31	2	2	4	0	0	0	31	0	-3	28
Elias de Derham Mark	23	0	3	0	0	0	1	25	2	0	25
Chaloner Mark	26	0	0	2	1	0	1	22	-4	0	22
Radnor Mark	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	21	1	1	22
Geoffrey Short Mark	20	0	1	1	0	0	2	18	-2	2	20
Lansdowne Mark	33	3	3	1	0	0	1	37	4	4	41
Warminster Mark	29	2	2	1	0	1	1	30	1	-3	27
Border Mark	34	1	1	2	1	0	1	32	-2	2	34
Wiltshire Installed Mark Masters	45	0	4	3	0	0	1	45	0	1	46
St Aldhelm Mark	35	2	1	1	0	0	6	31	-4	-2	29
The Kennet Mark	23	2	1	0	0	0	2	24	1	0	24
Wiltshire Downs	13	0	2	0	1	0	0	14	1	8	22
Total Memberships	359	13	21	16	4	1	18	354	-5	10	364

Total Individual Mark Members	303	13	13	13	1	1	17	297	-6	0	297
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Wiltshire Anchor RAM	22	0	0	0	1	0	0	21	-1	2	23
Goddard RAM	26	2	0	2	0	0	0	26	0	-3	23
Elias de Derham RAM	20	0	2	0	1	0	0	21	1	-2	29
Concord RAM	15	0	1	1	0	0	0	15	0	0	15
Lansdowne RAM	21	0	3	1	0	0	4	19	-2	-3	16
Warminster RAM	21	2	2	0	0	0	1	24	3	0	24
Reginald W Short Installed Commanders RAM	33	0	3	1	1	0	2	32	-1	3	35
The Stuart Parry RAM	18	1	0	1	0	0	0	18	0	2	20
Total Memberships	176	5	11	6	3	0	6	176	0	-1	175

Total Individual RAM Members	134	5	6	5	1	0	6	133	-1	-3	130
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8. Lodge representatives reports

The PrGM thanked the Lodge representatives for completing their respective reports in advance of the meeting, which meant that this Agenda item was covered off in a matter of minutes compared to an hour or so during previous GPC meetings. The PrGM stated that Steve Bridge will take a closer look at all of the reports to ascertain if there are any trends. The PrGM indicated that he had reviewed all of the reports and that his consensus was that there is generally a positive trend compared with a couple of years ago.

9. Provincial Initiatives

The PrGM talked about Recruitment, New Members/Retention/Reinvigoration and the Travelling Ark.

i. Recruitment

- a. Continue to use the Magic of the Mark material to attract new members.
- b. W.Bro. P. Lane of the Chaloner Lodge held a white table event. The meeting was attended by Craft non-Mark Masons, some of which are in the process of joining Mark. The Province supported this event by paying for the cost of the Craft non-Mark mason meals via the Provincial Discretionary Fund. For the time being the Province is happy to underwrite the meal costs in this way with other Mark Lodges.
- c. We need to build on the relationship between Craft/Chapter and Mark. This overt relationship has been fostered with the Rulers in the respective orders. The PrGM will commence a dialogue with the Craft/Royal Arch PrGM to ascertain the practicalities and deployment of presenting the Mark degree within Chapter meetings and vice versa.

ii. **Good meeting agendas.** It is important to have an interesting meeting agenda. This not only benefits the members of the Lodge but also to attract visiting brethren. During regular meetings where there is no candidate a demonstration ceremony should be held at least once a year. The Provincial Lodge Support team can be approached to request for someone to give a talk and/or if the Lodge requires assistance with someone to act in office during ceremonies of Advancement and Elevation

iii. **New Advances and Elevatees.** Due to the frequency of Lodge meetings it may be many months before a candidate witnesses another ceremony. Lodges should therefore encourage new members to visit other Lodges where a ceremony is taking place. To support this, consider one of the Lodge members accompanying the new member. This could be their Proposer/Seconder/Grand Officer/another Lodge member.

iv. **Grand Lodge Certificates.** In the past the PrGM or his Deputy have presented Grand Lodge Certificates. Lodges should now be encouraged to present these certificates by one of their own members. The PrGM and his Deputy will undertake the presentation of a certificate if requested in good time and diary permitting

v. **PrGM and DepPrGM attendance.** Following the trial of the PrGM and his Deputy attending nearly all the Advancement and Elevations these recent years, they have indicated that going forward, their attendance cannot be guaranteed. If they are in attendance and it is not a Provincial Team visit they will be in undress regalia

vi. **Travelling Ark.** The Travelling Ark has now completed its inaugural voyage around every Royal Ark Mariner Lodge within the Province. It has been a huge success, bringing visibility into Lodges and bolstering visiting numbers within each Lodge. The PrGM sowed the seed about implementing a Travelling Keystone for use between our Mark Lodges. This may be introduced in a couple of years time.

10. Charitable objectives for the coming year

The PrGM confirmed that in accordance with previous years and whilst funds permit, that £1,000 will be donated to the Province that is in Festival this year (Oxfordshire) and £1,000 to the Province in Festival next year (Hampshire & Isle of Wight). The PrGM stated that the monies to make these payments are made from our Charity Trust Fund and this depends on the ongoing contributions made by individual Lodge donations and the Annual Provincial Meeting envelope scheme.

The PrGM also stated that the Charity Trust Fund can also be used to support local charities. The Mark Benevolent Fund may also be approached for large capital expenditure charity considerations. The Provincial Charity Steward should be contacted for any such requests.

The PrGM indicated that the DepPrGM and the Provincial Chairty Steward would be happy to provide a talk during a Lodge meeting regarding charity initiatives, the MBF and working towards our own Provincial 2032 MBF Festival.

11. Annual Provincial Meeting – Melksham – Thursday 20 June 2024

The Annual Provincial Meeting will be held at Melksham Assembly Hall on the morning of Thursday 20 June 2024. Lunch will follow the meeting, with the menu being similar to previous years.

The Provincial Secretary confirmed that:

- Order of Proceedings will be sent out in due course
- The provincial equipment, furniture of the lodge and carpet are stored in Chippenham and assistance will be required to collect, drop off at Melksham and return back
- Lodge banners will be required – With the exception of the sponsoring banner lodges (M178/M443) banner poles are not required

The proposers and seconders at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting were agreed as follows:

	Proposer	Seconder
2023 APM Minutes	W.Bro. M. Pesse (SW)	W.Bro. C. Mitchell (JW)
2024 Treasurer's Accounts	W.Bro. M. Pesse (SW)	W.Bro. C. Mitchell (JW)

12. Alms from annual Provincial meeting

It was agreed that Alms will be collected during the PGL meeting, with proceeds going to Wiltshire Charitable Trust Fund.

13. Banner Lodges for the 2024 Annual Provincial Meeting (also providing Stewards)

The PrGM confirmed that the sponsoring Lodges at the Annual Provincial Meeting on 20 June 2024 will be as previously agreed:

- M0178 Wiltshire Keystone
- M1843 Elias de Derham

14. Banner Lodges for the 2025 Annual Provincial Meeting (also providing Stewards)

The PrGM confirmed that the Banner Lodges for the 2025 Annual Provincial Meeting be:

- M0971 Geoffrey Short
- M1599 The Kennet

15. Wiltshire Keystone M0178 – Sesquicentenary Celebrations (150th Year)

Wiltshire Keystone will be celebrating their Sesquicentenary meeting later in the year. The lodge are well underway with their preparations. They are in receipt of their 150-year Warrant and now await confirmation of the Celebration date from Mark Grand Lodge and who will be in attendance.

Post Meeting Update (08/06/24): Grand Lodge have confirmed the Celebration date as 13 Sept 2024.

16. Provincial Team visits 2024/2025 by rotation

The PrGM confirmed that next year's Provincial Team visits, by rotation, will be:

- M1143 Border 04 Sep 2024 (75th Year)
- M0401 Swindon Keystone 13 Nov 2024
- R1843 Stuart Parry 06 Mar 2025

17. Any Other Business

- **Provincial Reports.** During the course of the meeting W.Bro. R. Penny indicated that it would be beneficial to have sight of the reports prior to the meeting. Whilst this was the intention for some of this year's reports unfortunately it did not happen. The PrGM and the Provincial Secretary indicated that endeavours will be made for next year's reports to be received and shared in advance of the GPC meeting.
- **Grand Officers Dinner.** W.Bro. P. Lane asked if there was any merit with holding a Grand Officers dinner to complement the Provincial social diary. The PrGM indicated that he would not be averse with holding such an event. If such an event was scoped it would require someone to put forward a proposal to the Provincial Executive and to organise and facilitate any such event, should it proceed. W.Bro. Paul indicated that he would be happy to take on this task.

Notices

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Active Provincial Officers Indian | 30 Aug 2024 | Devizes |
| 2. Sunday Lunch | 29 Sep 2024 | Location TBA |
| 3. Active Provincial Officers Dinner | 08 Mar 2025 | Chippenham |

The meeting was closed at 8.04pm

W.Bro. Ray Pipe

Provincial Grand Secretary