

Minutes of the Thirteenth Somerset Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners

Held on Saturday 2nd September 2017 at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton

A procession of invited Provincial Grand Masters was formed and entered the Lodge at 10.45 am.

The Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, R.W.Bro. John Graham Morgan, entered the Lodge accompanied by active Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge together with the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Masters of Somerset.

Designated Officers were placed in their respective positions and the opening Hymn was sung.

The Provincial Grand Master assisted by his Officers opened the Somerset Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners in due form.

Under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Mark Golding, the Provincial Grand Master was saluted according to ancient custom. The Provincial Grand Master responded. W.Bro. Philip Clifford Voisey, RAMGR, Deputy Provincial Grand Master was saluted according to ancient custom, W.Bro. Voisey responded. R.W.Bro. David Brian Nelson, Past Provincial Grand Master, was saluted according to ancient custom and replied accordingly. W.Bro. Alan Patrick Parker, W.Bro. Geoffrey Ivor Nash and W.Bro. Raymond Guthrie, all Past Deputy Provincial Grand Masters, were saluted, W.Bro. Parker responded

The Provincial Grand Master welcomed the distinguished visitors and guests.

Under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, the visiting Right Worshipful Brethren were saluted according to ancient custom. R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire responded.

The Provincial Grand Master requested the Provincial Grand Scribe to call the Roll of Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. Having done so, the Scribe reported that every Lodge was well represented.

The minutes of the twelfth Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners held at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton, on 3rd September 2016 were approved by those present and signed by the Provincial Grand Master after the meeting.

The Provincial Grand Master called on the Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. Rev. Stuart Boyd to read the names of Royal Ark Mariners called to higher Office since the last Provincial Grand Assembly. The Brethren stood to order in respect to departed merit.

The Provincial Grand Registrar, W.Bro. Robert O'Malley-White then read his Registrar's report, following which the Provincial Grand Master extended his thanks to the Provincial Grand Registrar. *A copy of the report is attached to the file copy of these minutes.*

At the request of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Derek Thomas, Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire, then delivered a talk entitled "The Royal Ark Mariner Degree through the Ages". This was received with acclamation by all present. R.W. Bro. Thomas was warmly thanked by the Provincial Grand Master for his hard work in compiling and presenting the talk, which he said would inspire all present with a deeper understanding of the degree.

A copy of the report is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

The Provincial Grand Master welcomed a number of newly Elevated Royal Ark Mariners who were present, thanked them for attending and expressed the hope they would enjoy their first Royal Ark Mariner Assembly and indeed many happy years in the Degree in general.

The Provincial Grand Master then Invested the following Brethren with Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank:- W.Bro's F.A. Silver, Lodge TI; K.W. Kelly, Lodge 128; R.P Hutchings, Lodge 191; M.P.S. Bajona, Lodge 348; W.R. Newton, Lodge 571; P.R.A. Thresher, Lodge 697; N.R. Hurcum, Lodge 730, A. Douglas, Lodge 967. The Provincial Grand Master then requested that W. Bro. J.W. Winston and W.Bro. M.F. Golding be presented to him. He then proceeded to present them with Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank, somewhat to their surprise.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Assembly. *A copy of which is attached to the file copy of these minutes.*

Under any other business, The Provincial Grand Scribe reported he had received various forms of communication containing messages of support and apologies from a number Brethren of this and other Provinces, all of whom sent fraternal greetings and best wishes for a very happy and successful Royal Ark Mariner Assembly. He then informed the Brethren that the next Royal Ark Mariner Assembly was booked for Saturday 1st September 2018 again at the Webbington Hotel,Loxton.

The Closing Hymn was sung and Alms collected which amounted to £458.61.

The Provincial Grand Master closed the Provincial Grand Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners in due form.

The National Anthem was sung.

Under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, a retiring procession was formed, the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Brethren and other distinguished Brethren retired.

Following pre-luncheon drinks at the Bar, a 3 course Luncheon was served and the usual toasts proposed.

Signed..... Dated.....

R.W.Bro. John G. Morgan, Provincial Grand Master