

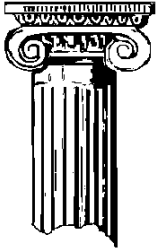
The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union & Crown No.307



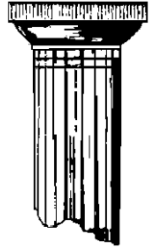
Issue No. 391

February 2016



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The Mallet



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“Whatever happened to “*The Band of Blue*”... The what? I hear many of the brethren say, particularly those who have only joined in the last few years! Simply put, when Lodge Union and Crown visited another Lodge either as an official deputation or as part of an unofficial fraternal visit it was expected that those brethren would sit together creating either a row, or rows, displaying the colours of the Lodge, this made *The band of Blue*... While this ‘band’ may never see its like again there is a definite sign that while we may never again be a full orchestra, the band may yet play on...

On a similar theme, I have noticed at our last two ‘official’ visits, while being very well attended by the Office bearers and Past-Masters of the Lodge, there has still been a dearth of ordinary brethren out supporting the RWM Bro. Ian Blair and indeed flying the flag for Lodge Union and Crown, are we, Past Master’s and Office Bearers not encouraging them enough?

I have to say that I am somewhat at a loss to explain this phenomenon. Certainly there will always be times when, through circumstances, a brother is unable to attend but I cannot believe it is all the brethren, all the time.

We have certainly stopped booking a mini-bus from Cochrane Street, many years ago now, due to lack of use and enough brethren going by their own car, is that a factor in people not turning up? Are the drink driving laws having an effect?

Although used, I still cannot believe any brother would claim he didn’t know there was an official visitation, at meetings the RWM announces forthcoming visitations, the WSW collects names at the harmony, the dates are in the Syllabus, on the web-site and even on the inside cover of this humble publication.

Brethren, I urge you to get out and visit, whether it be an official visit or an unofficial visit, one of the many benefits of freemasonry is the opportunity to make new friends and meet new people.

It is too easy to sit at harmony after our own meetings with one or two close friends but just think how your spirit would be lifted if a friend you hadn’t seen for ages walked through the door and joined you. Remember, it works both ways.

It’s certainly far from doom and gloom though, the brethren who did come out with the RWM Bro. Ian Blair at our two official visits so far, and there were over 20 at each of the meetings, saw the degree teams acquit themselves very well.

Congratulations to Bro. David Watson who was elected and installed as PGL President of Stewards at the Provincial Installation at Lodge Nitshill and a big thanks also to the brethren and office bearers who attended the PGL installation

Hugh Cattigan PM Ed.



Brethren,

The Right Worshipful Master Bro. Ian Blair cordially requests your attendance at the forthcoming meetings and official visits of the Lodge: -

Tuesday 1st March 2016

7:30pm

Business meeting

and

Annual Visitation

By the

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF RENFREWSHIRE EAST



Thursday 10th March 2016

7:30pm

Official visit to Lodge Dunlop Caledonia No. 1408

Main Street, Dunlop.

Where the Brethren of Lodge Union & Crown will confer a: **FC DEGREE**



Tuesday 15th March 2016

7:30pm

Business meeting

and

FC DEGREE

Conferred by the Office Bearers and Brethren

LODGE ARDROSSAN St JOHN No. 320



Tuesday 29th March 2016

7:30pm

Official visit to The Pollokshaws Royal Arch Lodge No. 153

2025 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G43 1NE

Where the Brethren of Lodge Union & Crown will confer a: **FC DEGREE**





100 CLUB

The lucky winners of our cash prizes for the month of February were:

Friday 5th February

(This draw actually took place on 16th February)

£10: **Bro. Colin McLardy PM**

£5: **Bro. Livingstone Boyd**

Tuesday 16th February

£10: **Bro. William H Gauld PM**

£5: **Bro. Les Riley**



Regular Meetings

At the regular meeting of the Lodge, held unusually, on Friday 5th February 2016 a short business meeting of the lodge took place and following this the lodge closed and the brethren adjourned to the function suite to enjoy the 192nd Anniversary Dinner.

The toast to the lodge was proposed by the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Prince of Wales, Bro. Ron Alexander and this was very well received by all in attendance.

The brethren were then entertained by the Scottish After Dinner Speaker, Jimmy Stirling, who, in his own words:

Was born in a circus and at sixteen years of age ran away to work in a factory. His mother was the bearded lady and his father was the India rubber man. Before he was born they were asked if they wanted a boy or a girl. They replied, "We couldn't give a shit as long as it fits in the cannon."

He had everyone present laughing from start to finish with his style, stories and jokes and I couldn't omit, his bodhran. The evening finished with everyone left agreeing this was indeed another great nights entertainment, sadly missed by many.

Lodge Opened: 07:30pm Lodge Closed: 07:58pm Attendance: 44

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 17th February 2016 and following the normal business the lodge was adjourned.

While adjourned, the Temple was converted into 'The Masonic Arms' Public House with Past Master Tom Mulholland taking his place behind the bar.

The scene was then set for one of our newer dramatisation *Kipling v Burns*. and all the brethren taking part were warmly received by all who were in attendance. We were particularly delighted to welcome brethren from Lodge Fort William no 43 who made the long journey in atrocious weather to witness our Burns Vs Kipling Dramatisation which they enjoyed very much!

Lodge Opened - 07:30pm Lodge Closed – 09:04pm Attendance – 57

Errata: Last month I published that our attendance at the regular meeting on the 19th of January was 25... This should have read "Attendance 75".

Rockmount Cryptic Council

Earlier the same evening many of the same Brethren had already attended the Annual Visitation of The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Renfrewshire to Rockmount Cryptic Council. With the Chapter duly opened the TIM Robert McCulloch was also equally pleased to receive a clear minute for the previous year's labours.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter and Rockmount Cryptic Council enjoyed a fine harmony in the company of those members of the Provincial deputation

A similar invitation is also extended by the TIM Robert McCulloch and his Office Bearers to attend the next regular meeting of Rockmount Cryptic Council No. 367.

Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 07:30pm

On Tuesday 24th February eleven companions of Rockmount Cryptic Council visited our sister Council, Greenock No.17 where we conferred the degrees of Royal Master, Select Master and Super Excellent Master on two of their candidates. While many butterflies existed, mainly from the fact that this was Rockmount Cryptic Council's first 'official' visit for many years, the degree team and work was warmly received by all and it was hoped would set the scene for many inter-Council (and Chapter, Ed.) visits in the future.



Nostalgia Night

Great Music From The
70's, 80's, 90's and more...

with

Jimmy D

Masonic Temple
Cochrane St, Barrhead

Saturday 19th March 2016 @ 7pm

Tickets: £7

For More information and or tickets Contact Bro. David McArthur PM



Q. What do you get when you cross a dyslexic, an insomniac and an agnostic?

A. Someone who lays awake at night wondering if there is a dog.



The Lodge **Annual Burns Supper** took place in the lodge function suite On Friday 19th February with around 60 brethren and gentlemen in attendance.

The evening was organised by Bro George McGrandles and was chaired by Bro Paul Stewart PM and thanks to their efforts the evening went very smoothly, almost!!! Our poor Past Master, Bro Johnny Gauld had a breakdown in his car shortly after leaving his home to join us but thanks to the sterling effort of his wife, Fiona, he managed to arrive and get his pipes quickly tuned to lead in the top table members.

The evening then commenced with our RWM, Bro Ian Blair delivering The Selkirk Grace before the haggis was paraded with Bro Johnny Gauld giving a fine Address Tae The Haggis.

A fine meal followed with all in attendance enjoying the food, the drink and the company to the fullest extent.

George McGrandles then entertained the assembly with a very fine Immortal Memory which was well researched, written and presented and was warmly received.

Next up was Bro Graham Manson PM who presented *Holy Willie's Prayer* which included a humorous introduction and the good humour of the evening continued as Bro John Miller, for the very first time, gave *The Toast to The Lassies*. This was a performance worthy of note and Bro John is to be congratulated on giving such a fine toast which we hope will be the first of many performances by our lodge member. Bro Paul Stewart PM kept the evening flowing smoothly by ensuring there were ample breaks but that everyone was back seated and ready to enjoy the next part. Bro Robert Scott then gave the Reply to The Lassies toast which had everyone laughing heartily!



Following another short break we were treated to a splendid rendition, this time of



Tam O' Shanter by Bro Johnny Gauld PM which received a standing ovation and deservedly so. Always a highlight of any Burns Supper, this epic was brought to life by Bro Johnny who enjoyed delivering it as much as the assembled brethren and their guests enjoyed listening.

A rousing rendition of *The Star Of Rabbie Burns* and *Auld Lang Syne* brought the evening to a close with everyone agreeing a first class night was had by all. It was a great joy that all the speakers were lodge

brethren and at £15.00 the whole evening represented fantastic value! Well done all.

Meet the Candidates

Meet the candidates- Lodge Union & Crown's three newest Master Mason's. We welcome all three brethren aboard and hope to see them among us for many years to come!



Bro. John Connor. John who hails originally from Linwood has lived in Barrhead for many years where his wife, Susan, comes from. They have 3 children with the oldest being Abbie and then twins Lucy and Lewis. John works as an inspection engineer which can take him away from home from time to time and likes to relax by watching football and keeping fit.



Bro William Beatts who is brother of our WJW Bro Kenneth Beatts. Bro Bill has the interesting job of film producer and is married to Carol and has sons William and Jonathan. Bro Bill is keen on walking, films and general learning. Just what we like to hear at Lodge Union And Crown, ritual book to follow, Bill!!!



Last, but not least is Bro. Grant Maybury who also lives in Barrhead and works as a teacher with his subjects being History and Religious Education which he teaches in Kilwinning Academy. Grant is an officer in The 2nd Barrhead Boys' Brigade Company where he joined as a young boy and had Bro Lawrence Webb and Bro Graham Manson PM as his Junior and Company Section Leaders respectively. Grant enjoys football and also does a mean Slosh on the dancefloor. We blame Bro Lawrence for this particular misdemeanour!

CONGRATULATIONS to Past Master Robert Miller who has retired from his job as a Civil Servant. PM Robert finished work on 25th February and immediately proceeded to pop-open the bubbly before he had his 'official' retirement party on Friday 26th in the Lodge Function suite attended by colleagues old and new. A great time was had by all.

One piece of sad news was that Bro Robert found out he is still too young to be eligible for admittance to the high order of Sausage Club member.



(Those squinting at the photograph on the cake... Yes! It is Robert. Ed.)



I waited, staying up all night trying to work out where the sun was... Then it dawned on me.



Our RWM Bro. Ian Blair is getting out and about in the Province as he visits our sister Lodges accompanied by a good number of brethren. Please try and join him as the reaction he is receiving on these visits is excellent!

On the same subject, there is a really good atmosphere in the Province of Renfrewshire East at the moment. A good many lodges are visiting each other with firm friendships being further cemented.



And still they come! More papers have been read out and our list of candidates is just fantastic!



Summer Dance

Bro Lawrence Webb, our Social Convenor has arranged a dance at the beginning of the summer recess to mark the holidays and a break from the lodge meetings.

Taking place on Saturday 7th May and Bro Lawrence is hoping for good support from as many brethren, wives, partners and their friends as possible.

The Annual Divine Service with Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167 will this year be hosted by Lodge Union & Crown no 307

Sunday 9th October 2016.

2.30pm for 3.00pm.

We will meet in Lodge Union & Crown No. 307's premises in Barrhead before parading, in regalia, to the Bourock Parish Church. We hope for a good attendance.



The **Provincial Grand Lodge** Curry Night at Lodge St. John Busby 458

19th March 2016

07:00 for 07:30pm

All Brethren and Partners are welcome Contact Bro. Willie Fleming or Brian Shields to book your tickets – £12 per head. An excellent evening of great food and entertainment guaranteed.

Visit the PGL website Contact page with any questions regarding this event.



On Friday 5th February I attended the funeral service of Bro. Robert Grant, aged 68, with the service taking place in the funeral parlour of D. Moodie & Co, Barrhead and thereafter at Neilston Cemetery. Soon after his discharge from hospital, where I had visited him a few days earlier, Bro. Robert passed away at his home in Barrhead with members of his family present. Bro. Robert's beloved wife, Sandra, sadly passed away some 14 months ago. I took time to visit Bro. Robert's son, Ian, at his home and expressed condolences on behalf of Lodge Union & Crown, to Ian, and through him to all the family at this sad time. Bro. Robert's father was also Bro. Archibald Grant who was the Right Worshipful Master of our Lodge during the years 1973/1974. I must add that whenever I visited Bro. Robert at his home over the past few years I was always warmly welcomed and thoroughly enjoyed the conversations which ensued. Bro. Robert Grant will be profoundly missed by family and his many friends and acquaintances. I personally will miss the opportunity of getting to know him better.

During February I have visited in the Royal Alexandra Hospital Bro. Malcolm Turner and Mrs Isabel Paton.

During the past month I have also visited the following Brethren and Ladies of the Lodge at their respective homes:-

Bro. Robert Kennedy	Bro. Jim Phillips
Bro. Jim Laird	Mrs Isabel Heron
Mrs Anne Houston	Mrs Helen Young
Mrs Dora Pattison	Mrs Betty Turner
Mrs Ellen McGinlay	

I have also spoken on the telephone with Bro. Alan Heard and we had a very pleasant chat.

Bro. Alex returned to the RAH after submitting his article to the Mallet when he heard that our Lodge Tyler, Bro. Jimmy Laing had been admitted. Fortunately it was only for a couple of days and we hear that Bro. Jimmy is now home and recovering.

I paid a Special visit to Bro. James (Jim) M. Laird to compliment him and wish him well on celebrating his 90th Birthday...

On each of the many occasions I have visited Bro. Jim at his home in Barrhead I have always, without doubt, been truly welcomed by both Jim and his dear wife Florence as well as other family members.

Once again, and on behalf of all at Lodge Union & Crown No. 307,

Happy Birthday Bro Jim





WORLD AT WAR 1914 – 1918

(February 1916)



The Battle of Verdun started on February 21st 1916, it was the longest single battle of World War One (lasting till December 2016). The casualties from Verdun and the impact the battle had on the French Army was a primary reason for the British starting the, better known in the UK, Battle of the Somme in July 1916 in an effort to take German pressure off of the French at Verdun.

The attack on Verdun came about because of a plan by the German Chief of General Staff, von Falkenhayn. He wanted to “bleed France white” by launching a massive German attack on Verdun, a stretch of land that had historic sentiment for the French. The area around Verdun contained twenty major forts and forty smaller ones that had historically protected the eastern border of France and had been modernised in the early years of the Twentieth Century.

Falkenhayn believed that the French simply could not allow these forts to fall as the national humiliation would have been too much. By fighting to the last man, Falkenhayn believed that the French would lose so many men that the battle would change the course of the war. Falkenhayn’s plan had credibility. The forts were very much part of French history and they would fight ferociously to keep the Germans out of the area. However, his plan also had one major weakness, it assumed that the French would be an easy opponent and it was only they who would take massive casualties.

140,000 German troops started the attack on the 21st February. They were supported by 1,200 artillery guns that targeted 2,500,000 shells at the Verdun region. 1,300 ammunition trains were needed to supply these guns. The Germans also had complete air supremacy with 168 planes located in the area – the largest concentration of planes in history up to that point. To start with, the French only had 30,000 troops to oppose the Germans. On the day the battle started, 1000 German artillery guns fired on a six mile line along the French front. One French soldier wrote about the artillery bombardment:

“Men were squashed. Cut in two or divided from top to bottom. Blown into showers; bellies turned inside out; skulls forced into the chest as if by a blow from a club.”

By February 25th, the Germans had captured 10,000 French prisoners. To the German’s astonishment, the huge fort at Douaumont, considered to be the most powerful fort in the world, was manned by just 56 elderly part-time gunners who gave the German attackers no resistance. For morale, the French public were not immediately told about the falling of Douaumont.

To be continued...



FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from the Mallet of 34 Years Ago



Issue No. 52

February 1982

RWM Bro. Brian Morton

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 2nd February the following five candidates, Daniel Carlton, Robert Young, James Paton, James Laird and Iain Wilson received the Fellow Craft Degree. The degree was carried out by a deputation from Lodge Anima, No. 1223, Glasgow who were our visitors for the evening. The ceremonial work, which deviated somewhat from the usual pattern, was none the less most impressive and extremely well carried out.

Lodge Opened: 7.30pm Lodge Closed: 10.00pm Attendance: 164

At the next Regular Meeting on 16th February the same five candidates received the Master Mason Degree, this time, at the hands of our friends and neighbours from Lodge Nitshill, No. 1478. Once again the degree work was just what we have come to expect from our Nitshill brethren, in a word, excellent.

Lodge Opened: 7.30pm Lodge Closed: 10.10pm Attendance: 158

We hear that Big Campbell Thomson, one of the happiest people you could meet, has finally decided to apply for affiliation to 307. We are right glad to hear it - he has been a regular attender at our meetings for many years.

Congratulations to Bro Ian Wilson whose wife recently presented him with a baby boy and also to Bro Tom Mulholland who's the proud father of a baby girl.

We hear that Bro Jim Cameron is in the process of learning Spanish.

We are glad that Bro Albert Gray has, at last, been given the keys of his new house in Gladstone Avenue.

Our best wishes to Bro Peter Cameron, who recently retired and we hear that Bro Willie Bell will be taking early retirement in March.

We have been told that Bro Willie Wade PM has visited no less than ten Lodges in a fortnight.

Congratulations to our R.W.M. whose wife Penny presented him with a baby girl.

We are told that Bro Andrew Tannahill PGM is an Hon. Member of at least 18 Lodges.

It is difficult not to be impressed by the sincerity of Sub. Prov. Grand Master, Bro Jim Corbitt.

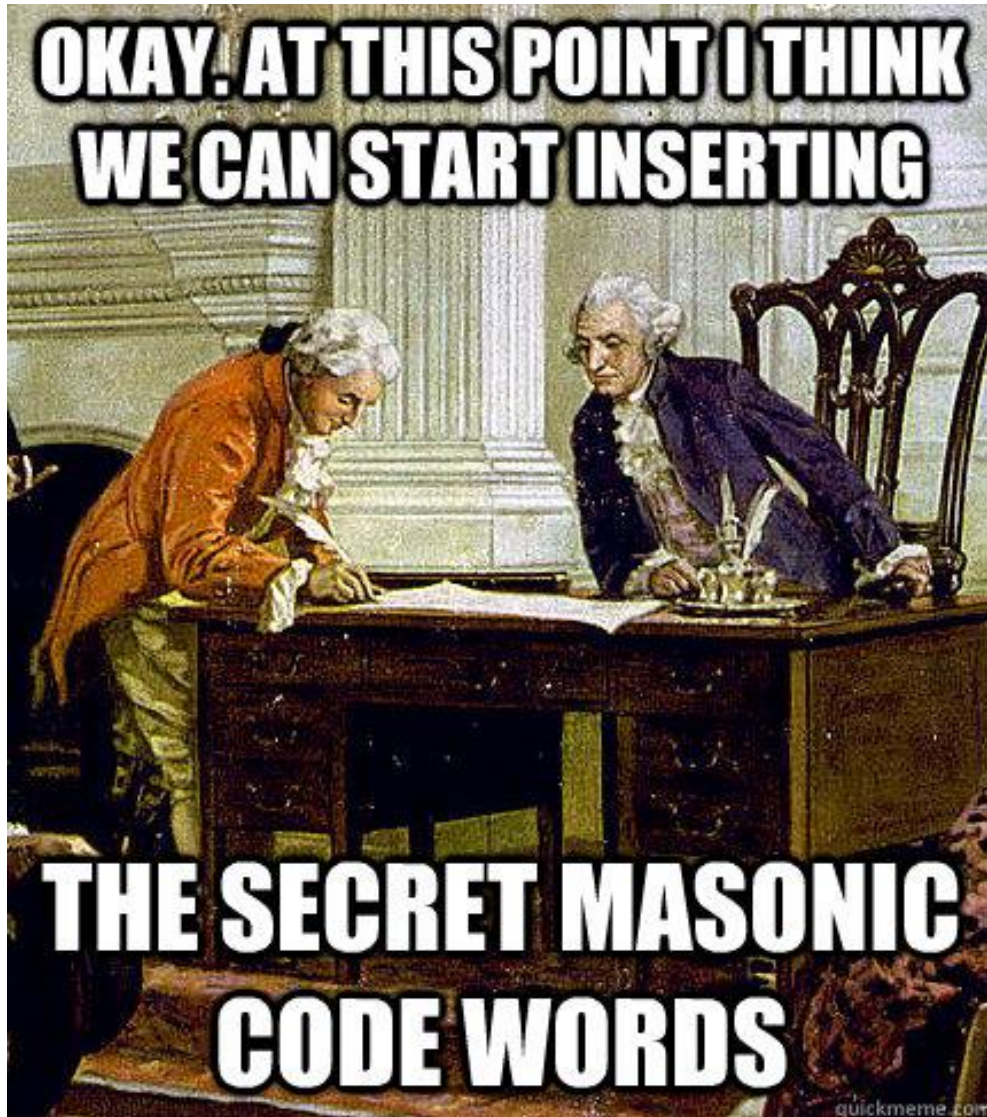
In our opinion, the most aptly named Provincial Office-bearer is Bro Jackie Goodfellow PPGSW.

Bro John Spence, Prov. Grand Jeweller, is on the Chair of Lodge Randolph Clarkston for the 2nd time.

Bro McAllister Smith, Provincial Grand Senior Warden has presented the John Fulton Golf Trophy in 307 on no fewer than 22 occasions !

Since being installed as PGMRE, Bro Andrew Tannahill has visited every Lodge in the Province at least once, outwith Installations, Statutory Visits etc.

Humour



How the conspiracy theories got started...

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by:

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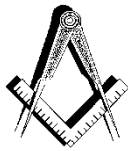
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Lodge Website: www.unionandcrown307.com

“With grateful thanks to all those who have freely given their assistance”



Syllabus 2015-2016

* - Denotes an Official visit



March 2016

Tuesday	01 st	07:30pm	Business meeting including P.G.L.R.E. Visitation	
<i>*Thursday</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>07:30pm</i>	<i>FC Degree</i>	<i>At Lodge Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408</i>
Tuesday	15 th	07:30pm	FC Degree	By Lodge Ardrossan St John, No. 320
<i>*Tuesday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>07:30pm</i>	<i>FC Degree</i>	<i>At Lodge Pollokshaws RA, No.153</i>

April 2016

Tuesday	05 th	07:30pm	MM Degree	By the Lodge Instruction Class
Tuesday	19 th	07:30pm	EA Degree	By Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167
<i>*Tuesday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>07:30pm</i>	<i>EA</i>	<i>At Lodge Prince of Wales No. 426</i>

May 2016

Tuesday	03 rd	07:30pm	Dramatisation	Prisoners of War
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September 2016

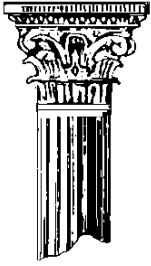
Tuesday	06 th	07:30pm	FC Degree	By Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426
Tuesday	20 th	07:30pm	MM Degree	By the Lodge Instruction Class

October 2016

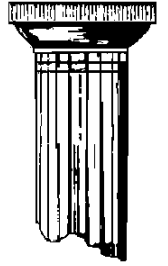
Friday	07 th	07:30pm	Open night dramatisation, The Table of Scottish Freemasons	
Tuesday	18 th	07:30pm	Annual General Meeting	

November 2016

Tuesday	01 st	07:30pm	MM Degree	Dramatisation
Tuesday	15 th	07:30pm	MMM Degree	By Bro. Alan Bernard IPM
Saturday	26 th	04:00pm	Installation	2016-2017



OFFICE BEARERS 2015 - 2016



RWM	Ian Blair
WSW	Christopher Baillie
WJW	Kenneth Beatts
IPM	Alan Bernard IPM
Depute Master	William H Gauld PM
Substitute Master	George McGrandles
Secretary	James Miller PM
Treasurer	James Kerr PM
Almoner	Alexander White
Senior Deacon	Ronald McIsaac
Junior Deacon	Nicol Hynd
Inner Guard	Robert Clark
Senior Chaplain	Alan Ross
Junior Chaplain	Steven Ross
Director of Ceremonies	David McArthur PM
Architect	Roy Farquhar
Jeweler	Tommy Wilson
Bible bearer	Lee Renfrew
Director of Music	Lawrence Webb
Organist	Billy Petrie
Marshall	Adam Watson
Standard bearer	John Miller
President of Stewards	Evans Reid PM
Steward	Gordon Neil
Tyler	Jimmy Laing

