

The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY held on Monday, 9 December 2024

at 12:30 p.m. in the Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall,
60 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5AZ

PRESENT

M.W.Bro. JOHN HERBERT PRIZEMAN
Pro Grand Master

R.W.Bro. FRANCIS CHARLES SPENCER
Deputy Grand Master

R.W.Bro. Prof. DENO VAN KEITH WILSON
Assistant Grand Master

GRAND MASTER'S ROYAL ARK COUNCIL

R.W.Bro. W. A. Divall – Chairman
R.W.Bro. R. J. Olliver, P.Prov.G.M. (Berkshire) – Deputy Chairman
R.W.Bro. E. J. Rymer, Prov.G.M. for Worcestershire
R.W.Bro. D. R. Clancey, Prov.G.M. for North and East Yorkshire
R.W.Bro. K. A. Beardmore, Prov.G.M. for West Lancashire
R.W.Bro. C. C. Adkin, Prov.G.M. for Nottinghamshire
R.W.Bro. J. R. G. Hilditch, P.Prov.G.M. (Oxfordshire)
R.W.Bro. His Hon. Judge K. C. Cutler, *CBE*
R.W.Bro. D. M. Heath
R.W.Bro. C. M. L. Davies

GRAND MASTER'S ROYAL ARK COUNCIL (HONORIS CAUSA)

R.W.Bro. P. Hawken, *MBE*, P.Prov.G.M. (Devonshire)
R.W.Bro. C. D. Radmore, P.Prov.G.M. (Hertfordshire)
R.W.Bro. P. H. Rollin, P.Prov.G.M. (East Anglia)
R.W.Bro. G. E. Bonham, P.Prov.G.M. (Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire)
R.W.Bro. M. A. Cooper, Dist.G.M. for Germany
R.W.Bro. Justice (Ret) M. P. H. Rubin, Dist.G.M. for Singapore
R.W.Bro. D. Thomas, P.Prov.G.M. (Monmouthshire)
R.W.Bro. J. C. Whitaker, *JP, DL*
R.W.Bro. I. N. Clark, P.Prov.G.M. (Surrey)
R.W.Bro. J. Steggles, P.Prov.G.M. (West Yorkshire)

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.W.Bro. J. Verbist, Dist.G.M. for Belgium
R.W.Bro. D. A. Upton, Prov.G.M. for Channel Islands
R.W.Bro. G. J. Deacon, Prov.G.M. for Hampshire and Isle of Wight
R.W.Bro. T. R. E. Jones, Prov.G.M. for South Wales
R.W.Bro. P. J. Mann, Prov.G.M. for Leicestershire and Rutland
R.W.Bro. G. R. Hicks, Prov.G.M. for Dyfed
R.W.Bro. S. C. Hallberg, Prov.G.M. for Lincolnshire
R.W.Bro. P. C. Voisey, Prov.G.M. for Somerset
R.W.Bro. I. W. Wright, Prov.G.M. for Oxfordshire
R.W.Bro. T. Quinn, Prov.G.M. for London
R.W.Bro. R. F. Richardson, Prov.G.M. for Sussex
R.W.Bro. R. A. Walton, Prov.G.M. for Northumberland
R.W.Bro. D. J. Boswell, Prov.G.M. for East Anglia
R.W.Bro. G. D. Seeman, Prov.G.M. for Berkshire
R.W.Bro. P. D. Williams, Prov.G.M. for Kent
R.W.Bro. J. H. Smith, Prov.G.M. for East Lancashire
R.W.Bro. G. R. Horstman, Prov.G.M. for Cheshire
R.W.Bro. G. Hutchinson, Prov.G.M. for Derbyshire
R.W.Bro. M. D. Kelly, Prov.G.M. for Isle of Man
R.W.Bro. B. P. Gargett, Prov.G.M. for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire
R.W.Bro. S. Lee, Prov.G.M. for Wiltshire
R.W.Bro. J. D. Harrison, Prov.G.M. for Hertfordshire
R.W.Bro. A. Bonechi, Dist.G.M. for Italy
R.W.Bro. B. Kirkbride, Prov.G.M. for Cumberland & Westmorland
R.W.Bro. D. C. Purdie, Prov.G.M. for Devonshire
R.W.Bro. K. J. Spencer, Prov.G.M. for Staffordshire and Shropshire
R.W.Bro. D. N. Hanson, Prov.G.M. for Durham
R.W.Bro. J. V. C. French, Prov.G.M. for Surrey
R.W.Bro. J. D. Sowerby, Prov.G.M. for Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford
R.W.Bro. P. Kirpensteijn, Dist.G.M. for The Netherlands
R.W.Bro. J. T. Bolton, Prov.G.M. for West Yorkshire
R.W.Bro. V. H. Pomeroy, Prov.G.M. for Dorset
R.W.Bro. J. Finlay, Prov.G.M. for Essex
R.W.Bro. B. W. Dykes, Prov.G.M. for Monmouthshire
R.W.Bro. P. J. Hyde, Prov.G.M. for Middlesex
R.W.Bro. A. R. Armbrister, Prov.G.M. for Warwickshire

PAST PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

R.W.Bro. M. Meade, P.Prov.G.M. (Wiltshire)
R.W.Bro. R. J. Wade, P.Prov.G.M. (Kent)
R.W.Bro. R. L. Munday, P.Dist.G.M. (Spain)
R.W.Bro. P. J. Sands, P.Prov.G.M. (Berkshire)
R.W.Bro. P.A. Norman, P.Prov.G.M. (East Anglia)
R.W.Bro. D. F. Ashbolt, P.Prov.G.M. (London)
R.W.Bro. C. M. Wilson, P.Prov.G.M. (Sussex)
R.W.Bro. J. R. G. Hilditch, P.Prov.G.M. (Oxfordshire)
R.W.Bro. R. S. Mac, P.Prov.G.M. (Warwickshire)
R.W.Bro. A. I. Torrance, P.Prov.G.M. (Kent)
R.W.Bro. K. J. Hicks, P.Prov.G.M. (Cornwall)
R.W.Bro. D. E. Tremaine, P.Prov.G.M. (Buckinghamshire)
R.W.Bro. P. J. Balsom, P.Prov.G.M. (Devonshire)
R.W.Bro. K. M. Blackburn, OSTJ, P.Prov.G.M. (Isle of Man)
R.W.Bro. R. A. Stokes, P.Prov.G.M. (Northampton, Huntingdon and Bedford)

OVERSEAS BRETHREN

BELGIUM

W.Bro. G. E. A. Denys, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.Dist.G.M.
W.Bro. F. Clarembaux, R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. P. F. R. Declercq
W.Bro. S. Tiberghin
W.Bro. E. L. Zenner

BOLIVIA

W.Bro. E. B. Tondu Elio

CYPRUS

W.Bro. Raymond Hynes
W.Bro. Renos Makrosellis

GERMANY

W.Bro. D. J. McDougall, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.Dist.G.M.
W.Bro. S. C. Pipes, R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. M. W. Stanley
W.Bro. D. Pearson
W.Bro. M. P. Parnham
W.Bro. N. W. Schoen
Bro. C. A. M. Trubacek

GIBRALTAR

W.Bro. S. Soobiah, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.Dist.G.M.

ITALY

W.Bro. G. Belforte
Bro. M. A. Canepa

NIGERIA

W.Bro. A. O. Mogaji, Dist.R.A.M.G.R.
Bro. K. J. L. Njoku

ROMANIA

W.Bro. F. Serban., Dep.Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. A. Stan
W.Bro. A. A. Dumitra
Bro. I. C. Dinu
Bro. A. S. Cotuna
Bro. I. S. Gorgos
Bro. C. Carpineanu
Bro. C. I. C. Babei
Bro. F. D. Pencea
Bro. C. Teodorescu

SINGAPORE

W.Bro. J. G. Bones, R.A.M.G.R.

SPAIN

W.Bro. V. Climente-Valero, R.A.M.G.R.

MADRAS

Bro. A. Paranthaman

THE NETHERLANDS

W.Bro. E. F. Van Splunter, R.A.M.G.R., Dep.Dist.G.M.
W.Bro. P. W. Haans, A.Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. J. P. J. F. Koopman, R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. E. Plasschaert, R.A.M.G.R.

W.Bro. M. Van Der Linden, R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. L. F. Jordan, Dist.R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. T. Barrau
W.Bro. H. V. Tuil
Bro. P. Bolhuis
Bro. P. Schelfhout

SOUTH AND EAST CARIBBEAN

W.Bro. T. A. E. Douglas, R.A.M.G.R.
W.Bro. E. E. Clarke

New Shores Lodge No. 1903 (Unattached – Austria)

W.Bro. S. Dascal, O.R.A.M.G.R.

HEADS OF ORDERS

R.W.Bro. P. R. Clement, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.)	Grand Master – KT
R.W.Bro. G. L. Flight, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.)	Grand Sovereign – RCC
R.W.Bro. I. S. Currans, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.)	Grand Summus – SC
R.W.Bro. D. K. Williamson, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.)	Lieutenant Grand Commander – A & AR

together with holders of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner, Commanders, Past Commanders and other Brethren.

Report of Proceedings

1. OPENING

The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner was opened in ample form and the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master announced that during the last year the Supreme Commander of the Universe had called a number of Brethren to higher service, including 152 Grand Officers who were all detailed in the Report of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council. Particular reference was made to: R.W.Bro. Michael Edward Herbert, P.Dep.G.M.; R.W.Bro. Gordon Craigs, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.); R.W.Bro. Michael Batham Jones, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.); R.W.Bro. Robert Poxon, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.); R.W.Bro. Daniel Lawrence Gadd-Claxton, Dist.G.M for South Africa – Western Division; R.W.Bro. Max Nicholas Brown, P.Dist.G.M. (South Africa – Western Division); R.W.Bro. John Henry Farrall, P.Prov.G.M. (North Wales); R.W.Bro. Frederick John Gillo, P.Prov.G.M. (Gloucestershire & Herefordshire); R.W.Bro. David Anthony Gurney, P.Dist.G.M. (The Transvaal); R.W.Bro. Ivor Findlay Sander, P.Dist.G.M. (The Transvaal); R.W.Bro. David Robinson Sellers, P.Prov.G.M. (Cheshire); R.W.Bro. The Hon. Mr Justice Amritlal Bhagwanji Shah, P.Dist.G.M. (East Africa); R.W.Bro. Michael George Spencer, P.Prov.G.M. (Essex); R.W.Bro. William Philip Thompson, P.Dist.G.M. (River Plate); R.W.Bro. Michael James Leslie Whelan, *JP*, P.Prov.G.M. (Dorset); and R.W.Bro. Thomas Gareth Williams, P.Prov.G.M. (North Wales). The Grand Chaplain offered prayer to departed merit.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner held on Monday, 11 December 2023, which had been circulated with the Summons, were taken as read and confirmed.

4. REPORT OF THE GRAND MASTER'S ROYAL ARK COUNCIL

The Report of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council for the twelve months ended 30 September 2024, which had been printed as **Appendix A** to the Summons, was taken as read, approved and adopted.

5. APPOINTMENTS TO ROYAL ARK MARINER GRAND RANK

Kwasi Anokye-Yesuo	Peter Thomas Jones
Paul Yaw Asante	Sergio Luiz Karlinski
Henry Alan Barnes	Laurence Richard Kavanagh
Theo Barrau	Robert Edward Kelly
Raymond Leslie Beadle	Andrew Reginald King
Frederick Peter Philip Beavers	Kenneth Kinnaird
Gabriele Belforte	Stephen Edward Knight
Adrian John Bolton	Simon Gray Angove Larard
Richard Micheal Bray	Colin Everett Lewis
Robert James Brown	Alfred Leonard Lipscombe
Colin Leslie Burke	Andrew Lister
Matthew Redgwell Burt	Renos Makrosellis
Paul Busby	Natarajan Manimaran
Michael Caseman-Jones	Diego Luis Nicolas Mansilla
Frederick Charnock	Anthony Richard Marston
Henry Chong Chin Sheng	Michael Vincent McBrearty
Peter Kenneth James Chun	Paul McGrath
Christopher Stephen Clark	Graham Andrew Mills
Colin John Clark	Vishwa Mohan
Errol Erad Clarke	Duane Harcourt Edward Murray
Brian Albert Collyer	Neil Murray
Glyn Edward Wynne Condliffe	Paul Mycock
Mark Robert Constant	Ian David Nesbitt
Richard Cory-Pearce	James Henry Newman
Paul John Craker	Mark Paul Nicholls
Melvyn Antony Cross	Howard Stephen Nuttall
William Edward Davies	Ikenna Edison Ogbonna
Mark William Davis	Chetan Kumar Patel
Joao Vicente De Assuncao	David Pearson
Alan Vernon Dean	John Andrew Christian Porter
Graham Delaney	Dudley Charles Price
David Douglas	John Stephen Priestley
John Ebdy	William Emlyn Pryce
Glyn Arwyn Edwards	Michael Peter Puddicombe
Robert Llewelyn Evans	David Ivel Rees
Peter John Everest	Jeremy Paul Reese
Ernest John Fisher	Leslie Arthur Richings
John Carl Fitzgerald	Kenneth Urquhart Robson
Martin Stuart Fletcher	Jonathan Samuel Rose
Ashokrai Gohil	Savvas Savva
Andrew Green	Martin Scott
Mark Stephen Gregory	Neville Anthony Scott
Peter Hargreaves	Geoffrey Keith Seaman
Richard Allan Harris	Vijay Motichand Shah
Alan George Hatherall	David William Shaw
Ian Douglas Henderson	Stephen Charles Simpson
Anthony Brian Hobson	Michael John Jennings Singleton
Paul Stephen Hollebone	Anthony Robert Smith
David Rodney Hollyman	Clive Rodney Snell
David John Hughes	Alan Gordon Spearman
Paul Charles Hughes	Julian Gordon Spurr
Anthony William Jacobs	David Raynor Starritt
Andrew Charles Jennings	Martin Raymond Stokes
Paul Jones	Gary Charles Stratmann

Marios Phillip Stylianides
Vellore Dandapani Sundaravadanam
Keith Raymond Stewart Surry
Frederick Richard Thomas
Robert Ross Tonner
Anthony Goodridge Tottle
John William Tubbs
David John Tucker
Henk Van Tuil
Howard Leslie Glyn Vaughan
Peter Vernon
Geoffrey James Waddoups

Pierre Christian Julian Waddoups
Stuart Robert Walters
Martin William Richard Ward
Richard Edward Wilkinson
David Ernest Williams
Sion William Tracy Wilson
Yuen Tin Laurence Wong
Digby Ralph Woods
Stephen John Wyer
Wayne Eustace Graham Yearwood
Eddy Leon Zenner

6. ADDRESS BY THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master addressed the Assembly as follows:

'Brethren, I welcome you all here today and I am greatly heartened that so many of you have chosen to attend and to receive your Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank supported by so many of your fellow Royal Ark Mariners. But firstly, I have been instructed by the M.W.Bro. HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Grand Master, to convey his personal congratulations to all of today's recipients of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank.

'It is important to understand that Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank is not an automatic right: appointments are restricted by Provincial and District membership statistics, as set out in the Book of Constitutions and Regulations. It is always a difficult job to select Brethren for preferment. I now congratulate all 120 of you who I today had the pleasure of appointing to Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank in our Antient and Honourable Fraternity – a distinction which recognises faithful and distinguished service. I know you have worked hard in your Lodges and for the advancement of the Fraternity. This appointment is a fitting reward for all your efforts. I have no doubt that your enthusiasm and devotion to the Fraternity will help you enjoy still further the greater responsibilities you are now required to undertake, and I wish you every success in your efforts. To each of you, I send my warmest congratulations and trust that you will have many opportunities to enjoy your new status. The award of a Grand Honour is a positive reflection of, and reward for, the work that each of today's recipients has carried out, and I have no doubt that their preferment will stimulate them to promote the Fraternity still further.

'I feel sure that a spirit of optimism prevails amongst us, as we embark on the one hundred and fifty-third year since our beautiful Order came under the administration of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, and The Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, and that our collective reaction to the storms and anxieties we face in the outside world, at the present time, will positively influence the way in which our Order develops, and that heritage will be the foundation on which we will build our future.

'I always look on our individual progress in Freemasonry not as a career but a journey such as our circumstances permit. On every journey in life, it is good to enjoy the company of a companion, and I urge you to look upon all the Orders of Freemasonry as companion and complementary Orders. We are here today because first and foremost we are Mark Masons – let us all ensure our Mark Lodges prosper and thrive because only then will our Royal Ark Mariner Fraternity prosper and thrive.

'I am now delighted to welcome representatives from our own constitution from overseas. I would ask you to refrain from welcoming applause until I have come to the end of the list:

From Belgium, R.W.Bro. Jean Verbist, Dist.G.M.; together with five of his Brethren;

From Bolivia, W.Bro. Edmond Tondou Elio;

From Cyprus, W.Bro. Renos Makrosellis, R.A.M.G.R., and W.Bro. Raymond Hynes;

From Germany, R.W.Bro. Michael Cooper, Dist.G.M.; together with seven Brethren;

From Gibraltar, W.Bro. Selvan Soobiah, Dep.Dist.G.M.;

From Italy, R.W.Bro. Andrea Bonechi, Dist.G.M., together with two of his Brethren;

From Madras, Bro. Arjun Paranthaman;

From The Netherlands, W.Bro. Peter Kirpensteijn, Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R.; W.Bro. Ernst Frits Splunter, Dep.Dist.G.M.; W.Bro. Pieter Willem Haans, A.Dist.G.M., R.A.M.G.R.; along with eight other Brethren;

From Nigeria, W.Bro. Adebowale Olsola Mogaji, along with Bro. Kelechi Joseph-Lloyd Njoku;

From Romania, W.Bro. Florin Serban, Dep.Dist.G.M., along with nine other Brethren;

From Singapore, R.W.Bro. Justice Mahideen Rubin, Dist.G.M., G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.), together with W.Bro. John Graham Bones, R.A.M.G.R.;

From South and East Caribbean, W.Bro. Trelford Alexander Earl Douglas, R.A.M.G.R., with W.Bro. Errol Erad Clarke, R.A.M.G.R.;

From Spain, R.W.Bro. Robert Leslie Munday, P.Dist.G.M., together with W.Bro. Vicente Climente-Valero, R.A.M.G.R.;

From New Shores Lodge of R.A.M. No.1903 (Unattached – Austria), W.Bro. Silviu Dascal, O.R.A.M.G.R.;

From here at home, our Heads of our Companion Orders:

R.W.Bro. Paul Clement, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) – The Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar;

R.W.Bro. Graham Flight, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) – Grand Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine;

R.W.Bro. Ian Currans, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) – Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord;

R.W.Bro. David Kenneth Williamson, G.M.R.A.C. (H.C.) – Lieutenant Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

'Brethren, I leave you with this thought: in many ways our Fraternity is unique. It is ruled by the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council, and I, as Pro Grand Master of the Mark, am by default Pro Grand Master of The Royal Ark Mariner. Looking around this Grand Assembly, there is little to distinguish us by the rank we hold which I believe only serves to illustrate one of the great attributes of the Fraternity: that we are all equal in the eyes of the Supreme Commander of the Universe. And borrowing from our ritual, "that the highest is he who performs his part the best, not he who fills the most exalted position".

'I am sure that you are all looking forward to the refreshment that follows. To those of you who are unable to stay and dine because of your concerns for onward travel I wish you a safe journey and speedy return home.

'I will conclude my remarks by placing on record my thanks to the Grand Secretary, R.W.Bro. Daniel Heath, who is embracing the responsibilities of his new role with distinction. I extend my thanks to the Deputy Grand Secretary and all the staff at Mark Masons' Hall for all their work in preparing for today, and the Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.W.Bro. Christopher Davies, and his team for the excellence of the ceremonial we have witnessed.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year, and may our Antient and Honourable Fraternity continue to flourish in the year to come, as I am sure it will, with your enthusiasm and the blessing of the Supreme Commander of the Universe.

7. CLOSING

The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariner was closed in due and antient form.

