

The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord
in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas



**Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual Convocation of Grand Senatus
held at Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL,
on Friday, 30 May 2025**

PRESENT

GRAND SUMMUS

M. Dist. Comp. Ian Stanley Currans, VI

DEPUTY GRAND SUMMUS

R. Dist. Comp. Francis Charles Spencer, VI

ASSISTANT GRAND SUMMUS

R. Dist. Comp. Howard Saul Markham, VI

PAST GRAND SUMMUS

M. Dist. Comp. A. C. Sweeney, VI

PAST DEPUTY GRAND SUMMI

R. Dist. Comp. P. R. Clement, VI

R. Dist. Comp. Cdr C. J. Aspinell, *RD, JP, VI*

PAST ASSISTANT GRAND SUMMI

R. Dist. Comp. J. R. Paternoster, VI

R. Dist. Comp. I. P. Duff, VI

GRAND REGENTS VICARII

R. Dist. Comp. R. W. Leavers, VI

R. Dist. Comp. M. F. Barnes, VI

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND SUMMI

R. Dist. Comp. G. L. Gill, *SLMM*..... District Grand Summus for Southern Caribbean
R. Dist. Comp. S. N. White Provincial Grand Summus for Glos, Herefordshire & Wiltshire
R. Dist. Comp. G. R. Gill..... Provincial Grand Summus for West Lancashire
R. Dist. Comp. C. N. Barker Provincial Grand Summus for North & East Yorkshire
R. Dist. Comp. I. R. Sullivan Provincial Grand Summus for Somerset & Dorset
R. Dist. Comp. M. A. Jacques..... Provincial Grand Summus for Durham & Northumberland
R. Dist. Comp. P. J. H. Brown..... Provincial Grand Summus for East Midlands
R. Dist. Comp. P. C. Clare Provincial Grand Summus for Kent
R. Dist. Comp. K. C. McCully Provincial Grand Summus for East Anglia
R. Dist. Comp. J. C. Welton..... Provincial Grand Summus for Cheshire & North Wales
R. Dist. Comp. A. M. Shields Provincial Grand Summus for East Lancashire
R. Dist. Comp. Dr S. L. Ostrowski Provincial Grand Summus for The Chilterns
R. Dist. Comp. R. W. Davies Provincial Grand Summus for West Wales
R. Dist. Comp. J. J. Greenwall Provincial Grand Summus for London

R.Dist.Comp. J. P. Wallis Provincial Grand Summus for Middlesex
R.Dist.Comp. A. P. K. Webster Provincial Grand Summus for West Yorkshire
R.Dist.Comp. G. Holden Provincial Grand Summus for Midland Counties
R.Dist.Comp. A. J. Van Der Burgh..... Provincial Grand Summus for Sussex
R.Dist.Comp. R. C. W. Batchelor Provincial Grand Summus for Hampshire, IOW & The C.I.
R.Dist.Comp. A. D. Jones..... Provincial Grand Summus for South Wales & Monmouthshire
R.Dist.Comp. T. D. Sheern Provincial Grand Summus for Essex
R.Dist.Comp. N. Thompson..... Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey

GRAND INSPECTOR

V.Dist.Comp. J-P. Dakhil Grand Inspector for France

PAST PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT GRAND SUMMI

R.Dist.Comp. K. B. Ferguson, P.Prov.G.S., South Wales and Monmouthshire (2014–2023)
R.Dist.Comp. J. Marrison, P.Prov.G.S., West Yorkshire (2017–2022)
R.Dist.Comp. R. J. Clare, P.Prov.G.S., Essex (2016–2023)

GRAND OFFICERS

R.Dist.Comp. L. E. Bourne, *JP* Grand Chancellor
R.Dist.Comp. B. V. Epur Grand Vice Chancellor
R.Dist.Comp. Cdr C. J. Aspinell, *RD, JP*, P.Dep.G.S. Grand Episcopus
R.Dist.Comp. T. D. Currans, P.G.Chan..... President of Executive Committee
R.Dist.Comp. M. J. J. Singleton, P.G.Vice Chan. Grand Registrar
R.Dist.Comp. R. A. H. Morrow, P.G.Chan..... Grand Treasurer
R.Dist.Comp. D. M. Heath, P.G.Vice Chan..... Grand Recorder
R.Dist.Comp. P. J. Purves, P.G.Vice Chan..... Grand Director of Ceremonies
V.Dist.Comp. A. R. Flux..... Grand Lecturer
V.Dist.Comp. J. C. Whitaker, *JP, DL* Grand Lecturer
Dist.Comp. J. T. Beech..... Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
Dist.Comp. J. D. Watts Grand Herald
Dist.Comp. D. Mersh Assistant Grand Recorder
Dist.Comp. D. Schiff Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Dist.Comp. G. A. G. Barker Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Dist.Comp. S. G. Pemberton..... Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
Dist.Comp. P. W. Hutchinson Grand Sword Bearer
Dist.Comp. M. C. Gibbs Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
Dist.Comp. P. A. Joynson..... Deputy Grand Standard Bearer
Dist.Comp. P. G. Bowen, P.A.G.D.C. Grand Organist
Dist.Comp. A. T. Morris, P.G.Her. Deputy Grand Organist
Dist.Comp. J. A. Easton Grand Guarder
Dist.Comp. D. E. Atterbury Grand Steward
Dist.Comp. L. G. Clement Grand Steward
Dist.Comp. P. R. Crudge Grand Steward
Dist.Comp. P. Busby..... Grand Watchman

PAST GRAND CHANCELLORS

R.Dist.Comp. N. A. B. Grout
R.Dist.Comp. P. A. Norman
R.Dist.Comp. S. G. Carley
R.Dist.Comp. P. J. Wise

PAST GRAND VICE CHANCELLORS

R.Dist.Comp. K. D. Kennedy
R.Dist.Comp. R. Mussell
R.Dist.Comp. G. H. Fenwick
R.Dist.Comp. T. F. Auber

R.Dist.Comp. C. M. L. Davies
R.Dist.Comp. M. A. J. Barnard

COMPANIONS FROM OVERSEAS

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Dist.Comp. I. P. Ellston, Dist.G.Rec.
Dist.Comp. Y. L. Chew

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

Dist.Comp. W. H. Jackson
Dist.Comp. P. F. Suffren

FRANCE (Inspectorate)

V.Dist.Comp. C. Amine, P.G.Lect.
Dist.Comp. P. F. Ambrody
Dist.Comp. A. Appercel
Dist.Comp. H. Badet
Dist.Comp. C. B. M. Barthet
Dist.Comp. J-F L. M. Deneux
Dist.Comp. D. Fontanili
Dist.Comp. A. C. P. Herreng
Dist.Comp. G. R. D. Leconte
Dist.Comp. P. Mairesse de Montfaucon
Dist.Comp. A. Ngakosso Ngama
Dist.Comp. T. M. Seillier
Dist.Comp. J.-L. M. Souyri
Dist.Comp. C. Tidjani
Dist.Comp. J-L. R. M. Gaucher

The Brian Wareham Scarlet Cord Consistory TI (Unattached – London)

V.Dist.Comp. F. Clarembaux, P.G.Lect.

Walled City Consistory No. 118 (Unattached – Hong Kong)

Dist.Comp. T. C. Gray, P.G.Swd.B.

Le Cordon Ecarlate du Léman Consistory No. 120 (Unattached – Switzerland)

Dist.Comp. H. Richard

Acropolis Consistory No. 163 (Unattached – Greece)

Dist.Comp. A. Spyropoulos
Dist.Comp. I. Benetatos

HEADS OF OTHER ORDERS

V.Dist.Comp. J. H. Prizeman, P.G.Reg..... Pro Grand Master – MMM
R.Dist.Comp. P. R. Clement, P.Dep.G.S. Grand Master – KT
R.Dist.Comp. K. J. Jones, P.G.Chan.....Grand Master – RSM
M.Dist.Comp. A. C. Sweeney, P.G.S. Grand Supreme Ruler – OSM
Dist.Comp. P. Mycock, P.G.Her..... First Grand Master Mason – The Operatives
Comp. A. W. Llewellyn..... Supreme Magus – SRIA

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF OTHER CONSTITUTIONS

Grand Council of the Order of the Secret Monitor for Southern Australia (having jurisdiction over the Scarlet Cord in Southern Australia)

M.Dist.Comp. D. A. Stewart, P.G.S.R., and R.Dist.Comp. E. R. Lewellin

Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor for Canada (having jurisdiction over the Scarlet Cord in Canada)

M.Dist.Comp. P. D. Selvaraj, Grand Supreme Ruler and Grand Summus.

There were also present a number of Past Grand Officers, Installed Presidents and Companions of the Order.

The members of the Tzaddikim formed an Arch of Steel under the direction of the Captain, V. Dist. Comp. D. P. Barden, V, P.G. Lect, as follows:

Distinguished Companions D. A. Griffiths, V, P.G. St. B.; E. Kokkalis, IV, Dep. Capt.; M. I. J. Currans, IV, Registrar; P. F. Ambrody, IV; S. Higson, IV; V. Fattorusso, III; G. Morrison, III; M. G. Murray, III; Eminent Companions C. M. Base, III, and P. A. Elwick (probationary member);

Report of Proceedings

1. Grand Senatus was opened in ample form by the Most Distinguished Grand Summus at 12.30 p.m.

2. IN MEMORIAM

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus addressed the Companions as follows:

'During the last year the God of our Fathers has called a number of Companions to higher service. I would like to mention, in particular, M. Dist. Comp. Michael William Guest, P.G.S., who was our first Grand Summus and consequently very influential in the establishment of the Order; and R. Dist. Comp. Michael Edward Herbert, P. Dep. G.S., who installed Michael Guest at the inauguration of our Order. In total, 32 Grand Officers are detailed in the Report of the Executive Committee. Today we are offering our thanks to the God of our Fathers for their friendship, and I now call upon the Grand Episcopus for a memoriam prayer.'

The Brethren stood to order while the Grand Episcopus offered prayer.

3. MINUTES

On the proposition of the Most Distinguished Grand Summus, seconded by the Deputy Grand Summus, the Minutes of the Convocation of Grand Senatus, held on Thursday, 2 May 2024, having been circulated with the summons, were taken as read, approved and adopted.

4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On the proposition of the President of the Executive Committee, seconded by the Grand Registrar, the Report of the Executive Committee for the twelve months ended 31 January 2025, having been circulated with the summons, was taken as read, approved and adopted. (The report is printed as **Appendix A** hereto.)

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS AND REGULATIONS

On the proposition of the Grand Recorder, seconded by the Grand Registrar, the amendments to the Constitutions and Regulations, as circulated with the summons and printed as **Appendix B** hereto, were approved and adopted.

6. ELECTION AND PROCLAMATION OF THE GRAND SUMMUS

On the proposition of the Deputy Grand Summus, seconded by the President of the Executive Committee, the Companions unanimously re-elected Most Distinguished Companion Ian Stanley Currans, VI, as Grand Summus with acclamation.

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus was then proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that IAN STANLEY CURRANS, Past Grand Sword Bearer in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Grand Sword Bearer in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Grand Junior Warden in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, and Member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council (Honoris Causa) in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past

Great Herald in the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; Grand Inspector Inquisitor Commander, 31st Degree, in the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Past Grand High Chancellor in the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and of St John the Evangelist; Past Grand Chancellor in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Past District Grand Prefect for Southern Counties in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Grand Chancellor of the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; A member of the VII degree, Honoris Causa, and Freeman of the Society in the Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master in the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Southern Counties of England in the Royal Order of Scotland; Grand Summus, etc., etc., etc., etc., has this day been elected and proclaimed Most Distinguished Grand Summus of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; whom may the God of our Fathers long preserve.

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus was saluted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Most Distinguished Grand Summus returned thanks.

7. APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE DEPUTY GRAND SUMMUS

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that he had reappointed R. Dist. Comp. Francis Charles Spencer, VI, as Deputy Grand Summus for the ensuing year.

The Deputy Grand Summus was then proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that FRANCIS CHARLES SPENCER, Past Senior Grand Deacon in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Provincial Grand Sojourner in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Warwickshire in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas and of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past Great Herald in the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas; Grand Elected Knight Kadosh, 30th Degree, Knight of the Black and White Eagle in the Ancient and Accepted Rite under the Supreme Council 33rd Degree for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas; Past Grand Councillor in the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales and its Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Junior Warden in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Past Grand Counsellor in the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; A member of the VII degree, Honoris Causa, in the Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers; Deputy Grand Summus, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed and proclaimed Right Distinguished Deputy Grand Summus of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; whom may the God of our Fathers long preserve.

The Deputy Grand Summus was saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Deputy Grand Summus returned thanks.

8. **APPOINTMENT AND PROCLAMATION OF THE ASSISTANT GRAND SUMMUS**
 The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that he had reappointed R. Dist. Comp. Howard Saul Markham, VI, as Assistant Grand Summus for the ensuing year.

The Assistant Grand Summus was then proclaimed by the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies as follows:

Be it known that HOWARD SAUL MARKHAM, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales; Past Junior Grand Deacon in the United Fraternity of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England; Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England; Past Grand Junior Overseer in the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas and Holder of Grand Rank in the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariner; Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas; Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire of the Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, in the British Isles and its Districts and Conclaves Overseas; Assistant Grand Summus, etc., etc., etc., has this day been appointed and proclaimed Right Distinguished Assistant Grand Summus of the Grand Senatus of the Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord in the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas; whom may the God of our Fathers long preserve.

The Assistant Grand Summus was saluted under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies. The Assistant Grand Summus returned thanks.

9. **ELECTION OF THE GRAND TREASURER**
 The President of the Executive Committee proposed that R. Dist. Comp. Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, VI, P.G.Chan., be re-elected Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. The proposition was seconded by the Grand Registrar and carried unanimously.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF GRAND OFFICERS**
 The Grand Recorder read the names of the Companions whom the Most Distinguished Grand Summus had appointed to Grand Rank. The Most Distinguished Grand Summus invested those present:

GRAND OFFICERS 2025/2026

Grand Chancellor.....	Kenneth Donald Kennedy
Grand Vice Chancellor.....	David Crawshaw Staniforth
Grand Episcopos	Cdr Charles Jonathan Aspinell, <i>RD, JP</i> , P.Dep.G.S.
President of Executive Committee.....	Trevor David Currans, P.G.Chan.
Grand Registrar	Michael John Jennings Singleton, P.G.Vice Chan.
Grand Treasurer	Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, P.G.Chan.
Grand Recorder	Daniel Mark Heath, P.G.Vice Chan.
Grand Director of Ceremonies	Phillip John Purves, P.G.Vice Chan.
Grand Lecturers	Alan Roy Flux Jonathan Charles Whitaker, <i>JP, DL</i> Colin Michael Beerling Clive Robert Manuel
Deputy Grand Episcopos.....	Ian Wilson Tough
Deputy Grand Registrar	Allan Ramsay Armbrister
Deputy Grand Recorder.....	Alan Robert Brumwell, <i>JP</i>
Deputy Grand Directors of Ceremonies.....	Jeremy Trevor Beech Simon Andrew White
Grand Heralds	Dr Scott James Dunn Phillippe Mairesse de Montfaucon

Assistant Grand Recorders..... Derek Mersh
 Lt Col. Michael Charles Alexander Caseman-Jones, *TD*
 Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies Gerald Anthony Granville Barker
 Stephen George Pemberton
 Ian Thomas Charles Glister
 Charles Martin Wilson
 Grand Sword Bearer Gary David Smith
 Grand Standard Bearer Simon David Evans
 Deputy Grand Sword Bearer Robert Michael Anderson
 Deputy Grand Standard Bearer Derrick Nigel Griffin
 Grand Organist Paul Gareth Bowen, P.G.Lect.
 Deputy Grand Organist..... Andrew Timothy Morris, *JP*, P.G.Her.
 Grand Guarder..... Paul Anthony Brennan
 Assistant Grand Guarder Prodipto Banerjea
 Grand Stewards Trevor Charles Burton
 Brian Butterfield
 Mark Ian James Currans
 Alan Joseph Gillespie
 Dr Robert Andrew Scott
 David Geoffrey Weston
 Grand Watchman Paul Busby

During the investiture, the Grand Summus awarded a field promotion of P.G.Chan. to his Grand Director of Ceremonies, R.Dist.Comp. Phillip Purves.

PROMOTIONS

Past Grand Vice Chancellor
 Barrie Norman Collinson Paul Norman Rose
 John Herbert Prizeman

Past Grand Registrar
 Christopher John Davis Ian Harold Scott
 Balasubramanian Kamakoti Ian Trevor Dudley Smith

Past Grand Lecturer
 Christopher James Bowles Stephen Philip Preston
 Michael James Butterworth Ganesan Rajasekar
 Subbiah Thirunavukarasu Gauthaman Routhu Varadanarayana Umashankar
 Thomas Richard Eirian Jones Reginald Albert Francis Willsher

Past Grand Herald
 Christopher Robin Bellis Edwin Bryant Goodwin
 Abraham Solomon Ben Roy Paul Laurence Merryfellow
 Hugh Bennett Derek Mersh
 Raymond Bodell Barry William Slade
 Peter Christopher Brockbank Ayyadevara Srinivasar

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
 Clive Barry Egerton Kalapathy Sarani Rampureswaran
 Graham Spencer Gubb Stephen Rhodes
 Thomas Iwan Blackwell Jenkins Roderick Lionel Taylort
 Pierre Michel Louis Meste

Past Grand Sword Bearer
 Thrivikraman Nair Ravindran

PAST RANKS (FIRST APPOINTMENTS)

Past Grand Registrar

Claude Bernard Marc Barthet

Chakirou Tidjani

Past Grand Herald

Pierre Frederic Ambrody

Hervé Badet

Paul Frederick Fell

Alain Claude Pierre Herreng

David Littlewood

David William McMorris

Antony Craig Rusbyt

Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

Kevin Charles Bampton

Past Grand Sword Bearer

Yoke Lim Chew

Terence Barry Gerald Cox

Colin Douglas Crombie

Elridge Eleazer Dixon

Glyn Raymond Goddard

Brian John Holland

William Henry Jackson

Evangelos Kokkalis

Gerard Rene Daniel Leconte

Stuart John Lines

Ian Herbert Macklin

David William Eric Mason

John Patrick Murphy

Dr Pottapatti Kathiresan

Muthukumaraswamy

James Oliver

Yashjkan Singh

Shreevardhan Sinha

Graham Leonard Spence

George Henry Steele

Primus Felicien Suffren

Alexander Thompson

Past Grand Standard Bearer

Hugh James Everitt

Steven Charles Frankland

Suresh Kumar Gupta

Philip Maxfield Harrison

Brian George Heasman

Barry Royston Howell

Robert Hector McDonald

Roger John Parfett

Stephen Neil Pope

Geoffrey Wilson Reeves

Herve Richard

Andrew Thomas

Michael John Townend

Francis Song Min Yeoh

Vinay Baburao Zade

Past Deputy Grand Sword Bearer

Gorti Subba Rao

11. TZADDIKIM

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus received the Captain of the Tzaddikim, V. Dist. Comp. D. P. Barden, V, P.G.Lect., and Deputy Captain, Dist.Comp. E. Kokkalis, IV, P.G.Swd.B., before being invited to inspect the Tzaddikim.

12. AUDITORS TO GRAND SENATUS

The President of the Executive Committee, under Regulation 13 of the Constitutions and Regulations, proposed that Crowe U.K. LLP, chartered accountants and registered auditors, be re-appointed as auditors to Grand Senatus. The proposition was seconded by the Grand Registrar and carried unanimously.

13. ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Grand Recorder reported that, in accordance with Regulation 26, nominations for election to the Executive Committee had been received in respect of:

R. Dist. Comp. J. C. Welton, V, Prov.G.S. for Cheshire & North Wales

R. Dist. Comp. K. B. Ferguson, V, P.Prov.G.S. for South Wales and Monmouthshire

R. Dist. Comp. J. P. Wallis, V, Prov.G.S. for Middlesex

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that there being only three nominations for three places on the Executive Committee, he declared these three Companions duly elected.

14. APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus announced that, in accordance with Regulation 26, he had appointed the following Companions to serve on the Executive Committee:

R. Dist. Comp. I. P. Duff, VI, P.A.G.S.

R. Dist. Comp. K. B. Chalkley, MBE, V, Prov.G.S. for Devon and Cornwall

R. Dist. Comp. A. P. K. Webster, V, Prov.G.S. for West Yorkshire

15. ADDRESS BY THE MOST DISTINGUISHED GRAND SUMMUS

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus addressed Grand Senatus as follows:

'Companions, welcome once again to Grand Senatus. You always come in great numbers and this year is no exception. For many of you, travel to and from London, and accommodation here, is an expensive business, but it's money you spend willingly in support of our Order and I thank you sincerely for your dedication and this level of commitment.

'Every year I tell you that the Order is bigger in terms of individual members, memberships and the number of Consistories than it was the previous year, and this is the story again today. I'll tell you in a little while about our twelve new Consistories and the three new countries shaded scarlet on the map of the world – all a result of the enthusiasm of so many people, and lots of them were rewarded yesterday with promotion in grades and many of them will have new grand ranks today. So my first task is to congratulate those appointed and promoted a little earlier, as well as those who received the 4th and 5th grades yesterday. A grand rank or grade promotion is a very special reward for past services, and a lot of people have spent a lot of time in the selection process. We do this willingly and only ask you to express your gratitude by ramping up your efforts for the Order – especially in terms of introducing your Master Mason friends into the OSM and then explaining to them that the natural progression is not just to the Princes Degree but to Scarlet Cord thereafter. Our system of ranks and grades allows us to promote people on a fairly regular basis. It obviously gets harder the higher you get up this pyramid (I'm at the top and I'm not going anywhere), but I'll demonstrate a little later how we can continue to reward even very senior people.

'Now for a retrospective of the events of the past twelve months: shortly after Grand Senatus (on 16 May in fact), we headed down to Twickenham for the consecration of River Thames Consistory No. 152 in the province of Middlesex. I got a cake and a new consistory – the very best of birthdays. Oh, and an England rugby shirt which has gone down a storm in my Scottish village! June saw us at Great Yarmouth for the Consecration of First Light Consistory No. 153 in East Anglia. The following month I was back at my old stomping ground of Surbiton for Nigel Thomson's installation as Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey. Nigel's predecessor Arnold Long did more than I asked him to do – four years of solid progress – and I'm truly grateful. We're sorry he can't be with us today.

'Then came August and our really big adventure. First to Thailand to consecrate Siam Consistory No. 158 in Bangkok. What can I tell you about Bangkok? Frank Spencer and Scott Dunn spent a lot of money in the shop next to the hotel – an express tailors, I hasten to add. I fell in love with the singer on the river cruise party boat, and the eclectic bunch of Founders under the leadership of semi-local Geoff Gill were full of praise for the professionalism of our Grand Senatus team. So with our egos suitably massaged, we flew to Calcutta where an incredibly warm (and it was incredibly warm!) welcome awaited us. There we consecrated Uttar Bharat Consistory No. 161 (to meet in Delhi), constituted the Inspectorate of Eastern and Northern India and installed Amit Jyoti Sen as Grand Inspector. Then it was down to Chennai to confer the 5th Grade on deserving

Companions from our District of Southern India. From there we flew over to Kerala on the west coast to consecrate the Dr K. P. George Consistory No. 154 in Kottayam. Finally, up to Pune, where we did a 5th Grade for the Western India companions and installed Rajiv Naik as their new District Grand Summus, in succession to Stephen Hinds who retired after five years of dedicated service and to whom we express our deep gratitude for a job well done;

'Before this, we experienced the highlight of the trip – a visit to Dawn of Peace Consistory No. 117 at Lonavala, a hill station two hour's drive outside of Pune. On the tortuous journey, our minibus managed to rearrange the tailgate of the car in front and I can tell you, Companions, it wasn't just a question of exchanging insurance details. But we were rewarded with a magical evening in a tiny Victorian temple in the middle of the jungle, where they had candles for when the rain knocked out the lights and a rudimentary dormitory in case people were stuck overnight – we were not, thank God! It was a fortnight packed with ceremonies, lots of tavel and very little downtime. I'm hugely grateful to those intrepid Grand Officers that accompanied me, as well as the local Companions for friendship and hospitality. Especial thanks to Trevor who, as acting G.D.C. for all those ceremonies, never put a foot wrong.

'In September we were back on home soil, but the glamour never stopped. We were in Audenshaw in East Lancashire for the consecration of River Tame Consistory No. 155, and then October saw us make our annual pilgrimage to France by train to Clermont-Ferrand. There, we consecrated five consistories: La Voie Sacrée No. 156, La Flèche Sacrée No. 157 (these two will meet in Benin in West Africa), and three on one day – Rupella No. 159, Armand Jean du Plessis No. 160, and Montaigne-La Boétie No. 162. The Primus President of La Voie Sacrée, Chakirou Tidjani (Grand Supreme Ruler of the OSM in Benin) is with us today. He received his 4th Grade yesterday and Grand Rank today. We enjoyed amazing hospitality, as always, and superb organisation, orchestrated comme d'habitude by Pierre Meste, who received his 5th Grade yesterday and has been promoted today.

'After all that activity, a relatively quiet period followed until March when I was back in Middlesex to dedicate their Provincial banner, and then to another new destination: Greece. A big team from the UK and France went to Athens, conferring the first three grades on multiple founders, conducting a preparation ceremony and then consecrating Acropolis Consistory No. 163, the first of several Consistories we expect to see in that country in the fullness of time. The hospitality shown to us all there was simply outstanding – our Primus President Andreas Spyropoulos, and Past President Giannis Benetatos (the Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Greece), are with us today.

'Two final significant trips to tell you about: earlier this year, I accompanied the Grand Supreme Ruler to Toulouse for the installation of the new Grand Supreme Ruler for France, Claude Barthet – I was delighted to give him his 4th Grade yesterday and Grand Rank today. Then a couple of weeks ago, I was invited to attend the enthronement of the new Grand Master of the Knights Templar for Scotland as Grand Summus, wearing my Scarlet Cord regalia – the first time Scarlet Cord regalia has been worn in a Masonic meeting north of the border. So, all in all, the perfect year it would seem.

'I'm not going to shy away from mentioning the struggles that our Companions in India are having and expressing our solidarity with them. We thank our Grand Recorder for patient diplomacy in the face of very unpleasant accusations and Right Distinguished Companion Bharat Epur (here today) who is leading legal challenges. We wish him a successful resolution.

'On a happier note, what's coming up going forward? More consecrations in France at the end of September and consecrations in Exmouth, Bangor and Wetherby in October (all conveniently close to each other!). Also, the constitution of our new Province of The Borders under Alan Buntain, and then the constitution of our new combined Province

of Lancashire under Paul Joynson. A massive thanks to Geoff Gill on his retirement as Provincial Grand Summus for West Lancashire, and Allan Shields on his retirement as Provincial Grand Summus for East Lancashire.

As always, details of all these events will appear on our Facebook page and on the weekly M.M.H. Freemasonry@86 newsletter. Anything else? Surprise me, Companions.

On the charitable front, our members have been very active as always. I'd particularly like to thank those provinces that supported my West Highland Way sponsored walk. Your considerable generosity allowed the Province of Perthshire West to give every lodge in the province £800 to donate to local charities and worthy causes, which has done much good and produced plenty of positive publicity for Freemasonry. The previous year, without Scarlet Cord input, each lodge was allocated £300. And I must mention the generous donations that provinces, consistories and individuals have made to the Mark Grand Master's Keystone Fund.

'It's now that time when we welcome Heads of Orders and our visitors from overseas, and I'll ask you to refrain from applauding until they're all introduced:

From the Mark Degree, Pro Grand Master and newly-invested P.G.Vice-Chan., R.Dist. Comp. John Prizeman; from the Knights Templar, Grand Master and P.Dep.G.S., R.Dist. Comp. Paul Clement; from the R.S.M., Grand Master and P.G.Chan., R.Dist.Comp. Kessick Jones; from the O.S.M., Grand Supreme Ruler and our former Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Andrew Sweeney; from the Operatives, First Grand Master Mason and P.G.Lect., V.Dist.Comp. Dr Paul Mycock; and from the S.R.I.A., Comp. Tony Llewellyn, Supreme Magus.

From France, Very Distinguished Companions Jean-Philippe Dakhil, V, G.Insp.; Claude Barthe, IV, P.G.Reg.; Chakirou Tidjani, IV, P.G.Reg.; and Christian Amine, V, P.G.Lect.; and Distinguished Companions Phillippe Mairesse de Montfaucon, IV, G.Her.; Pierre Ambrody, IV, P.G.Her.; Hervé Badet, IV, P.G.Her.; Alain Herreng, IV, P.G.Her.; Pierre Meste, V, P.A.G.D.C.; Gerard Leconte, IV, P.G.Swd.B.; Alain Appercel, IV; Jean-Francois Deneux, IV; Daniel Fontanili, IV; Aristide Ngakosso Ngana, IV; Thierry Seillier, IV; Jean-Luc Souyri, IV; and Jean-Luc Gaucher, III;

From the Southern Caribbean: R.Dist.Comp. G. Llewellyn Gill, V, Dist.G.S.; Dist.Comp. William Jackson, IV, P.G.Swd.B., and Dist.Comp. Primus Suffren, IV, P.G.Swd.B.;

From Southern India: R.Dist.Comp. Bharat Venkat Epur, V, P.G.V.Chan.;

From Europe: V.Dist.Comp. Francis Clarembaux, VI, P.G.Lect.; Dist.Comp. Trevor Clive Gray, V, P.G.Swd.B.; Dist.Comp. Herve Richard, IV, P.G.St.B.; Dist.Comp. Andreas Spyropoulos; and Dist.Comp. Ioannis Benetatos;

From other Constitutions: Grand Council of the OSM for Southern Australia – M.Dist. Comp. David Allan Stewart, VI, Past Grand Supreme Ruler, and R.Dist.Comp. Edward Robin Lewellin, V; and from the Grand Conclave of the OSM for Canada – M.Dist.Comp. Prince Dilipkumar Selvaraj, Grand Supreme Ruler / Grand Summus.

To them and anyone else we have missed, you are all most welcome. Companions, our distinguished guests.

I finish this address, as usual, with thanks to many people. Continuing thanks to our Consistory Recorders, Treasurers and DCs who do so much to enable us to enjoy our Scarlet Cord Masonry at a local level, and to our Provincial, District and Inspectorate Heads and their executive teams, whose contributions are immense. Thanks to this year's Grand Officer ceremonial team, the members of which have been quite outstanding in their commitment, as were so many of their predecessors. The Grand Recorder, Daniel Heath, has been quite superb and almost always on the same page as the Grand Summus! Thanks to all the team here at M.M.H., with a special word this year for Nanda who has had all those petitions to process; for Chris Griggs who has done

much of the work for yesterday and today; for our Grand Watchman, Paul Busby; and personal thanks to Zsolt Baranya who deals with our events and travel management with incredible efficiency. Thanks also to our quite splendid Grand Director of Ceremonies, Phillip Purves, whose deputies this year have been excellent in their duties, and to the Grand Tzaddikim who have added much lustre to our ceremonies as always, especially in France and Greece.

'Finally, a special thank you to those attending Grand Senatus for the first time today. We hope you've enjoyed the experience enough to want to start coming every year from now. If you have, tell me about it. If you haven't, tell the Grand Recorder. The Scarlet Cord continues to be a highly successful Order because of you – each and every one of you. May the God of our Fathers keep you safe until we meet again. My fellow Scots will smile when I say thank you for listening to these few words.'

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Most Distinguished Grand Summus enquired of the Grand Recorder whether he had any further business to bring before Grand Senatus. R.Dist.Comp. Daniel Heath proceeded to give some general notices and thanked his staff, the Provincial/District Grand Summi and their teams. The Most Distinguished Grand Summus then stated that he had a little more rewarding to do and asked the G.D.C. to present the following Companions to him to receive field promotions:

R.Dist.Comp. John Roger Paternoster to P.Dep.G.S.
R.Dist.Comp. Ian Paterson Duff to P.Dep.G.S.
R.Dist.Comp. Roy William Leavers to P.A.G.S.
R.Dist.Comp. Trevor David Currans to G.Reg.Vic.

17. CLOSING

Grand Senatus was closed in ample form.