

# R.A.O.B. GRAND COUNCIL NEWSROUND

Issue No. 59, April 2011

## Grand Knights Chapter Conference, 2011



*Grand Knights Chapter Officers for 2011 face the camera following the Grand Knights Chapter Conference in Nottingham. They are as follows:*

**Front row, left to right,** Bro. P.Christer R.O.H. (G.Knight of Purse), Bro. K.Farmer R.O.H. (V.G.Knight Commander), Bro. C.McMahon R.O.H. (G.Knight Commander), Bro.J.Henderson R.O.H.(Past G.Knight Commander), Bro. D. Farley R.O.H. (G. Knight of Records).

**Back row, left to right,** Bro. K.Oxley R.O.H. (G.Knight Examiner and G.K.C. Delegate to Conference), Bro. J.W.English R.O.H. (G.Knight Examiner), Bro. T.Rees R.O.H. ( G.Knight of Tyle), Bro.R.Baker R.O.H. (G.Knight Registrar), Bro. D.Adams R.O.H. (G.Knight Steward), Bro. E.G.Oxby R.O.H. & Bro. A. Weir R.O.H. G.Knight Trustees), and Bro. P. Rogers R.O.H. (Assistant G.Knight of Records).

Now I have to give you my view of the day's events.....last year I didn't, expecting someone to send me a report which wasn't forthcoming and then getting told off for not putting anything together.

My first thoughts were what a nice venue this was. It had so many possibilities - function rooms of various

sizes, catering facilities, a fair amount of parking space within easy reach. Nottingham Province had certainly put together a well thought out package for the Conference.

Old friends arrived and were greeted with all the abuse that passes for camaraderie in the Buffs. Coffee was readily available and eventually all found their seats The

Conference opened with a count of 26, but with the Host Chapter and six Grand Council Officers outside awaiting introduction.

Business was conducted in a pleasant and civilised manner with no swords or other weaponry visible save for that of the Grand Knight Director of Ceremonies. All proceeded according to plan until it came to the question of voting procedures on the thorny issue of voluntary contributions. At this point I plead terminal confusion. Some may call that diplomacy, others may call it cowardice. Me, I'm saying nowt, as they say oop North.

What I would like to say is how pleasing it was to see the Grand Knight Commander, Bro. John Henderson R.O.H., well enough to attend and take charge of the meeting. He alluded to his year of serious illness and thanked Bro. Paul James R.O.H., Past Grand Knight Commander, for standing in for him on several occasions throughout.

There followed the installation of the new Grand Knight Commander and his Officers for 2011. May I offer my warmest congratulations to Bro. Chris McMahon R.O.H. on attaining his high Office and wish him a successful year.

The evening Social event was to take place in the same room. There had been some concern over whether

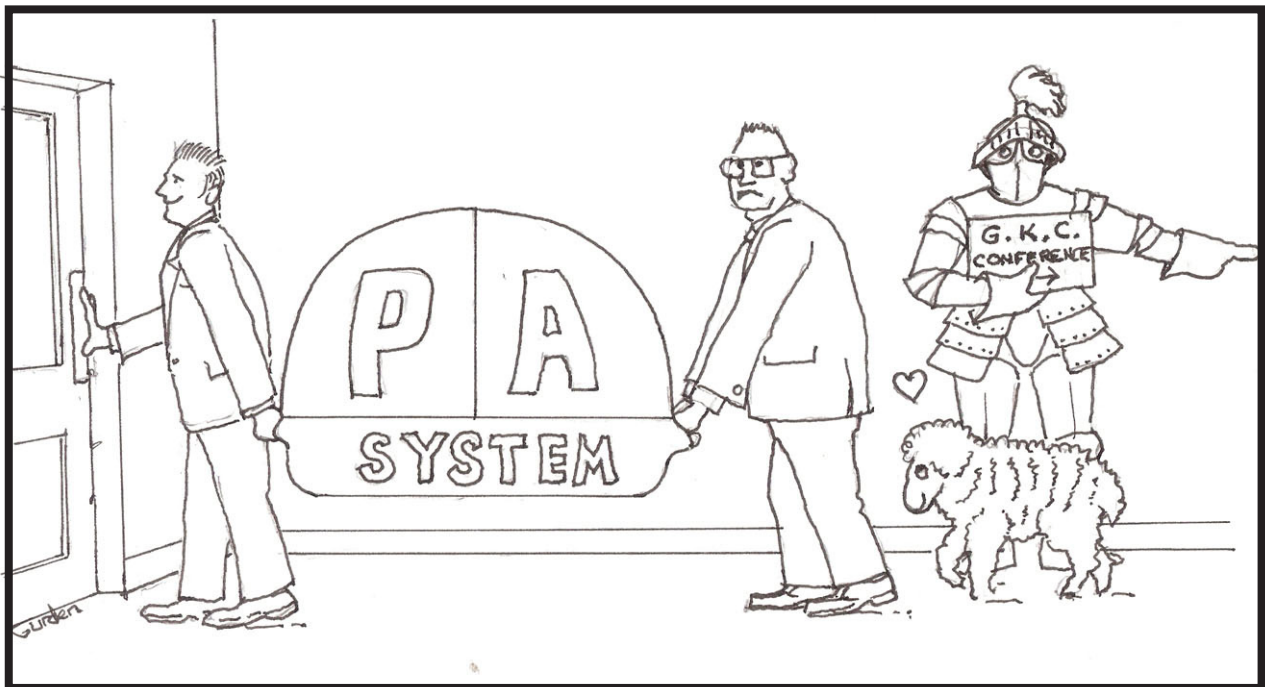
there would be sufficient support to render it viable, but I was informed later that some 53 guests had attended and enjoyed the event - especially those from Brighton Province who won almost all the Raffle prizes - obviously a fix as I only got three prizes myself.....

I would personally like to thank Bro. Ken Hilton R.O.H. and wife Nikki for their kind hospitality to Brenda and I that day., and also to Bro. Pete Rogers R.O.H. for his kind offers. Very much appreciated.

*(one thing I just can't understand is how people don't realise what a tender, caring, good hearted person Bro. Ken really is. It saddens me to see him taking so much abuse and mockery about his love of small woolly animals. I am so glad my own conscience is clear on that score.....) Baaahaha.....*

Bro. Geoff.

## Postscript



**“ Okay Gurden - So where do you want us to put your gumshield ? “**

I don't understand it. There I was, quietly minding my own business, when this great lout from Nottingham, who shall remain nameless, came by and started insulting me, just because he was asked to help with the P.A.system. He then thought his "joke" was so funny he damn near dropped the lot on his foot, and it would have served that Ken Hilton right, that's what I say..... As if I could still rabbit on with that in my mouth !

# Shadow of the Enforcer !



photo courtesy of Bro. G.R.Cooke R.O.H.

## Brighton Province

I was informed that 91 needed wheels. Something fast, something bulletproof, an excellent getaway job. Something dignified to show respect.

I found this sleek black number at my specialists in Skegness. Extra power in the twin thrusters and solid tyres to beat any road traps. 91 loved it on sight and christened it "Black Shadow", apparently oblivious of the fact it was the name of a well known contraceptive as well as a motorbike.

It was delivered by Bro. Ray Cooke who was going down to stay with Bro. Jack for the Raisings on the 2nd April. I am reliably informed that the DVLA are steadfastly refusing to license the missile launchers and twin Kalashnikovs that 91 wishes fitted to the vehicle..... Doubtless he will make them an offer they cannot refuse....

Evidence of 91's dangerous retreat into fantasy land can be observed by looking at his garage door.....

*Bro. Geoff.*

## Brighton Province again

A bonny day and off we went to Brighton, no bucket and spade this time as it had all the promise of being a hectic weekend with not much time for building sandcastles.

We arrived, somewhat circuitously, at the Atlas on Shoreham Road at the appointed hour. Penguin suits were to be observed in the car park as both smoke and hot air rose gently skywards.

Now there is one thing that is nice for a visiting Brother from the Northern wastes, and that is to see

other members he doesn't meet in the normal course of events within his usual area. Not strangers, but folk to enjoy renewing acquaintance with. Plenty to natter about indeed.

Both Knights Elect confessed to experiencing nerves. Eventually the procedure began, Brothers went in, Brothers came out, Regalia went on, Registration money went out; all the usual preliminaries.

There were six Council Officers, one Past Grand Knight Commander and one Past Grand President in attendance, not counting the two Past Grand Presidents already members of the Brighton Province and already busy with various duties.

Bro. Fred Moore R.O.H., valiantly combining W.S.P. with Grand Primo and Knight Commander (and thus saving anyone forgetting the handing over Ceremony) presided until the introduction of the Installing Officer, Bro. R.R.Routledge R.O.H., Grand President. Bro. Ray then proceeded to conduct the ceremony most impressively from memory and with great attention to the phrasing throughout. In order that nothing should be quite perfect there was a slight mix up with who got presented with who's regalia, but all was speedily resolved. Bro John Collins was an able Director of Ceremonies and the two Knights Elect acquitted themselves with great credit. There were 32 Brethren forming the closing link.

Enjoyment of a fine Buffet and Raffle followed.



*Brothers to look up to ! Bro David Odey K.O.M. (right) and Bro. George Javes K.O.M. (left) after the ceremony.*

# Grand President's column



Three months of this year have nearly passed , I keep being reminded that my year would be over before I knew it ,well! they are right ! The end of the year and the start of this have not been suitable for travelling and maybe I can say I was fortunate that there have not been many Raisings

This period has also not been good for our membership I have attended five funerals

near me , two were younger members which is very saddening , I'm sure our thoughts are with their families

Carol and I were invited to the Skegness and Brighton Annual Grand Lodge Dinners in December and January respectively, we were made most welcome On both occasions it was nice to meet the ' grass root ' members, the ones I do do not see while attending the various Raisings , and finding the time to have a chat with them , and for them to meet the Grand President . At Brighton Brother Eddie March , the Past Grand President won a ' flat-pack ' plant stand which had been going around for some time and nobody wanted it , he gave it to me as a challenge to get rid of it ! Watch this Space !

In January the Falcon Lodge of Bolton changed it's venue , I decided I would make the effort to attend , as usual I was confronted with pouring rain on the M62 , on arrival the Grand Primo Brother Kevan Ashcroft and Sandra made me welcome , a warm fire and a hot cup of tea ! Kevin carried out the consecration , well done , when the Lodge was open I was put in the Royal Chair - there was some difference in my procedure and theirs which caused some debate , as the evening progressed it brought about many charges and fines ,making it a very enjoyable evening . Afterwards we were treated to a hot meal in the pub , this was in the centre of Bolton , it was quite packed , they were very inquisitive to see us fully regaled , I'm told it has brought much interest !

March brings the Annual Grand Knights Chapter Conference , this year hosted by the Nottingham Chapter . A most excellent venue , the meeting went well , concluding in the Installation of the Grand Knight Commander , Brother Chris McMahan , The Vice , Brother Ken Farmer , congratulations to these and their fellow Officers . There followed a social evening , I'm pleased to say it was very well supported , the buffet was superb , then a raffle with loads of prizes , those who were capable danced the evening away ! Carol and I both enjoyed it , thanks to the Nottingham Province .

This last weekend I was summoned to Snodland ,

staying with Mary and John Eccleston , John has recently been back in hospital , just a hitch , he is doing fine and looking great .

Saturday night it was down to Sittingbourne , Ladies Glade 3rd. Degree Raising , Prima Margaret Kent , several of our members were there in support . The ceremony was carried out by Dame Irene Jones ROH , besides being our equivalent of Knight Commander she is presently their Grand President , Margaret was honoured to have both present . Mary was the Director of Ceremonies , for once she was silenced as I watched her carry out her duties , well , until the raffle , it was then the 'same old faces ' , she needed a carrier bag to carry her prizes home ! While there I visited Connie Stevens ,her daughter Linda and son Brian , they are all doing well , before going home I went to the Nevill Lodge and was made very welcome .

I am now up to date , this weekend I'm down to Brighton - I hope to see you there , and on the Sunday at the Nevill Lodge for a presentation by Mrs. Connie Stevens and family .

Lastly , I have contacted the General Secretary to bring to a conclusion my initiatives for the Grand Presidents Charity , if any Provinces have any outstanding returns , please do at your earliest convenience .

Best wishes .

*Bro. Ray Routledge R.O.H., Grand President .*

## Brighton Province (again)

On Saturday the 22nd January 2011 we held our Ladies Night Dinner Dance. 34 were there in total, which included the Grand President, Bro. R.R.Routledge R.O.H. and the Grand President's Lady, Carol. The food was excellent and the music not too loud, but very good thanks to Kevin. It was a good time to meet old and new faces. Bro. Ray and Carol were presented with a gift from the Brighton Province. Bro. Ray was asked to speak and it was a great surprise, it only lasted about 20 words. (HaHa) Seriously it was great to receive Ray and Carol as our Guest of Honour - it was also noted that we had four Grand Presidents present - Was Bosses 1991, 2001 and 2009 and 2010 to come. After all was said and done Brothers praised Bernice for her work as Social Secretary as it was only this time last year she turned up from Hospital 3 weeks after her stroke.. Now the 2011 Dinner is over work has now started for 2012. Bernice would like to thank everyone for her flowers that Bro. Jack Odey presented to her.

Yours faithfully,

Bernice Taylor, Social Secretary.

# Presentations at Snodland



*Mrs Linda Garrett (left), and Mrs Connie Stevens, daughter and widow of the late Brother Arthur Stevens, present the three sashes which the Family have generously donated to the members of the Benevolent Committee in accordance with Bro. Arthur's wishes.*

*(photo courtesy of Mrs Carol Routledge)*

The morning following the Brighton Raising we drove along some lovely Kentish roads to the Ham Hill Workmens Club at Snodland where a presentation had been arranged.

Leaving our ladies in the bar - where else? we first joined the Nevill Lodge for the odd bit of badinage and mayhem prior to the arrival of Connie and Linda who were expected at 12.45pm. Sadly it was not a big turnout - Mothers Day celebrations taking their toll no doubt - and there were three Grand Council Officers and seven Lodge members present.

Charges were made - no-one was exempt - no concessions made to age or rank or infirmity.

Eventually the Lodge was placed in abeyance and all the ladies entered to see the presentation.

It had been Bro. Arthur Stevens' wish that three sashes should be bought for the members of the Benevolent Committee. After his demise the family wished to continue with the donation and were therefore invited to present them to the Order in the form of the Grand President.

The two Ladies then presented the Grand President with Bro. Arthur's Grand President's Jewel in an emotional exchange. Bro. Ray then presented the Province with a display case housing all Bro. Arthur's regalia which he had made, and which the ladies received on their behalf. Later it was hung in the Lodge room.



*Mrs Linda Garrett (left), and Mrs Connie Stevens, receive a display case containing all Bro. Arthur's regalia which was made and collated by the Grand President, Bro. R.R.Routledge R.O.H. It will now be displayed in the Lodge Room.*

After the ladies had left the Lodge, Absent Brethren was taken, charges were heard and the Lodge closed with a link of ten Brethren.

There was a fine sandwich buffet to follow: I regret I did not find out who had done such an excellent job, but many thanks to whoever. It was a nice ending and a good start to the journey home.

*Bro. Geoff.*

## Obituary

Bro. Doug Page, London S.W.

Hello Geoff. It is with a sad heart that I have to inform you of the passing of Bro. Doug Page of the Trafalgar Lodge, London South West.

The funeral took place on Wednesday 23rd March at 11:30am at the North East Surrey Crematorium, Garth Road, Morden, Surrey.

Yours fraternally,

Bro. Ted King ROH

Bro. Doug was initiated into the Order in September 1957 and passed away on the 6th March 2011 aged 90 years. He leaves a widow, Joan and daughter, Sandra.

ABSENT BRETHREN.

## Can you Believe it ?

My friend and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the assistant a £5.00 note. Our total was £4.20, so I also handed her a 20p piece.

She said, 'You gave me too much money.'

I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me £1.00 back.'

She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the 20p and said 'We're sorry, but we cannot do that kind of thing.' The assistant then proceeded to give me back 80p in change..

I had to have my garage door repaired. The 'GARADOR' repairman told me that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one GARADOR made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two..'

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the Highways Department to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

My daughter went to a local Kentucky Fried Chicken and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an Irish airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?'

He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

The traffic light on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with a co-worker of mine, when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals to blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

When my husband and I arrived at our local Ford dealer to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the Mechanic, 'its open!'

His reply, 'I know, I already did that side.'

They walk among us ... and the scary part is that is they have the RIGHT to reproduce!

*A Just William contribution ! Keep 'em coming.*

## Skegness Province



Who was daft enough to admit to a Birthday on a Lodge Night then ?

**"I'm only 21"** he cried ! **"Again"** we added

## South Staffs Province

Dear Geoff,

Could you oblige and insert in the next monthly Newsletter notification of the forthcoming Primo Raising of Bro. Simon Deeming in the Woden Lodge No.343, to be held at the Vine Inn, Lichfield Road, Wolverhampton WV11 4TN. Lodge opens 7.30pm for the Raising to start at 8pm.

We would appreciate as much support that Brothers can give to make this a memorable occasion for the Brother being raised.

Yours fraternally,

Bro. R.W.Wigg R.O.H., Grand Lodge Secretary.

# Skegness Province



*Bro. Tony Cooke struggles gamely while Lily the Pink English and the others look on.....*

Many years ago - around 1997 or thereabouts - a seat was donated by the William of Waynefflete Lodge No. 2170 and affixed to the Old Chequers Inn at Croft, the meeting place of the Lodge at that time. It was done in memory of Bro. D.W.Manning K.O.M. and the engraving continues "For the Comfort of Ramblers".

Alas time, wear, and the depredations of a lorry finally brought its useful life to an end and so the Skegness Province decided to donate a new one.

Consequently, on a glorious Spring lunchtime on the 8th April five members went along to install it. Two men carried it. One man fixed it. Four men watched in admiration for his efforts without making one single ribald remark. Then we had a couple to celebrate. A grand team effort all round !

*Bro. Geoff.*



*..then he collapses all over it, supervised by new Brother, Jimmy Hardy.*

# Forthcoming Raisings

7th May 2011

## Sub Council of Spain

The Elevation to Knight, Order of Merit of Brothers J.Joyner C.P., W.Clynes C.P. and D.Tonge C.P.

14th May, 2011

## Cambridgeshire Province

The Exaltation to the Roll of Honour of Bros. B.Smith and M.Stevens K.O.M. by the Alexander Lodge 1699.

25th June 2011

## Snodland Province

The Elevation to Knight, Order of Merit, of Bro. T.Botley C.P. by the Nevill Lodge 2054 at the Ham Hill Workmens Club, Snodland. Lodge opens 6pm.

2nd July 2011.

## Nottingham Province

The Elevation to Knight, Order of Merit of Bro. P. Attridge C.P. by the Atlas & Ivy Lodge 1609 at The Embankment, 282 Arkwright Street, Trent Bridge, Nottingham, NG2 2GR. Lodge opens 7pm.

16th July 2011.

## London S.W.Province

The Elevation to Knight, Order of Merit of Bro. L.Easton C.P. by the Trafalgar Lodge 2120 at the Royal British Legion Club, 65 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15 2RD. Lodge opens 7pm.

23rd July 2011

## Cambridgeshire Province

The Elevation to Knight, Order of Merit of Brother F. Knight C.P. by the Alec Brook Lodge No. 2154

10th September, 2011

## Gillingham Province

The Exaltation to the Roll of Honour of Bro. R. Hamson K.O.M. by the Apollo, Lord Beresford Lodge, No. 2101.

**All missing details of times and venues will follow if and when supplied.**

# Orphans news item !

After perusing the Sark News Section of the Guernsey Press website last week, Brenda advised me that one of our Orphans, Miss Raie Craft, is the island's Chamber of Commerce's Young Citizen of the Year.

She gained the award for drawing attention to the nuisance caused by dog owners who allow their animals to foul the roads without taking any action to clear up after them.

Raie, 11, was presented with her framed certificate by Sark Chamber President Bob Parsons. He stated that her efforts had led to designated disposal bins being placed around the island.

Bro. Geoff.

# Frog

A bloke is 72 years old and loves to fish. He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, 'Pick me up.'

He looked around and couldn't see anyone. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, 'Pick me up'

He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog. The man said, 'Are you talking to me?'

The frog said, 'Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up, then kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because I will be your bride!'

The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front pocket.

The frog said, 'What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride.'

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, 'Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog.'

With age comes wisdom.

*Another one from Justwilliam. Lovely!*

# Important -

To submit articles and photographs for inclusion in an issue of Newsround please e-mail to [gensecraobgcuk@aol.com](mailto:gensecraobgcuk@aol.com) Under subject mark as "Newsround".

Or post to The Editor, Newsround, R.A.O.B. Grand Council, **8, Elms Court, 162 Drummond Road,, Skegness, Lincs. PE25 3BA.**

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