

R.A.O.B. GRAND COUNCIL NEWSROUND

Issue No. 61, June/July 2011

Conference 2011 - some snapshots of the week



“That’s my Boy !” Grand Council Treasurer Bro. Ray Cooke R.O.H. is bursting with pride as son Tony becomes Grand President 2011. Bro. Tony is here being congratulated by Grand Council Trustee Bro. Richard Allerton R.O.H. who was his second Sponsor. Dad had to be first of course, and amazed everyone by stating that he had known the new Grand President from birth.....

This is obviously not the usual catalogue of official photographs or the formal record of the week. Some of those photos may well follow , but for now let it suffice that I give you a flavour of the week, using what items I have so far received.

It was, by and large, a pleasant Conference, with few sticking points or disagreements. Except for the Monday evening of course, when it seemed that no one was going to be able to solve the mind-bending problem

of how to organise the whole Tenpin shebang. Eventually great minds sorted it all out and the evening was enjoyed by all. Tuesday evening was the Mayhem and Anarchy Lodges. Bro. George Javes KOM got presented with a special Tudor Rose One jewel for his services as Constable over the years, which was pinned onto his Kevlar vest. Thursday was the return of the Pink Peril and everyone (almost) dressed in yellow for the event. The Peril quickly assaulted our new Chaplain and left him spluttering.....



The Mayor of Skegness, Councillor Steve Kirk with his Mayoress, Kath, enjoyed their visit to us....we think.....



The new Grand President with his Lady, Emma, wait to welcome guests to the Crown Hotel on Wednesday Evening.



The new Chaplain to Grand Council, Bro. John Collins R.O.H., after receiving his collar from the Grand President. He stated that he would be hearing confessions prior to next year's Conference !....Help !!!

Below - some of the ladies and guests that attended the Ceremony of Installations and Presentations. Someone had made them laugh.....



Caught in the act !!!!

These were the photos that added to the memories of Conference 2011 - far away from the scenes of officialdom and formality, this was the essence of it all.



There was this strange unknown guy, wearing the most awful syrup, masquerading as a Past Popstar.....



...and another, who having seen the whole awful Conference cabaret many times before, stared with total disillusionment into his pint...



There were the Plotters of Cabbage Patch Corner, a.k.a The Rother Valley Mob, planning their next Lodge Heist.....



...and the Haynes Family from Bristol, plotting how to maximise their haul from the Bowls Tournaments on the morrow and get the trophies back to OooArrr country.



As he awaited his Presidency Brother Tony Cooke R.O.H. hurled a few bowls down the alley to calm his fevered nerves. But, things being what they are, the fiendish and practised horde from Bristol managed to win everything again on the Monday Night.



Thursday Night had been declared a Yellow and White Buttercups and Daisies Night....and guess who was the Yellowest Roman of Them All in his Skipper Sardines hand-me-downs ?



But despite all the pressure to be yellow, the Peril remained obstinately PINK and terrified all the men, just as she had last year!

from your General Secretary (lovely bloke, know him well)

Just a few words to express my thanks - I have had so much help this year. The Skegness Ladies who have done so many things to keep the Social side running smoothly; to a terrific Executive, to whom nothing seemed too much trouble; to my own Province who took pity on a poor old crock and helped me move things all over the place; to the Craigsides, whose hospitality was magnificent, to all who have sent me photographs so far; Especially to my wife Brenda who has had to put up with me panicking..... thank you all so much .

It would be invidious to single any one person out.... but if I hadn't stopped our dynamo of a Grand Council Steward he would still be serving free drinks! What a spoilsport I am.....

Rugby News

Two 90 year old men, Mike and Joe , have been friends all of their lives.

When it's clear that Joe is dying, Mike visits him every day. One day Mike says, "Joe, we both loved rugby all our lives, and we played rugby on Saturdays together for so many years. Please do me one favour, when you get to Heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's rugby there."

Joe looks up at Mike from his death bed, " Mike, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favour for you."

Shortly after that, Joe passes on.

At midnight a couple of nights later, Mike is awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to him, "Mike--Mike."

"Who is it?" asks Mike sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?"

"Mike--it's me, Joe."

"You're not Joe. Joe just died."

"I'm telling you, it's me, Joe," insists the voice.

"Joe! Where are you?"

"In heaven", replies Joe. "I have some really good news and a little bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," says Mike.

"The good news," Joe says, " is that there's rugby in heaven. Better yet, all of our old friends who died before us are here, too. Better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always spring time and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play rugby all we want, and we never get tired."

That's fantastic," says Mike. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?"

"You're in the team for this Saturday."

Thanks to justwilliamcp for this one !

Snodland Province



All Smiles now it's all over ! Bro. Trevor Botley K.O.M. with his Installing Officer, Bro. L.A.Malt R.O.H. (right)

The Nevill Lodge Raising of Brother T. Botley, C.P. to Knight Order of Merit was carried out by the Worthy Knight Commander Brother L.A.Malt, R.O.H., with the able assistance of the Knight Director of Ceremonies Brother C.P. Armsby, R.O.H., and many visiting Brothers who took up vacant offices.

The Lodge was reconvened at 1800 on Saturday 25th June, 2011 by the Worthy City Primo Brother C.G.McMahon , R.O.H.

Regalia visits were received with due ceremony. There were Brothers from East Kent G.L.E., Sussex East, Luton, Brighton, Britannia Lodge Gillingham, and Brothers G.Gurden, R.O.H., General Secretary, Skegness, R.Allerton, R.O.H. G.C. Trustee, Essex, A.Weir, R.O.H. G.Knight Trustee, Lincoln, J.Collins, G.C.Chaplain.

The ceremony got off to a slow start but with a bit of chasing and cajoling by the Knight Director of Ceremonies the ceremony was completed on time.

The Lodge closed with a link of 38 good true and loyal Brothers of our Order.

When stowing the Lodge furniture away it was discovered the Knights Chapter swords had gone walkabout.

A social evening followed with a presentation of £510.00 to the Macmillan Cancer Support. The draw for the raffle took place which raised £210.30p.

During the evening the ceremonial swords appeared and Bernice Taylor said she would pay £10.00 for them. As the Rochester and District Knights Chapter needed

them for future occasions a member of Chapter offered £15.00. Suddenly an auction took off and with Brothers bidding and others donating the sum raised to retrieve the swords soon reached £200.00 which was also donated to the Macmillan Cancer Support, making a grand total of £710.00 on the evening. This made the representative a very happy lady as this was the first time she had been to an occasion to collect money on behalf of the charity.

Congratulations and well done to all the Brothers and visitors who made the evening a most enjoyable success. Thank you

John Eccleston, R.O.H.

Secretary

Nevill Lodge 2054



Mrs Susan Taylor, Macmillan Volunteer, receives a cheque for £510 from newly Elevated Knight, Sir Trevor Botley on behalf of the Snodland Province. Witnessing the event, L to R., Bros. L.A.Malt ROH, P. Malt ROH and J. Eccleston ROH.

Important -

To submit articles and photographs for inclusion in an issue of Newsround please e-mail to 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.

To download a copy of the current Newsround go to the Grand Council Website at www.raobgc.org.uk

Nottingham Province



Bro. Paul Attridge, now Knight Order of Merit, with his Installing Officer, Bro. Pete Rogers R.O.H. (Right) and Knight Director of Ceremonies, (and Sponsor), Bro. Steve Radley R.O.H. (Left)

Saturday, 2nd July, and back to the Embankment Club, Nottingham, to witness and assist at the Elevation to Knighthood of Bro. Paul Attridge. The venue was not quite the same though - instead of the Bowling Alley room downstairs, so often the setting for Raisings, we were directed upstairs to a spacious and beautifully decorated Function Room, surrounded by many large leaded windows which lent a light and airy ambience to the proceedings.

Brothers were in attendance from places as far apart as Gravesend and Tyneside. They were there from Essex and Cambridge, from Worcester and Grimsby, from the Wolds and Skegness and Lincoln. There were five Executive Officers and three Grand Knights Chapter Officers in attendance: amongst their number six Past Grand Presidents could be counted.

As we entered we were welcomed into the Lodge by the W.S.P., one Brother Paul Attridge C.P. That's what I like about Nottingham - just because it's your night doesn't mean you get away with doing nothing....all progressed, and eventually the Nottingham Knights Chapter took its place, with Knight Commander Bro. Pete Rogers R.O.H. taking the Royal Chair as Installing Knight.

Bro. Steve Radley R.O.H. was Knight Director of Ceremonies, a role which he has played previously, and he ran the Ceremony efficiently and well. It was especially pleasing to note that Bro. Gary Lamb was on the Guard of Honour, Bro. Gary having only been initiated on the 16th June !

The Knight Elect entered with his Sponsors, Bros.

R.Whittle R.O.H. and S.Radley R.O.H. Both spoke highly, if irreverently, of Bro. Paul and the ceremony moved to its conclusion. Congratulations are due to Bro. Pete Rogers R.O.H. for his conduct of a dignified and pleasant Ceremony

Presentations followed. The first was the presentation of a long-service jewel and certificate to commemorate 40 years in the Order, to Bro. Charlie Jackson R.O.H. (of which more later). Then there was a double presentation to the newly raised Knight by two Roll of Honour members of the G.L.E., Earl Beaconsfield Lodge No. 86, North Shields. I must apologise for not getting their names, for they had driven for some three and a half hours to get to Nottingham. I did ask why - apparently they had got to know Bro. Paul via Facebook. The precise nature of the presentations were kept from us, as they were disguised in wrapping - something to do with K.O.M. regalia I think.

The Lodge was finally closed with a link of 36 Brethren and the singing of the National Anthem.

A splendid buffet followed and the ladies joined us. Then of course there was the ubiquitous raffle, run by that well-known, indeed infamous, Nottingham double-act of Whittle and Dawes. There were tons of prizes. Rumour has it that a certain exalted Brother of this Order won a pregnancy testing kit.....but no photographs were taken.

Thank you Nottingham - a great evening!

Bro. Geoff



Vice Grand President, Bro. Brian Edwards R.O.H. insisted on being photographed with Brother Paul. ... Who is a mere Editor to argue ?

Bro, Charlie is alive and well and now has a certificate to prove it.....



Bro. Charlie Jackson R.O.H. receives his 40 Years Service Jewel and Certificate from Knight Commander, Bro. Pete Rogers R.O.H. In his speech of thanks Bro. Charlie said that rumours of his demise had been greatly exaggerated.....

Actually he didn't quite say that. He told us of the changes he had seen - such as his Initiation, when he couldn't see who was there because of the sheer fog of tobacco smoke engulfing the Lodge room. He went on to mention the loss of his Buffess some years ago, and how the Order had supported him and come to mean so much to him. I am sure that I was not the only one in whom he struck a resonant chord.....

Bro.Charlie was initiated into the Order on 11th July, 1971, becoming Primo on the 22nd April, 1973. He was Elevated to Knight Order of Merit on 7th November, 1976, and Exalted to The Roll of Honour on 5th December, 1982. There was one very fitting tribute made on the night - "If you ever needed any help, Bro.Charlie was always there and willing."

Bro. Geoff

Obituary

The Funeral of Mrs Joan Henderson (Widow of the former General Secretary Bro.H.Henderson ROH.).

Following the passing away of Mrs Joan Henderson on 30th May 2011, I was contacted by the General Secretary who asked that, since the funeral was to take place on Thursday 16th June and coincided with the Conference 2011, if a Brother from the Nottingham Province could represent Grand Council at the funeral. This came as a bit of a shock as I did not realise that Joan was living in the Province at Stapleford and had always assumed that she was living in Stockport. Bro.A.Mallatratt ROH and myself were honoured to represent the Grand Council at the funeral. The funeral took place on Thursday 16th June at Bramcote Crematorium at 12 noon. It was well attended with 34 people in attendance, which meant there was standing room only in the small chapel. Joan's granddaughter Kelly read a poem and the hymns The Lords My Shepherd and Abide with me were sung. As part of the eulogy we came to understand that Joan and Harry had moved to Stapleford from Stockport in the 1970's and Joan remained in Stapleford following Harry's death in the early 1980's. As myself and Bro.Alan were somewhat conspicuous as we were standing at the back wearing shiny new purple ROH collars, we were approached by some of the mourners after the funeral. We had a discussion with Joan's next door neighbours who were interested in who we were and what the Order was, we then spoke to members of the family (niece I believe) who remembered visiting Joan and Harry's large house in Stockport with fondness and remembered how important the Order was to Harry and how dedicated to it he was.

Bro.G.Handley ROH -

Grand Lodge Secretary Nottingham

On behalf of the Grand President and all the members of Grand Council may I express our thanks to the Brothers who represented us so ably.

Bro. Geoff.

A Letter to the Grand President

Dear Tony,

I would like to thank the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Grand Council for their very kind donation to my charity, St.Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice, of £300.

All the money I raise this year will be spent in the Skegness area providing vital services to the terminally ill and their families. St.Barnabas Lincolnshire Hospice need to raise over £250,000 to support their important work so your donation was very gratefully received.

Once again, I thank the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Grand Council for their valuable support and their hospitality at the annual dinner.

On a personal level, Cath and I would like to wish you all the very best wishes for your coming year as Grand President.

Yours sincerely

Councillor S.R.Kirk,
Skegness Town Mayor

Photographs

acknowledgements are due so far to Eric & Pat Willetts, Jimmy Hardy, Richard Hardy (no relation!), MF Studio/Class Images, and your Editor.

The Grand Council Annual Charity Draw 2011 - Prizewinners

The following were successful in the Draw, held 15th June 2011 in the Crown Hotel, Skegness:

Ticket no.	Name	Prize
2259	Mrs Hammond	£300
4287	Nottingham Kts Chapter	£200
6020	J. Eccleston	£100
7764	S.Minchin	Bottle Rum
3814	S.Underwood	Bot. Whisky
2269	T.Hammond	Soft toy
5562	J.R.Turner	Soft toy
3209	S.Fahey	Gents accessory set
4425	Nottingham G.Lodge	Pen & calculator

Thanks to everyone who supported the Draw this year. Details of the final amount raised will follow in the next issue.

Forthcoming Raisings

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, at the Montagu W.M.C., Hartford Road, Huntingdon, PE29 3QD. Lodge opens 6.30pm.

3rd September, 2011

Essex Province

The Raising to the Second Degree of Bros. N.Waldron, M.Wayland, C.Sharpe and G.Crockatt of the Good Hope Lodge No. 339 at the Parkeston Railway Club, Hamilton Street, Parkeston, Harwich. Lodge opens 7pm.

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. at the Kemsley Village Hall, Kemsley, Sittingbourne, Kent. Lodge opens 6.30pm.

15th September, 2011

Essex Province

The Raising to the Second Degree of Bro.H.Buxton of the Sir Frederick Lodge No.1259 at The Wheatsheaf, Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2JF. Lodge opens 8.00pm

16th September, 2011.

Luton Province

Raising to the Second Degree of Bro.A.Hughes of the Moor Lodge No.2112 at the Oxen Road Club, Oxen Road, Luton, LU2 0DZ. Lodge opens at 7.30pm.

Please note this cry for help! I shall be on holiday from 10th September and will therefore be unable to be present at any of the last three Raisings listed. Will someone who is attending please send me a Report and photographs if possible? Thank you ever so much