



SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING

ON TUESDAY 15TH JUNE 2021 HELD VIA ZOOM

Festival income

Despite the difficulties presented by Covid, and Lodges having no chance to meet physically, our Festival total is approximately £72,000 so far. This is less than we had hoped for but it is promising.

The Festival Committee have looked at Lodges' fundraising results and have expressed concern that some have made little contribution. This is disappointing and it is hoped that, when Lodge meetings recommence, Brethren will work with Matthew Christmas and his team to organise events as well as looking at personal regular-giving opportunities.

Provincial Festival Certificates

Following a scheme used by Kent Mark Province during their very successful Festival, the Provincial Grand Master will be presenting Provincial Festival Certificates to Lodges. These certificates will be in addition to honorifics awarded by Mark Masons' Hall and will be based on the per capita contributions of Lodges. Mark Lodges will be awarded Bronze/Silver/Gold certificates for reaching per capita contributions of £100/£200/£300 respectively. The per capita levels for RAM Lodges are lower, at £65/£130/£195.

Some Lodges have already achieved certificates and these will be presented by the Provincial Grand Master or Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the earliest opportunity.

Festival Steward's Jewel

Brethren have been encouraged to purchase Festival Steward's jewels. For £100, a Brother receives a jewel and a bar to be affixed to an MBF honorific collarette once this has been achieved. The Brother, as a result of the financial contribution, simultaneously is awarded the MBF honorific level of Life Governor and receives the associated MBF jewel too.

The Festival Committee have been encouraged that a number of Brethren have already purchased Festival Steward's jewels.

Festival Weekend

For a number of months, the Festival Committee has been seeking a suitable venue for the Festival Banquet/Weekend, the culmination of our 2025 Festival.

The Examination Schools in Oxford is a splendid venue and the event will be held there, subject to approval from Mark Masons' Hall. Jonathan Rose (Festival Weekend Organising Sub-committee Chairman) will shortly accompany the Provincial Grand Master and

representatives from MMH to inspect the venue. Then Brethren will be advised of the arrangements for what will be a very important date in our Mark Masonic calendar.

Marketing and Communications

Work on the project plan and marketing plan is ongoing, with both plans being developed by Mocky Khan and his team in conjunction with other Festival Committee members.

The latest edition of the Festival newsletter has been written and circulated to all Brethren. It is hoped that, once we are back to some form of normality and events are being held by Lodges, pictures and reports of these will be sent to Steve Purnell for inclusion in the newsletter.

Mocky would like to enhance his team by including a photographer and a copywriter. Members of the Festival Committee have been asked to suggest Brethren with the necessary skills who would be willing to be part of the team.

Provincial Events

The golf event at Badgemore Golf Club on Friday 17th September is almost fully subscribed.

The Hobbs of Henley paddle steamer is now out of dry dock and the plan is to hold the boat trip, postponed due to Covid, early in 2022.

Jonathan is planning an event on The Golden Hind and details will be circulated to Brethren soon.

Lodge Events

As mentioned above, it has been difficult to organize Lodge events due to Covid. However, Thames Mark Lodge have held three small golf events, each raising £100, and they plan more throughout the Festival period.

In addition, John Grout has contacted a number of Oxfordshire golf clubs who are willing to donate four-ball vouchers. These vouchers will be passed to Matthew Christmas and his team, who will in turn encourage Lodges across the Province to organize events similar to Thames's.

Stephen Quant is willing to help organize a Race Night and/or a Masonic quiz for any Lodge who contacts him.

Festival Merchandise

Sales of ties and tokens are progressing slowly. There is a plan to purchase polo shirts and/or rugby shirts for selling on to Brethren at a small profit. Matthew and his team will be liaising with Lodges in their respective areas to determine how many Brethren wish to acquire these shirts. Sales will be on a 'payment up front' basis, and orders only placed once the manufacturers' minimum order level is reached.