



# the SE Counties thistle

Issue 10 – JUNE 2025



## Provincial Grand Lodge of the South Eastern Counties of England



The Provincial Grand Chapter and Lodge meetings of the South-Eastern Counties of England were held at the Normandy Centre, Denne Road, Horsham, on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2025.



We gathered in the bar for coffee and biscuits and a catch up with old friends before the meeting.



As well as many honoured guests from other Provinces, there were several Heads of Orders, and members of the Surrey Craft Provincial Executive, present and past.



Provincial Grand Chapter was opened at 13:30 by the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Charles Stoddart attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Jack Love. Also in attendance were Bro. John Wickes, the Deputy PGM for Hertfordshire, Bro. George Mars a Past Substitute PGM from Hants & IOW, Bro. John Stovell from Hants & IOW, Bro. Derrick Simpson, a member from Gibraltar and Bro. Tony Stephens a member from Southern Counties.

The Provincial Grand Master welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that he hoped they would enjoy the Ceremony of Advancement and Promotion for the candidates.

A Ballot for Advancement and Promotion into the Order was held for Bro. Morris Campbell which proved in favour of the candidate. Bro. Campbell was admitted into the Chapter and after an explanation of the history of the degree by the Provincial Grand Master he was Advanced to the Degree of Heredom and given the Characteristic of 'Carats'.



The Provincial Grand Master was assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Jack Love and the Substitute Provincial Grand Masters Bro. Ian Fraser, Bro. Leslie Grout and Bro. Paul Hollebhone. Bro. Alastair Mackenzie acted as Deputy Grand Guarder. The PGM expressed his thanks to Bro. Alastair who had stood in for the ceremony today at very short notice.

Other brethren assisted with the Questions and Answers as follows: Section X, Bro's Andrew Francis and Brian Hunter; Section X1, Bro's. Glen Coneley and Colin Brookman; Section X11, Bro's. Ian Fraser and Rod Barker and Section X111, Bro's. David Warren and Rodney Ramage.



The Provincial Grand Chapter was closed, and Provincial Grand Lodge was opened.

Bro. Campbell was duly admitted and Promoted to the Degree of the Rosy Cross of the Royal Order of Scotland. Bro. Charles Stoddart obligated the candidate and conferred the accolade.

The Provincial Grand Master invested and obligated Bro. Stephen Jones as Assistant Secretary.

After the Minutes of the Provincial Grand Chapter and Lodge Meetings held at Surbiton on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 were approved and signed by the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Nigel Harding gave a most interesting explanation of the Diploma before presenting Bros. Gordon Leaman, Adrian Mori, and Ian Pettett with their copies, which they signed at the Secretary's table.



The Provincial Grand Master closed Provincial Grand Lodge and the National Anthem was sung.



The Provincial Grand Master closed Provincial Grand Lodge and the customary group photo was taken.



After refreshments in the bar, with an opportunity to catch up with everyone the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters were piped into the dining room by two Pipers, Bro. Chris Harris and Bro Ralph Potter. The Haggis was then paraded round the dining room led by the two Pipers and the Address to the Haggis was given by Bro. Andrew Francis in his very special way.



The brethren of the Province of the South Eastern Counties and their guests sat down to a most convivial festive board. At the Festive Board our Pipers both played solo pieces. Bro. Ralph Potter played a Pibroch, which is classic pipe music and not often heard among "popular" pipe music. It is the traditional music of the Great Highland Bagpipe.

Bro. Chris Harris played a medley of pipe tunes from 1859 to the Falklands campaign. All were military tunes, some of which are well known and others not so.

After the meal the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Jack Love, proposed the Toast to the Provincial Grand Master. The RW Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Charles Stoddart, responded accordingly.





**The next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at Surbiton on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.**