



Congratulations to our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master

On Wednesday the 21st of September at a meeting of Burdett-Coutts Lodge our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Michael F Barnes was presented with a Certificate celebrating 50 years in Freemasonry. His Certificate was presented in a very personal manner by V.W.Bro. Ian S Currans, the Grand Summus in the Order of the Scarlet Cord.



Ian said that he was delighted to have been invited to make the presentation, principally of course because of a very long-standing friendship with Mik, but also because it was in Burdett-Coutts Lodge.

Michael Frederick Barnes was born in Brighton in 1939, 4 days after the UK had declared war on Germany. One might say an inauspicious start. There were wartime moves to Bristol and Nottingham due to his father's wartime occupation with the aircraft industry, but generally Mik lived in Brighton until the age of 19 and received his early education there.

After a few years with a Brighton electrical engineering firm, he joined the UK Atomic Energy Authority in 1960 and worked as a physicist. He then got a job with the Central Electricity Generating Board from 1967 until 1990 and then the National Grid Company until very early retirement in 1992, aged 53 years. Another 7 years and he will have been retired longer than he went to work.

Mik's 25 years in the electricity supply industry were spent on information technology, operational research and project management. During his working life, he gained both a BSc degree and an MSc degree. Mik has been active in shooting, enjoys TV documentaries, cryptic crosswords, fine dining and driving very fast. But all this pales into insignificance when compared to his abiding passion - Freemasonry.

Mik was initiated into Burdett-Coutts Lodge on 15th March 1972, aged 32. He reached the chair of the Lodge in 1979 and was Master again in 2013 and 2018 for their sesquicentenary year.

Mik has been a member of 5 other Craft Lodges, Worshipful Master of 4, including the prestigious Jubilee Masters and North Surrey Masters. He achieved LGR and Surrey Provincial ranks, Grand Rank as **PAGDC** in 1996 and was promoted to **PJGD** in 2005.

Mik was exalted into the Royal Arch in Earl of Zetland Chapter in 1974, and MEZ for the first time in 1981. He has been a member of 7 Royal Arch Chapters, First Principal of all of them, including London First Principals and North Surrey First Principals. He received LGCR, SLGCR, was Grand Standard Bearer in 1995, promoted to **PAGSoj** in 2003, and was a long serving Craft and Royal Arch Visiting Grand Officer.



Mik is, or has been, a member of 14 progressive Orders, spread over London, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire with high ranks in them all. 3 require special mention: Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Province of Surrey, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Surrey in the OSM. and Provincial Grand Summus for Surrey in Scarlet Cord.

To close, Ian said, "*Never think that merely having been a Freemason for 50 years is the cause of much celebration as its mostly a question of luck. Luck in having been proposed early enough, luck in having lived long enough, and luck in having made enough money to pay subscriptions over those 50 years. The real cause for celebration is the sheer volume of commitment that the recipient has put in during that time. There can be few people that have contributed as much as Michael Frederick Barnes*".

V.W.Bro. Ian read the certificate and afterwards the Brethren gave Mik a standing ovation. There to see our Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master receive his Certificate were several Surrey Mark Masons, who were delighted to share this special day with Mik.

Mark Provincial Grand Officers Mess Open Evening

Which tie to wear that was the question? So I took my Mark Officers Mess tie and my newly acquired black tie and wore the latter in memory of a phenomenal lady who has been a big part in and of all our lives.



There was a wedding taking place and a couple of lodge meetings as well. A busy time for the multi coloured W.Bro. Robbie Dobbie who was there to greet us.

Our Provincial Treasurer was in the bar with a guest list that did him proud. He had brought friends and family enough to fill a full table at the Festive Board. Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master was there with his lady wife and, amongst others, W.Bro. Tony Callister who always greets me with a smiling hello. He has the knack of putting me at my ease instantly.

Needless to say, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley was also in attendance and his cheery face and good humour certainly enhanced the proceedings... and meant that I did not have to take pics of the gathering. My fish-eye pics do need the professional touch!

The bar was soon full and the atmosphere of friendliness was typical of the Mark brotherhood. There was much chatting, reminiscing, and a definite sense of us being back on that normal route of gatherings which we so much enjoy.

Soon the meal was upon us and we proceeded to a fine room, well laid out and supported by very good-natured staff. The meal was preceded by a small amuse-bouche presented to us by our host, W.Bro. Robbie Dobbie.

The road to Surbiton is well known to me. I used to travel down the A3 on my way to Kingston when I ran a chauffeur company moons ago. Pleasant memories, a fine road and a good company in the form of W.Bro. Barrie Selway. The invitation was for family as well but my partner, Anne, was in hospital for a minor op. At the time of writing, she is back home and her usual smiling self. Parking at Surbiton is always good.



I enjoyed distributing the prizes to many a smiling face, knowing that the assembled group had not only enjoyed each other's company but also dined well and raised a significant amount of money for our good causes.

There was some discussion about how to appeal to more of the members of this group of Surrey Mark Master Masons, but I shall leave that to another time.

Maybe we shall all meet up at our next get together, the Annual Meeting of the Mess in May of next year.

Thanks to Michael Fenech for the article

The starter was followed by a satisfying "trilogy of pork" and a good supply of trimmings. Fresh fruit salad and tea and coffee were also served whilst W.Bros. John and Paul Fitzgerald persuaded us to part with moneys for the raffle. There were enough prizes for each of us to go home happy.....but I was unlucky this time.



A day out in the Garden of England



The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Kent took place on Saturday the 24th of September 2022 at the Clive Emson Suite, Kent Showground, Detling.

We received a very warm welcome on our arrival with tea/coffee and biscuits. There were honoured guests from many Provinces, and other Masonic Orders in Kent. Just after 10.50 pm the Brethren were called to order to receive the distinguished guests, including Right Worshipful Brethren and past members of the Provincial Executive.

The meeting was called to order by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, to receive the Provincial Officers of the year accompanying the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; and the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Peter David Williams, led by the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer and followed by the Provincial Grand Standard Bearers.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form by the Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren stood in silence as a mark of respect for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

After the regular business before Provincial Grand Lodge had been concluded the Provincial Grand Master welcomed many newly Advanced Brethren thanking them for their support for Provincial Grand Lodge and wishing them many happy years to enjoy their Mark Masonry.

The Provincial Grand Master had much pleasure in re-appointing W.Bro. Martyn Summers, P.G.S.D., as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and W.Bros. David Stiff, P.G.S.D., and Trevor Sharpe, P.A.G.D.C., as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters; seen here with the newly appointed Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Christopher Metherell, P.Prov.G.J.W.

The Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, together with members of the Past Executive, honoured guests and Provincial Officers then left the Temple in procession. The Brethren of the Mark Province of Kent and their guests then retired to the bar.

After refreshments the Brethren of the Province of Kent and their guests dined together in peace and harmony, where the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.

We all agreed that it was a most enjoyable day out in the Garden of England.





Surrey Enthroned Commanders and Installed Mark Masters Lodges



Companionship, Ceremony and Conviviality. We arrived at Surbiton sometime before the two lodge meetings were due to start and went down to the bar after signing in.

Within a few Minutes others followed and the Mark atmosphere of welcome and pleasant greeting was established. Within no time at all the bar filled up. In due course we donned our RAM garb and processed to the temple.

It was so well attended. There must have been some 50 to 60 Royal Ark Mariners there, all happily greeting friends not seen for some time, conversing, reminiscing, and mentioning many subjects... the Queen's funeral, the weather and what we were due to witness today.



Our Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. John French, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, opened the meeting and offered greetings and the gavel to our Provincial Grand Master who returned it with gusto to the Worshipful Commander in a professional but relaxed manner. The latter welcomed guests from

Kent and Sussex and with due solemnity asked us to stand in silence and remember our dear departed Sovereign and W.Bro. Rev. David Allonby. Definitely a sombre moment.

The meeting continued with some momentum, and it was pleasing to note the joining members being so well received by our Worshipful Commander who then proceeded to present an insightful talk on the history of Royal Ark Mariner Masonry.

Our meeting was soon over. We retired to the bar for tea, coffee and biscuits and then back to our Mark Meeting. I found the parading of the banner a moving moment with time for reflection. This was followed with our new Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Paul Haycock, being installed with sincerity by the outgoing Worshipful Master, V.W.Bro. John French. Officers were invested and the new W. M. spent time talking to each of us. I was appointed Junior Deacon.

This meeting continued in the usual format with auditors being appointed and Almoner's and Charity Steward's reports being presented. A very pleasant two

meetings which were so well attended. And we have the photos to prove it, thanks to the energetic efforts of V.W.Bro. Chris Eley. I was brought to the front as I am of small stature...thanks Chris!!!



And so to the bar followed shortly by a call to dine. I was well looked after and my request for melon had been noted by our Secretary and I enjoyed that. The palate clearer, chicken and roast potatoes followed. I was pleased with the blackcurrant cheesecake well delivered by attentive and smiling serving staff.

The food was of a very good standard, as ever. There were the usual speeches briefly but succinctly delivered bearing in mind the that we had been present at two meetings that lovely day.

Our Provincial Grand Master set us all a challenge at the Festive Board for every member of SIMM to find from within their own Lodge a Past Master to join SIMM. I have a good friend in mind. I hope I see you there on Wednesday the 21st of June 2023.

Thanks to Michael Fenech for the article

All Installed Masters are encouraged to join the Surrey Installed Mark Masters Lodge No 1219. Likewise, all Installed Commanders are encouraged to join the Surrey Enthroned Commanders Lodge No 1219. Both Lodges meet on the same day at the Surbiton Masonic Centre. Joining these Lodges will not only afford you an enjoyable means of increasing your Masonic knowledge but also give you the opportunity of meeting other installed Masters and Commanders from all parts of the Province. You will hear many eminent speakers giving addresses and answering questions on matters of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner interest and, from time to time, you will witness demonstrations and presentations of particular workings of these and related ceremonies. The Lodges meet twice a year, on the 3rd Wednesday in June and the 4th Thursday in September.

Another Candidate for Croydon Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners

On Thursday the 15th of September the Croydon Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 198 Elevated yet another Candidate into the Royal Ark Mariners Lodge.

I was already at Croydon attending a Scarlet Cord Consistory meeting, followed by a meeting of a Conclave in the Order of the Secret Monitor, and as Croydon Lodge is an 'upside down' Lodge which dines before the meeting I was able to pop down the corridor to assist them with the ceremony of Elevation. When I walked in I was immediately asked to act as Junior Warden, which I was happy to do.



This proved in his favour and Brother Michael was elevated into the Royal Ark Mariner Degree by the Worshipful Commander and his Officers in a most convivial way.

The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Commander, W.Bro. Paul Jenner, and after the regular business of the Lodge had been completed, they balloted for Bro. Michael Spicer of the Croydon Lodge of MMM.



Well done Bernie



Surrey Mark put in a team in the London Mark Golf day at Leatherhead Golf Club. This was very well organised by our own W.Bro. Simon McCarthy.

The Surrey team were Ian Clark, Bernie Greenwood, Mark Guzam, and Arnold Long. who came a close second to the David Ashbolt team with Ray Johnson (*Hiram and Knightsbridge*).

Bernie Greenwood played the game of his life and won the Individual Men's trophy.

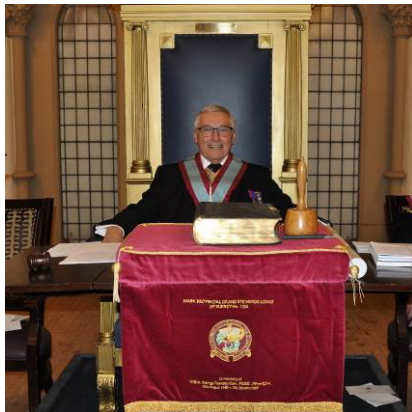
Over £2k was raised, to be split between the MBF and Cancer Detection Dogs.



Mark Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge of Surrey



Nil Nisi Optimum



A fine interplay of ceremony and good humour. Although at the far end of the Temple, a place reserved for late comers, I once again learned something.

The explanation of the 150th Anniversary Key Stone Jewel as succinctly explained by W.Bro. Bill Caughie, with even a Latin explanation.

The Surrey Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No 1726 met at Croydon on the 26th of September 2022.

Now then! The journey to Croydon is a different matter. Especially in the rush hour.....ish. I took the advice of my satnav, went down the A3 and turned right via Merton and St. George's Hospital. Big Mistake! Two hours later I arrived somewhat late but in the good company of our Provincial Grand Treasurer who presented our apologies for this well attended meeting of some 50 to 60 Stewards, visitors from Kent, Sussex and Essex, and members of the Provincial Executive, present and past. No time to wet my whistle.

I did find the parading of the banner a sincere and interesting moment and its explanation served to remind us all of what we are about.



The Installation of the Incoming Master, W.Bro. William Barr, was carried out correctly as one would expect by R.W.Bro. Ian Clark.



W.Bro. Richard Knox gave the Address to the Worshipful Master. The Wardens were advised of their duties by V.W.Bro John French; V.W.Bro. Chris Cradock presented the Address to the Overseers; new officers were appointed, and R.W.Bro. Ian Clark addressed us, the Brethren.



The next part interested me as I had trained as a toastmaster in 2001 and our newly appointed Master gave a humorous and fascinating talk on his life as the man in the red coat.

Good memories, and some really did resonate with me bringing back many a recollection of my twenty years in the business.

It was bizarre that both the Worshipful Master and I came into Freemasonry in the same manner. We were both asked to join the Craft after having been offered the position because of a wedding enquiry.

The meeting proceeded in the usual manner. After the Lodge was closed the Worshipful Master and the Provincial Grand Master were escorted out of the temple.

Mind you, as the newly appointed and invested Officers of the Lodge we all returned to have our photo taken by that official photographer-in-charge, V.W.Bro. Chris Eley, delegating on this occasion the task to the seemingly ever-present Tyler, W.Bro. Chris Casselden. Is he at all meetings?



We then retired to the bar for some refreshments and to catch up on all the news.

At the very acceptable Festive Board, we raised a significant amount through the raffle, were thanked by the Provincial Grand Master for our efforts when we were in Festival, and had a jolly good time in jolly good company. Are we the best in Surrey? You judge.



As is the usual custom at Mark Festive Boards, the members of the Allied Masonic Degrees wore their AMD napkins to promote the Order.



It only took me an hour to get back to my lovely cottage in Farnham. No satnav this time.

Thanks to Michael Fenech for the article

**# Nil Nisi Optimum
Nothing but the best.**



The Keystone is on the move again



A contingent of 5 members of Percy Lodge No. 114 performed a 'raid' on Rose Lodge of MMM No. 534, holders of the "Travelling Keystone" since the Annual Meeting in March, to re-capture it from them on Saturday 1st October 2022 at Surbiton Masonic Centre.

The 'team' from Percy Lodge consisted of the Worshipful Master, W Bro. Clive Goode; V.W.Bro. John French. Dep.Prov.G.M., W.Bro. Graham Beer, Bro. Stuart Hogarth and Bro. Peter Skoglund. The Worshipful Master of Percy Lodge, together with the other members present, rose at the Festive Board to "claim" the Travelling Keystone. The DC checked with the Secretary who confirmed that everything was in accordance with the "rules" and their attendance was recorded in the register.

Our Provincial Grand Master handed the Travelling Keystone to the Worshipful Master of Percy Lodge attended by the other members of Percy Lodge. He thanked the Brethren from Percy Lodge for attending the meetings of Rose Lodge and assisting in filling vacant officer positions on the day due to various apologies and the impact of the national rail strike on attendance.

Notwithstanding this, everyone had a very enjoyable meeting and convivial festive board with the usual fun and friendliness of the Mark degree. As you can see, the Provincial Grand Master was reluctant to release the Travelling Keystone to Percy Lodge who announced that this would be the third time that they had 'claimed' the Keystone. However, the PGM reminded them that unlike the Jules Rimet trophy they do not get to keep it!

And indeed, their tenure may be short lived as **their next meeting is on Wednesday 5th October 2022.**

Thanks to Michael Howarth for the article



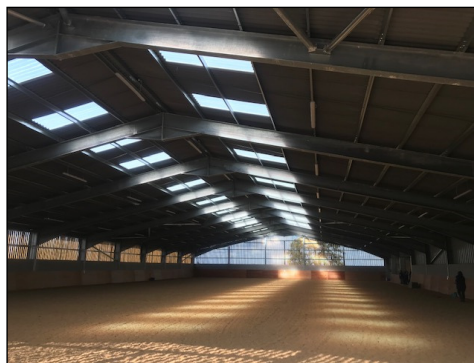
Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled Association



Following a grant from the MBF for £18,500 to the Horsley, Bookham & Leatherhead Riding for the Disabled Association work was completed on the roof of the magnificent purpose-built arena.

The facilities include a classroom and viewing area. The overall build costs were £2,000,000. Para Olympian show jumper Sophie Christianson, winner of 13 World and Olympic Gold medals was the guest of honour officially opened the centre.

W.Bro. Steve Jones, our Provincial Grand Charity Steward, was on hand to represent the MBF.



Key dates for your diaries

Monday 12 th December 2022	Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly	Great Queen Street
Saturday 29 th October 2022	Cha Di Da	Reigate
Saturday 29 th January 2023	Burns Night Supper	Guildford
Saturday 18 th March 2023	Provincial Grand Lodge	Croydon
Tuesday 6 th June 2023	Mark Grand Lodge	Great Queen Street
Tuesday 12 th September 2023	Mark Grand Lodge	Great Queen Street

