

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 84 January 2019



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## Re-Birth

Brethren, ever since man in the northern hemisphere reflected on the passing of the seasons and developed a calendar to measure time in relation to the movement of these seasons, this time of the year has been associated with re-birth. New years' eve is a traditional festival dating back thousands of years.

For most of us, it is a time when we are symbolically encouraged to throw out the old and herald in the new. When we wish all around us everything of the best for the new year. It is the symbol of an emotional re-birth and a new beginning. This is symbolised even further if we reviewed critically the past year and considered our "new year resolutions". "What did we do well, what did we do not so well and what should we not have done at all?"

As Freemasons of course, we are constantly reminded to consider "what man is and what man may become." Does attendance at every First Degree working challenge us to contemplate our own continual re-birth? This regular contemplation alone can help us to measure just how well we are ennobleing our mind and heart. How well are we putting into practice the principles and tenets of our Order? Are we learning tolerance and the ability to be forbearing of the failures of a brother, are we exercising Masonic Charity in the truest sense, are we truly behaving as a good Brother and so becoming a better man?

By definition within our rituals, this arises from self-knowledge and so each Brother only knows

his own truth. The rest of us can of course observe his progress and when we see obvious shortcomings in his behaviour, do we offer benign mentorship and facilitation in the spirit of brotherly love? Many believe that self-improvement is learned from helping others. It is practical, not theoretical.

In the spirit of the tradition of new year, I wish everyone a happy and fulfilling 2019. May you achieve the goals that you work for and never forget that you have to dream it, BEFORE it can come true.

Brethren; Dream of becoming a better man and by full participation, allow Freemasonry to provide the environment in which it can be facilitated.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master**

## Grand Master attends French Installation

On Saturday 1 December 2018, our Grand Master MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, had the privilege to attend the Installation of MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet as Grand Master of the Grande Loge Nationale Francais, by outgoing Grand Master MW Bro Jean-Pierre Servel.

3400 Freemasons attended the meeting - after running the gauntlet with the "yellow vest" demonstrations that were taking place just down the road at the Arc de Triomphe.

Whilst the weather was cold and wet outside the Temple, inside could not have been warmer. The ambiance was magnificent and positive emotions ran high as MW Bro Jean-Pierre Servel was acknowledged and thanked for his contribution to the restoration of the GLNF to its former place in International Freemasonry. The GLNF had experienced severe difficulties prior to his Installation and a visionary was needed to redress this situation. Bros Servel and Rollet



MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet, MW Bro David Duncan OSM and MW Bro Jean-Pierre Servel

set about guiding the GNLF back to where it should be. The size of the gathering and the Representatives from 83 Grand Lodges bore witness to this success.

The weekend was an opportunity to meet old friends within the Order and make new ones at the

social gatherings. The conversation tended to centre around “how we can make Freemasonry better for our members”. Many ideas were exchanged and, yet again, it was encouraging to find so many great minds focussing on problems similar to those that we have in the GLSA and our own environment.

One very respected “old” friend attending was RW Bro Tom Jackson who regularly visited South Africa when MW Bro Ben Lindeque was our Grand Master. Many of our African Sister Grand Lodges were also present and regularly attend these International events.



As company from the GLSA, the Grand Master had Bro Nicolas Garcia (Friendship) and he also much enjoyed the experience. All of our Brethren are reminded that, should they wish to attend any International events, they should contact our Grand Secretary who will do what he can to make any suitable arrangements with the host Grand Lodge.



### Masonic Homes Lunch - the usual Success!

For a number of years now, Southern Division have been having a Christmas lunch for the residents of their Homes for Seniors and Quadriplegics. These occasions are much looked forward to and enjoyed by residents and Masons alike and 2018 was no exception.



*The ladies from Andy's House with Bro Brett Steensma*

The 3 course lunch was very much enjoyed by all. It was prepared by Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones and was to his usual high standard. After this we had the presentation of Christmas gifts by Santa Claus, who is also known as RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM, Brian is the Chairman of our Masonic Homes and is really doing an exceptional job in this demanding role.



*Wor Bro Danny Retief, who represents the Quad House*

Brian thanked all the House Chairmen and their Committees as well as the other project participants. In this picture, he is with



*The various Homes Committees and their partners.*

All of our House Committees excelled in 2018 and the Brethren involved really do have a great deal to be proud of. The job is not an easy one, but it really does make a difference to the lives of those enjoying our Masonic benevolence - and long may it continue.

The House Chairmen / Representatives are:

Desmain Lodge	RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM
Burchell House	Wor Bro Mike Burchell
Ted's House	RW Bro Ron Smith
Andy's House	Wor Bro Jan Venter
Quad House	Wor Bro Danny Retief



*Wor Bro Mike Burchell*



*Wor Bro Jan Venter*



*Masonic Home for Quadriplegics with Alta & Danny Retief*



*Ted's House with Ron Smith, Rod Potter and Hiram team*



*with Joan Halls (Desmain)*



*Santa (aka Brian) Claus*

## Some 2018 Highlights



Royal Arch had an exceptional year and a number of new Northern Division Chapters were consecrated. In this picture the First Grand Principal, M Ex Comp Johan Britz, is seen with the senior RA Officers and new Chapter Companions.

Over the past few years it has become normal to start the year with a Bloemfontein Chain's Conference. This year was no exception and the lively debate and interaction got 2018 off to a most encouraging start.



The Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, is seen here with the Provincial Grand Masters. These are RW Bros Tommy Hardiman (Southern), Cor van Zyl (Central), Basil de Kock (Eastern), Peet Roos (Northern), Keith Hutton (Eastern Cape).

On rare occasions a Brother is awarded an OSM for his exceptional contribution to our Grand Lodge. In



March the Grand Master made the award to RW Bro Brian Rossouw for his outstanding service as a Committee member and as the Chairman of the Southern Division's Masonic Homes project,

this being for well over 20 very demanding years.

In May, the Supreme Council for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for South Africa held their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The event took place at the de Goede Hoop Temple and included visitors from several overseas Supreme Councils. Arturo de la Hoyos (Southern Jurisdiction) is seen with MP Bro Boet du Plessis.



As with every year, a number of our Brethren qualified for long service awards. On the left RW Bro Neville Rudram (Past PGM Northern) receives his 50 year award, while



on the right, Wor Bro Danie van Rensburg (Oranje) receives his 60 year jewel. Danie is, in fact, the longest serving GLSA member with almost 65 years. Other recipients were Wor Bros Andre Grobelaar, Cyril Heckman and Ron Kessler.

An important part of our Grand Master's duties is to maintain contact with foreign Grand Lodges and, in the recent past he has attended communications in England, France, Gabon, Cameroon and Mauritius.



The Grand Master is seen here enjoying the Masonic Spring Ball with the Grand Masters of Mali and Benin.

The MSA is the Royal Arch equivalent of an OSM, and is just as rare. For a Brother to receive both is very unusual - but when M Ex Comp Johan Britz awarded a MSA to M Ex Comp John Smith, nobody was surprised. His work for Royal Arch has been outstanding and all agreed that the award was very well deserved.



## GM is Honorary Member of de Goede Hoop

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, Lodge de Goede Hoop (No 1 GLSA) held a 1<sup>st</sup> degree working at which they initiated Bro Alex Clay as a member of the Order. As always, the Lodge's Christmas working attracted a very significant turnout and this was enhanced by the Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, leading the Grand Lodge delegation.

At the end of the evening, the Worshipful Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, announced that the

Lodge had decided to award Honorary membership to MW Bro Duncan and RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM. Both of these Brethren were making a major impact on our Grand Lodge and their being part of the oldest Lodge in the Southern Hemisphere was but a small recognition for their very considerable efforts. RW Bro Rossouw has also played a leading and greatly appreciated role in the major refurbishment of the historic de Goede Hoop Temple.

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, then formally advised RW Bro Rossouw, as Chairman of the Masonic Homes, that the proceeds of this year's Spring Ball project would be R200,000.



If you ever have any input for Square & Compasses, please email it to [secretary@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:secretary@grandlodge.co.za)

## RW Bro Brandon Topham earns Ritualist pin

While Ritual Excellence Program activities tend to be fairly quiet at this time of year, we were delighted to hear that RW Bro Brandon Topham (Koh-I-Noor) had qualified for a Ritualist pin. RW Bro Topham is not only the Grand Treasurer, but he also plays a very significant role in the success of his Lodge. Our Grand Lodge stresses the importance of our candidates enjoying a Quality experience. RW Bro Topham's example in this regard cannot be commended highly enough.



## Almoner's Corner

Our 2 Southern cancer patients, Louise du Preez and Wor Bro Corrie Grobbelaar (Simon van der Stel) are at home with their families and continue to make positive progress. Keep it up - we are proud of you!

RW Bro Kenny Manefeldt (de Goede Trouw) and Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) continue to struggle with back problems and we trust that the New Year will prove a more comfortable one for both of them.

Wor Bro Paul Nash (Star of the Rand) is making a steady recovery from an operation to his voice box. I'm assured that his progress is positive.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching (AJ Haak), who has had such a positive influence on his Lodge, is fighting cancer and has had a kidney removed. He is undergoing chemotherapy to counter various other spots.

Bro Dawood Momla (Star of the Rand) is in hospital where he is waiting for a liver transplant. He is very much in our prayers.

Wor Bro Pat Smith (Brits) has been suffering with Polyalgia Rheumatica. We are assured, however, that he is making positive progress.

Brethren, our Provincial and Lodge Almoner's still need to be functioning a whole lot more effectively as it really is very necessary that we, as Freemasons, reach and support all of our ailing Brethren and their families. Caring really is proactive and we trust that 2019 will see us making real progress in this regard. If you know of anyone who could use our encouragement, please advise the Grand Almoner so that we may react.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please phone RW Bro Nuno Calvet at 083 5607838 or send him an email to [nunocalvet@gmail.com](mailto:nunocalvet@gmail.com)

## Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Grand Master,  
MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM,  
the Deputy Grand Master,  
the Assistant Grand Masters,  
the Grand Secretary  
and all Grand Lodge Officers  
(present and past),

sincere best wishes for 2019.

May it be a year filled with Peace,  
Health and Happiness for each and  
every Brother and all those who are  
nearest and dearest to you.

May you and your Lodge's Masonic  
dreams all be fulfilled.