

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 100 May 2020



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Are We at War Again?

Watching the celebrations in Europe for the 75th Anniversary of the ending of the World War II in Europe on 8th May 1945 and the countless TV programs depicting the heroism of those who fought and gave their all for the ongoing freedom of their fellow men, I could not help but feel pride for those South Africans who volunteered to fight for a principle. There was no conscription in South Africa in 1940 and so each of the 334,000 South Africans, from all cultural groups, who joined up were volunteers. They made a choice.

South Africans served with distinction in most of the campaigns that took place on the African continent and made a real contribution, both on the ground and in the air, to Mussolini's defeat in East Africa in 1941. The significance of this victory was that it removed a hostile force from the rear of the fight against the Axis in North Africa. They also fought in the horrors of Italy and many other Southern Africans fought in the Battle of Britain. Perhaps a less remembered campaign, was that to liberate Madagascar in 1942.

Many of these combatants were Freemasons and even more were the fathers and grandfathers of present members. It is only right that we should recognise the sacrifice that they made to save the world from a totalitarian regime. The records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission show that they look after the graves of over 11,023 South Africans, from all cultural groups, who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of each and every one of us who followed after them.

As Freemasons, I believe that we are still fighting for a principle. Whilst we are no longer armed, we nevertheless employ our resources to the cause of social justice and the preservation of a moral way of life. We cannot change everything in our society, but we can make a difference, person by person, family by family.

The war against the SARS virus that has created Covid-19 is being fought on the streets of South Africa. Just as in 1940, when the country was divided on whether it was our problem or not, the public spirited Brethren in some of our Lodges have responded by becoming involved in making a contribution to relieving the hardship caused to persons who were already living on the edge of economic viability and are now desperate. We salute these Brethren and the choice that they have made. We hope that many more Brethren will follow their initiative, accept the responsibility to demonstrate the universal principle of Brotherly Love and follow their example in showing that we believe that we are a force for good in our greater society.

Brethren, it does not matter what your political beliefs are, when a national crisis arises, it affects us all. In 1906, Alfred Henry Lewis stated, "There are only nine meals between mankind and anarchy". With this period of lockdown in a social environment, where a significant proportion of the population live on a hand to mouth basis, there are many South Africans who go to bed hungry each night. The consequences for the peace in our society may be grave.

Just as our heroic forebears rose to the challenge in a time of crisis, I appeal to each and every Lodge and each and every Brother to make a positive contribution to the "Covid-19 war effort" and so help to "make a difference", one person at a time.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

GLSA Elects the next Grand Master

On Saturday 9th May 2020 the Grand Conclave assembled to determine who would be the next Grand Master of the GLSA.

As all Divisions nominated **RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA**, balloting was uncomplicated and RW Bro Smith was duly elected.

In 1976, RW Bro Smith was initiated at Lodge de Vereeniging and is now a member of Lodge de Goede Hoop. For the past 3 years he has been the Deputy Grand Master and prior to this was an Assistant GM and a PGM. He is also the Deputy 1st Grand Principal of our Royal Arch, was awarded an OSM in 2015 and a MSA in 2017.

The GM's Installation is planned for 5th September.



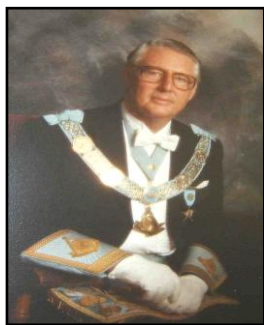
S & C CELEBRATING 100 ISSUES – Excerpts from issues 1 - 44.

S&C's 8 year Journey!

The very first edition of the Square and Compasses was released in August 2012 and was an initiative of our present Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM. It is now produced by MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and can proudly claim to have never missed a month!

In this "Centennial" edition we recall a few of the highlights from the first 99 releases and hope that you will enjoy sharing these memories with us..

In September 2012, MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM was presented with his 60 year jewel by then Grand Master, MW Bro Watty Watson. The presentation was at Peace and Harmony in Kimberley, which was RW Bro Bauser OSM's Mother Lodge. RW Bro Bauser was Grand Master from 1991 to 1997 and passed away in January 2018.



In April 2013, we reported on MW Bro Sidney Gasson OSM's passing to the Eternal East. He had been our Grand Master from 1973 to 1983 and was highly respected for the contribution that he made to the ongoing success of our Grand Lodge. He was well loved for his qualities as a man and as a Freemason. He was a

member of Lodge Aurora in the Free State.

In the early 1800s the de Goede Hoop Temple and the British (UGLE) Temple were separated by the short Neeuwemeester's Laan. It was custom that the Lodges elected their new Master's on the same night and that de Goede Hoop's Brethren then proceeded down the lane where the Master's were introduced at the gate.

While British Temple is now much further away, the gate is still there and the tradition continues. In this June 2013 picture we have Wor Bros Evangelos Doucas (de Goede Hoop) and Nick Evans (British) at the gate.



October 2013 saw us including several pictures of Southern's Annual Spring Ball. Pictured are Deputy Grand Master RW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and Grand Master MW Bro Armiston Watson.



MW Bro Dimitrios Kontesis from Greece.

In December 2013 we sadly acknowledged the passing of MW Bro John Bowen OSM. He had been our Grand Master from 2003 - 2008 and had established our Grand Lodge as a real presence in Africa. MW Bro Bowen had been a member of Koh-I-Noor and, in his younger years, a very competitive sportsman.

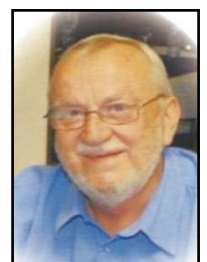


The Southern Division's Masonic Homes are known throughout South Africa and the Masonic Home for Quadriplegic has a special status. This February 2014 picture was taken at a House braai.

In front of a packed crowd of international and local Freemasons at the de Goede Hoop Temple in Cape Town on 23rd August 2014, MW Bro Armiston Watson OSM installed MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM as the 9th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Africa.



On 4th October 2014, MW Bro Watty Watson OSM was suddenly called to the Eternal East. He was



well liked and will be remembered for Brotherly Love.



Many of our Lodges hold special charitable Christmas events. In this December 2014 picture, RW Bro Alf Rhoodie (de Goede Hoop) aka Father Christmas, hands a gift to a young boy from a home for abandoned children. Freemasons care - and it's by our charity efforts that we demonstrate this.



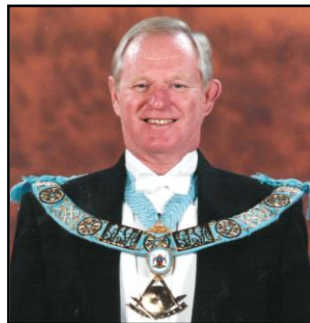
Social events are a very important part of Masonry and in June 2015 we reported on a most enjoyable Lodge Libertas horse-shoe throwing competition.

As their main annual fund-raiser, Star of the West participate in the local Mampoer Festival. In this May 2015 picture the members of the Lodge are appropriately dressed for the occasion.



The GLSA has, over the past few years, become ever more involved in African and world Freemasonry. This April 2015 picture was taken at the African Conference and the Installation of MW Bro Bruno Dumaziel as Grand Master - Mauritius. MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM (seated 2R) with various Grand Masters and dignitaries.

The April 2015 edition saw us reporting the passing of MW Bro Ben Lindeque OSM. MW Bro Lindeque was Grand Master from 1997 to 2003 and introduced "Open" Installations and Mourning ceremonies. He was an exceptional speaker and, subsequent to his term as Grand Master, was Sovereign Grand Commander of the AASR for South Africa



13th June 2015 saw M Ex Comp Billy Prentzler Install M Ex Comp Johan Brits as the new Royal Arch First Grand Principal in a ceremony at Orange Grove.

In July 2015, the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, awarded an OSM to the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Dave Duncan, for his outstanding work as a Freemason and as a senior member of the Grand Lodge of South Africa.

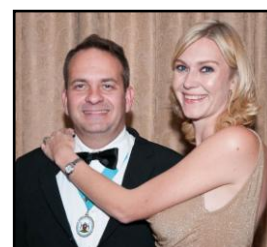


In August 2015, Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, once more had the privilege of awarding an OSM to a very deserving Brother, RW Bro John Smith. RW Bro Smith had also been recently installed as R A Deputy 1st Grand Principal.



In May 2015 we told Bro Bushy McKelvey's story. Bushy was a Master Mason at Lodge Dromedaris who lost both his legs in motor cycle accidents. Despite this his extraordinary achievements include his setting a new world distance record for 24 hours on a motor cycle at an average speed of almost 136 kms per hour!

Also in the May 2015 issue, we reported on the Installation of Father Gabriel Boucher as the new Worshipful Master of Kimberley Lodge Peace and Harmony. Wor Bro Boucher was the Father of the Anglican Church in Kimberly and a leading figure in Freemasonry and in the local community.



August 2015 saw yet another very special Masonic Spring Ball. This was the 41st consecutive year in which the Ball had been held - an outstanding record. Wor Bro Brandon and Mari Topham were amongst the guests.

You can't stop the rough times. They're seasonal, like winter. But they're the inspiration for summer.

Unknown

Almoner's Corner

We were deeply saddened by the news of the sudden demise of Wor Bro Frik Brits (AJ Haak). Frik had been a Mason for 18 years and, at the time of his passing, was the Grand Administrator and Northern Division Secretary. He made a major contribution to the GLSA. Our thoughts and prayers are with Erna and the family at this difficult time.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) continues to make progress after his latest heart procedures. While he gets very tired, he still attends relevant Zoom meetings.

Wor Bro Eugene Steenkamp's (Brits) wife Sarie spent 11 days in hospital with Covid-19 and is now back home making, thank the GAOTU, a full recovery.

We have also had 2 Brethren from Koh-I-Noor and 1 Cape Town Brother who tested positive. All have made full recoveries. Covid-19 doesn't bypass Freemasons and their families, Brethren, so please be careful!

Both Wor Bros Hannes Jonker (Prins Frederik) and Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) have had facial growths removed over the past few days. Both are recovering well – although Andre has been excused from Zoom meetings as his eye is still closed up.

Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) continues to make steady progress. He is still far from being fully recovered – but he's getting there. Please keep him in your prayers.

Bro Fabio Gonsalves (Golden City) continues to recover from his double hernia operation and the complications developed after his procedure.

Within the space of 2 weeks, Bro David Lucas (Prins Frederik) lost both his father and his mother to unrelated illnesses. We don't know how you are coping, Brother, but please know that we care.

While Eastern Cape do not have anything to report on any of their own members, they did advise me that Bro Grant Dickson (GL Scotland) had suffered from a serious stroke and that all 4 Constitutions had joined together to help raise some related funds. Between them they raised R20,000. Well done Brethren, that's true Masonic behaviour.

You are also reminded of our older Brethren at this difficult and, all too often, lonely time. A number of our Lodges have implemented contact programs for them with regular phone-calls taking place. Please make certain that this includes your Lodge. Our Brethren need us right now. Northern Division, for example, have introduced a "My Brother - My Buddy" system which ensures that all of the Brethren are contacted by somebody in their Lodge.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please ensure that your Divisional Almoner is aware of him:

Southern Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern Wor Bro Reuven Coenen	071 6120577
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Prins Frederik is helping feed the needy!

During these extraordinarily difficult times it is more important than ever that we, as South African Freemasons, present ourselves as a Caring Society who will do whatever they can to assist those in need. Many of our Lodges and Brethren are already making a real contribution, but there's still so much more to be done.

One Lodge setting an example is Prins Frederik which, represented by Bro Eric Houniet, his wife Paulina, daughters Vicki and Lexie and RW Bro Alan van der Vyver are packing and distributing food parcels to the needy. They are assisted by PGL Northern and the Widow's Sons and Life Behind Bars biker groups.

The food parcels being packed provide enough food to keep an individual sustained for 4 to 5 days and are very much appreciated by the fortunate recipients. In our picture, Alan is seen assembling food parcels with the Houniet girls. What a great way to bring up a Freemason's children - and the girls love it!



The overall group is working together with "Walking Tall with Pride" and parcels are being distributed on both the Southern and Northern suburbs of Johannesburg. In this

picture Eric is handing out parcels to needy recipients.

Could other Lodges working on projects please send us some picture and news. We'd love to share them.

Support the Grand Master's Covid-19 Initiative

Freemasonry is a Caring Organisation and we are never more challenged to demonstrate this than we are in this Covid-19 pandemic. Grand Lodges all over the world are reacting as best they can and some of the stories are extremely inspiring - but these reactions cost money and where do the funds come from?

It's important to acknowledge that many of these Grand Lodges have considerably more members than we do and will inevitably be able to embark on bigger projects. England, for example, is 200 times our size, Scotland 150, France 150, New York 80 and so we could go on. The GLSA's challenge is not to match them, it's to do the "BEST THAT WE CAN DO".

Our Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, has therefore challenged our Divisions, Lodges and Brethren to support him in a drive to raise as much money as we can so that the GLSA will be able to make as much of a difference as we can. If you have not already done so, you will receive details from your Divisions. Please, Brethren, do what you can to help!

As our Grand Master's term draws to a close this, Brethren, could be his final charitable initiative. Let's do what we can to make it a really memorable one!