

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 122 March 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

South African Freemasonry - the first 50 years

Lodge De Goede Hoop was formed in Cape Town on 2 May 1772. In 1778 Bro Francois Duminy, who had been initiated in France, joined the Lodge. Between 1772 and 1781 1st and 2nd degree meetings were held on the same day and the presiding master was elected and was installed on St John the Baptist's day, being 24 June. Sea-faring Brethren were regularly passed to the Fellowcraft degree and / or raised to the Master Mason's degree and more than 400 degrees were conferred by the Lodge during this time. In 1784 a war in Europe saw ships stop calling at the Cape. As there were too few permanent Cape resident members, the Lodge returned its Charter to the GEN.

Lodge De Goede Hoop reopened on 24 June 1794. 11 Brethren, who were then permanent Cape residents and 7 of whom were previously Lodge members, were involved. The Lodge rented premises in Plein St and Bro Duminy was elected as the master. The previous By-laws were amended in that 3 months had to elapse before an Apprentice could be passed to Fellowcraft and 12 months before a Fellowcraft could be raised to Master Mason. Bro Louis Thibault, a French architect and a Freemason in France, became a member of the Lodge and Johannes Truter was initiated.

After the British occupation in 1795 most English Freemasons who arrived at the Cape could not speak Dutch and did not attend Lodge De Goede Hoop's meetings. The Lodge however gave them permission to use their Temple for Masonic work, provided that no initiations took place and no degrees were conferred.

This, however, saw several irregular Lodges formed, which were not recognised by Lodge De Goede Hoop. In 1797, Anton Anreith, the renowned German sculptor was initiated in Lodge De Goede Hoop. In 1799 Bro Truter was installed as the Lodge's presiding master and, in 1800, it established a daughter Lodge, called Loge St Jan de Goede Trouw, this later changing to Lodge De Goede Trouw. During the same year Lodge De Goede Hoop purchased its present property, being the garden Domburg and Bro Thibault was commissioned to draw the plans for a Temple. The dimensions of the main Temple are identical to those of the Sanctum Sanctorum of King Solomon's first Temple as described in the book of Kings. A member of the Lodge, Bro Herman Schutte, was employed to build the Temple while Bro Anreith was to sculpt 7 statues, 3 of which still exist today. Sadly, no record of the laying of the foundation stone exists.

In 1802 the Cape became a colony of the Batavian Republic and Bro Jacob De Mist arrived as the Governor. Lodge De Goede Trouw purchased a property in Plein Street, near to De Goede Hoop, which it converted into a Temple. The De Goede Hoop Temple was completed and consecrated on 7 July 1803 by Bro De Mist, who was also a Deputy Grand Master of the GEN. He presented an endorsed charter to the Lodge confirming its 1772 formation date. In 1804, before he left, Bro De Mist appointed Bro Truter as the Deputy Grand Master National of the GEN.

In 1811 several English-speaking members of the 2 Dutch Lodges petitioned the Grand Lodge of England to establish an English speaking Lodge in Cape Town and the British Lodge was duly formed. It was consecrated by Bro Truter, who also installed the first presiding master. In 1811 a Chapter of Knights of the East and the Sword and the Rose Croix Chapter L'Orient et L'Epee was formed. In 1812 Lodge De Goede Hoop gave a portion of its land to the City to establish a street, provided that it was named St John's Street in honour of the Patron Saint of Freemasonry. This still exists today. The British Lodge purchased a property close to Lodge De Goede Hoop. In 1813 De Goede Hoop established an education fund, which still operates today. In 1814 a new refectory for Lodge De Goede Hoop was built, which later housed the first parliament of the Cape Colony. In 1815 Bro Anreith was appointed as the principal of the first technical school for boys, which was sponsored by the 3 Cape Town Lodges. In 1818 the first military Lodge under the English Constitution was formed, being the Union Lodge. In 1820 Bro Truter was knighted and known as Sir John Truter. In 1821 Lodge De Goede Hoop petitioned the UGLE to grant a warrant to establish a Lodge for its English-speaking members. The Hope Lodge, no 727 on the roll of the UGLE, was formed. It

worked according to the By-laws of Lodge De Goede Hoop and the Constitution of the UGLE.

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA Grand Master

Royal Arch weekend a great Success

Saturday 26 February was a really big day for our Royal Arch Brethren. The morning started with the Annual Convocation of PGC Southern Division, and it was soon clear why MEC Dawie van Rooyen was being promoted in the afternoon. The meeting was run smoothly, the positive report was well received, and the tone was set for a good day. Once the convocation was fully completed, the retiring First Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, performed a Rededication Ceremony for Southern Division, after which he installed MEC Mahmoud Patel as the Division's new Grand Superintendent. MEC Louis van der Linde and EC Cobis Wilson are the 2nd and 3rd Principals.



F: MW Bro John Smith, MECs Johan Britz, Dawie van Rooyen,
B: MECs Louis van der Linde, Mahmoud Patel, EC Cobis Wilson

After a brief but much appreciated lunch break, it was time for the Grand Chapter Convocation and the installation of MEC John Smith OSM MSA as the new First Grand Principal. MEC Johan Britz performed all his duties with his usual efficiency and decorum and delivered a fine report on the past year's activities.

He then installed MEC John Smith as the new First Grand Principal and MEC Smith installed his Officers. The chain bearers are MECs Avron Jacobson (Deputy FGP), Les Martin (Assistant FGP), Dawie van Rooyen (2nd GP), Alf Brönnner (3rd GP), Mahmoud Patel (GS Southern), Brian Masenkamp (GS Northern).



MEC Smith then welcomed the guests from Sister and visiting Constitutions. MEC Bernard Neuhaus (Mauritius) presented the Grand Chapter a set of robes specifically for use

by the 3 Grand Principals. As you will see, the FGP is wearing his cloak in this picture with MEC Neuhaus.

MEC Smith addressed each visiting dignitary personally, making special mention of MEC Matthieu Lawson (Benin) who had travelled far to join us.

In the evening there was a 3-course banquet in the newly refurbished de Goede Hoop Refectory. The company and food were much enjoyed, the ambience was special, and it really was a memorable occasion.

MEC Johan Britz MSA - a deserved honour!

I much enjoy being able to call a decision a "no brainer". This, however, in my view, sums up MEC Smith's awarding a MSA to MEC Johan Britz MSA. The Meritorious Service Award is the highest distinction which can be awarded in Royal Arch and it is very hard to come by. As First Grand Principal MEC Johan Britz truly excelled and has more than earned this accolade. CONGRATULATIONS Johan! Your contribution will long be remembered.



Supporting GL of Ukraine in their time of need

Having shared time with the Grand Masters of Russia and Ukraine at the recent World Conference, of Grand Lodges in Germany, our Grand Master wrote to both of them at the outbreak of the current conflict. His interaction with the Grand Lodge of Ukraine follows:

Dear MW Grand Master

I am distressed to hear and read the news about the war in the Ukraine and the obvious consequences thereof on the general population of your country. I hope that you, your members and all your loved ones are and will be safe. Although we are far away, kindly advise me whether there is anything we can do which could assist you in any way. In the interim, we pray that the GAOTU will guide those participating in the peace negotiations and that this will soon be resolved.

Fraternally

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA

Grand Master - Grand Lodge of South Africa

Dear MW Brother John Smith,

We are grateful for your highly appreciated kind letter and are genuinely pleased with your support. Please accept our warmest thanks for your support, graciousness, and kind words of peace.

Our Grand Master MW Anatoliy Dymchuk sends special thanks for your heartfelt message. All our Ukrainian Brethren are sending fraternal thanks and regards to you and all brothers.

Looking forward in observance of our fraternal chain developing immensely, may the GAOTU bless our countries and continue supporting our futures.

Fraternal regards,

RW Bro Fatih Sahin

Grand Secretary - Grand Lodge of Ukraine

60 Years is a Major Milestone!



Congratulations go to Thora and RW Bro Alf Rhoodie (de Goede Hoop) who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday 3 March 2022.

Central Division weekend a really busy one

Friday 4 March saw the start of our Central Division weekend and we were able to hold our first live Chain's Conference since the advent of Covid. These meetings take place in Bloemfontein in March and are attended by Grand Lodge and Provincial Chain Bearers, Secretaries and Treasurers. We discuss and explore a wide variety of topics relevant to the ongoing development of the GLSA and this year included:

- Why be a Freemason? *MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA*
- The Balanced Lodge *MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM*
- Recruiting new Members *RW Bro Tommy Hardiman*
- Protocol and Etiquette *RW Bro Godfrey Place*
- Electronic Media and Masonry *VW Bro Simon Nash*
- Roles of Lodge Officers *RW Bro Johan van der Merwe*
- Importance of the Almoner *Wor Bro Cobis Wilson*
- How can we do Better? *MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM*
- Some closing thoughts *MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA*

At the end of a long, tiring but most rewarding day the Brethren relaxed together over supper.

On Saturday morning, the visiting PGL Officers performed an outstanding initiation ceremony on behalf of Losie Dagbreek. Bro Fabrice Compere was the candidate and time will help him realise just how very privileged he really was. The Worshipful Master was RW Bro Tommy Hardiman and he was assisted by all the visiting PGMs and a number of other senior Officers from around the country. The fact that Bro Compere's son-in-law, Costa, had come from Tanzania for the ceremony made it even more special.



Bro Costa Giannacopoulos, Bro Fabrice Compere, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, RW Bro Frans Appelgryn, Wor Bro Ruan Paton

After a most enjoyable lunch in the lapa behind the Temple, it was time for the Central Division AGM.



The Central Division AGM attendees with MW Bro John Smith in centre and RW Bro Frans Appelgryn on his left.

RW Bro Frans Appelgryn and his team had gone to a great deal of effort in their preparations and the event ran extremely smoothly. There are some very good young Officers developing in this Division and their performance didn't go unnoticed.

The formal banquet in the evening was held at the Olive Garden restaurant. This is owned and run by Bro Fabrice Compere and he laid on a memorable evening.

Introducing the senior Brethren

In Bloemfontein we had all of our living past and present Grand Masters and our PGMs in attendance.



In this picture are seen MW Bros Geoff Edwards OSM (2014 – 2017); John Smith OSM MSA (2020 – now); David Duncan OSM (2017-2020).



The PGMs seen with MW Bro John Smith (4L) are RW Bros Keith Hutton (Eastern Cape), Johan v d Merwe (Eastern); Godfrey Place (Northern); Tommy Hardiman (Southern); Frans Appelgryn (Central).

The work continues – and grows!

Bro Gary Hendricks' now serves 2 meals a week



to more than 200 hungry children. He now has Bro Dennis Knight (Marina) to assist and the pair of them bring much credit to the GLSA by their dedication and selfless willingness to serve those in real need.

Freemasonry around the Divisions

Lodge Marina in Cape Town recently initiated Bro Blake Kent as a new member. It was Wor Bro Jesse Bossenge-Nkoy's first working in the chair and the feedback is that it was an excellent meeting.



Wor Bro Jesse Bossenge-Nkoy (c) with Bro Blake Kent and surrounded by the Brethren.

Lodge de Goede Hoop also initiated a new member recently, being Bro Kelvin Irvine. As always, the quality of the working was excellent. Bro Volker Beckert also affiliated from Germany, having now settled in Cape Town.



Wor Bro Malcolm Gessler (3L) with Bro Kelvin Irvine on his left and Bro Volker Beckert on his right.

In a busy 2 days Tolerance raised Bros Eric Dyer and Angus Venter to the Master Mason degree. This is an active Lodge and we are confident that the newly raised Brethren will make a real contribution.



Bro Angus Venter (c) with his Brethren



Bro Eric Dyer(c) with Wor Bro Paul West on his right

Almoner's Report

Wor Bro Tom McArdle (de Morgenster) was taken to the Eternal East during January. He had been initiated in 2016 and while still 'young' in Masonic years was well respected by his Brethren. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

A few days ago Bro Wikus Hendriks (Unie) passed away after a heart attack. He was 39 years old and had been initiated on 11 February 2022. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and loved ones.

Wor Bro Jan Venter (Perseverance) has been having major back pains and will be operated on this week to release a pinched nerve in the neck. Best of luck Jan – you'll be in our thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Francois Dauth (Peace and Harmony) was still feeling the after-effects of his hernia operation, but he wasn't going to miss the Division's AGM. It was good to see you, Francois. You set a fine example, and we are proud to call you Brother.

RW Bro Boet du Plessis (Star of the East) is another Brother who doesn't know how to stop. He's been in and out of hospital with blood issues, but he's still working flat out to ensure that the AASR AGM to be held in Cape Town will be a real success.

Bro Eric Houniet (Prins Frederik) misjudged his own strength. He was moving boulders around his garden, when he dropped one, chipped a bone in his ankle and damaged his tendons. He's now on crutches and needs our moral support! Give him some Brethren.

RW Bro Brian Rossouw has had a secret knee replacement. He tells us that he's healing well and will soon be back to his old, impossible self.

Brethren, as always you are reminded about our senior Brethren and our widows. We are Freemasons – let's make certain that we keep in contact with each and every one of them and make very sure that they know just how much we care about their needs.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern	Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern	Wor Bro Paul Nash	083 3774843
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Marais Viljoen	083 4413670
E Cape	Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Coming Events Highlights

Brethren, this list encompasses major events and all Grand Lodge call-outs to Installations.

- Sat 26 Mar - 9h00 @ de Goede Hoop
AASR for South Africa AGM
- Sat 2 Apr - 9h30 @ Port Alfred
RA Chapter Fiat Lux
- 50 year Rededication & Installation
- Sat 2 Apr - 14h00 @ Port Alfred
Lodge de Vereeniging Installation.
- Sat 23 Apr - 11h00 @ Rustenberg
Lodge Orange Installation.