

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 125 June 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

## Thank You for Celebrating with us!

We successfully celebrated 250 years of Freemasonry in South Africa during the period between 22 to 26 June 2022. On Wednesday we attended the British Lodge installation of their new Presiding Master, Wor Bro Leslie Martin, and the investiture of their officers. As is often the case in South Africa, Wor Bro Martin is not only the Master of this English Constitution Lodge but is also a member of Lodge de Goede Hoop.

On Thursday and Friday we received most of our foreign and out of town guests and a large number of persons attended the audio visual presentation called the "Magic of Masonry" in the de Goede Hoop temple on these two nights. The presenters included members of Lodge de Goede Hoop and of the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions and the productions and the cocktails thereafter were much enjoyed by all.

On Saturday we attended the rededication ceremony of Lodge de Goede Hoop, which was formed on 2 May 1772, at which the Lodge's new banner was unfurled and the 250 year jewels were presented to the members. Following this ceremony Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen, was installed as the new Presiding Master of the Lodge and the Officers were invested. After a light lunch, we attended the Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of South Africa at which a copy of the Heritage Book, representing the development of Freemasonry in South Africa in all the Constitutions over the past 250 years, was presented to me and to the leaders of the 13 foreign Grand Lodges who were officially represented at this meeting. These

ceremonies were held in the de Goede Hoop temple in the presence of about 200 brethren. On Saturday evening we attended a dinner dance at Kelvin Grove where I presented a copy of the Heritage Book to the Premier of the Western Cape Province, the Honourable Alan Winde. On Sunday we attended a lunch at the Vredenheim wine farm and bade farewell to our guests.

I again thank all the members of this Grand Lodge as well as those of our Sister Constitutions in South Africa who contributed directly and indirectly to ensuring the success of this celebration. I also thank all of our member's' partners for their continued assistance, support and encouragement. I again thank RW Bro van Vuuren (England), RW Bro Alsemgeest (Ireland), Bro Gallacher (Scotland), MW Bro Schultink (Netherlands), MW Bro Deline (Liberia), MW Bro Rollet (France), MW Bro Cleven (Belgium), MW Bro Moukala (Gabon), MW Bro Kotingan (Benin), MW Bro Bogdanov (Russia), MW Bro Dominique (Madagascar), RW Bro Neuhaus OSM (Mauritius) and MW Bro Gamito (Mocambique) and their delegations for coming along to represent their respective Grand Lodges at this celebration.

Brethren all, the 250 year celebrations are behind us now. They have been more than simply memorable and I would like to thank each and every one of you who has contributed in one way or another to ensuring that they were the success that the occasion so richly deserved. You are all special!

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA  
Grand Master**

## De Goede Hoop celebrate Founder's Day

Lodge de Goede Hoop was founded 250 years ago on 2 May 1772. On Wednesday 8 June 2022, the Lodge had a special Partner's evening at which the Brethren performed the Lodge's Founders Day working to commemorate those Brethren who, so many years ago, had initiated this remarkable journey. While serious, the evening was also a most festive one.

Let us never forget Bros Abraham Chiron (1<sup>st</sup> WM), Jacobus Alexander de Febre, Pieter Soermans, Jan Coenraad Gie, Christoffel Brand, Petrus Johannes de Wit, Johannes Adrianus van Schoor, Barend Hendrik Rheede van Oudtshoorn, Oloff Gotlieb de Wet and Johannes Snyders.

The Lodge is still, after all this time, the largest in the GLSA and the members are all fiercely proud of their heritage. The working was followed by a most special festive board. Edelweiss and MW Bro John Smith



## Celebrating 250 Years!

In Freemasonry we have some Good weekends, some Very Good weekends and, every so often, some Really Great weekends. It was the Grand Master's wish that our 250 year celebrations would be an unforgettable REALLY GREAT weekend – and the Brethren delivered! Even the notoriously fickle Cape weather cooperated and other than a couple of barely noticeable minor glitches, it was almost perfect!

In total we had almost 300 people sharing in our various events. These included foreign guests as well as Brethren from all 4 Constitutions and from all over South Africa. The foreign delegations were led by:

Mozambique	MW Bro Rui de Brito Gamito
Mauritius	RW Bro Bernard Neuhaus OSM
Madagascar	MW Bro Jean-Adolphe Dominique
Russia	MW Bro Andrey Bogdanov
Benin	MW Bro Eustache Kontingan
Gabon	MW Bro Toussaint Moukala
Belgium	MW Bro Alexander Cleven
France	MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet
Liberia	MW Bro Anthony Deline
Netherlands	MW Bro Robert Schultink
Ireland	RW Bro Anton Alsemgeest
Scotland	Bro David Gallacher
England	RW Bro David van Vuuren

Based on the feedback that we have received, everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves and found the whole experience to be interesting and stimulating.

On Wednesday night we attended the British Lodge Installation at Pinelands and then on Thursday we moved to the de Goede Hoop Temple.

### The Magic of Masonry

This audio-visual presentation took place on both Thursday and Friday evenings. By Friday all our guests had arrived and the Temple was overflowing with over 130 people, seated cinema style, present.

"Magic of Masonry" saw 6 Brethren reading papers on the Origins of Freemasonry and its history in South Africa. These papers were supported by slides and were interwoven with inserts from such famous composers, singers and poets as Beethoven, Bach, Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong, Robbie Burns and Rudyard Kipling.



*RW Bro Ernest Malherbe*

After the presentation everybody went to the freshly rehurbished de Goede Hoop Refectory for a



cocktail party to welcome our guests. The Grand Master had the opportunity to meet with each of our foreign visitors and is seen here with the Grand Master of France, MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet.

## De Goede Hoop's Rededication / Installation

On Saturday morning it was time to celebrate Lodge de Goede Hoop's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. It started with a superbly presented Rededication ceremony which was conducted by MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA and his Grand Lodge team.



Having presented the Lodge with a Rededication Charter, the Grand Master handed the gavel to the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, so that he and his team could perform the Installation. Once again, this was exceptionally well conducted and the outgoing Master, Wor Bro Malcolm Gessler, gave an excellent report and incoming Worshipful Master,



Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen, gave a stirring address and started the year on a high. As part of the installation, he gave each member of Lodge de Goede Hoop a treasured 250 year jewel.

Also attended to by the new Worshipful Master was awarding of Honorary member status to the heads

of the local Sister Constitutions – RW Bro Tony Alsemgeest (Irish), Bro David Gallacher (Scottish) and RW Bro Ernest Malherbe (English). A past Scottish DGM. Bro Robbie Sagrestano was also awarded Honorary membership.



All of these Brethren had served Freemasonry extremely well in the Western Cape and it was a privilege for the Lodge to be able to recognise this.

### Lunch in the Refectory

While a lunch is just a lunch, this one was made different in that it gave the visiting brethren the opportunity to get to know each other better and to take some pictures outside our iconic Temple. It was simple but, in its own way, it was special.



## The Grand Lodge Annual Meeting

At the commencement of the Grand Lodge meeting, the Grand Master set about receiving our foreign guests. In line with Masonic protocol, they entered from the youngest to the oldest Grand Lodge and it made us all realise how widespread and timeless our Masonry really is. Here MW



Bro Smith welcomes MW Bro Robert Schultink of the Netherlands, our mother Grand Lodge. MW Bro Schultink was a regular visitor over 20 years ago and is an Honorary member of our Grand Lodge.



*The heads of the Foreign Grand Lodges*

To both speed things up a little bit and to give the Brethren an opportunity to read and digest his Annual Report before the meeting, the Grand Master circulated it a few days ahead. As the Grand Treasurer did likewise, there was no reason for anybody to be less than fully informed. It all went very smoothly - the Report and the 2021 Annual Statements were approved and the 2022 capitation fees ratified.

The Grand Master then announced the names of his 22 / 23 Grand Lodge Chain Bearers and took the



opportunity to invest RW Bro Godfrey Place as an Assistant Grand Master. VW Bro Simon Nash will be installed as the new PGM of Northern Division in July.

After obligating and investing the Grand Lodge 22 / 23 Officers, MW Bro Smith announced the names of 3 recipients of Past Grand Architect rank, being Wor Bros Cobis Wilson (SD), Alex Ndubuisi (ND) and Bushy McKelvey (ED).

The 4 elected members of Grand Committee were then announced as being RW Bros Alf Brönnner, Cor van Zyl, Basil de Kock and Brian Rossouw OSM.

The Constitution change regarding Debit Orders was unanimously approved and the Grand Secretary



was then asked to announce the Secretary of the Year. This was presented to Bro Avron Lucas (de Goede Trouw), who has caught the eye with his meticulous work

and his various creative and innovative ideas.

RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM was then given the opportunity to present the first

"Heritage Book" copy to the Grand Master. This truly outstanding work is 1300 A4 pages long and tells the story of 250 years of South African



Freemasonry. It is a treasure that will be referred to for all things Masonic for many years to come.

The Grand Master awarded a 50 year jewel to Wor Bro Jock Wood (Marina) and a 50 year certificate to RW Bro Jim Duggan (de Goede Hoop - Honorary).

There were 5 Awards of Excellence presented this year and they were given to RW Bro Alf Brönnner, RW Bro Keith Hutton, Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey, Wor Bro Marius Mostert and Wor Bro Jan Venter. All had excelled in their own way and were well received.



L - MW Bro Smith with RW Bro Keith Hutton who has excelled in developing morale in the Eastern Cape Division and, of course, has played a leading role in the purchase of a disused synagogue and it's

conversion to a really special Masonic Temple.

Finally, before formally closing the meeting, the Grand Master addressed each of the visiting Grand Lodges individually and presented them with their own copy of the 250 year Heritage Book.

R - The Grand Master of Liberia, MW Bro Anthony Deline was more than delighted with his book and made it clear that, in his view, the day had been interesting and stimulating.



Overall, this was a memorable Annual Meeting.



## The Celebratory Dinner / Dance

By the time we reached Kelvin Grove in the evening, most of the Brethren were pretty exhausted. This did not slow them down, however, and they came along ready to party. The girls were beautifully turned out and the ambience was very special.

To further enrich the evening, the Premier of the Western Cape, the Hon Alan Winde, and his charming wife, Tracy, also graced us with their presence.



*MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA and the Hon Alan Winde with Edelweiss Smith and Tracy Winde*

During the course of the evening the Premier was called on to share a few thoughts and he revealed that his grandfather had been a Freemason. He also noted that this was his first 250 year birthday celebration. Truth is that it had to be – Lodge de Goede Hoop is the oldest non-secular organisation in South Africa!

Once everybody had settled down and a few short toasts had been attended to, dinner was served. Kelvin really did prepare an excellent meal and everybody much enjoyed what was presented.



*MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA (4L) with visiting guests*

Another much appreciated presentation was that made by the Grand Master to ladies who had assisted us in our preparations for the 250 year weekend.



*Candice Petronio, Mari Topham, Edelweiss Smith and Megan Lentz*

After dinner, the party really got going. We had



organised a DJ and he played exactly the sort of music that the guests just wanted to dance to. Everybody had a great time and left happy but exhausted.

## Lunch at Vredenheim Wine Farm

While it had been extremely enjoyable, it had been a long weekend. The lunch on the wine farm was to just give everybody a chance to relax together. There were no presentations, papers, speeches or toasts – just some uncomplicated, extremely good company.

As a venue, Vredenheim was ideal. We had a significant sized room with a fireplace. It had round tables and a beautiful, uninterrupted view of vineyards against a backdrop of mountains – and the wine and food were both very good on the palate.



*Senior Grand Lodge Officers and Foreign Guests*

There were no formal arrangements made for this event. We had a total of about 120 people present and they simply chose their own tables and then just inter-mingled as they saw fit. It was perfect!



*The Rademeyer Lewises with their partners*

After lunch, everybody just relaxed and chatted about anything and everything – other than Masonry! The ladies fussed over Tommy's daughter and the men reminisced generally. If it hadn't been for Vredenheim deciding that even the best weekends must reach an end, some of our Brethren might still be there today!.

## Almoner's Report

.Brethren other than advising you that 2 leading personalities have passed to the Eternal East, we will review any other health issues in our July edition.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian, Past Grand Junior Warden, and RW Bro Boet du Plessis, Past Grand Junior Warden and AASR Sovereign Grand Commander have both been taken from us and will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. More will be said in the July issue.

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