

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 135 April 2023



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

## The Grand Master to Retire

Having served 4 years as a Provincial Grand Master, 5 years as an Assistant Grand Master and 3 years as the Deputy Grand Master, I was elected as the Grand Master during May 2020, during the Covid lockdown period. As there was no certainty regarding my installation date, MW Bro David Duncan OSM, the current Grand Master whose term of office ended during that year, retired in June 2020 and I became the Acting Grand Master. To ensure that our members remained active and positive, we became acquainted with zoom or similar technologies and I increased the usual 4 physical Grand Committee meetings per year to virtual meetings every 6 weeks. We also introduced virtual appointments of Presiding Masters where necessary and encouraged our Lodges to hold their monthly meetings on virtual platforms.

I was eventually installed as the Grand Master on 5 December 2020. At the time we were still required to wear masks and maintain social distancing and were unable to invite members of foreign Grand Lodges to attend my installation as we were restricted to 50 members in the De Goede Hoop temple. As a result of this, we decided to amend the installation ceremony to exclude all signs of recognition and to film it. We duly edited the film and invited all the Grand Lodges with whom were in amity to view it a week later. At the end of the ceremony, I was able to interact virtually with several Grand Masters and other senior Brethren who represented their Grand Lodges. This very interesting film was a great success and has now received more than 6,000 views on Youtube.

As a result of the support and encouragement which I received from the Grand Lodge Officers and members, I have enjoyed a busy term of office. I have appointed and installed 2 Provincial Grand Masters, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe (Eastern Division) and RW Bro Simon Nash (Northern Division). I have attended the Annual Meetings of all the Provincial Grand Lodges and I attended to the consecration of Lodge Jeffrey's Bay and the reopening of Vereeniging. I have dedicated 2 new Masonic Temples, in Port Elizabeth and in Jeffrey's Bay and I have attended to the rededication of several Lodges, including de Goede Hoop (250 years), De Morgenster (150 years), Star of the East (100 years), Neerlandia (100 years) and Parys (100 years). As I was unable to perform the rededication of Lodge Brits (50 years), RW Bro Brandon Topham attended to this event on my behalf.

I have had the honour of presenting the Order of Service to Masonry (OSM) to RW Bro Keith Hutton, a 60 year long service jewel to Wor Bro Hylke Jorritsma (Sonheuwel) and 50 year service jewels to RW Bro Piet Naude MSA (Trichardt) and Wor Bros Leon Sher (Star of the East), Martin Prinsloo (Star of the West), Jock Wood (Marina) and Neil McKechnie (Hiram).

I represented our Grand Lodge at the 17<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Regular Grand Lodges in November 2021 in Germany. As Africa is scheduled to host the 20<sup>th</sup> World Conference during May 2026, the Grand Committee decided that we should submit an application to do so and I will therefore attend the 18<sup>th</sup> World Conference in Israel in May 2023. As we were unable to visit Grand Lodges in Africa for more than 2 years, I represented our Grand Lodge at the annual communication of the National Grand Lodge of France during December 2022 where I was able to spend some quality time with several Grand Masters and other senior Brethren from the African Grand Lodges. As I was unable to attend the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Liberia in March 2023, RW Bro Topham represented our Grand Lodge at this event.

The highlight of my term of office was the celebration of 250 years of Freemasonry in South Africa during June 2022. We produced a Heritage Book which recorded the development of Freemasonry in this country during this period and was compiled by RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM. The celebrations in Cape Town were attended by numerous Brethren from all the Constitutions in South Africa and their partners.

My term of office ends this year, and I have decided not to make myself available for a second term. As a result, the next Grand Master will be elected by the Grand Conclave during May 2023 and I will attend to his installation at the Annual General Meeting of our Grand Lodge during July.

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

## Westerford Host Scottish Grand Master

As most of you will already be aware, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Bro Ramsay McGhee, was recently in South Africa to install the new District Grand Masters of all the local Scottish Districts.

As he was to be in Cape Town for a few days before his Western Cape Installation, he expressed an interest in attending a GLSA working. As luck would have it, Westerford were performing a 1<sup>st</sup> degree working and our Grand Master, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, would be available to receive our very distinguished visitor. The Master of Westerford was the Southern Division PGM, RW Bro Tom Hardiman, a Grand Ritualist in his own right, and he and his Lodge had a reputation

*MW Bro Smith and Bro McGhee* for performing extremely high quality ritual work.

This historical evening promised to be a most memorable one and it was. The candidate, Guy Taylor, was from de Goede Trouw and he had an evening that he should remember throughout his Masonic journey.



*The Grand Masters surrounded by de Goede Trouw members*

I've always believed that Freemasonry should be a Quality experience with memorable times shared by our Brethren. It should be Fun – and this really was!

## GLSA Attend Scottish Installation

On the Saturday after the Westerford working, it was the turn of the Scottish Grand Master to install Bro Frank Winter as the new District Grand Master of their Western Cape Division. This was another special occasion and much enjoyed by all who were there.



*RW Bro Avron Jacobson, MW Bro Geoff Edwards, MW Bro John Smith, Bro Ramsay McGhee and Bro Frank Winter.*

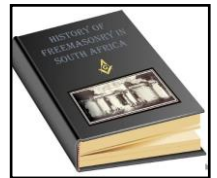
## GLSA Online Shop

If you are looking to purchase GLSA or Masonic items or memorabilia, log into our GLSA Online Shop and explore our offerings. The link is below:

[GLSA Online Shop](#)

There are various items available, but 2 well worth your consideration are:

**The Heritage Book** In 2022, South Africa celebrated 250 years of Freemasonry. To mark this event, we published a Heritage Book which explored our history over all Constitutions and Divisions. A few remaining copies of the A4 book are still available.



## GLSA and RA Ties

If you wear ties to work or for any other purpose, you really should include these handsome additions in your collection. The GLSA tie is navy blue, while the RA tie comes in navy blue or red.



*Front: RW Bros Avron Jacobson, Brandon Topham, MW Bro John Smith, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, Bro Ramsay McGhee MW Bro Geoff Edwards, Wor Bro Jacques Maritz. Bro Guy Taylor is immediately behind RW Bro Hardiman.*



## Marais Viljoen is Meerensee's new Master

On Saturday, 15 April, Wor Bro Marais Viljoen was installed as the Worshipful Master of Meerensee in Richards Bay. Marais is a much respected Brother in this part of our Eastern Division. He is also the Presiding Master of Empangeni, the UGLE Lodge which works in the same Temple. Retiring Master,

RW Bro Mühlenbeck, Wor Bro Viljoen, Wor Bro Bill RW Bro van der Merwe, Wor Bro Selzer Murphy gave a very positive report on his term in office. The PGM, RW Bro Johan van der Merwe, then gave a most interesting address on 'Effective Ritual Working' after which, assisted by the PGL Officers, he performed the Installation. Assistant PGM Wor Bro Henry Selzer, performed the Board of Installed Masters.

RW Bro Vic Mühlenbeck led the Grand Lodge delegation and took the opportunity to remind the Lodge of its glorious Past Masters and rich heritage.

## Jeffreys Bay's Temple is Dedicated

On Saturday 15 April, MW Bro John Smith and his Grand Lodge team visited the Eastern Cape where they performed the Dedication ceremony for our new Aston Bay Temple – the Temple on the Beach!

The Grand Master was suitably impressed by what had been achieved and took the opportunity to present awards to a number of deserving Brethren. Wor Bros James Lidderd (Snr) and (Jnr) and Bro Herdus Snyman (R) all received Grand Builder's jewels while Merit Awards went to Wor Bro Hendrik Rademeyer and Bros Mias Jansen van Vuuren and Tyrone Bennet. The morning ended with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and the planting of an Acacia tree.



## RA Chapter Jeffreys Bay is Consecrated

15 April was also a big day for the Eastern Cape Royal Arch section, for this was the day on which a new Chapter Jeffreys Bay was consecrated. The ceremony was, once again, performed by John Smith, but this time in his role as First Grand Principal. In our picture, MEC Smith is seen with the Founding MEZ, MEC Hendrik Rademeyer. The other 2 Principles of the Chapter are MEC Keith Hutton (EH) and EC Dirk Uys (EJ – seen below).



After the Consecration, the Comps and the Brethren from the morning Temple Dedication, all joined together for a much enjoyed banquet.

## Consistory de Goede Hoop Install new EC

On Wednesday 26 April Consistory de Goede Hoop installed Ill Bro Ron Smith as their new Eminent Commander. The ceremony was conducted



by M Ill Bro Geoff Edwards 33° MA, who was assisted by the other 33° Brethren in the Division.

Overall the evening was a most successful one and laid solid foundations for the months ahead.



MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA (centre) with Wor Bro James Lidderd (jnr) and RW Bro Keith Hutton on his right and RW Bros Avron Jacobson, Alf Brönnner and Tommy Hardiman on his left, surrounded by the rest of the Brethren in attendance.





*Wor Bro Charl Palm with RW Bro Simon Nash (on right), Wor Bro Wikus Steyl (on left) with the Lodge and PGL Brethren.*

### Lodge Orange Install Wor Bro Charl Palm

On Saturday afternoon, 15 April, Lodge Orange in Rustenberg had their annual Installation. The retiring Master, Wor Bro Skottowe Lourens (who rose to GLSA fame by earning a Grand Ritualist jewel), read his excellent report and then handed the gavel to Wor Bro Wikus Steyl to continue with the ceremony. The Installation address, “Is Freemasonry a Noun or a Verb?”, was an extremely interesting one and set the tone for the well performed ceremony which followed. The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Simon Nash, led the PGL team and must have been well satisfied with their performance.

RW Bro Nash noted that Wor Bro Palm’s 5 year plan was one of the most well considered that he had yet seen and that he had great confidence in the Lodge continuing on a positive trajectory.

Festive Boards at our outlying Lodges are always special and this was no exception.

### Losie Trichardt Install Wor Bro Herman Smit

On Friday evening, 14 April, Losie Trichardt held their annual installation at the Kinross Temple. The Lodge had spent some time preparing for the event and it was finally held with some enthusiasm.

The new Master, Wor Bro Herman Smit, is an experienced Freemason who should prove very capable of leading the Lodge back to its former glory.



*PGL Officers included Wor Bros Gerald Bosch and Fanie Stadler, RW Bro Simon Nash, Wor Bros Max Matjane, Paul Nash and Wikus Steyl.*

The installation itself was well performed by Wor Bro Wikus Steyl and the PGL team. In his address, Wor Bro Steyl delivered a well considered address in which he referred to the changes taking place in the Lodge and the opportunities presented.

RW Bro Simon Nash thanked his Provincial team for their commitment, noting their willingness to travel to Evander and Orange over the same weekend.

**We live in a time where intelligent people are being silenced so that stupid people won't be offended.**

### Balanced Lodge Program April Update

In my opinion, the Balanced Lodge Program is one of at our Grand Lodge’s exceptional innovations and I cannot understand why we still have Lodges who don’t submit their monthly input. In my Lodge our Master reviews the items in which we have failed to score points and we make plans plans to fix them. To us it’s constructive fun and invaluable to our growth.

In 2023, points are accumulated on a year to date basis and our Lodges are divided into 3 Sections. At end April, the top 5 performers in each category are:-

#### Large Lodges (>25 members)

	Lodge	YTD Total
1	De Goede Hoop	108
2	Westerford	106
3	President Burgers	105
4	Alpha	104
5	Koh-I-Noor	71

#### Medium Lodges (16 - 25 members)

	Lodge	YTD Total
1	Prins Frederik	143
2	De Broederband	102
3	Star of the East	99
4	De Goede Trouw	78
5	Star of the Rand	66

#### Small Lodges (< 16 members)

	Lodge	YTD Total
1	Jeffreys Bay	145
2	Dagbreek	140
3	Meerensee	105
4	Brits	101
5	Neerlandia	81

As you will readily observe, the competition between our top performers is pretty intense and a little thing like a Lodge breakfast or a special working could quickly move your Lodge up the rankings – and it will enhance the Lodge camaraderie!. Give it a try!

### Almoner's Corner

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 Kevin Smith	082 8883890
Central	Wor Bro John Meyer	073 3525832
Eastern	Wor Bro Andrew Pover	084 2597108
E Cape	Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297