Annual Report 2025-26

Bro. Rodney Berg
Depute Master/Acting Treasurer
Annual Meeting – September 2026

The Secretarial report outlines some of the statistics in relation to the number of visitors and regular attending members. Following on from that it is perhaps worthy to note again that our collections and raffles observe only a slight drop in contributions though these primary sources of income and those of test fee contributions do meet our main overheads yet. I should extend thanks to all who contribute to those activities of the lodge and indeed those who maintain their contributions in respect of their annual membership fees and past masters' fees. At the time of writing this report perhaps much could be reflected on here about yet another proposal from our Grand Lodge in respect of increasing our per-head-fee and I wonder how many lodges would be inclined to write to the GL and invite them to "think again". Was it not the case before that GL would only spend those funds that were available to them in their projections before asserting that per-head-fee be increased? What cost savings or economies might be made at Grand Lodge? What internal measures might be taken to shore up shortfalls and if we are guided by notions of prudence would it not be sensible to cut ones cloth accordingly? Who would be bold enough to ask those questions?

Nevertheless, this is the substance that many of our lodges and membership are asking themselves. I hear it again and again when I visit other lodges. Do we continue to see a contraction of membership and those who already give seem to be asked to give more… The Province I now live in, in 9 years has lost or about to lose 5 lodges taking that province to approximately thirteen. There simply isn't the inter-lodge-visiting that once used to be enjoyed either it seems. How do we adapt to these circumstances and what support is being offered from our Grand Lodge?

Last year we sought to bolster our lodge articles by purchasing more tokens and ties and they have already been steadily purchased by members and visitors alike. Thank you to all who continue to make quiet donations too and those who contribute by furnishing our visitors with hospitality. Should we look towards our lodge history for inspiration and perhaps the work of deacons and almoners in helping our own and seeking out those in need? What are our constraints and what would we want our lodge to be doing? In the company of one another we often hash-out ideas and reinforce our belief that the truest teachings of Freemasonry has much to offer. A place where we can come together and enjoin in fellowship.

We are a small lodge, and we typically contribute well in our charitable outlook. We've received fewer requests for assistance externally and internally this year and I wonder again if that has something to do with fewer members elsewhere. Not only freemasonry but also other organisations and institutions perhaps feeling similar burdens and challenges? We have made contributions to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund and an external request for assistance.

General Account	Benevolent Account	St.Ayles No. 95 Account
Virgin Money	Virgin Money	Virgin Money
7/8 High Street	7/8 High Street	Sunderland
Dundee	Dundee	SR43 4JB
	SC 008858	

Signatories Bro. John Bruce Ogilvie – Master
Bro. Robert Davidson – Senior Warden
Bro. Rodney Berg – Depute Master/ Acting Treasurer

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