

The Order of the Secret Monitor, Cheshire and North Wales
Provincial Grand Conclave - June 2023



PGSR Tony Stringer & Deputy Paul Burton

The OSM Province of Cheshire and North Wales held the Annual Provincial Grand Conclave meeting on Wednesday 21st June, 2023.

The meeting was also a celebration of the first year in charge by Right Worthy Brother Tony Stringer the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler, and his Deputy, Worthy Brother Paul Burton.

It was a very well attended meeting with many other Provinces represented, including eight visiting Provincial Grand Supreme Rulers, Deputies and other Distinguished Guests.

These were all warmly welcomed by the PGSR and members of the Province.



A sextet of PGSRs enjoying each other's company.

Following the opening, the assembly reflected upon those members lost during the year, led by RWyBro Tony Stringer who gave a touching recollection of RWyBro James McKeeman, who was Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler between 2003 and 2008.

The PGSR then introduced the visitors to the Province, including RWyBro Mike le Conte, who had travelled from the Channel Islands, WBro Martyn Greene, Deputy PGSR from East Scotland and Gavin McNab representing West Scotland.

He also made special mention of WyBro David Williams, Deputy Grand Superintendent from the Royal Arch Chapter, Gary Horstman, Provincial Grand Master of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariners, Bob Jordan, Deputy Provincial Grand Summus of the Scarlet Cord and Brian Williams, Deputy District Grand Prefect of the Cheshire & North Wales Allied Degrees.



Provincial Team for 2023 / 2024

After re-appointing his Deputy WyBro Paul Burton and the appointment and investing the new Provincial Offices for the year ahead, RWyBro Tony Stringer addressed the meeting.

In typical fashion it was both amusing and informative.

Not only did it cover the 17 new members who had joined the Order during the year, it also reflected upon the number of meetings held, making special reference to the high attendance by John Owens, Provincial Grand Guide, who had attended 38 of the 47 meetings; Derek Gaskell, Provincial Grand Chancellor, 37 meetings, and Trevor Simcock, Provincial Grand Visitor, 34 meetings.

The PGSR then thanked everyone for supporting the Provincial Benevolent Fund, enabling a donation to the two Charities for the year, supported by Matched Funding from the Grand Benevolent Fund; St Luke's Hospice in Winsford, nominated by Vale of Weaver Conclave, and Wild Elements CIC, nominated by Carreg yr Wyddfa Conclave.

He then announced that this year the Provincial Benevolent Fund would be raising funds to support Claire House Children's Hospice, nominated by Shield of David Conclave, and DORIS, a project led by Vale of Clwyd MIND, nominated by Dewi Sant Conclave.

RWyBro Stringer also thanked his Provincial team not only for the support that they had given him, but also to support given to the Conclaves throughout the Province during the year.

A particular mention was given to the new Commander of the Arch of Steel, Bro Philip Rose and his Deputy, David Ginger, for increasing the membership of the Arch and developing their swordsmanship.



PGSR with his Arch of Steel

Earning a final and special thanks was the Provincial Grand Recorder, WyBro Alan Harrison, for the sterling work throughout the year and especially for the smooth turning of the Provincial Grand Conclave.

At the closing of the meeting the Welsh and National Anthem were sung.

Then everyone retired for a very enjoyable lunch.



*A couple of Pasties allowed out for the day,
whilst the Provincial Grand Chaplain blesses the wine,
and the Provincial Grand Treasurer counts his money!*

Responding to the Toast to his health, the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler looked forward to the year ahead, and referred to the responsibilities of the senior members of the Provincial team.



PGSR driving the Province forward with a passion!

WyBro Jim Tang, Provincial Grand Chancellor, will continue to develop his Support Squad, aiming to assist Conclaves to deliver planned and excellent ceremonies when one or more Officers are known to be absent.

WyBro. Derek Gaskell, Provincial Grand Counsellor, will co-ordinate the support for Conclaves for recruitment, including Friendship Meetings and the PGSR's Craft Lodge talk.

WyBro John Owens, Provincial Grand Guide, will provide a talk on the role of Visiting Deacons, particularly in regard to maintaining contact with absent Brethren.



Sword waving over for the day, the Arch of Steel partake of a glass.

The sunshine and warmth of the day continued into the afternoon, matching the camaraderie of the meeting and proved a fitting ending to the Masonic year.

*Derek Gaskell, Provincial Grand Counsellor, words.
Philip Rose, Commander, Provincial Arch of Steel, pictures.*