

Lodge Niederrhein Installation May 24th 2008 Holiday Inn, Düsseldorf Airport Ratingen

The new Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother Ronaldo has asked me to write a newsletter to you about yesterday.

It was a simply marvellous day and in the words of many guests and visitors a really special event. Our new Worshipful Master being such a popular and charismatic brother that some 100 people attended and perhaps 80 attended the festive board.

There were no less than 23 Officers Past and Present from our Grand Lodge headed by our Grand Master, MW Brother Frederick T Colbran and a plethora of Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, and Reigning Masters from England, Germany and Italy. There were delegations from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Sussex and Kent. Brethren from Sardinia, Berlin and even Köln who made the short trip to try the Alt beer of Düsseldorf!! There were many claims to which was the garden of England; it was manifest that Niederrhein is the garden of Germany.

We were able to enjoy the musical treat of no less than two world class pipers in Worshipful Brother Scott Cochrane the Reigning Master of Doric Lodge Osnabruck and our own Senior Deacon Brother David Johnston who you may not know is a former world champion Piper.

27 residents, 7 non residents and 5 honorary members were present. They were all proud to be at their Lodge and to witness history being made. The brethren worked very hard but were able to enjoy the day as the success of their labours bore fruit. I understand that 10 resident brethren submitted their apologies in particular we were sorry that Brother Chandra could not be present he is quite ill and we wish him well. He of course was proposed into the Craft by our new Master.

The Installing Master, Worshipful Brother Peter Julian, The Lodge Secretary, Worshipful Brother Jim Lutton, The Installing Board(Worshipful Brothers Paul Medhurst, Wolfram Trevor Edmonds and Conway Hansen-Sackey)) and our new Master, Worshipful Brother Ronaldo performed their various duties with dignity and energy. If however we are to look at energy one needs to just look at the efforts of our outstanding Director of Ceremonies, Worshipful Brother Glyn Edmonds SGD who carried his burden from early in the morning right up to delivering the most wonderful rendition of the Master's song it has ever been my privilege to hear. Here he was supported by Brother Matthias who showed his wonderful musical talent with the piano. The Grand Master was later to invest him as Senior Grand Deacon.

The working tools were expertly presented to the Worshipful Master by Brothers Anastassios, Andy Trevor-Own and Chris North. We must single out Brother Chris who was initiated only six weeks ago and suffered a major family bereavement six days ago and yet was absolutely word perfect.

If an Installation could have even more highlights besides the Installing of the Master this one did as the Grand Master awarded the order of Service to Masonry to Very Worshipful Brother Paul Medhurst PSGW.

The award was made in recognition of his long and continuous dedicated propagation of the interests and reputation of Masonry and its charitable and benevolence work in general and his Grand Lodge and Lodge Niederrhein duties in particular including his attention to the Ritual and his endeavours to build a general temple to morality.

As I said at the festive board part of the reason for the success of our cosmopolitan many occupations Lodge was the efforts of brethren with vision like Very Worshipful Brother Paul Medhurst OSM, PSGW. Paul will celebrate his 80th birthday on June 4th (40 years a member of Niederrhein and 44 years a Mason)

There were in-fact 10 Lodge Niederrhein Past Masters present including Worshipful Brother Frank Allen PAGDC who does such sterling work in UK as unofficial Almoner South. Frank is a mere youngster of 74 having celebrated his birthday 12 days ago. I must apologise for having forgotten the birthday of our other UK Almoner Brother Derek Lupson who was 66 last Monday. Brother Derek started the annual trip of the Don Valley (Doncaster area) to Niederrhein for Installations three years ago.

Two Charity Collars were presented by the Grand Master to Worshipful Brother Jim Lutton and Brother Anastassios for their exceptional donations to the Grand Lodge and Lodge Niederrhein Charities.

Further highlights included the presentation by our Worshipful Master to our two new Joining members Worshipful Brother Celestino Moro the Reigning Master of Lodge Heredom in Sardinia who work in the

Emulation ritual and Worshipful Brother Peter Brindley PJGD EC the Liaison Officer for the Province of South Yorkshire, West Riding.

Two brethren were given honorary membership. Worshipful Brother Ken Allen the Reigning Master of Phoenix Lodge Manchester and Worshipful Brother David Leslie also from Phoenix Lodge. The Long closing at the end of the meeting was carried out by Worshipful Brother David Leslie expertly.

Personally I was very emotional to see such a good Mason as Ronaldo going into the chair of King Solomon and I think that the Installing Master Worshipful Brother Peter summed it up so correctly at the festive Board when he said that Ronaldo is a true mason.

I was very proud of Lodge Niederrhein yesterday to see some of the brethren I Proposed into Niederrhein doing so well- Dietmar now as Junior Warden, Ian Gibson a Past Master of his adopted lodge in Salisbury,

Derek who is flourishing as a deacon in Doncaster and when it was my opportunity to give the Address to the Master to be able to give it to this remarkable, likeable man and brother was my pleasure and honour.

At the Festive Board our master delivered an outstanding speech and thanked his sponsors into Masonry- Brother Wolfgang and Worshipful Brother Ralf PAGDC. He mentioned how he had sojourned to India and enjoyed his Masonry there. Those of you who were at Ingrid and my wedding three years ago will I am sure recall how impressive Ronaldo was in his Indian attire. English is Ronald's third language and he speaks French as a fourth. Yes we have a cosmopolitan brother here.

After the Festive Board a large group of us with our wives and visitors went to the Brauerei Zur Uel in the Düsseldorf Altstadt and a further large group of brethren led by Worshipful Brother Brad Little who had looked after this group of visitors since Wednesday went to the Frankenheim near the Lodge.

Yes Niederrhein you still keep going even after the Tylers toast which had been so professionally carried out by our own Worshipful Brother Conway Hansen-Sackey the Reigning Master of Mozart Lodge.

One final comment brethren if anyone knows the whereabouts of my Installing Masters Ritual book which was misplaced yesterday please let me know. It was presented to me by the late great Albert Settle when he installed me as his successor in the chair in 1990 and it has immense sentimental value to me. Thank you.

Well done everyone and good luck to Worshipful Brother Ronaldo and his lovely lady Ulli who joined us in the evening.

Worshipful Master I think we are going to have a superb year.

S&F

David Stevens