



## East Lancashire Masonic Charity

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### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EAST LANCS MASONIC CHARITY LIMITED**

Held at Audenshaw Masonic Hall, Stanley House, 30 Manchester Rod, Audenshaw, Manchester, M34 5GB, on Wednesday 27 September 2023 at 6:30 pm

#### **Introduction by the President:**

The President welcomed all attendees to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity. The President thanked all present for their attendance and showing their support for the ELMC. The President said that before the formal business of the AGM was to commence there would be two presentations from recipients of ELMC granted monies in 2022. The President hoped that the presentations would be a small taste of how the donations from the Brethren and Companions made a difference - sometimes to groups of people and sometimes to an individual.

The President went on to say that in December 2022 the Charity supported the organisation 'Golden Oldies' on tour. Golden Oldies were performers in Blackburn who since 2009 had promoted well-being in the community by providing costumed and choreographed shows for audiences in closed communities such as care homes and retirement. The Group has had a relationship with East Ribble Freemasons going back over a decade or more. The Group has entertained at ELMC's sheltered accommodation, Hewlett Court. The Group had applied for funding for a new speaker system. So impressed were the Grants Committee that they not only supported the application but gave them more than they applied for. This meant they were able to get a better specified sound system.

The President introduced the Meeting to Mandy Stableford who is the Groups Artistic Director and Mike Johnson who is the Groups Technical Director. Mandy Stableford gave some background in relation to the activity of the Group and spoke of one of the performers, Edna. Edna was aged 90 and performed regularly with the Group. Mandy Stableford said that it was perhaps easier to show the Meeting what the Group did and what it achieved, There was a short video presentation with a narrative given by Mandy Stableford. Edna appeared in the video. The speaker system was old. The speakers were very heavy and not easy for 70-year-

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olds to move. Thanks to the Charity the Group now had a modern single lightweight audio device. The Group was recruiting. Mike Johnson said that the music was very important to the listeners -it triggered pleasant memories. The shows tended to relax those who were anxious and agitated. The family could often see a return of a loved one to their old self. In answer to a question from the audience, Mandy Stableford said that the Group rehearsed each Monday and did two shows a week. The Group had already three bookings at ELMC's Hewlett Court. Edna would be an attendee singing soprano. The Group was fully booked up to the end of the year. The President thanked the Group for what he said was its wonderful work.

The President said that the second presentation was to be by Dylan Farnworth. Dylan was a Scout who received a grant from the ELMC Education Fund. Dylan wished to attend the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. To do so Dylan needed to raise £4,000. £1,000 was donated from the ELMC Education Fund. Dylan had raised the rest of the monies needed by various fund-raising activities including hosting a stall at the Hewlett Court Christmas Fair in 2022, gardening and running coffee mornings. The President introduced Dylan.

Dylan said that he was a fifteen-year-old Scout. Dylan explained the Scout Jamboree system. Jamboree's took place every four years. The Jamboree that was held from 1 August to 12 August 2023 was very special. It was the 25th World Scout Jamboree and was to take place at Saemangeum, North Jeolla, South Korea. For Dylan the event was the opportunity of a lifetime. Dylan had raised money and had attended training sessions in preparation. Travel to Korea had not been without problems. There was a stop at Paris, but there were riots in Paris at the time. There was a lay-over in Germany. The rest of the journey was a 12-hour flight. Five days were allocated to explore Seoul. There were bus trips to see temples, museums and other points of interest. The Jamboree camp site was vast and was arranged across what had been reclaimed land. Dylan said that there were tents and sand to be seen forever. Bear Grylls the UK Chief Scout was present at the opening ceremony. At one stage it was thought that there was to be a flood and tents had to be raised off the ground. It became very, very hot. Scouts from all over the world met on the site and exchanged shirts and badges. As the heat grew some fell ill. The facilities were not good. To reach the male toilets there was a 30-minute walk. It became clear that due to the heat the Jamboree was not going to last as long as had been planned. The Jamboree was cut short; Dylan went to Seoul with others in his group where they were put up in hotels. UK officials arranged things to do for the UK Jamboree attendees. Dylan said he would meet up with others in the group and they would pass time by teasing each other with silly games. There was a closing ceremony but this too was in Seoul. Dylan said that he was a little disappointed that things had not turned out as he expected but he had brought back from the Jamboree some souvenirs. Dylan said that he was not wholly disheartened and he had a plan to attend the Jamboree that was to take place in Poland in 2027, but this time as a member of scouting staff. In answer to a question from the audience Dylan said the temperature was never

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less than 35 degrees centigrade. Dylan said that he was given drinks that contained salt. Dylan said that no-one in his unit was taken to hospital but that the hospitals were, in any event, already full.

The President thanked Dylan for his presentation. The President said that there has always been a bond between Freemasonry and the scouting movement. The President passed on to Dylan his good wishes for the future remarking that he stood to make a good Freemason in the future. The President extended his thanks once again to the Presenters and said that they may wish to leave but extended to them an invitation to stay for the finger buffet that was to follow the AGM.

President:

The President said that before the meeting commenced, he was to ask the Hon Secretary, Philip Price, ('the Secretary') to:

- 1 Take a register, and;
- 2 Explain the procedure as to voting by Appointed Representative. Those not present had been invited to vote by Proxy.

The Secretary explained those arrangements.

The President said that he was to hand over to Chad Northcott, the Chairman of ELMC, who was to Chair the meeting for the formal business Agenda.

Chad Northcott ('the Chairman') took the Chair.

The Chairman referred to the Agenda:

## **1 Notice of AGM and ancillary documents – Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman said that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 22nd September 2022 and the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 have all been published on the Charity's website as has the formal Notice of this AGM.

Notice of this AGM setting out the agenda items and signposting access to ancillary documents had been distributed individually to those Members using e-mail, and by post to those members who do not.

The Chairman said he was to take the Notice convening this Annual General Meeting as read unless there are any objections.

There were no objections.

The Chairman said that he was to ask the Secretary to read out apologies for absence.

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The Secretary read the names of Brethren and Companions unable to be present many of whom were on other Masonic business. The names have been recorded but other than in these Minutes.

## **2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 22nd September 2022**

The Chairman said that the next business was to approve the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 22nd September 2022.

The Chairman said that those Minutes had been published on the ELMC website and that no corrections, or suggested amendments to the Minutes had been brought to his attention.

The Chairman asked if there were any corrections, or suggested amendments to the Minutes? There were none.

The Chairman called upon WBro David Lightbown to make a proposition that the minutes be approved and invited WBro William Waite to second the proposal.

The proposition was made by WBro David Lightbown and seconded by WBro William Waite. A vote was taken.

The vote was in favour of the proposition.

The Chairman declared that the Minutes were approved.

The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes.

There were none.

## **3 To receive the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2022**

The Chairman said that the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the notes on the accounts have been circulated and again had been available on the Charity's website.

The Chairman invited the Treasurer, WBro David Cowen, to summarise the accounts and offer some explanatory comments.

WBro David Cowen presented the Accounts

The Chairman invited questions.

There were no questions for WBro David Cowen

The Chairman gave his thanks to WBro David Cowen for his presentation.

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#### **4 To receive the Auditors Report.**

The Chairman said that Item 4 on the agenda was to receive the Auditor's Report. Chad Northcott said that he was pleased to advise that the Auditors are present this evening and I would ask Andrew Warren, who is a Partner of Percy Westhead and Co, to read the audit opinion.

The Auditor, Andrew Warren, read out the Auditor's Report

The Chairman invited questions on the accounts and reports of the Charity's activities, advising that the Committee Chairmen were present to answer any questions put to them.

The Chairman gave his thanks to the Auditors – Percy Westhead and Co, and especially Timothy Elston and Andrew Warren, with whom the Charity worked directly.

#### **5 Resolution to Adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022.**

The Chairman said that in his capacity as the Chairman of ELMC, he proposed that the Annual Report and the Statement of Financial Activities, which have been approved by your Board at meetings that took place on 21st June 2023 and earlier this month, be adopted.

The Chairman invited the President to second the proposal.

The proposition was made by the Chairman and seconded by the President.

A vote was taken.

The vote was in favour of the proposition.

The Chairman declared that the Annual Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022 were adopted.

#### **6 To Elect Directors.**

The Chairman said that next item on the agenda was the election of Directors to the Board of the ELMC. The Board structure comprised of between 12 and 15 Trustees, up to 11 of whom are elected at each Annual General Meeting.

The four 'ex officio' Directors are the Provincial Grand Master as President of the Charity, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master as Deputy President of the Charity, the Provincial Grand Almoner and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

The Chairman Invited the President to identify his nominees and make a proposition that they be elected as Directors of the Board.

The President said that before he did this, he would want to thank David Cowen, the Treasurer, who retires as a Director on the Board today. He was appointed to the Board in 2018 and has not only been involved in the preparation of the ELMC Annual Accounts, but has also served as Treasurer for Hewlett Court and its Advisory Committee, and with another hat on acts as the Treasurer for the current Festival Appeal. The President said that he was not letting him escape,

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but am kidnapping him today, because he was going to appoint him as Provincial Grand Treasurer at the Annual meeting of the Province in November. The President said that in his stead he wished all to welcome Malcolm Roe. Malcolm is an Accountant, that not to be held against him, and will be well known for the years he has worked on the District Committee in East Ribble, most recently as Charity Steward. He is also well known to the ELMC. The President said he could not think of a better person to appoint as ELMC Treasurer and invited his election today.

The President said in addition to including the four ex officio Directors as previously identified by the Chairman, my nominations to be elected as Directors are:

Chad A Northcott	Chairman of the Board & Chairman of The Grant Making Committee
Philip Price	Honorary Secretary
Malcolm Roe	Honorary Treasurer
David Lightbown	Chairman - Committee of Benevolence & Chairman Hewlett Court Advisory Committee
Stephen Thomson	Chairman of the Fund-Raising Committee
Peter L Nicholson	Chairman - Museum Committee
Mrs Julie Ward	Director Operations / Non-Executive Director
William R Waite	Non-Executive Director

The President said he formally proposed that those named be so elected, to serve as Directors of the ELMC and he invitee Alston Hall to second the proposition.

WBro Alston Hall seconded the President's proposition

The Chairman put the proposition to the vote and a vote was taken. The Chairman declared the proposition is carried and thanked those elected for their past service and for agreeing to continue to serve the Charity by acting as Directors.

## **7 To appoint the Auditors for the ensuing year.**

The Chairman said that the next item on the agenda was the appointment of Auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman said that our present auditors, Percy Westhead & Co have signified their willingness to continue as our Auditors if so elected.

The Chairman said before a proposal is put to the Meeting, he would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Auditors for the service they have provided in the past.

The Chairman invited WBro Robert Findlay to make the proposal and WBro David Hudson to second.

The proposition was made by WBro Robert Findlay and seconded by WBro David Hudson.

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A vote was taken.

The vote was in favour of the proposition.

The Chairman said that he was pleased to confirm the reappointment of Percy Westhead & Co as auditors of the East Lancashire Masonic Charity for the 2023 financial year.

## **8 To Note Members Appointed to the Committee of Benevolence**

The Chairman said that the next item is to appoint the Members of the Committee of Benevolence. The Chairman said that each Area, via the APMG, was invited to propose a member to represent them on the Benevolence Committee, and each has invited his Area Almoner to serve.

The Chairman said that he was to ask the Secretary to read the names of the Brethren who were to be appointed to the Committee of Benevolence for the forthcoming year.

The Secretary read out the following names:

David Lightbown	CHAIRMAN
Julie Ward	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Alan Potts	CITY WEST AREA
Colin Barton	NORTHERN AREA
Victor Murphy	SOUTHERN AREA
Geoff Worsley	CITY EAST AREA
Alston Hall	EASTERN AREA
John Friend	WESTERN AREA

The Secretary said that in addition to those named the Provincial Grand Almoner, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, the Honorary Secretary of the ELMC and the Chairman of the Comforts Fund Committee are “ex officio” members of the Committee. A Guest Almoner is also invited from the Mark Degree.

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**9 To Note members appointed to the Grant Making Committee.**

The Chairman asked the Secretary to read the names of those who are to be appointed as members of the Grant Making Committee for the forthcoming year.

The Secretary read out the following names:

Chad Northcott	Chairman
David Dunn	Deputy Chairman
John R Farrington	Deputy President
Robert Findlay	Provincial Grand Charity Steward (ex officio)
David Hudson	Provincial Grand Almoner (ex officio)
Gerry Russell	Communications Officer
Karen Hall	Secretary
Peter Faulkner	
David Halford	
Julie Ward	Director of Operations (ex officio)

**10 To Note the members appointed to the Fund-Raising Committee**

The Chairman said he was to ask the Secretary to read the names of those who are to be appointed as members of the Fund-Raising Committee for the forthcoming year.

Stephen A. Thomson	Chairman
Philip J Price	Vice Chairman
Paul Sellers	Secretary
Julie Ward	Director of Operations
Nigel Johnson	
Dennis Schiff	
Tony Stephenson	
Beverley Schofield	
Nick Druce	
Dan Gaunt	
Rachel Cookson	
John Taylor (to assume Ex Officio membership after becoming Provincial Grand Charity Steward in November)	
Bob Findlay	Provincial Grand Charity Steward - Ex Officio member

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**11 To note the appointment of Members to serve on the other Committees' and Sub-Committees' during the ensuing year**

The Chairman said "Brethren, within our Membership we have a range of talent, skills and abilities, and we are always keen to determine if there are Brethren who are able and who would be willing to work on one of the Committees. We would be pleased to receive nominations for the consideration of the President. Nominations can be made through the Hon Secretary."

The Chairman said that he was to ask the Secretary to read the names of those who have been appointed to serve on the other ELMC Committees for the forthcoming year.

The Secretary read out the following names:

**Hewlett Court Advisory Committee**

David Lightbown	Chairman
Julie Ward	Director of Operations
Dennis Heskett	Secretary
Malcolm Roe	Treasurer
Beverley Schofield	Hewlett Court Manager
Paul Thornton	Building Advisor
Michael Stubbs	Health and Safety

**Museum and Library Committee**

Peter Nicholson	Chairman
Tony Costello	Librarian
Ivan Eastwood	Museum Curator
Peter Robinson	
Andy Tong	General Secretary

**Comforts Fund Sub-Committee**

Alston Hall	Chairman
Julie Ward	
Harold Cooper	
Jim Hilton	
Beverley Schofield	
Rachel Cookson	

The Chairman of the Committee of Benevolence is an "ex Officio" member of this Subcommittee.

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### **Young Peoples Sub-Committee**

Roger Tinker            Chairman

Paul Doran

Gary O’Neill

Raymond Evans

Malcolm Roe

Karen Hall

Julie Ward

The Secretary said that the Chairman of the Committee of Benevolence is an “ex-Officio” member of the Young Peoples Sub-Committee.

### **Investment Committee**

John Scott            Chairman

David Rothburn

Malcolm Roe            Treasurer

Ian Connor            Secretary

Derek Calrow

The Secretary said that Robert Race of WH Ireland Ltd attends committee meetings to offer advice on investments.

The Chairman thanked all those who had agreed to serve on the Committees for the coming year. The Chairman said that he was taking opportunity to thank the retiring members of the ELMC Committees for their valuable work and without which the Charity could not continue.

The Chairman said that the formal business of this Annual General Meeting was now concluded and he was now to hand back to the President

## **12 Any Other Business.**

The President asked if before he closed the formal part of the Meeting was there any other business.

There was no other business.

The President said that on behalf of the Board of Directors, he wished to thank Julie Ward (our Operations Director), Karen Hall (our Administration Officer), Beverley Schofield (the Manager of Hewlett Court), and Rachel Cookson (our Hewlett Court Team Leader) for their work within the ELMC and the additional work they do for the various committees which they support, and also the work they have been doing to support our Provincial Festival.

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The President said that he also wished to thank the Directors, the other Volunteers who work on the various ELMC Committees, the rest of the Hewlett Court Staff and all those who assist with fund raising, social functions and events.

The President said that on the subject of Directors - earlier this evening we re-elected our Provincial Grand Almoner, David Hudson, and Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Bob Findlay, as Directors on the Board. They will be stepping down from their Provincial roles at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in November; something he was to say more about at the time. Their positions on the ELMC Board will then also be vacated, to be filled and continued by their Provincial successors. They have fulfilled their respective responsibilities with dedication and enthusiasm and have done much to contribute to the workings of our Charity. The President said he wished to take the opportunity of thanking them both openly.

The President re-iterated his thanks to all attending this meeting and for the ongoing support that they provided for the ELMC.

The President concluded by stating that it was indeed a privilege to be President of this great Charity.

### **13 To Close the Meeting**

The President said the business of this Annual General Meeting was concluded and he extended an invitation to enjoy the refreshments provided and to enjoy the rest of the evening.

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