

Education and Training Group Minutes 5th March 2010

Present:- V. Thomas; J. Boughton, R. Hirst; A Kearsley; T. Sherman; G. Crawford

Apologies:- D. Young; J. Benson; D. Jackson

Minutes 16th November 2009; accepted

Matters arising;

- i) It has been accepted that the Library should be provided with a computer/laptop connected to the Internet. Provincial Treasurer to be approached re purchase.
- ii) A digital projector and screen is now available for use.

Reports;

Libraries and Museums - JBo reported that R and M McCarthy, our Library experts, were coming to the end of compiling a database/catalogue of the books in the Northampton Library and that when this is done he would be seeking their advice as how best to proceed in opening the resources of the Library to the Brethren of the Province. It is hoped that the contents of the Library would be made public via the Provincial Web-site.

AK reported that Peterborough was in much the same state.

Ray Turner was now too ill to be in the Library on his usual Wednesday morning and the Office had asked if JBo could give thought to a replacement (a brother has stepped in for the short term). JB considered it best to wait the impending re-launch. However, it transpires that sales of second hand regalia was being handled by the Brethren in the Library but JBo stated that he did not see this as a function of the Ed&Tr. group and subsequently the Library and Museum sub group.

It was noted that there are numerous duplicate copies of some material and that before disposing of the surplus other centres would be contacted.

There is also a filing cabinet containing historical material for each lodge in the Province. However, this was not in any order with material stuffed in hanging files and at some point in the will need attention.

Lol – JBe absent

VT raised the idea of a Provincial meeting of Lol Preceptors to gain input from them.

RH suggested that the meeting should be with the registered Lol's and that N'pton group officers are finding out what is happening in N'pton.

AK reported that they had held the first study group meeting in Peterborough which was received well by the younger Brethren

Action;- VT, at the next Group Officers Forum, to ask if they could find out what is happening in their areas (Lol's, rehearsals, practices.....)

Mentoring:- RH reported that he has growing optimism and that the Nation Library is now open and he encourages all mentors to access it. He will submit a report on the Initiates evening to this site.

RH is to put together a small group to revamp books and materials for mentoring. He had had only 30 mentoring reports and only one of those contained a suggestion for improvements.

RH will also organise more meetings with mentoring co-ordinators to encourage them to try and get more PM's to read the material.

RH is hoping for gentle further growth. VT stated that on his travels around the Province he has witness a growth in the work being done but it was acknowledged that as usual growth was at a 'masonic pace'.

Orations:- D. Young absent (written report submitted and précised by VT).Although GL has produced many Orations many are unsuitable for use in the manner laid down by GL but could be useful if GL would relax the constraints created by their rules.

We have a number of our own and DY is putting together a team of orators. Progress is being made with a growing interest particularly among younger Brethren.

VT stated that we are still light years ahead of others.

Demonstrations:- written report submitted (attached)

Officer Training:- Ongoing on two fronts

- i) Provincial Officer led
- ii) Lodge Officers –notes led by JB

Important that those led by Provincial Officers should be capable of follow-up to those lodges not attending to make sure that all have the benefit of Provincial support.

Use should be made of IT to advertise mechanisms and procedures.

Lodges should be aware that offices are important and that Brethren should be capable of discharging the duties of that office.

TS will share his knowledge gained from Metro Grand Lodge

Action; VT will raise the concern with the of the gap between certain Lodge and Provincial non progressive offices (eg Almoner; changing legislation etc.)

IT data base:-AK stated that there was little to report. The article in the Password was good but that many still did not know of the site existence. More contributors have arrived and the site is growing.

There are many requests from outside the Province but access is not permitted.

Action:- VT to raise with Exec.

AK did state that allowing access from outside would create additional problems with verification of suitability of person applying.

IT Web site:- GC continues to update the site and it continues to grow at a Masonic pace

A.O.B. :- None

Meeting closed at 12-25pm

Next meeting end September beginning October; date to be advised

Demo Group E&T meeting preparation 25 Mar 2010

Trevor Sherman

1. It is one year since our premiere of Lodge Night 1759 to Palmer Steward's Lodge. We have now Completed 11 'Lodge Night 1759' demos and 3 'Working Tools' demos.
2. We have the following forward bookings:
 - 12 for 'Lodge Night 1759' to Jan 2012 (including a 150th and a 250th lodge anniversary)
 - 2 for 'Working Tools' to Sep 2011
 - 7 for 'Royal Arch' to Oct 2012
3. Two thirds of our forward bookings are out of Province. We've had 12 of our new bookings from the Freemasonry Today article. Longer distance lodges are prepared to pay for coach hire.
4. We had to turn down three enquiries because we could not get a cast together at short notice (May) or in a holiday period (early September). We have two other enquiries pending for Nottingham and Margate.
5. Financial status – we have a £2,062 surplus which means we have earned back the original grant and are now self funding.
6. Membership continues to grow slowly. For example, we now have double cover of actors for the roles on Lodge Night 1759.
7. Lodge Night 1759 – we continue to get a positive response from new audiences. We have achieved good consistency of performance standards through the director Roger Allanson implementing good 'drama' discipline, rehearsals, feedback, role-sharing and positive casting. We do need to strengthen the team with actors who have 'am-dram' experience. We are conscious of being ambassadors for the Province with so many of our bookings now being outside the Province. There will be some minor script adjustments over the summer break. We will aim to upgrade selected costumes. We do not see the need for a lighting rig for this demo. The demo will continue to have a shelf life outside of the Province but we will need a 'new' one for inside the Province for autumn 2011. This will either be a second degree based on the same lodge (George & Dragon) some 50 years on or a play based on the Union and the Antients & Moderns. There will be a change of author on the latter to Peter Ayton (1759 author).
8. Royal Arch – the rehearsals are going well towards the premiere on 23 April. The director is reinforcing the need for regular attendance at rehearsals and is seeking stand-ins for cover. Euclid Chapter of Installed First principals in London are very enthusiastic about our demo for them in June. They have been actively promoting the event in MetGL and have been routinely in touch with our team. Our props guru John Medley is in touch with the team and there are some creative ideas being floated on this. A spin off from this play have been talks which Barry Weiglib and Bill Purcell have given on the research they did – they call it 'How & Why the Royal Arch – the Journey'. Following their talk at Kingsley Lodge two brethren have completed their application forms for the RA.
9. Working Tools – Barry Hales and Mike Farrow are happy with their level of bookings and with being part of the Demo Group. Group members have been helping them with feedback on their script, suggestions on props, supply of costumes and general moral support. They report good, positive audience responses.
10. We were delighted to be able to put together a 35 page research document for the 2009 Prestonian lecturer John Wade on the subject of public Masonic parades in the Province (Neil Mitchell, Kevin Corcoran & Trevor Sherman). John Wade presented his lecture at Lodge of Perseverance Kettering in November 2009.