



Somerset Freemasonry



Protocol for Provincial Membership Challenge visits to Chapters.

The Summons for the Meeting will state the name of the Provincial Ruler in attendance and an item on the Agenda, will indicate that the Chapter will welcome the Provincial Ruler, and proffer the Sceptre.

There will be an item on the Agenda, "The Membership Challenge- what next?". Depending on the Chapter business the Ruler will liaise with Chapter as to when the presentation will be made.

The attending Ruler will give an update of the challenge, why it is still important and why all members are involved. Please allow 15-20 minutes for the attending Ruler to speak, and to then take questions. It is important that Companions do come along to hear about, and to understand, the Membership Challenge. This is also an opportunity to ask your Companions that you don't see often to come along to listen and give their opinion.

The Provincial Ruler and Members of the Team will retire after the Closing of the Chapter with the Principals under the direction of the Chapter DC. If it is not the custom of the Chapter to retire in procession, the Chapter DC will ensure the Brethren remain standing while the visiting Team retires from the Chapter with the Principals

At The Festive Board, the Provincial Ruler will sit at the top table to the right of the Principals. Other members of the Provincial team should, wherever possible be sat with their opposite number in the Chapter (ie; Treasurer, Secretary, Charity Steward etc). Members of the Visiting Team should not be sat together. This will give Chapter members the chance to converse freely with members of the Visiting Team.

The Toast to the Grand Superintendent (if he is present) and/or the Toast to the Province should be given by one of the Junior Companions (Officers) of the Chapter, it should be brief and relevant to the evenings events. All members of the Provincial Team will pay their own dining costs.

Ideally, the Convocation would be "just" a business meeting but if you are already working towards the Challenge with an Exaltation, then don't defer it / them. Perhaps an alternative is for a Chapter to start a meeting 15-30 minutes early.

Please make sure that you send a summons to E Comp Angus Ross, Provincial Deputy DC (a.rossno5@yahoo.co.uk), who is co-ordinating the visit and also to the Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E, in the usual manner. Angus will collate names and be in contact with your Dining Steward, as notified on your summons.

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