

INGHAM CLARK LODGE



'A rapier amongst scythes'

TRAINING FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Working on the principal that if we do not introduce a program of work for those whom we are recruiting, future ceremonies will, of necessity, be undertaken by an ever diminishing group of experienced senior members who have learned the ritual.

Time will inevitably be the great arbiter of this and therefore we currently find ourselves in a situation that cannot be sustained indefinitely. If we are committed to building a sustainable future & in the process make good men better, we need to encourage our ever growing band new members to sign up to the Lodge's tried & tested system of learning.

The Ceremonies & the ritual they contain, are part of the cement that binds us together as Freemasons.

Learning to properly execute the various forms of ritual associated with these occasions can transform a group of individuals into a skilled, confident & vibrant Masonic team.

The Lodge has a fine tradition in this field and as already stated possesses a small trained band.

With sustained growth, perhaps now is the time to re-introduce the tried and tested formula that has enabled the Ingham Clark Lodge to persistently outshine its rivals.

By ensuring that, at every step of the way, each Officer of the Lodge - from Inner Guard to Worshipful Master - is supported and encouraged to learn & perform the ritual during our Ceremonies.

Therefore, by the time a 'Light Blue' is Master Elect (approximately ten years), he is already competent in presenting the ritual for all the Officers in all three Degrees (IG - WM). That, acting as Worshipful Master, he can open & close the Lodge effectively & also has a sufficient measure of confidence of action and a working knowledge of the protocols both in the Lodge & at the Festive Board, to ensure that he has the most successful year possible in the 'top job'.

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Therefore, we encourage every member to sign up to this ethos and to realise the need to become part of the following program of learning :-

The process begins with Lodge Stewards being given the opportunity to learn the Working Tools of all three Degrees and to use that newly acquired knowledge and present them during the relevant Ceremonies.

During his year in Office, the **Senior Steward**, will be encouraged to acquire the knowledge necessary to perform the Office of Inner Guard at Lodge of Instructions (Lofl's). This will prepare him for that role when he is appointed to the Office at the next Installation.

Likewise the **Inner Guard**, during his year in that Office, will be encouraged to acquire the necessary knowledge to enable him to step up to to perform the role of Junior Deacon at Lofl's. He will also be given the opportunity at the Lofl, to open & close the Lodge as WM.

The next year, the **Junior Deacon**, whilst practicing the duties of that Office at Rehearsals, will be encouraged & supported to perform the role of Senior Deacon at Lofl.

More importantly, during that year, he will also be encouraged & supported to learn the necessary ritual to enable him to successfully perform the role of WM and present the First Degree Masters Work from the Chair.

So, at the last Lofl of the year, He will have sufficient knowledge & the confidence to open the Lodge & perform the WM's part of the First Degree from Chair (Up to but NOT including the Past Master's pieces listed below). Close the Lodge. Effectively, to act as WM for the night!

And so on.....

Senior Deacon at Rehearsals.....Junior Warden at Lofl. At an Lofl at the end of the year - to take the Chair and effectively act as WM for the night, open the Lodge, perform the Second Degree WM's ritual. (Up to but NOT including the Past Masters pieces listed below). Close the Lodge.

Junior Warden at Rehearsals.....Senior Warden at Lofl. At one Lofl at the end of the year-to Occupy the Chair, effectively acting as WM for the night. Open the Lodge etc.. undertake the 3rd Degree Ceremony WM's ritual. (Up to but NOT including the Past Masters pieces listed below)). Close the Lodge.

Senior Warden at Rehearsal.....Worshipful Master at Lofl. Investing of Officers. Festive Board &c..

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Brethren, these are not new initiatives, they are based on the time honoured ones which have served the Ingham Clark well since it's founding.

Properly followed & implemented, the above will enable a member to make a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge. They will also prepare him to perform the various offices with confidence & skill & to give the individual Brother every opportunity to fully enjoy his year as Worshipful Master and by so doing, further enhance his Masonic reputation and that of his Lodge.

Past Masters Work:

First Degree: (Separate Items) Address to Can. after Apron presentation (Let me add &c.); NE Corner; Charge after Initiation.

Second Degree: (Separate Items) SE Corner; 2nd Degree Tracing Board.

Third Degree: (Separate Items) The Exhortation; 15 FC's; The Charge; Traditional History.