



Somerset Freemasonry



Protocol for Provincial Membership Challenge visits to Chapters.

To mark the importance of these Visits the following protocol should be observed;

The Summons for the Meeting will state the name of the Provincial Ruler in attendance

An item on the Agenda, immediately after the Chapter has been opened will indicate that the Chapter will receive the Provincial Ruler, who will be formally introduced into the Chapter by his DC. The MEZ will proffer him the Sceptre.

There will be an item on the Agenda, immediately after the Minutes or Matters arising entitled "The Membership Challenge". The attending Ruler will give an outline of the challenge, why it is important and why all members are involved. Please allow 20 - 30 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. 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 [Simon Sparkes](#), Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E, in the usual manner. Also send it to the attending Ruler, members of the Active Team are encouraged to attend. Simon will collate names and be in contact with your Dining Steward, as notified on your summons. All Provincial team members attending pay their own way.

December 2023