



Lodge Herodom 1768 s.c.

Of Antient Free & Accepted Masons of Scotland

Annual Report

2006

Bro. David James Kennedy

Right Worshipful Master

Lodge Herodom 1768 s.c.

Masters Report 2006

Brother Robert Gilchrist Law, Right Worshipful District Grand Master of Scottish Freemasonry in the District of Central South Africa.

It is with great pleasure that I submit this report on the activities of Lodge Herodom for the Masonic Year 2006.

It was with great pride that I accepted the nomination as Right Worshipful Master of this wonderful Lodge when due to changing work commitments our then Senior Warden Bro. William McIntyre was unable to progress to the chair of King Solomon.

Bro. Mc Intyre has now relocated to George where he has the “unenviable” task of resort manager at Oubai Golf Estate

I always had aspirations of one day being installed as Right Worshipful Master of this Lodge, and following in the footsteps of some very worthy Brethren none more so than my proposer into Lodge Herodom Bro. Gary Dodd. But it came a lot sooner than I expected but I felt that I was ready for the challenge and I hope that the Brethren and Past Masters feel that I have met this challenge and that the Lodge has grown in some way this year.

I would like to thank Bro. Alan O’Hara Worshipful Depute District Grand Master who installed me into the Chair of King Solomon a year ago tonight. It was a wonderful ceremony and will always remain a great memory of mine. To Bro. Bill Chalmers Installing Master that evening, Bill you were very nervous beforehand but you did a wonderful job and I and the Lodge were very proud of you and I thank you most sincerely.

Lodge Membership

The Lodge membership stands at 41 including 3 country members and 5 honorary members.

We had an average of 20 members at our regular meetings and an average of 10 at our committee meetings.

We thank T.G.A.O.T.U. that none of our Brethren were called to the Grand Lodge above this year.

Meetings

During the year we held 11 regular meetings and 12 committee meetings. I thank T.G.A.O.T.U. for the health to allow me to preside over all these meetings.

We had a full year as far as workings are concerned.

These were as follows:

January

Our Annual Festival of Installation. We welcomed a deputation from the District Grand Lodge led by Bro. E.A. O'Hara Worshipful Depute District Grand Master and a deputation of Grand Lodge led By the Right Worshipful District Grand Master Bro. R.G.Law.

We were blessed with a total of 74 visitors that evening and with 24 of our own Brethren had a total of 98 in the Temple, which made for a magnificent if not extremely warm evening.

February

This was our traditional Burns supper. The Lodge was opened, our Lodge bye laws were read and the Lodge was then closed with everyone invited to enjoy the Burns Night with us at the harmony.

March

This was a 3rd Degree Working for Bro. John Howard.

I would like to thank the R.W.D.G.M. for blessing us with his attendance at this meeting.

April

This was a 2nd Degree working for Bro.Herman Brits

May

We initiated our first new candidate of the year Mr. Andrew Tiley

June

A 3rd Degree working for Bro.Andrew Gillespie

July

Another 3rd Degree working. This time for Bro. Stephen Mc Gregor

August

We initiated Mr. J.J. Du Plessis and affiliated Bro. Ray Hewitt an Entered Apprentice from Lodge Lyttleton.

September

I had the pleasure this evening of bestowing on behalf of the Lodge, honorary membership to Bro. Thomas Mackintosh McNeil, Honorary Grand Marshall of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and P.M. of Lodge Liberty. _

We then passed Bro. Andrew Tiley to the Degree of a Fellow Craft.

October

We passed Bro. Ray Hewitt to the Degree of a Fellow Craft. Bro. Ray answered his questions impeccably which was only to be expected as he has had 18 years to learn them. Which was the time between his being entered and passed.

We welcome him back to Freemasonry and to Lodge Herodom in particular. I know he has already enjoyed his time with us and is going to be an asset to the Lodge.

We also affiliated Bro. Errol Davis from East Rand Scots. I should add that Bro. Errol is still an active member of his Mother Lodge.

November

We received an official visit from District Grand Lodge led by Bro. Sean Friel, Worshipful District Senior Grand Warden, to review our ceremonial working.

This was my last working in the chair and I was very pleased to have a total of 75 Brethren in the Temple including 5 official visits to see a reigning and Past Masters 3rd degree to raise Bro. Herman Britz to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

I would sincerely like to thank the R.W.M.s of Lodges Athol, Ophirton, Alfred Jones, Pretoria Celtic and the Past Masters of various Lodges for taking part and making this a very special evening. We also had the election of office bearers for 2007.

December

Lodge in recess.

Visits

During my year I managed to make over 60 visits to 28 different Lodges including an amazing 30 official visits. I would like to thank the Brethren of Lodge Herodom most sincerely for the support which they gave to me and the Lodge this year. Almost all the brethren managed to get out with us on at least one occasion but I would especially like to thank all the Brethren who were regular visitors with me and contributed enormously to bringing a vast number of reciprocal visitors to Boksborg North.

Highlights of our visits were many, whether it be the workings in the Temples or the fun we had at the harmonies.

We built strong ties with Lodge Unity and Pretoria Celtic and continued strong ties with our sister Lodges on the East Rand particularly Lodges Athol & Ophirton.

I would like to thank Bro. James Miller I.P.M. of Lodge Unity for his never ending endeavour to get the Unity Brethren across the border from Pretoria and into civilization on the East Rand and his always sincere welcome to our Brethren on our raids through to Pretoria.

To Bro. Zak Theron R.W.M. of Pretoria Celtic thank you for your never ending support, you have been at everything I have done in Masonry since the day I was initiated and I am so pleased to have seen the resurgence of Pretoria Celtic with you at the helm.

Lodge Herodom has developed a special bond with Lodge Star of the East G.L.S.A. since they moved to Boksburg North and I thank the Brethren of that Lodge for the support they have given not only to Herodom but to a lot of the Scottish Lodges on the East Rand.

I had many highlights during our visits but the one which must stand out was taking 19 of our Brethren to East Rand Scots in February where we initiated my candidate Errol Davis into East Rand Scots. I would like to thank the R.W.M. and Brethren of East Rand Scots for affording me and my Brethren this honour.

I subsequently took the chair as Past Master of East Rand Scots to pass Bro. Errol in May due to their R.W.M. Bro. Brian Taylor being ill and unable to attend that evening. Lodge Herodom returned in July by invitation to raise Bro. Errol Davis to a Master Mason in the Harvey Ritual.

We welcomed over 400 visitors to Lodge Herodom from the installation in January to our last working in November at an average of 30 excluding the Installation and I thank each and everyone for their support. We received many officials from various Lodges and I thank them most sincerely. But there were also many solo visitors and Brethren who would not miss a meeting I am thinking particularly of Bro's Tom Mc Neil, Paul Stanley, John Holland, Chris Roberts, Brian Taylor, The two Dons and steady Eddie Davidson whom I thank for their continuing support of our Lodge.

I and various Brethren from our Lodge had the honour of being invited to participate at the Installations of the following Lodges:

Brakpan, Alfred Jones, Kempton, Athol, Pretoria Celtic, East Rand Scots, Liberty, Unity, Balmoral, Ophirton, Benoni Kilwinning, Alba Gu Brath, Far East Caledonian and Acacia Lodge E.C.

I thank most sincerely the Masters & Brethren of these Lodges for the privilege of taking part at their Installations. Thank you also to Bro's. Terry Fitzgerald and Brian Bingham for standing in for me at a few Installations of Lodges where I was doing District duty at the same Installation.

District Grand Lodge

At the District Grand Communication on 1st July Bro. Gary Muir Dodd P.M. of Lodge Herodom was honoured by the District Grand Master with the commission of Worshipful Substitute District Grand Master.

This was particularly gratifying for our Lodge as Brother Dodd is the first Entered, Passed and Raised Brother of Lodge Herodom to receive such a commission.

Bro. Gary the Lodge is extremely proud of you and hold you in the highest esteem and respect, it seems only fitting that you in your capacity as W.S.D.G.M. are presiding here this evening.

I would like to thank the R.W.D.G.M. for promoting me to the office of District Grand Marshall which I am thoroughly enjoying. I was also elected to District Grand Committee and I thank the Brethren for this honour.

Social and fundraising

What a wonderful year our Worshipful Junior Warden Bro. Dave Waddell put together for us.

In February we had our Burns night which was well attended and I would like to thank Bro. Steve Cairns R.W.M. of Alba Gu Brath Lodge and his mini band for the pipes and drums.

In March we held our Annual Golf Day at State Mines which was a great success. Well done to Dave and his team and thank you to all those who supported the day.

In June he organized a weekend trip to Durban to watch Scotland play South Africa at Kings Park.

Ten of us travelled for a superb weekend of rugby, merriment and sunshine. I would like to thank Bro. Willie McIntyre for organizing the accommodation and Bro. Brian Bingham and his wife Ida for the hospitality before and after the game.

In October we held a fancy dress Halloween night which was well supported by many of the Lodges in the area. Sincere thanks to Bro. Josh De Koeker and his wife Sheri for the wonderful job they made in decorating the hall and to all the Brethren who assisted.

In December we held our Ladies night at the Mondio Concorde Hotel at Emperors. Thanks to Bro. Herman Brits who is manager there for accommodating us. The ladies received a beautiful bag of goodies and I would like to thank Jody Fitzgerald for organizing the perfume and jewellery from Revlon, Dave's wife Samantha for putting together the rest of the gifts and all the ladies for the never ending support they continue to give us.

Brother Dave you really done us proud this year and we thank you most sincerely for all your effort and hard work.

Despite this hectic schedule of events Dave and Samantha still found time to produce a baby and we again congratulate them on the birth of daughter Cassidy in September.

Charity

As well as the cheque this evening to The District Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund Lodge Herodom has in the past year donated R1000 to each of our three Lodge Widows, R1000 each to San Michelle, Hospice and to Kids Clinic. We also along with Lodge Athol had a security gate installed at the home of Mrs. Moira Gulbransen after an attempted robbery at her home earlier in the year.

Financial & Secretarial

To Bro. Terry Fitzgerald our treasurer, thank you for another year of fine fiscal control of our Lodge funds. We continue to be on a solid financial footing, please extend our sincere thanks to your wife Liz for producing the monthly balance sheet for us in such a way that we can all understand it, and we sincerely appreciate you staying on for another year as treasurer.

To Bro. Alex Walker our secretary, thank you for all your hard work over the past few years as secretary. I will have a hard act to follow when I take up this mantle when you retire from this office this evening. Bro. Alex I know that this year will be your 40th year as a Freemason and although you never held aspirations to become Master of a Lodge your contribution to the Lodge has been incalculable. I know your plans at the moment entail retiring with your wife back to the U.K. in July and on behalf of all the brethren we wish you and Etta all the best for the future.

The Temple

We now have 17 Lodges and chapters meeting at Boksborg North, due to the unfortunate closure of the Benoni facility.

As chairman of the building committee I would like to thank the two Brethren who made significant donations towards the air conditioning for the Temple and hall. They know who they are but shall remain anonymous as was their wish and thank you to Bro. Dave Waddell for donating the labour for the cabling of the air conditioners.

Hopefully this year we can get a few more Brethren on to the building committee from Lodge Herodom and other Lodges to lighten the load a little as it is a very thankless job.

Catering

I would like to thank Bro. Josh de Koeker and particularly his wife Sheri for the catering we have received this year. It was nice to have a feminine touch to our Harmony and to have finally lost the tag of Lodge Lasagne.

To my wife Gina and Samantha Waddell thank you for the wonderful fare you laid on at our Burns evening and to Bro. Tommy Hair for his usual standard of wonderful food at our Halloween night.

Conclusion

Lodge Herodom continues to be one of the strongest Lodges in the District due to the efforts of everyone in the Lodge to bring in new members and to keep up the high standard of our ritual work. I am proud of each and every member of our Lodge for the effort they have put in this year and it was especially pleasing to see some of the younger Brethren take their first steps onto the floor for workings.

To my wife Gina and children Byron and Nicole words cannot express the amount of thanks I owe to you for making this year so special for me. For allowing me an extraordinary amount of time to fulfil my duty as Master and to make it the year that I hoped it would be.

Gina this office came at fairly short notice but you knew what it meant to me to become Master of this Lodge and you were unhesitating in your support. I thank you for your patience, understanding and love. **I once again owe you big time.**

To my successor Bro. Alex Simpson Moir congratulations on being elected to the Chair of King Solomon once again, but of course for the first time in Lodge Herodom. I hope that you have as wonderful a year as I have had. I thank you for the magnificent support you gave to me last year and I pledge the same to you.

To all the new young office bearers of Lodge Herodom, you have a high standard to keep up in this Lodge but do not be afraid of that but rather enjoy the challenge, there are many Brethren only too willing to help you achieve what you want to achieve. So enjoy the year as it will be a short one. **Ask me I know!**

So mote it be.

Bro. David James Kennedy

Right Worshipful Master (2006/07)

9th January 2007