



Greetings Brethren,

To print this document without colour, select 'File' then click 'Select all' then click on the 'colours toolbar and click on 'automatic'.

To subscribe, or to unsubscribe, just send an e-mail to jrhoda@absamail.co.za [Rhoda is my sister/secretary] with your request in the subject line, and that will do the trick.

Once again, here goes and enjoy reading!

Bro. Neville Boner PM, DGSw Br.
Nevilleb@ispr.co.za

PSALM 133

A popular biblical passage among Freemasons is the exquisite Psalm 133. in the New International Version of the Bible it reads,

*"How good and pleasant it is
 when brothers live together in unity!
 It is like precious oil poured on the head,
 running down on the beard,
 running down on Aaron's beard,
 down upon the collar of his robes.
 It is as if the dew of Hermon
 were falling on Mount Zion.
 For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
 even life forevermore."*

Apart from being strikingly quaint, this lovely Psalm states in poetic fashion a truth that many people never quite grasp in an entire lifetime, namely, the absolute joy to be found in genuine friendship.

The opinions non-Masons have of Freemasons range from the sublime to the downright ridiculous. Yet if nothing else, Freemasonry is a source of much fulfilment, intellectual stimulation, and spiritual enrichment. But many who join the ranks of our Fraternity, especially those who do so out of curiosity, never appreciate this truth. Many expect "the lights to go on," although it has never been clear to me exactly what that is supposed to mean. Some people will sit on top of a lighthouse and still be in darkness, while others can be thrown into the darkest dungeon, but still see only light. It all depends on the stuff from which you are made. There are Masons who live in abject poverty even as there are Masons who live in lush opulence. But the common

denominator is the fact that they are all Masons – brethren – and therefore, equals. So, while in this world there may be distinctions of rank and fortune, a Freemason lives in the knowledge that death reduces us all to the same state. And the part of a man which survives beyond the grave is the very part which, in this life, places us all on an even plane. The acceptance of this fact makes Freemasonry in particular, and life in general, so much more enjoyable – and so much easier to understand.

There is an interesting passage in the gospel of Mark (4: 11, 12) where Jesus tells those around him, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding" (NIV). I am not comparing Freemasonry to Christianity, nor do I claim that Freemasons possess the secrets of the kingdom of God. The point is simply this: Just as there are "Christians" who go to church Sunday after Sunday, who can quote Scripture at length, and who follow the outward Christian rites, but do not have the vaguest idea what Christianity is all about; so there are "Masons" who seem to make "all the right noises" but are totally ignorant of the value of living a principled life, with a reverent respect for all of creation. But those who HAVE comprehended this great truth, are the ones who have experienced the true joys of Freemasonry. And such a man is the kind of man who forms the pillar and the backbone of any society.

By Bro. Zak Theron PM. Unity Lodge, 1006

POEM

BE ON GUARD
 by **Bro. Wilbur D. Nesbit**

Round the ancient Lodges,
 Men were set on guard,
 North and south and east and west,
 Keeping watch and ward.
 Silent, steady, sleepless,
 Keen of ear and eye-
 On the pathway where they stood
 No one might creep by.

As the covenanters
 In each hidden glen

Kept a watch and ward without,
Posted earnest men-
Not as shields of evil,
Be it understood:
But they knew to keep the faith
They must guard the good.

Near the ancient Lodges
None might come to see;
None might come to listen there
Save a sign gave he,
For the ancient Lodges,
As those of today,
Kept the outer creeping folk
Very far away.

But, today, each Mason
Has a duty high:
He must stand a sentinel
To all that come nigh;
He must guard Masonry,
Must protect its name
As he would his gate or door
Or a woman's name.

How, then, shall we do this?
Word and deed must bear
Evidence of what is in
Compass, plumb and square!
So that they who watch us
In the daily crowd
Shall proclaim that Masonry
Is high, and clean, and proud!

WHO'S WHO

From the [Grand Lodge of Scotland](#)

The Grand Master Mason: Bro. Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esselmont was installed as Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh on Thursday, 27th November 2008. Brother Wolrige Gordon is the 110th Grand Master Mason to lead the Freemasons of Scotland at home and all over the world. Brother Wolrige Gordon's family has held land in Aberdeenshire, since the 14th century, the present country estate, Esslemont, having been in the family for two centuries. He is 47 years of age, has been married for 20 years with three children, two boys and a girl, ranging from 14 to 18 years of age. In addition to supervising the running of the estate he runs his own business. He enjoys various country pursuits, he has a keen interest in conservation and is involved in local community work, serving on many committees.

His great, great, uncle Brigadier Sir Robert Gordon Gilmour of Liberton and Craigmillar was Grand Master Mason from 1916 to 1920 and his father Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esselmont served as Grand Master Mason from 1974 to 1979.

Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esselmont succeeds Sir Archibald D. Orr Ewing, Bart., M.A. who

served as Grand Master Mason for a total of eight years. 'It will be difficult to follow someone who has shown such devotion to Scottish Freemasonry over such a long period' he said, 'but I look forward to the challenge.' The Freemasons of Scotland regularly donate considerable sums to a host of charities. 'I intend to maintain the impetus of my predecessor in this respect' he commented. Brother Wolrige Gordon of Esselmont also looks forward to the completion of the restoration of the Grand Lodge organ. 'It was a major project initiated by Brother Sir Orr Ewing and it will give me great pleasure to see it completed.' Brother Wolrige Gordon was initiated into Lodge Ythan, No. 892 (Ellon, Aberdeenshire) in 1982 and was Master thereof from 2003 to 2005. He is also a member of Lodge, Sir Robert Moray, No. 1641, (Edinburgh) and is the representative of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. The Grand Master Mason is a member of several other Masonic Orders including the Supreme Council for Scotland.

POINTS TO PONDER

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

RIVALS CLING TO APRON STRINGS

The apron believed to have belonged to Burns...

The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Burns House Museum spar over the origins of the poet's freemasonic regalia.

They may look like tattered old pinnies, but to historians one of them is a hugely important masonic artefact. The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Burns House Museum, in Dumfriesshire, are at loggerheads over who owns the Freemason's apron that once belonged to Robert Burns. The Burns House Museum insists its apron, which is touring the country as part of an exhibition celebrating the 250th anniversary of the poet's birth, is the genuine article. The embroidered leather garment is said to have been given to Burns in 1791 by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, of Hoddam, a close friend and fellow mason. However, the Grand Lodge of Scotland has produced a rival garment, which it says was given to Burns at St Andrew's Lodge in Dumfries, where he was a senior officer until his death in 1796.

Its claim is supported by leading authorities on Burns and masonic regalia, who have dismissed the Burns House Museum apron as a fake. Burns became a Freemason in 1781 at the height of the organisation's popularity and remained involved throughout his life.

He was a member of five lodges, including St Andrew's Lodge, which he last visited three months before his death. While the museum's apron has long been regarded as genuine, the Grand Lodge will stake its claim when its

apron is unfurled for the first time in public at the second conference on the History of Freemasonry in Edinburgh on May 29.

The apron was passed on to the Grand Lodge in the 1880s after St Andrew's Lodge stopped meeting, along with a minute book proving Burns had been a member. It has since been restored and kept safe while its provenance was being checked.

According to Robert Cooper, curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the apron can be seen clearly in an etching of Burns in his masonic regalia made for St Andrew's Lodge some 90 years after his death. He says he was convinced it belonged to Burns because a masonic symbol, the letter G, was accidentally sewn as the number six. "The letter G that was on the flap as you see it in the engraving is not a G, it's a 6.

It was probably made by a man who couldn't sew. The apron we have is identical to that. It is a mistake, but it actually proves the provenance," he said. "It took quite a lot of work, and quite a few thousand pounds to stabilise it [the apron]. It has not been restored to its original condition, but it has been stabilised.

"It is hugely important because this is something this man actually wore as a mason, it is a physical relic, a tangible connection to Robert Burns's involvement in the masons."

Commenting on the apron owned by the Burns House Museum, Cooper added: "I have always been a bit suspicious about its provenance.

A lot of the artefacts that were associated with him are scattered. It is a field that is rich in things of unproven provenance."

Paul Rich, president of the Policy Studies Organisation in Washington, and a leading authority on Freemasonry, said he did not believe the Burns House Museum apron was owned by Burns.

Rich, who will put his case at the conference in Edinburgh, said he became convinced that it was a fake while researching a birthday speech about Burns for the event. The apron is inscribed, "Charles Sharpe of Hotham to Rabbie Burns, Dumfries, Dec 12 1791", but authorities on Burns say the poet was never known as 'Rabbie' during his lifetime.

Dr Gerard Carruthers, director of Glasgow University's Centre for Robert Burns Studies, agrees: "He was known under other names, but not this, not while he was still alive." The Dumfries and Galloway Museums Service, which owns the Burns House Museum, said that the inscription could have been written on the garment after Burns's death.

Julia Belgutay The Sunday Times May 3, 2009

QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"Good as it is to inherit a library, it is better to collect one." -Augustine Birrel

If it takes a lot of words to say what you have in mind, give it more thought. -Dennis Roch

I think of life as a good book. The further you get into it, the more it begins to make sense. -Harold S. Kushner

Shut out all of your past except that which will help you weather your tomorrows. -Sir William Osler

A SHORT DEFINITION OF THE SECOND DEGREE

Often over the years, I have come across Masons both newly admitted and some of many years standing, who, seem to have one thing in common, and that is that they do not have an understanding of the Second Degree. The reason is obvious; the second degree is not at all as dramatic as is the first and third degrees. In fact at a first and superficial glance, particularly if the working is not good, there doesn't seem to be much of a message at all! Nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed there is a lot of Masonic philosophy in this degree.

Initially, there was only two degrees in Masonry; it was only split into three distinct degrees in the mid to late 18th century. Personally, I do not know what the second degree consisted of in those days, but I would imagine that a lot of the drama was taken out to structure the third degree as we now know it. In addition, a lot of the ritual was altered by various Brethren throughout the ages and in some cases has completely changed the original meaning. However, there is still a lot of the original substance to be completely clear as to its meaning.

It is a strange thing that, although I'm not a Buddhist, whenever I read anything about this spiritual system, I am amazed with the obvious parallels between it and Freemasonry. Recently, I came across this definition of the purpose of life, and undoubtedly, it could and even should be used as a definition of the second degree:

"The purpose of life is to gain true knowledge, and to lead a friendly, useful and knowledgeable life. Only this type of life can be called a meaningful and successful life because that sort of life leads a person to the highest level of spiritual achievement and leads to a violence - free society. This should be the purpose of life." -Excerpt from "An Exposition of Buddhism" by Ven. Pidiville Piyatissa.

True knowledge, as mentioned, means knowledge of one's inner self and one's own relationship with his God. From a spiritual point of view, this must lead to an inner peace. Since the most difficult person to be completely honest with is yourself, the quest for self perfection, which, will never be achieved, is encouraged in the second degree and instructs you to constantly labour at that very goal.

When you consider the benign and peaceful aspirations of our order, you have to wonder why, with all the strife in the world today, people aren't clamouring to join us in our stated aim to "Attain a Universal Brotherhood of Man" as mentioned in the first degree.

Of course, there is a lot of symbolism that goes beyond the above, but for now, I think that as a definition, it hits the spot.

By Roger Edmed PM, Golden Thistle Lodge 744 SC

BLOGSPOT

<http://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/>

THE CENTURY LODGE OF RESEARCH No 1745 SC.

In an extract from the late Bro. Charley Wilson's DGL booklet titled "THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS" it stated, 'the one hundredth Lodge in the District was erected and consecrated on the 16th October 1982 with the name "THE CENTURY LODGE OF RESEARCH' with the number highly significant to all Scots '1745'.

Prior to its formation a tremendous interest had been expressed in the formation of this Lodge as it was felt that it would be invaluable as an outlet for further Masonic knowledge.

Brethren, nothing has changed! It is still an integral part of the District, but it cannot survive without members who are prepared to research the teachings of Freemasonry and their meanings and pass on this information to others.

We need younger Brethren wanting to learn and we need older Brethren wanting to teach.

Come and join us at The Century Lodge of Research, enjoy the camaraderie with Brethren and learn more about this wonderful order of ours, and work towards passing this information on to others.

We meet at the GLSA Masonic Temple in Orange Grove on the fifth Tuesday [ie: 4 times per year.]

By Bro. John A Barclay RWM

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

<http://bessel.org/> -full of Masonic facts by Bro. Paul M Bessel

http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/freemasonic_fables.htm -some interesting stories explaining Freemasonry.

<http://www.freemasonrytoday.co.uk> -
Freemasonry Today The magazine for everyone interested in Freemasonry.

UNDERSTANDING OUR LAWS AND BYE-LAWS

Law 184

A Lodge shall not lend its Benevolent Funds, heritable and moveable or any part or parts thereof, except by way of an investment or investments which Trustees are by statute authorized to hold. In no circumstances shall a Lodge

pledge or grant any security over its said Benevolent Funds. A Lodge may however, borrow and pledge or grant security over any other assets of the Lodge, heritable or movable, provided that such transactions shall not involve the Office-bearers or Trustees of the Lodge in any personal liability.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

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Forest Hill, 2190
Johannesburg**

**P.O. Box 74208
Turffontein**

South Africa 2140

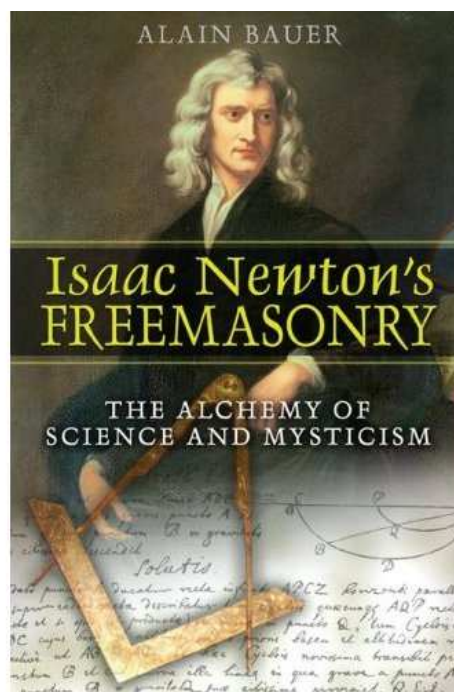
E-mail: john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za

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BIBLIOPHILE

Book review:



Isaac Newton's Freemasonry: the alchemy of science and mysticism

/ Alain Bauer; translated by Ariel Godwin. – Rochester, Vt.: Inner Traditions, c2007.

ISBN: 1 59477 172 3

This book was originally published in French. So I suppose "Gallic flair" means you can ignore important details and refer to the Schaw statutes as being written in a "poor Protestant country, Ireland" by the Catholic William Schaw. The title is also a bit misleading. The book doesn't try to prove that Newton was a Mason. The author is trying to get a glimpse of the Freemasonry of the early days of the Royal Society, when Science first began to prevail over superstition and legend.

The author is trying to argue for a more scientific approach to Masonic historiography: such as would honour the scientific tradition began in the seventeenth century with the Royal Society.

There is quite a bit of the parallel/comparative histories of the Premier Grand Lodge and the Royal Society, which is most useful. Desaguliers, it turns out, was Newton's private assistant whilst being the Grand Master.

The book has a table of the Grand Masters who were also members of the Royal Society. Don't be put off by the minor inaccuracies and the clear agenda of the author; it's a good buy – more or less.

By Bro. D McClymont PM, Lodge Alberton No.1651

AND ON A LIGHTER NOTE.....



An amusing re-post from the informative masonic website and blog [On the Level](#):

THE WORKING TOOLS OF THE GOLFER

I now present you with the working tools of a Golfer, which are the Driver, the Iron, the Putter and the Score Card. The Driver is to drive the ball, the Iron is to aid its progress and the Putter is to enable us to follow that straight and undeviating line laid down for our pursuit, and finally to place the ball in its safe and hidden repository over the smooth and prepared surface of the green, while upon the Score-card are recorded the efforts of the Golfer to mark his progress in the science.

But as we are not professional golfers, but rather amateurs we apply these tools to our morals in this sense. The Driver denotes the force of conscience, which should keep down all vain and unbecoming thoughts, which might infringe during the period of time in which we occupy the tee. The Iron, an important implement of the Science and solid in its form, teaches us that exertion is necessary to success. We are reminded that no game of golf can be completed without its aid and to so high an eminence has its usefulness been raised, that Monarchs' themselves have not felt it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the scepter for it. The Putter instructs us to be accurate, and to temper our efforts with restraint, while the Scorecard teaches us that our words and actions are observed and recorded by the All Powerful Handicap Committee to whom we must render an account of our conduct. It reminds us of their unerring and impartial justice in allocating to us our positions in all Club Competitions and also we shall be rewarded or punished as we have obeyed or disregarded their commands.

From the whole we receive this teaching, that skill aided by exertion, and exercised with patience combined with a strict adherence to the principles laid down for our guidance in the Volume of the Laws of the Game, will enable us, when summoned from the course to appear before the Club Committee to do so with the knowledge that we have endeavored to faithfully follow the precepts inculcated in the Lectures received from the skilled professional.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

RACE DAY

The District Grand Lodge of Central South Africa are hosting a fund raising Race Day at Turffontein Race Course, Johannesburg, on Saturday the 11th July 2009. The event will consist of 9 races, 8 of which are sponsored. A ticket entitles you to a magnificent Buffet Dinner set in the elegant surroundings of the Aquanaut Room.

There will be various Table Prizes throughout the day and a special prize for the best dressed couple.

Tables consisting of 10 (ten) persons are priced at R3000-00, which includes two free bottles of delicious Temple Roslin Red wine.

Sponsor Tables at R8000-00, including a Luxury Hamper plus two bottles of wine

Dress: Smart

To book tables, contact:

Tommy Hair 083 232 3599

Gary Talbot 083 653 2654

District Office 011 683 8314

ALMONER'S CORNER

Brethren, we would really like to achieve the maximum benefit for all the brethren in the District, however, as the response from various Lodges has been sparse to say the least, the publication of events in the lives of our members is limited, still we will battle on and just do our best as we see it. We call on all Lodge Secretaries / Almoners or indeed any Brother to let us know what is happening in their area of the District. It is the aim of the District Grand Almoner's office to provide a forum for a Brother to submit his thoughts on a deceased Brother or his partner, and of course, his congratulations and / or greetings for happier events such as initiations, 2nd degrees and 3rd degrees.

As a Brotherhood, we would all appreciate the opportunity to be a part of and share these very important events in the lives of our Brethren.

Obituary Column

Our condolences go to the family, friends and Brethren of those mentioned below:

- Bro Ian William Wedderburn, from Argyll Lodge passed away a short while ago. He leaves behind a devastated family. Our sincerest condolences and thoughts go to Bro Bill Wedderburn and his family.

And so it has come to pass, a Brother having completed all the design's laid down on the Trestleboard of Life, has answered the summons of the G.A.O.T.U. and has entered into the Grand Lodge above. He shall be missed.

Brethren and Families in Distress

- Subsequent to Bro Ian Booth's (Brixton Lodge) heart attack, he underwent coronary by - pass surgery. He is recuperating well and is already up and walking. Full recovery takes some time, so our thoughts are with you and your good lady, Nicola. Any support in the form of visitations or 'phone calls will be appreciated.
- Bro Mike Quist from Kempton Lodge No 1482 and his good lady are still receiving treatment for their recent illnesses and are responding well.
- Bro Darryl Phillips is laid up with serious bronchitis, may you have a speedy recovery.
- Bro Bob Wray, also from Lodge Golden Thistle, Has now moved to Elphin Lodge, the RandAid townhouse complex in Modderfontein Road and is more comfortable. Bro Bob, we wish you well in your new environment. Any support in the form of visitations or 'phone calls will be appreciated.

Welcome and Congratulations go to the following Brethren:

Bro Justin Vicars – Initiated April in Lodge Sound Memory
Bro Steve Deitleef – Passed to the 2nd Degree in June in Lodge Argyll
Bro Dean Erasmus – Initiated on 25th June – Lodge Somah Herber

Almoner's Call Centre

When personal tragedy strikes, as it has done for many Brethren over the years, please call the Almoner's Call Centre at the District Grand Office, and one of the below mentioned Almoners will either contact you directly or ensure that someone with knowledge of that particular tragedy or trauma will contact the Brother concerned.

District Grand Lodge's Contact details are below.

We know from experience that the hardest thing to deal with whenever tragedy strikes can be the lasting impact on your heart, mind and emotions.

The feeling that you are "going it alone" is re-inforced by the assumption that others may have coped better than you

have: that somehow you are less of a man because of your pain: that you are to blame for the circumstances that you are in.

These emotions, natural that they may be, are difficult to combat on one's own. The District Grand Lodge, in recognising this, would like to promote an initiative which would mean that Brethren who have suffered any of life's many and varied tragedies may be put in contact with each other. There is an old adage which states, "a problem shared is a problem halved". There are some wonderful Brethren in our District who have suffered and coped with pain, retrenchment, divorce, loss of family, health problem etc., who would, if they were aware of a Brothers pain, gladly assist in extending the hand of Brotherhood and lend a sympathetic and understanding ear, and more importantly, offer this within the strictest bounds of confidence.

It is entirely contrary to a Freemasons creed that a fellow Brother or their connections must suffer in isolation. To this end we ask that you contact the District Grand Lodge and volunteer your assistance, or if you know of a Brother who may benefit from a kind word and support.

By Bro R G Law RWDGM

In conclusion, please submit your message, whatever it is, to the District Grand Lodge to the contact numbers / address mentioned below:

Email: john.f@districtgrandlodge.co.za

Tel: 011 683 8314

Fax: 011683 3072

District Grand Almoners in your area:

Bro Roger Edmed	082 760 1513	Gauteng
Bro Mike Ioannou	082 466 6035	Gauteng
Bro Brian Prinsloo	072 277 7459	Gauteng
Bro Rubin Sosa	082 549 3554	Gauteng
Bro Vic Allen	082 827 9285	Free State
Bro Eduard Mellaart	083 560 6033	Mpumalanga

MASONIC DIARY

JULY 2009			
1	Turffontein	1st Degree	Rewlatch
1	Ophirton	3rd Degree	Boksburg North
1	Cosmos	TBA	Witbank Boksburg
1	Eenheid	TBA	South
2	Caledonian	Lecture	Germiston
2	Balmoral	2nd Degree	Olifantsfontein
2	Randfontein	TBA	Randfontein
2	Athol	Mark Deg	Boksburg
3	Scotia	3rd Degree	Orange Grove
6	Towerby	2nd Degree	Rewlatch
7	Jakaranda	TBA	The Willows
8	Piet Retief	1st Degree	Vereeniging
8	Douglas	TBA	Germiston
8	Alpha Crucis	TBA	Rewlatch
8	North West Bedford	3rd Degree	Orange Grove Boksburg
8	Benoni Kilwinning	TBA	North
9	Kempton	TBA	Kempton Park
9	Peglerae	3rd Degree	Rustenburg
9	Roodepoort Caledon	TBA	Roodepoort
9	Brakpan	TBA	Brakpan
9	Golden Thistle	3rd Degree	Park Lane
10	Northern Province	Lecture	Orange Grove
13	Discoverers	3rd Degree	Roodepoort
13	Sound Memory	1st Degree	Orange Grove
13	Alberton	TBA	Germiston
15	Caxton	Affiliations	Orange Grove
15	Gordon	TBA	Rewlatch
16	Western Star	In Memoriam	Roodepoort
16	Far East Caledon	TBA	Springs
16	Pythagoras	TBA	Park Lane
16	Virginia	TBA	Riebeeckstad
17	Tvl Volunteer	Lecture	Park Lane
18	Laeveld	TBA	Nelspruit
20	Zion	3rd Degree	Orange Grove
20	Liberty	1st Degree	The Willows
21	St Andrew Cairngorm	Lecture	Kensington
21	Republic	open/close	Orange Grove
22	Argyll	2nd Degree	Roodepoort
22	Orpheus	TBA	The Willows
22	Somah Herber	TBA	Park Lane
23	Brixton	2nd Degree	Norwood
23	Glen Douglas	TBA	Rewlatch
23	Sabie	TBA	Nelspruit Boksburg
23	East Rand Scots	TBA	North

24	Robbie Burns Mem	TBA	Germiston
27	Braemar	TBA	Rewlatch

