

Minutes of the 678th regular meeting of Meyrick Lodge 7295 held at Freemasons' Hall, Knole Road, Bournemouth, on Wednesday 4th February 2026, commencing at 18:00hrs

Present: WBros A Weldycz, E Baker, T Drake, T Parfett, J Sweeting, D Barker, B McMurdo, R Froggatt, and Bros M Gibbs, C Fay, J Marley, B Jackson, M Riley, P Stonard, B Jackson and initiate J Brown.

M Harrison (tyler)

Apols: WM P Hopkins, F Davis, P Hoyle, S Dossett, A Shapley, H Baker, B Dobson, M Dedman and Bros n Broom, W Baker, L Welch

The Opening ode was sung and the lodge opened in due form and with prayer at 18:00.

The WM, Paul Hopkins was absent due to ill health and WBro T Drake PPJGW stood in as WM

WBro David Barker PPGSuptWks stood in as JW

B McMurdo PProvDGSwdB acted as IG

R Froggatt PPAstGSwdB stood in as Chaplain

RECEIVE VISITNG MASTER

WBro David Dalton, WM of Lodge of Expatiation 9290, entered and was welcomed by the WM.

IN MEMORIAM

WBro Andrew Weldycz **PJGD** delivered a eulogy for RWBro John Prizeman. The brethren stood to remember departed merit.

SIGNING OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on December 3rd were confirmed and signed by the WM.

SALUTATIONS

The DC, WBro Tony Parfett PPSGD brought the brethren to order and four Grand Officers were saluted thrice. WBro Andrew Weldycz replied on behalf of WBros Neil West, VO, Tony Mellory-Pratt and Rodney Dale.

COMMUNICATIONS

The secretary read various communications already distributed to the brethren.

BALLOT

A ballot was held for the proposed candidate Mr Jack Brown, which proved in favour.

INITIATION

The secretary confirmed that Mr Jack Brown had signed the Book of Declarations and paid his dues. The first verse of 'Lead Kindly Light' was sung as Mr Brown entered the Lodge in a state of darkness. He was initiated into mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry by the WBro Tony Drake. He was invested with the distinguishing Badge of a Mason by SW, Bro Mark Gibbs, who delivered and extended version. The North East Corner was delivered by WBro John Sweeting PPDepGReg.

The 'WM' pointed out the Warrant of the Lodge to Bro Brown and presented him with a copy of the Book of Constitutions and the lodge by-laws. Bro Brown retired to restore himself to his personal comforts. On the candidate's return the Charge after Initiation was delivered in exemplary fashion by WBro Tony Parfett.

VO WBro Neil West presented Bro Brown with the 'Welcome to Freemasonry' booklet and delivered the Royal Arch narrative. He also presented him with an EA's pin badge. WBro A Weldycz, Mentor, gave him Bro James Marley as his personal mentor.

During the candidate's absence the charity and almoner's reports were delivered. The almoner's report by D Barker and the charity report by the secretary on behalf of the charity steward.

RISINGS

The WM rose for the first, second and third times.

On the second rising VO Neil West gave an update in up-coming events.

On the third rising, secretary Ed Baker gave details of the new QR codes so brethren can make payments without cash.

Tony Parfett thanked Tony Drake for standing in as WM. Tony said he had enjoyed it. The other officers were also thanked.

T Drake gave a BMB update.

There were present 16 members and 14 guests inc VO whose names are recorded on the sheets attached to these minutes. A total of 30.

The alms collection raised £41 for the almoner's account, and the raffle at the FB raised £130 for dementia nurses.

The lodge was closed with prayer and in due form at 19:30

At the Festive Board, John McSweeting addressed the haggis to mark our Burns Night. A Weldycz sang the apprentice's song.

The toast to the initiate was proposed by Bro Alex Cordery, a friend of the initiate from Manchester.



Jack with Tony Drake, stand-in WM



Alex Cordery, the initiate's friend
from Manchester



Chris Fay delivers the toast to the visitors

Worshipful Master.....

04.03.26