



European Masonic Association.

Newsletter

Number 4.

Spring 2009

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Editorial

Brethren

Please take a few minutes to read your newsletter.

Ireland has yet again proved to be a successful gathering for the EMA. Unfortunately it had to end and is now just a very pleasant memory. Time to turn our attentions to the future. David Tabner has stepped into the brink and is, with the help of others, arranging our next gathering in Spain with a visit to Gibraltar. The EMA segment will be from to ; any additional stay you will have to arrange with the Organisers.

I still need your revised Photo-Membership Forms. Only a quarter of the membership have returned them. You only need send **one** photograph with the completed forms. Please ensure your **e-mail** address is **legible**.

It is always a pleasure to welcome new Members to our Association. Four new names were added to our nominal roll in Ireland. We have the capacity for more. If you know of any Brethren that may wish to join us give me a call for a Membership Form or send me their details and I will write to them.

Thanks go to **Gary Comer** who has set up our web site www.europeanmasonicassociation.org

If you have any suggestions for inclusion on our web pages they must be submitted to me for prior approval. Gary has worked hard and given his time to ensure we have a successful site. Give this site a hit. We will welcome any comments.

Please note: NO ENTRIES OR ALTERATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE WEB SITE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM ME.

If you have any moans or groans or even any suggestions lets hear from you. It would make a change to have someone else's views and comments other than my own.

Gordon Reeves

Secretary/Editor

Visit to Londonderry

The Story of the week. As seen Through the Secretary's eyes.

MONDAY. This time we decided to spend a little extra time in Ireland and make good use of the Hire Car we had picked up at Belfast Airport. The journey from Belfast to Londonderry was in itself an eye opener. The drive took about an hour and a half. Leaving Belfast on the A2/N2 you begin to realise just what the Shipyards must have meant to the working men of Belfast. The two great boom cranes of the Harland and Wolfe Yard are still a reminder of a great past, sadly these monsters are now all but idle. New sites have appeared on the Belfast skyline There is a Belfast Eye, similar to the London Eye and a permanent Titanic Exhibition which is attracting numerous visitors so we are told. Although there still are a few problems from the past erupting now and again the people are able to cope and manage these situations themselves. Lets hope these troubles never become headline news again. Belfast is changing for the good and has received a lot of EC Funding to make it a better place to live.

As we meandered along the A2 for some seventy odd miles to Londonderry we passed through some of the most beautiful countryside we have ever encountered, and yes, there certainly was forty shades of green. We will return another day. After such a pleasant drive we arrived at The White Horse Hotel where it was all going to happen later in the week. Joan and I settled in for the rest of the day and just unwound, as was our want.

TUESDAY Lay-in this morning, late breakfast and then hit the road. Having set the Sat/Nav for Donegal I just drove following "Gladys's" instructions. Once we had passed the City Limits of Londonderry the countryside opened up and was again revealing its magnificence. It was early Spring and the Daffodils enhanced all around. Yellow and white and the many shades of green speckled by the shadows of the thinning clouds and the bright sun rays shining through. How Wonderful, absolutely wonderful. Now stop it we havn't got time for all this heart rendering emotion we've got to get to Donegal. We were still following "Gladys's" instructions. Turn left, turn right and so on , after all we couldn't get lost, could we? Somehow we seemed to be wandering away from the AA map route The Sat/Nav was taking us the long way around Lough Erne The short way was about 12 miles the long way was about 60 miles. Ah to hell with it we're enjoying ourselves lets follow the **technology** route. The villages and towns were quaint to say the least. Everywhere was so clean and tidy. No litter or rubbish in the streets or hedgerows. The white painted cottages and Farm houses were neat and tidy as were the small holdings and many moorings along the waters edge. "Recalculating", "recalculating" bellowed Gladys. "What's the matter with her" I exclaimed. "I don't know said Joan She wants to go back from where we've just come according to the VDU screen." "We'll give it a couple of miles and we will stop for a bite." I replied. "It will give her a chance to sort herself out." We pulled into a garage come Restaurant come Transport cafe and availed ourselves of a nice bowl of soup and crusty roll with the customary cup of tea. Having poured over our map book during our lunch break Joan went up to the cashier and paid for lunch. Offering a Twenty Pound note and receiving our change in Euros. Whoops ! The penny suddenly dropped. We're in Southern Ireland, we have crossed the border and that would explain why Gladys had suddenly gone bananas, and why she had sent us the long way round Lough Erne she was only geared up for the UK and not Southern Ireland (Eire). Never mind the road signs indicate 12 Ks to Donegal.

There must have been a border or sign but we certainly didn't see it The only difference I had noticed was the Yellow road markings along the side of the roads. The Countryside was still as beautiful and as clean as ever.

Arriving in the town of Donegal we found a car park right beside the River which was rapidly emptying into Donegal Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Donegal is one of these quaint Towns. A mixture of Tourist Shops and Traditional shops, of Grocer Shops and Furniture Shops. There was the central Square with all the traffic flowing one way around it and the pedestrian bit in the middle. Use crossings at your peril.

To one corner was the Court House. A busy day today judging by the number of Lawyers swelling the pavements outside, or was it rich pickings, after all we hadn't seen any miss behaving amongst this most friendly population. County Donegal and the Town of Donegal are well worth the visit.

We got Gladys talking again, and would you believe it, she directed us back to from whence we had come , Londonderry, by the shortest route and the complete reverse route we wanted in the first place. Strange creatures these techno women.

WEDNESDAY We decided to go the other way after a good breakfast, and follow the Causeway Coastal Route from Londonderry all the way to the Giant's bit and beyond. Again we were overcome by the sheer beauty and ruggedness of the countryside and coastline Truly splendid escarpments and cliff formations right along the coastal roads. The highest cliffs in Europe are found here. How I wish I had charged my camera batteries up last night. The National Trust have taken on The Giants Causeway, it's well worth the entrance fee to walk on these ancient volcanic formations. Nice place to stop for lunch as well. After a light lunch we continued on our journey along the Coastal Route. Unfortunately the Bushmills Heritage Railway didn't open until Easter weekend for the season. Driving away from the Giants Causeway and staying close to the cliffs we pass many homesteads and cottages. I wonder what its like in winter, is a phrase that immediately springs to mind . The scenery is still great and very rugged It just attracts you too it. We will come back for more maybe next year. More EMA Guests will be arriving this afternoon. It's time to head back to the Hotel to meet them. The rest of the day at leisure.

THURSDAY The Start of the EMA Weekend. With the exception of the Scottish Brethren who had an unavoidable hick-up in their travel arrangements all the brethren had checked in at the Hotel by 15.00hrs leaving plenty of time to prepare for the meeting at 7pm. After an early dinner the Brethren left by coach for the City of Londonderry and the Bishops House (more about that later) and St Columbs Lodge No 640. The Brethren were assembled and the Lodge opened in the First Degree. There was a Report. After due deliberation, the Grand Master of all Ireland entered the Lodge and was offered the gavel which he accepted. Having taken the Chair he addressed the Brethren and thanked St Columbs Lodge for their kind invitation to this Meeting. He addressed the Meeting on several matters concerning the Irish Lodges and he related a story of how on a previous EMA visit to Ireland he himself had been made a Member. He suspected David Parkhill had something to do with that. Continuing he said he was pleased to be associated with the Association . Of course the Grand Master is known to us all as **Rt W Bro George Dunlop** and we are pleased to have him as a Member. George welcomed us to Londonderry and hoped we would have a memorable visit. The Worshipful Master resumed the Chair and the Lodge was called off. The Lodge was re-arranged and a Demonstration of the First Degree under the Irish Constitution was demonstrated by a very capable demo team led by EMA Member Reid Winters. The demonstration met with the approbation of all the Members. We all learnt a little something this evening. The Lodge was called back to labour and completed the work for the evening.

A Cheque for £250.00 was presented to the Worshipful Master on behalf of the EMA by W.Bro Ian Benton our Deputy Speaker. The Brethren were invited to supper with the Members of the Lodge before returning to the Hotel to rejoin our ladies for a night cap.

On entering the bar we were greeted by Sandy, Alex and a strong Scottish contingent that had been delayed for several hours due to a defective aircraft. We thank the Almighty that the defects, bad enough to ground the aircraft, were found before they took off. We were all glad you arrived safely.

FRIDAY Tour Day = We were split up into two groups when the coaches arrived to bus us into Londonderry. What the first group did in the morning the other group did in the afternoon and vice versa. The first group were dropped of at the Masonic Centre or The Bishops House for the short walk down the hill to the War memorial and the start of the walk around the city wall. I must confess at this stage I got as far as the War Memorial and then into the nearest Coffee shop. That was enough walking for me. Both groups met up for lunch at the Masonic Centre and the tour of the Bishops House. It was called the Bishops House because the Bishop of Londonderry once lived there. The Masons moved in at the end of the Nineteenth Century, I Guess the Bishop may have been

one of us. The House has so much history associated with it needless to say it makes a perfect Masonic Centre. There clearly was plenty to see on the morning tour, the one I skipped. TONY Henderson was our professional City Guide and was a Brother among Masons who kept the brethren well informed on their tour of the city.

I wonder if the fortress police stations are still on the City Wall.

The afternoon tour took us on a more informative loyalist tour of the City following the Siege Heroes Trail taking in the Memorial Hall, Bishops Gate, The Siege Heroes Mound and The Guildhall. To many non Irishmen we wonder just what The Apprentice Boys marches and the Marching Season was all about. We were given the opportunity to learn just a little of the turbulent history of the Province and perhaps realise just why the Irish from the north are so loyal and such a very proud people from whatever side of the divide they are from.

After an enjoyable and tiring day spent in the City we all dined together at the Hotel and enjoyed one another's company. A little competition was introduced by Our Londonderry City Guide Bro Tony Henderson who asked questions about the history and fashion of Londonderry all of which he had mentioned in the tour of the city this morning. There could only be one winner in the play off. Harry Forrester just pipped Joe Hart to the Bottle of sparkling Wine. Well done Harry and everybody for taking so much in.

SATURDAY a hearty breakfast was had by all this morning. The Ladies were gathered together to be coached into town for a little relaxation around the shops. I'm sure most of the brethren had entrusted their ladies with the credit cards for safe keeping.

At 10.30hrs. 40 EMA members assembled for the AGM of our Association. (The full Report and Minutes of the proceedings can be found on page 7 of this Newsletter). The Ladies rejoined the Brethren at the hotel for lunch.

The Secretary took on the task of running a Grand National Draw. The Horses sold so rapidly they had all gone before he got the chance of a horse himself.

The afternoon was left free for everyone to rest-up or do their own thing in preparation for the gala dinner this evening.

Gala Dinner. This was a formal affair and had been well planned by our hosts. Our Ladies looked resplendent in their attire, especially as it had to be packed and squashed into a suitcase before being thrown about by the baggage handlers at the airport. **Ladies you did us proud.**

The evening started with a Bucks-Fizz Reception before 110 people sat down for dinner.

Ian Benton, our newly appointed Speaker, welcomed everyone and offered Grace. The meal was from an a la cart menu which we had preselected. To ensure everyone got what they ordered David was on hand with his list. It all worked very well with the minimum of fuss and confusion. You know it is so difficult, with such a large number of people ordering different menus for each course, not to get confusion somewhere, well I didn't spot any, even the vegetarian's were well looked after. The food, whatever one chose, was excellent hot and plentiful. The selected wines were very palatable.

The Hudson Blue Band, **a duo**, started to play their first number and slowly the dance floor filled. The Duo were good and their style of music suited most tastes, We are a hard lot to please, when it comes to dance music, I know that from past gatherings. This band had got it right, almost every dance the floor was full and we had a super night. There was a short break in the proceedings long enough to have a free draw, with prizes for every table. The Grand National Draw made a few people happy. **Eve Cooper** Winner £50, **Alex Marr** Second £25, **Ian Benton** Third £15, **George McGuire** First named faller £10. **Albert Pascall** became the unluckiest man on the day when his horse which clearly fell first at the first fence. Unfortunately the BBC Commentator named him second in the list of fallers at the first. Only the first named faller gets a prize. Sorry Albert.

We were also able to give David and his team **£100** for the Charity of their choice from the Proceeds of the Grand National Draw. Their chosen Charity was that of Bro Keith Jones who died suddenly last year. Keith's widow was present at dinner and received the donation. A small token was presented to all the Irish Team and their Ladies. During the course of the evening all the Ladies were given an Irish Porcelain Tea-light and each gentleman

received a Brandy Glass. Dancing continued into the early hours. It was past the allotted hour of 1am when we had a customary song from our very own **Sandy Christie** to bring to a close a wonderful Gala Dinner.

Thank you Ireland.

SUNDAY As always on these occasions Sunday Breakfast is generally a gloomy affair. Bags are all packed. Just the odd bill to settle and for most it will be the sombre drive to the airport and the return to from whence you came, taking with you some very happy memories and looking forward to doing it all again in Spain in October.

Sunday evening was quite a sober affair at the Hotel with only the Scottish contingent, Albert Pascall and myself were all on a further nights sleepover until Monday when we also returned home having had a good EMA visit to Londonderry.

FOOTNOTE: Why does Guinness always taste better in Ireland?

HOTPRESS

OUR NEW WEB SITE HAS GONE LIVE

www.europeanmasonicassociation.org

Give it a hit, let me know what you think of the site. Over the next few months we will add items to the pages. The Newsletter will be added and changed every six months. If you have any ideas how to improve the site please let me know.

If there is anything you dislike about the site likewise, please let me know.

You cannot overwrite or change any text, this can only be done through me.

Our thanks go to Gary Comer for setting the Web site up for us. Gary will be our Web Manager and will become a non-executive Committee Member

Have you anything to Contribute?

Then tell the Secretary / Editor

Make your Reservation for Spain with

David Tabner NOW !

Deposit £150 pp with booking.

Balance by Mid August

READ THE NEXT PAGE

BRETHREN READ THIS PAGE AND ACT ACCORDINGLY

[EMA Meeting in Spain— Thursday 15th October to Sunday 18th October 2009.](#)

Tamisa Golf Hotel Tel 0034952585988 E-mail reserves@hoteltamisagolf.com

Organizers: D. Tabner d.tabner@tabnerplasterers.co.uk
David Rees Davies Dreesdavies@hotmail.com
Ron Petit 952493490 ron@sunnyspain.org

Persons: Approx 50/60 in Tamisa Hotel: 2 bed/2bath Apts also available

Proposed Programme (approx timings)

Thursday 15th 4pm: Masonic Lodge Meeting in Salon Rodilos: 50/60 persons

5pm: Coach Trip for the Ladies: To be arranged

Friday 16th

8-10am: Breakfast in Hotel

10.30am: 2 Coaches: Day Trip to Gibraltar#

8pm: Light Buffet? Entertainment in Hotel ? Or Nearby Restaurant

Saturday 17th

8-10am: Leisurely Breakfast

10.30am: EMA Members Meeting

Various Local Spanish Markets / Golf at Mijas if required

Horse Riding can be arranged if required

Grand Dinnert & Dance in Tamisa Hotel

Approx 100 guiests

Weekend Rates

3 Nights Bed & Breakfast "**Package**"

Sharing Twin / Double Rooms

130euros PP 3 Nights

Mini Suite Upgrade (4 available

30e pp extra

Extra nights

40e pp extra

Day Trip to Gibraltar

10 e pp

Gala Dinner and Wines Open Bar

50e pp

Masonic Meeting and Dinner -Thursday

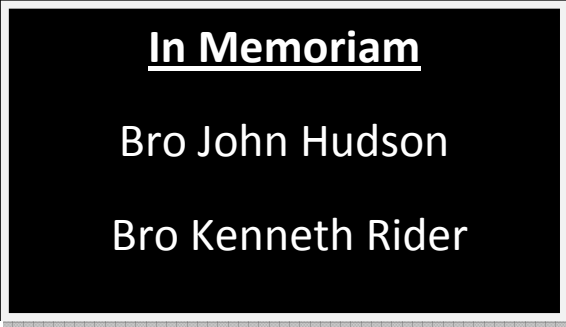
30e pp members only

[Book with David Tabner Now!](#) £150 pp Deposit with Booking

Full Payment by 5th of August

Cheques payable to EMA.

(Prices have not been finalised at the time of going to press)



Which Day

Yesterday is History

Tomorrow is a Mystery

Today is a Gift

That's why we call it the **Present**

Today, is the **tomorrow**

You thought about **yester**

Please return your New Photo Membership Forms

Only one photograph is needed.

Don't forget our Web site

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www.europeanmasonicassociation.org

Let me know what you think of it

European Masonic Association.

SPRING MEETING Londonderry Ireland 2009

AGM MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General and **Fortieth** meeting of the European Masonic Association held on Saturday 4 th April 2009 at The White Horse Hotel Londonderry Ireland. Starting at 10.30am.

There were present Forty members of the Association all of whose names are recorded in the attendance Register.

The Quaich was filled and the brethren partook of the Golden nectar sharing in true Brotherly Love

- 4) The Meeting was opened by Bro Alex Marr, our Speaker. He welcomed all the Brethren to Ireland adding he hoped our gathering will be a memorable visit He thanked the Irish brethren for all the arrangements they had put into place and trusted we will all take advantage of their good hospitality. He said there was a lot of work to progress this morning and he hoped we will get through the business with vitality and vigour.
- 2) The Minutes of the last Meeting held in _____ having been circulated vide The Newsletter was accepted as a true record and confirmed by the brethren that were present. They were signed by the Speaker Bro Alex Marr.
- 3) There were several matters arising.
 - A) To ratify Two additional By Laws. Concerning Widows single occupancy at our gatherings and member single occupancy. Both approved in October 2008 The Secretary read the new by laws Number 16 and 17. **These new By Laws were approved and ratified by the members present.**
 - b) To ratify an Addition to By Law No:8.1. **The Assistant Speakers**
This was approved and ratified by all the brethren present.
 - c) To ratify and approve a new By Law No:8.6. **Three nominated Assistant Speakers**
This was approved and ratified by the members present.
 - d) To ratify the addition to By Law No:10 **The Assistant Speakers will be one of the International representatives from their Country.**
This was approved and ratified by the members present
 - e) The existing By Law 8.6 now becomes 8.7. The existing By Law 8.7 becomes 8.8. All the revised and new By laws were read out by the Secretary and all take immediate effect.

The Secretary reminded the brethren that at the last meeting Bro Arnold Lawton requested we keep photographs of all the members. It was agreed this would be a good idea and that new membership update forms would be sent to everyone to include a space for the inclusion of a photograph. To date I have only received twenty two forms and photographs back Every member should have received the new forms ages ago.

Please let me have your completed forms back.

- 4) The Brethren were called to Order and stood in respect of departed Merit **To Remember Bro Kenneth Rider and Bro John Hudson** A short eulogy was given by **Bob Cooper**. In respect of Bro Ken Rider and a few words from **Tom Samwell** in respect of John Hudson.

5) Bro David Parkhill our Treasurer, circulated a copy of the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008. and gave a Financial Report. He said we were in a good financial state all round. He said all the accounts were in a healthy state and no increase in subscriptions were needed. We have a reserve of about £7000 in all accounts . He said only 43 members pay their subs by direct debit; he aims to increase this total this year.

There were no Questions.

6) Item 6 was postponed due to the unavoidable absence of the Auditors. Bro Joe Hart Proposed and Bro Bob Cooper seconded the in the absence of the Auditors Reports the Accounts as presented be accepted. This was carried unanimously .

7) Election of Officers

<u>Speaker</u>	W.Bro Ian Benton	The only nomination.	
<u>Deputy Speaker</u>	W.Bro David Tabner	The only nomination.	
<u>Assistant Speakers</u>	W.Bro Wil de Clerq	(Holland)	
	W.Bro Erich Voigt	(Germany)	
	W.Bro Thierry Quiffen	(France)	
Treasurer	W.Bro David Parkhill	The only nomination.	
Secretary	W. Bro Gordon Reeves	The Only nomination.	The
Auditors	W.Bro Sam Olphert		
	W.Bro John Burnside.		
WEB Manager	W.Bro Gary Comer	(Non Executive)	

8) The newly appointed Speaker Ian Benton proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Speaker Bro Alex Marr. Ian said Alex had guided us these past few years with devotion and diligence. He thanked him for all the work he had done for the Association and asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to Alex. Seconded by Sandy Christie. Duly recorded.

9) The Secretary reported that the proposed visit to the Channel Isles was postponed and may be resurrected at a later date. He thanked Bro Jeff Hill for his efforts in trying to arrange the visit and took notice of all the concerns raised about getting to the Channel Islands. He said David Tabner had stepped into the breach and with others had arranged a Visit to Spain. David handed out the proposed programme of events for the Spain gathering between 15th and 18th of October 2009. Booking Forms and costs can be found on the Web Site. www.europeanmasonicassociation.org or directly from David Tabner.

10) Future meetings. Peter Steel suggested that maybe our European Brethren aren't attending our gatherings because of the difficulty in getting to the venues, perhaps we should consider the South or South East of England for the next Visit. There is easy access from the Continent with the Ferrys' and the Channel Tunnel. The Secretary said he was happy to arrange something but certainly wasn't going to take it all on his own. Albert Pascal volunteered his services. There are several Hotels that offer Masonic Week-end Packages. We'll seek them out and report at the next meeting in Spain. The Secretary said he had had an interim offer for a meeting in France. Wil de Clerq was meeting up with some German Brethren who he thought might be able to entertain us either in Germany or in Holland.

11) **Any Questions:** Bro Suresh Gupta enquired "Could the EMA have a London Visit, with a visit to Grand Lodge and the customary tour of the Museum and Temples?". The Secretary responded that the only problem with LONDON is accommodation costs, but I'm sure we could make it a day trip up from the South East,

12) **Any other Business.** Sandy Christie said that none of the Scottish Members had received any of the new Photograph Registration Forms. The Secretary said he would Email a copy to Sandy for copying and forwarding to the brethren. Please return them to me.

Bro Alex Marr thanked the Brethren for giving him the opportunity of being our Speaker for the last couple of years he said he had enjoyed his term and felt it was time to move on. He thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for all their help. He wished his successor Ian Benton all the best for his time as Speaker.

13) Vote of Thanks to David Parkhill and the Irish Team The Speaker thanked all concerned for what we had already received and for what was still to come. Ian said it was no more and certainly no less than we expect when we come to Ireland A Superb Week-end.

14) The Meeting closed at 12.15hrs.

There was a short comfort break before the Speaker introduced **Rt W.Bro Robert Bashford** Secretary of the Irish Lodge of Research who gave a talk on the Origins and Development of Irish Freemasonry over the last Two Hundred and Eighty Years.

Rt Wor Bro Bashford gave a most enlightening talk which was greeted by the approbation of the Brethren with resounding applause.

The Speaker asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to Rt Wor Bro Bashford and requested the Secretary to forward him a EMA joining form.

These are the Minutes as Recorded by me, signed **Gordon M. Reeves** Secretary



EMA Secretary & Newsletter Editor

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Have you anything to
Communicate?

Then let the Secretary Know.

Have your say! It could be in the next issue of

THE NEWSLETTER