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W. Bro. C. A. Abel, PADGDC

1 MANDATE

With the appointment of new management teams in both the District Grand Lodge of Barbados, SC. and in our own District, little advance has been made with regard to a Grand Lodge of the Eastern Caribbean. It seems that in principle the respective Lodges of the two Districts are not against it. I think what has to be done is for the Districts to appoint committees to investigate particular aspects, so that this can be debated by each side, and then a common position could possibly be agreed upon.

With this in mind I shall ask, Deputy District Grand Master and District Grand Registrar to investigate a constitution. District Grand Director of Ceremonies and his Deputy, regalia and ritual. District Grand Treasurer and past District Grand Secretary finance, dues and fees. The Presidents of the Board of General Purposes and Benevolence, management authority and chain of command. The two Assistant District Grand Masters, the ranking system and tenure of such, and finally the District Grand Secretary and his assistant, procedures, paperwork and delineation of the philosophical approach to the whole matter.

Those named may co-opt who they wish on to their particular committee. The thing is to establish an acceptance of how we could move forward, bearing in mind that the Scottish and English ways will at some time have to be joined together with some loss in identity. I don't think it is impossible for each Committee to have a report for discussion at September's meeting of DBGP in 2007, and perhaps the Scottish District may do likewise. As I said previously a final decision on going it alone will take time and the majority has to agree to all the details.

Extract from the RWDGM's Address given at the 302nd Bi-Annual Communication held under the Banner of Albion Lodge No. 196 ER at the Masonic Center, Salters, Barbados on 28th October 2006

2 INTRODUCTION

“_____ to establish an acceptance of how to move forward, bearing in mind that the Scottish and English ways, will at some time have to be joined together _____”.

A paraphrase from the Right Worshipful District Grand Master’s Address, and the foundation of this Document.

It should be made clear from the outset that this paper, is a combination of ideas and procedures, prepared by various members of the Executive of the District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. To this end, everything in all the original Reports, and indeed in this Document, represent the formation of a Grand Lodge based primarily on the precepts and tenets of English Freemasonry.

It has been stated that the Brethren charged with producing the original papers did so with no thought to the Scottish side of the equation. With one small exception, that remark in itself is true, and easily explained. To finally reach our goal we must detail a Grand Lodge based on our system, after all, that is the system we know. At the same time our Scottish Brethren must do the same, based on their system. Only when this has been accomplished and agreed amongst the members of each District Grand Lodge, can we sit down together and marry the two to the mutual satisfaction of us all.

We have in our possession what could be fairly argued as the best Masonic Constitution ever produced, indeed in examining Constitutions of Grand Lodges who sprang up from the United Grand Lodge of England, it soon becomes apparent that they are based on the Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England and the changes are minor.

The Papers prepared and presented to the District Board of General Purposes (and which form the basis for this document), contain sections of direct quotes from our Book of Constitutions. In an effort to condense and amalgamate these Papers, some of the sections which are direct quotes have been left out.

However, much time can be saved in debate if a thorough understanding of the relevant sections of our Constitutions are understood. To this end the Rule which covers the particular topic under discussion will be quoted to allow the reader to more fully appreciate what is being considered should he so wish. If this paper is presented in open Lodge it would be wise to have a Brother read the relevant Rules as they appear in this presentation. This will certainly help to enlighten the brethren with regards to the details.

For those who do not have access to the latest version of the Book of Constitutions, you may visit the Web Site of the United Grand Lodge of England at www.ugle.org.uk Once there, go across the top tool bar to “Information for Masons” a drop down box will appear with a page which allows you to view the Constitutions, divided into six sections, absolutely identical to the book itself and easily down loaded (PDF file) or accessed on site. All Lodge Secretaries should make an effort to have this available to the members of their respective Lodges.

Item 6 : A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO THE WHOLE MATTER remains in its entirety. It is felt here, that to try and condense a “Philosophy” would be to distort the author’s original concept.

LIST OF COMPLETE REPORTS
PRESENTED TO THE DISTRICT BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES
(FROM WHICH THE BODY OF THIS DOCUMENT IS COMPILED)

CONSTITUTION

Deputy District Grand Master & District Grand Registrar

REGALIA & RITUAL

District Grand Director of Ceremonies & Deputy

FINANCE, DUES & FEES

District Grand Treasurer & Past District Grand Secretary

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY & CHAIN OF COMMAND

Presidents of the Board of General Purposes & Benevolence

RANKING SYSTEM & TENURES

The Assistant District Grand Masters

PROCEDURES & PAPERWORK

District Grand Secretary & Asst. District Grand Secretary

A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO THE WHOLE MATTER

W. Bro. C. A. Abel, PADGDC

NOTE: *Copies of all or any of the Reports listed above will be available to all Lodge Secretaries in standard or electronic form. Please contact the District Grand Secretary at dgs@anguillanet.com*

4 **AUTHORITY TO PROCEED**

Extract from the BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS

Rule 186.

Meeting to discuss formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge

In any territory in which a District Grand Lodge exists, if the District Grand Master shall think proper to grant a dispensation for that purpose, it shall be lawful for any Lodge to hold a special meeting, or meetings, to discuss and resolve on the question of the formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge for or including the District or part thereof, or any neighbouring District or part thereof, or any Lodge or Lodges not in a District. Such dispensation may be granted subject to any conditions that the District Grand Master may deem proper, and also to provisions enabling two or more Lodges to unite in the special meeting; and if the District Grand Master should refuse to grant a dispensation, an appeal from such refusal may be made to the Grand Master. In a territory in which more than one District Grand Lodge exists the same procedure shall be adopted in each District, and before any Grand Lodge shall be recognised as having jurisdiction over the whole of such territory the consent of each District Grand Lodge shall be certified by the District Grand Master thereof.

Rule 187.

Regulations to be observed by Lodges in the jurisdiction of a new Sovereign Grand Lodge.

Whenever the Grand Lodge shall, with the assent of the Grand Master, recognise a Grand Lodge as a regular and independent Sovereign Body, having jurisdiction in any territory where a District Grand Lodge or Lodges not in a District exist, and the Grand Master shall signify that it is not his intention to grant for the future any warrant for a new Lodge in that jurisdiction, the following rules shall apply:

(1) Within six months after recognition the Master of every Lodge in such jurisdiction shall convene a special meeting of the Lodge on not less than twenty-one days' notice to every member; failing the Master, the District Grand Master, or, failing him, his Deputy shall convene such meeting, and preside thereat.

(ii) The Brethren present at such meeting, whose names appear as subscribing members on the last return filed with the Grand Secretary, shall decide whether they desire that the Lodge shall continue under the Grand Lodge of England or join the new Grand Lodge. If the decision be to join the new Grand Lodge, the Brethren shall, at the same meeting, decide in whom the property and effects of the Lodge shall be vested, and the warrant shall be forthwith returned to the Grand Secretary to be delivered up to the Grand Master. A majority of two-thirds of the members present shall be required to carry such resolutions.

(iii) No questions shall be discussed or put at such meeting other than those above prescribed.

(iv) Immediately after such meeting a full copy of the minutes and a list from the signature book of all members attending, together with the numbers voting for or against, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary, verified under the hand of the presiding Master, and countersigned by the Secretary of the Lodge.

(v) No second meeting shall be called to discuss the above-mentioned questions without the special leave of the Grand Master.

5

A PROPOSED GRAND LODGE FOR THE REGION

Formed from a union of The District Grand Lodge of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean (English Const.) and the District Grand Lodge of Barbados (Scottish Const.)

[THE ENGLISH PERSPECTIVE]

GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND NUMBER OF LODGES

For the sake of this exercise let us assume that the Lodges on Dominica and St Kitts decide to be a part of the new Grand Lodge. Together with our Scottish Brethren we will be dealing with eleven countries and 27 Lodges.

ISLAND	NUMBER OF LODGES	
St. Thomas	2	
Tortola	1	
Anguilla	2	
Antigua	2	
Montserrat	1	
St. Kitts	1	Scottish
Dominica	1	English (not in a District)
St. Lucia	1	
St. Vincent	1	
Grenada	3	2 English 1 Scottish
Barbados	12	6 English, 6 Scottish

Eleven Countries **Twenty seven Lodges**

DIVISION FOR GOVERNANCE PURPOSES ONLY

Northern Division ----- nine lodges

St.Thomas, Tortola, Anguilla, Antigua, Montserrat and St.Kitts.

Central Division----- six lodges

Dominica, St Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada

Eastern Division ----- twelve lodges

Barbados.

It should be noted here that the word Division is used instead of District at this time so as not to confuse the reader or listener. Further in this paper the issue of Management will be raised and Districts will be discussed, these are not to be confused with District Grand Lodges but be construed as divisions for the sole purpose of governance. For those of us who are concerned with rising air fares, it is interesting to note that the formation of a Grand Lodge will reduce travel for most Brethren. With the Grand Lodge split up into Divisions (Districts) each Division can hold its own Communication headed by its Grand Inspector (District Deputy Grand Master). These communications will be visited by the Grand Master or his Representative. Almost none of us attend UGLE, (primarily due to cost), the same can be applied here. Of course for those who wish to visit their Grand Lodge, there is a vast difference in the cost of a ticket to Barbados as opposed to the UK.

CONSTITUTION

Various factors must be investigated in proposing a constitution. A constitution is the basic document of the organization. It addresses the structure of the organization and the relationship between the various parts. The committee has reviewed the general outline of what is contained in the Book of Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, to reach a determination on the way forward in developing our own Grand Lodge Constitutions.

COAT OF ARMS A coat of arms has been established for each of the Grand Lodges that we have reviewed, and it is recommended that one needs to be designed and approved for the Grand Lodge of the Eastern Caribbean.

SUMMARY OF THE ANCIENT CHARGES AND REGULATIONS These are the charges read by the Secretary to the Master Elect prior to his Installation and we believe that they should be maintained as part of the new constitutions.

AIMS AND RELATIONSHIPS OF THE CRAFT This statement issued by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland in August 1938 and accepted by UGLE on 7th September 1949. It is the view of the committee that they should continue to be a part of the constitutions.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR GRAND LODGE RECOGNITION This is the basis of a questionnaire which will be submitted to each Jurisdiction requesting English recognition, and the committee believes that it should be adopted and maintained as part of the constitutions.

GENERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CRAFT The name of the new Grand Lodge will need to be used in all of the accepted rules adopted by us. The committee believes that declaration and pronouncement concerning Pure Ancient Masonry made by the two Grand Lodges of Free-Masons of England in December 1813 should remain as part of the constitutions. And as English Free-Masons this is already acceptable to us.

THE GRAND LODGE It must be determined how best the Grand Lodge's area of responsibility can be administered with the distances and different countries involved, and the modest numbers of masons and resources available for the administration of a Grand Lodge.

GENERAL COUNCIL These rules will need to be reworded to indicate and reflect the actual Grand Lodge Officers agreed upon by the new Grand Lodge

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES These rules will need to be reworded to indicate and reflect the actual Grand Lodge Officers agreed upon by the new Grand Lodge. The times set out for the meetings will also need to reflect those approved by the new Grand Lodge.

CHARGES OF A FREE-MASON The committee recommends that the Ancient Charges "extracted from the ancient records of lodges beyond sea and of those in England, Scotland and Ireland", be maintained as part of the constitutions of the new Grand Lodge.

GRAND CHARITY The committee agrees that a Grand Charity be established with the new Grand Lodge, and also recommends that the present Providential Fund be incorporated under this banner for better support and functioning of the Masonic insurance plan.

INDEX The committee agrees that the use of an index will facilitate all users of the new Constitutions.

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY & CHAIN OF COMMAND

POWERS The Grand Lodge has and shall exercise the power to:

1. - Constitute new Lodges by granting Charters under Seal, and for good cause to suspend, revoke or annul the same at pleasure.
2. - Establish and preserve a uniform mode of Work and Lectures within the Landmarks and Customs of Freemasonry.
3. - Hear and decide all charges and complaints against any Officer of the Grand Lodge or the Master of a Constituent Lodge, and to inflict such punishment on the guilty as may appear just and proper.
4. - Hear and decide all appeals from Lodges, or questions of dispute between two or more Lodges.
5. - Enact and enforce such laws and regulations from time to time as may be necessary for the government of the Fraternity, and amend or repeal the same, and exercise all such powers as belonging to it by custom or by Ancient Constitutions, and decisions upon all Masonic questions shall be the supreme law for the government of Masons under its jurisdiction.

For guidance concerning the Management Authority and Chain of Command of a fledgling Grand Lodge, **Rules 1 to 59** of the Book of Constitutions of UGLE are most instructive and essential, but for the most part, **Rules 4 to 35** cover the crux of the matter. The regulations quoted or referred to

below are for guidance only, bearing in mind that the new sovereign Grand Lodge will write and frame a Book of Constitutions as previously noted.

Rule 4 clearly sets out the supreme authority of a Grand Lodge to regulate its affairs as it seems fitted for its specific needs. In particular, it states and I quote "The Grand Lodge possesses the supreme authority and alone has the inherent power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing and abrogating them, always taking care that the antient Landmarks are preserved."

Rule 18 indicates the authority of the Grand Master to appoint his officers in whom the management authority will be delegated and shared and also the Chain of Command to be followed.

It would be the responsibility of the Grand Master to select and appoint his executive Officers starting with the Deputy Grand Master (See Officers later in this presentation). Appointments to the Board of General Purposes, and the Board's authority and responsibilities are clearly set out under **Rules 223 to 238**. In a relatively small, Grand Lodge, there may not be a need for a Rulers' forum or General Council.

A Board of General Purposes with a President and Executive Officers in accordance with **Rules 223 and 224**, should more than suffice, in fact our present system could be expanded to a board of thirty three members, the President being annually appointed by the Grand Master. Eleven ex officio, the same as we have now plus the three District Deputy Grand Masters (More on them later). Nine members appointed by the Grand Master and fourteen elected, this would give a representation to the lodges of approximately one rep for every two lodges. The appointed nine would suggest the Grand Master will have a majority, we adhere to a watered down autocracy as opposed to an outright democracy where in our opinion too much time will be devoted to winning elections.

Basically, therefore, a new Grand Lodge will function similarly to our District but with much higher responsibilities. All appointments will be more elevated in importance. since Officers activities not previously covered under our District and handled by UGLE, such as appointment of Grand Officers, alterations or amendments to our Constitutions, Grand Lodge Fees and Dues, relations with and recognition of and by other Grand Lodges etc, will now come under the control of the new Grand Lodge. As a relatively small Grand Lodge, we shall have to prudently choose the officers listed under **Rule 18** for our Chain of Command, in accordance with our needs. The responsibilities currently handled by the District counterparts would assume wider scope and proportions under a Grand Lodge as indicated above. Consequently, there will be a greater necessity for an even more professional approach from those appointed to active Grand Officer status, in light of the increased responsibilities inherent in their new appointments.

Once the decision is made to commence the process to recognition, sub committees would need to be established to examine in more detail the various aspects of formation. A Grand Lodge based on the English Constitution will have the benefit of its members' experience in the traditions, customs, constitutions and regulations of the largest and most prestigious Grand Lodge in the world. It will be easier to establish, organise and make decisions under the singular system we are all accustomed to. However, as it is our desire to merge with our Scottish brethren, the issues will be of a more complex nature as we shall now be dealing with two systems of freemasonry, which are not always complimentary and serious compromises will be necessary to achieve a combined and effective local Grand Lodge.

RANKING SYSTEM & TENURES

The structure of a new Grand Lodge in the Caribbean should reflect the language and character of the Caribbean.

Although it has been mentioned that we do not want to extend the length of this Paper by quoting large sections of the various books of Constitutions, this section shows a clear example of the similarities and subtle differences between the English and Scottish systems and may be worth examining more closely.

"Basic Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition"

as published in the English and Scottish Constitutions:

English

Accepted by the Grand Lodge, September 4, 1929

The M. W. The Grand Master Mason having expressed a desire that the Board would draw up a statement of the Basic Principles on which this Grand Lodge could be invited to recognize any Grand Lodge applying for recognition by the English Jurisdiction, the Board of General Purposes has gladly complied. The result, as follows, has been approved by the Grand Master and it will form the basis of a questionnaire to be forwarded in future to each Jurisdiction requesting English recognition. The Board desires that not only such bodies but the Brethren generally throughout the Grand Master's Jurisdiction shall be fully informed as to those Basic Principles of Freemasonry for which the Grand Lodge of England has stood throughout history.

1. Regularity of origin; i.e. each Grand Lodge shall have been established Lawfully by a duly recognized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges.
2. That a belief in the G.A.O.T.U. and His revealed will, shall be an essential qualification for membership.
3. That all Initiates shall take their Obligations on or in full view of the open Volume of the Sacred Law, by which is meant the revelation from above which is binding on the conscience of the particular individual who is being initiated.
4. That the membership of the Grand Lodge and individual Lodges shall be composed exclusively of men; and that each Grand Lodge shall have no Masonic intercourse of any kind with mixed Lodges or bodies which admit women to membership.
5. That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign Jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control; i.e. that it shall be a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason) within its Jurisdiction; and shall not in anyway be subject to, or divide such authority with, a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.
6. That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry (namely the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses) shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or its subordinate Lodges are at work, the chief of these being the Volume of the Sacred Law.
7. That the discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited.

8. That the principles of the Antient Landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed.

Scottish

The Grand Lodge of Scotland will only consider the recognition of those Grand Lodges which profess and practice, and can show that their constituent Lodges and the members thereof have professed and practiced the basic principles of Freemasonry held from time immemorial and which have been accepted as such by regular Grand Lodges. These established and unaltered principles must be accepted and practiced wholeheartedly by those who desire to be recognized as regular Freemasons by The Grand Lodge of Scotland.

These principles are:-

1. That a belief in the Supreme Being shall be an essential qualification for membership.
2. That the Bible referred to by Freemasons as the Volume of the Sacred Law, shall always be opened in the Lodges and that every candidate shall be required to take his obligation on that Book, or on that Volume which is held by his particular creed to impart sanctity to an oath or promise taken upon it.
3. That the three Great Lights of Freemasonry (namely the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses) shall always be exhibited when the Grand Lodge or its subordinate Lodges are at work.
4. That the membership of the Grand Lodge and individual Lodges shall be composed exclusively of men; and that each Grand Lodge shall have no Masonic association of any kind with mixed Lodges or bodies which admit women to membership.
5. That the Grand Lodge shall have sovereign Jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control; that is that it shall be a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason) within its Jurisdiction; and shall not in anyway be subject to, or divide such authority with, a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over those degrees.
6. That every member shall be strictly forbidden to countenance any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society; that he shall pay due obedience to the law of any state in which he may reside or which may afford him protection; and that he must never be remiss in the allegiance due to the Sovereign or Constitutional Authority of his native land.
7. That (while reserving the right of the individual to hold his own opinion on public affairs) neither in Lodge, nor at any time in his capacity as a Freemason, shall a member be permitted to discuss or to advance his views on theological or political questions.
8. That the principles of the Antient Landmarks, established customs and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed in all Lodges.

As noted, a review of the above shows that while there is some variation in the wording the basic principles are essentially the same. Therefore with some modification a suitable draft model can be arrived at.

Grand Lodge Offices English and Scottish Constitutions

English

Grand Master
Pro Grand Master (*subject to rule 16*)
Deputy Grand Master
Asst. Grand Master or Masters
Senior Grand Warden
Junior Grand Warden
Grand Chaplain
President B of G P
Grand Registrar
President of the Grand Charity
President of the Masonic Trust for Girls
and Boys
President of the Royal Masonic Benevolent
Institution
President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund
Grand DC
Grand Sword Bearer
Grand Superintendent of Works
Grand Treasurer
Deputy Grand Chaplain
Deputy President B of G P
Deputy Grand Registrar
Deputy Grand DC
Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
Four Senior Grand Deacons
Four Junior Grand Deacons
Two Asst, Grand Chaplains
Two Asst. Grand Registrars
Eight Asst. Grand DCs
Two Asst. Grand Sword Bearers
Two Asst. Grand Superintendent of Works
Two Grand Standard Bearers
Four Asst. Grand Standard Bearers
Deputy Grand Organist
Grand Pursuivant
Three Asst. Grand Pursuivants
Nineteen Grand Stewards

Scottish

Grand Master
Immediate Past Grand Master
Depute Grand Master
Substitute Grand Master
Senior Grand Warden
Junior Grand Warden
Grand Secretary
Grand Treasurer
Grand Almoner
Grand DC
Senior Grand Chaplain
Junior Grand Chaplain
Senior Grand Deacon
Junior Grand Deacon
Grand Librarian
Grand Architect
Grand Jeweler
Grand Bible Bearer
Grand Bard
Grand Sword Bearer
Grand Director of Music
Asst. Grand Secretary
Asst. Grand Treasurer
Asst. Grand DC
Grand Organist
Grand Piper
Grand Marshall
Senior Grand Standard Bearer
Junior Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Inner Guard
President of Grand Stewards
Grand Tyler

Referring to the English and Scottish Grand Lodge Offices shown above, the List below should embody much of what is held dear by both English and Scottish masons. It is simply a draft now which would be further developed.

- Grand Master
- Deputy Grand Master

- District Deputy Grand Masters (3)
- Asst. Grand Master or Masters
- Senior Grand Warden
- Junior Grand Warden
- Grand Chaplain
- President B of G P
- Grand Registrar/Secretary
- Grand Almoner
- Grand Charity Steward
- Grand DC
- Grand Sword Bearer
- Grand Superintendent of Works
- Grand Treasurer
- Deputy Grand Chaplain
- Deputy President B of G P
- Deputy Grand Registrar/Secretary
- Deputy Grand DC
- Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
- Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
- Senior Grand Deacons
- Junior Grand Deacons
- Grand Librarian
- Grand Director of Music
- Asst. Grand Registrars
- Asst. Grand Secretary
- Asst. Grand DCs
- Asst. Grand Sword Bearers
- Asst. Grand Superintendent of Works
- Grand Organist
- Two Grand Standard Bearers
- Four Asst. Grand Standard Bearers
- Deputy Grand Organist
- Grand Inner Guard
- Asst. Grand Inner Guard
- Grand Stewards

The following are reasons used to help arrive at the new list:

Pro Grand Master removed (**Rule 16** explains why).

Is there a need for a Grand Registrar and Grand Secretary? A President of the Grand Charity, a President of the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. The President of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund could all be replaced by a Grand Almoner or Grand Charity Steward.

A Grand Librarian will be essential for recording and storing the history of the various Lodges.

A Grand Director of Music, for the development of music in keeping with the spirit of the Caribbean.

FINANCE, DUES & FEES

The Financing of a Grand Lodge has two major components which can be referred to as Capital and Operational.

Capital relates to physical structures and equipment as well as the investments required to adopt and print a Constitution , Rituals and the Design and Manufacture of Regalia which includes Collars, Jewels, Aprons, Banners, Seals, Furnishings etc.

The Operational Cost relate to the running of the Grand Lodge on an annual basis, and this is dependent on the goals and assumptions for the period under consideration.

In our present situation the cost per member in Subscriptions to Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge on an annual basis stands at approximately BDS \$ 37.

Based on a membership base of 1,200 members and using the annual Subscription fee of the UGLE for 2008 which translates to approximately BDS \$ 138, as a starting point in the consideration of the level of dues which may be charged, and our membership base of 1,200 members, a projection can be made for the operation of a Grand Lodge on an annual basis, assuming that there are no significant changes to our current status. Based on the membership of 1,200 and dues of BDS \$ 138, there would be a projected surplus of BDS \$ 31,500 as follows:

Revenue	BDS \$
Membership Subscriptions	165,600
Expenses	
Salaries - Asst Grand Sec plus Assistant	50,000
Rent - Office Space plus Electricity	15,000
Insurance - Equipment and Public Liability	5,000
Office Expenses - Printing, Stationery and Postage	15,000
Telephone	12,000
Travel - Grand Master and Officers	23,000
Publications	10,000
Bank Charges and Exchange	1,600
Equipment Maintenance	2,500
	<hr/>
	134,100
	<hr/>
Surplus	31,500
	<hr/>

Any surplus generated can then be reinvested into expenditure of a Capital nature and to other activities of the Grand Lodge such as Training and Development as well as contributions to Charity and the Benevolent fund.

Based on the above assumptions there would be an increase in annual Member Dues of BDS \$ 101. Using the base cost of BDS \$ 134,100, a break even situation would require an increase in Current Annual Membership Dues of approximately BDS \$ 75.

With regard to the Capital component of the Establishment of the Grand Lodge, once the Form of the Grand Lodge has been agreed, the cost once determined can be funded through hopefully a special levy on the Brethren as well as through Voluntary Contributions.

This presentation has not taken into consideration our Scottish Brethren and the impact that their Numbers will have on the Establishment of a Grand Lodge.

PROCEDURES AND PAPERWORK

Thus far we have not discussed where the new Grand Lodge will be physically situated. It would seem obvious that the new Complex at Salters in Barbados is a more than a splendid site. Add to that the fact that twelve of the twenty seven lodges that are hoped will make up the Grand Lodge are situated in Barbados. The realistic approach therefore (and certainly for this paper) is one Grand Lodge with its Secretariat housed at the Masonic Center at Salters in Barbados.

As mentioned earlier the new Grand Lodge will be split into three sections –Districts. Each District will be under the Control of a District Deputy Grand Master. Please do not confuse this office with that of a Deputy District Grand Master, as the latter no longer exists.

Grand Inspectors (District Deputy Grand Masters) therefore will be required to bridge the gap between Lodge and Grand Lodge. Their duty will not only involve the timely and precise flow of annual paperwork to the Grand Lodge, but also to visit the lodges under their care on a regular basis ensuring that meetings, ritual and procedure laid down by the Grand Lodge are strictly adhered to.

Suggestions for a Secretariat

- Grand Secretary ---- Duration in office five years appointed by the Grand Master, no fixed salary, expenses paid.
- An Assistant Grand Secretary ---- Duration in office full time paid salary.
- Three Grand Inspectors (District Deputy Grand Masters) ----- Duration in office three years no fixed salary, expenses paid, elected by the lodges under their supervision.
- One full time salaried clerk/receptionist not necessarily a mason and could be of the opposite sex.
- One part time salaried clerk same as above.
- Maintenance team for the Facility.

The Grand Master in consultation with the Board of General Purposes shall have the power to set up any number of Committees they deem necessary for the good of the Grand Lodge. The following may be considered:

- A committee of Trustees
- Finance and budget committee
- Audit committee
- Committee of Benevolence and Disaster assistance
- Fund raising committee
- Legal affairs, Constitutions and By-laws
- Protocol and external masonic affairs
- Annual and Bi-annual Communications committee
- Grievance committee
- Disciplinary committee

Each committee to be chaired and vice-chaired by members of the Board who have specific input into the workings of the particular committee i.e. Legal affairs would obviously be chaired by the Grand Registrar and Protocol by the Grand or a Past Grand Master. Committees should be kept small in number, between four and six brethren with the exception of the Fund Raising Committee. The number of meetings per annum should be flexible and be called according to circumstances, save for the fact that each committee must meet at least once per annum. All committees will report to the Board and are expected to present written reports to the Board on an annual basis.

The Grand Master in consultation with the President of the Board shall have the power to veto any Committee decision.

We see no reason not to continue the present system of two Communications annually, save that one will always be held in the Grand Lodge facility in Barbados with the second being held in rotation amongst the various islands that make up the Grand Lodge.

At present paper work has three levels: the Lodge, the District and the United Grand Lodge of England. We believe that this is a true and well tested system.

At the lodge level, very little will change, except that now there is no District and therefore communication will be directly with the Grand Lodge. It would be unrealistic to expect a Grand Secretary to physically control and inspect the books of the twenty seven lodges in his Grand Lodge. As well as that, the Grand Lodge Secretariat would be swamped trying to cope with the day to day issues of the individual lodges. Further more the Grand Master cannot be expected to visit each lodge annually, nor can the Grand Secretary for that matter.

Each lodge will be expected to submit their annual paperwork to their District Deputy Grand Master. Once he has found it to be in order he will forward same to the Grand Lodge. There is no reason in our view to change the now existing paper trail. All billing will be done by the Grand Lodge. With the proper use of today's computerized technology, control, inspection and the regular dissemination of information and documents should not be a problem.

On the Grand Lodge level, again we should follow the systems for record keeping now in place at United Grand Lodge. With twenty seven lodges to look after and paperwork being screened prior to submission to the Grand Lodge, the task for the Assistant Grand Secretary should not be onerous. Our District Secretariat at present supervises eighteen Lodges, under this system a District Deputy Grand Master who is expected basically to perform the duties of a District Grand Secretary as far as paperwork is concerned will only have to manage twelve at the most. Should the Grand Lodge grow as we expect it will, changes will have to be made to suit the situation.

Now we must examine our relations with the wider Masonic world and here is where the duties of the Grand Secretary come into play. Earlier we mentioned that the Grand Secretary be appointed by the Grand Master. In some Grand Lodges the Grand Secretary is elected. We believe however that there must be a rapport between the Grand Master and his Grand Secretary, mutual trust and common views as to how the Grand Lodge should function. This can only truly be achieved by the Grand Master being allowed to hand pick his man. He must be able to carry out the wishes and views of his Grand Master, both knowing that the other has his complete confidence.

Finally we arrive at that most interesting of all masonic studies:

REGALIA & RITUAL

RITUAL

Dear to every Masons heart, this is going to be a very delicate issue to arrive at consensus on. Certainly a subject far too complexed to be presented here.

It is suggested that senior brethren from both the English and Scottish District Grand Lodges form a “Study Group” to investigate and determine the way forward on this very important subject.

REGALIA

*SOME WEAR GREEN AND SOME WEAR BLUE
WHAT ON EARTH ARE WE GOING TO DO?*

Again like the Ritual, this is a delicate issue. When an artist mixes green with blue, a not so pleasant brown is usually the result. So, that idea is out along with the one that suggested green and blue stripes !!

Our Prince Hall Brethren have already taken that rather gorgeous mauve, so again we are seemingly out of luck.

However, one has only to look at the colour charts of some of the worlds best paint manufacturers to realize that today, our choices are almost limitless. A handful of colours could be chosen and the brethren asked to vote on choosing one.

Design can be based on existing regalia.

Now to the crux of the issue – COST

At present a Full Dress English set can be purchased in the UK for GB £400.00. This is not from TKS, however the difference in quality is indistinguishable.

At present in our District, with the exception of the acting Stewards all officers purchase their own Regalia, does that have to change?

Should it be decided that Acting Officers Regalia be owned by the Grand Lodge then GB £400.00 X 45 (for the sake of this paper) = GB £18,000.00. Approximately US\$ 36,000.00

This does not include freight and duty, nor does our regalia have to come from the UK. We may want to explore the US, Canada, India and China.

For this exercise the Grand Master's and Deputy Grand Master's regalia has been left out of the equation. For the single honour of being the "First"! we are certain that these worthy brethren will be delighted to buy their own.

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