



LODGE NIEDERRHEIN
NO. 892 GC

Addendum Dec 2006 to June 2009 LODGE NIEDERRHEIN NO892 GC

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July 2009

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Foreword

You all have copies of the History as at December 2004 to mark our first 40 years. It was updated with an addendum to cover the period to December 2006.

Please now find a further missive taking us up to June 2009 including the installation of our new Master, Worshipful Brother Martin. We will I am sure carry on with the standards set by our Founders and early Past Masters.

In October we will be honoured by a lecture from Julian R one of the most eminent Freemasons of our age and we are delighted that he has accepted the invitation- his idea- to talk to our wonderful cosmopolitan lodge. All goes to show that the lodge is going well.

The last few sheets show, the PM list and current membership details. And page 13, those who have departed to the Eternal East. *****

Fraternal regards to you all.

David S
Junior Grand Warden
The Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany
Within The United Grand Lodges of Germany
Past Master Lodge Niederrhein 1990/91 and 2004/2005

***** These pages have been removed from the web site copy and family names throughout the text have also been removed.

December 5 2006 to December 6 2009

During this period 4 gentlemen have been initiated, 17 have joined us and 4 Brothers became Hon. members. We also welcomed back two brethren who have re-joined us.

Sadly we have lost 3 brethren to the Eternal East and 6 have resigned.

Current membership details are as under

	Residents	Country	Total
Hon.	1	4	5
Initiates	24	26	50
Joiners	11	25	36
Dual membership	6	2	8
Total	42	57	99

During the last 2 and half years there have been many outstanding events. To detail them all would take up too much time and paper but some of them are listed for your general information.

December 6, 2006 to June 2007.

It all started with a bit of worry. At 0900 on the 5th February, we all thought that there would be an initiation in the evening. However at 0930 some of us knew that the candidate had at the last moment withdrawn.

Emergency phone calls were carried out and the wonderful flexibility of Lodge Niederrhein came into its own. Yes it was agreed to pass Alejandro.

With Jim acting as Master and with brethren hailing from no less than 8 countries our excellent new Fellow of Craft was duly passed to the second degree.

In March we carried out a further passing and this time Tassos joined Alejandro as a Fellow of Craft. Both these brethren have proved to be fine students.

Several brethren attended the 50 years installation meeting of New Absalom on the 10th March- showing support for our Sister Lodge.

In April, Graham B, the Doncaster Golf Club professional became a country member and at an excellent meeting we passed Ulrich W a brother who from the start had shown great aptitude with his ritual. At the meeting the Golf professional at Velbert, Andrew T- O was balloted for as a new member and indeed was duly brought in as an Initiate in May. Two professional golfers being members in the same lodge reminds me of a joke. What is the difference between praying in Church and praying on a golf course? The GATOU knows the golfer means it.

We did our share of visiting we had great social events thanks to our Junior Warden Martin and gave good support to Grand Lodge where we had the largest number of brethren in attendance of all the 16 Constituent lodges.

In May 2007 we had the sad news about the loss of Mike B PSGD to the Eternal East. This wonderful man and brother was Master 1991/92 and was a kind man who it was always to be a pleasure with. He battled hard against his health problems and our thoughts went to Jennifer who had kept us in the picture as his health deteriorated.

We finished a difficult year one without a Reigning Master but thanks must be passed to Cedric and all the other Past Masters for their work.

June 2007 to May 24th 2008

The Installation of Peter J as Master was a delightful day. We were honoured with the presence of the Grand Master accompanied by other Grand Lodge Officers and other distinguished visitors including GL officers from Canada and the United Kingdom. In addition we invested David Rs and David Sp as honorary members and Jim Cl as a non resident joining brother. All in all it was an impressive ceremony and very well attended by our members and visitors. The Holiday Inn again proved to be an enjoyable venue.

In September we paid our respects to Worshipful Brother Allen D PJGD, PM who had departed for the Eternal East. He was a fine brother and friend to us all. His work for Niederrhein will always be remembered.

The September meeting gave us the opportunity to Raise Alejandro to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason. We again had the good fortune to make use of the Paul Moor School for a BBQ.

October was also a Third degree and this time Ulrich W was raised. Both Alejandro and Ulrich had worked hard and made every effort to understand that they have started a journey to find the light which should prove to be of immense value to themselves and indeed the Craft. The intensity that both these brethren take in the ritual is inspirational to all of us.

In November the WM, passed Chandra which was followed by a superb festive board. The brethren gave full support to the WM at the Half Annual Communication of Grand Lodge and visiting Sister and other Lodges both here and Overseas.

December was a busy month with a lovely Christmas Dinner at the Holiday Inn and the Raising of Tassos to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Tassos has certainly done his share of visiting since becoming a MM- Greece, UK and Germany.

He is a good student of the Craft who has appreciated at an early stage the value of learning about the wonderful science.

A sad note was the departure to the Eternal East of M W Brother Bill H-S PGM an honorary member of the lodge.

We also in December welcomed V W Brother Ian H PSGW as a Dual Joining member. This immensely experienced Brother is very welcome. He is of course the First Grand Principal of the Grand Chapter of British Royal Arch Masons in Germany, the Apex of Freemasonry and to which all Master Masons should consider to be their next step.

In February, Andy T-O was passed to the second degree where he showed his fortitude and potential in an impressive ceremony.

April was a Past Masters Night and travelling over from England, Richard E took the chair. The ritual was professional as one would expect from Richard. He of course was hugely motivated as the candidate was Chris N who he had proposed into the Lodge. We also enjoyed a pleasant Ladies night where considerable income was made for the WM Charity.

May 5th 2008. Well at an enjoyable Raising in May, Glyn, who was standing in as Master conducted an excellent ceremony and it was a most harmonious evening. The candidate was Andy T- O who is now immaculate in his grandfather's Master Masons apron and father's cuff links. This young Mason has already shown great potential in ritual and industry within the lodge. It has been a great couple of years for him- entry into the craft and becoming a new father. Not sure about his golf!

We balloted favourably for two very experienced new Joining members- Peter B PJGD (EC) who is the Liaison Officer for the Province of Yorkshire West Riding and Celestino M the Master of Heredom Lodge in Sardinia. We were additionally pleased to appoint two new honorary non resident members- David L PPAGDC West Lancashire and Ken A the Master of the newly formed amalgamated lodge in Manchester- Phoenix Lodge.

May 24th 2008 to June 6th 2009

The Installation of Ronaldo at the Holiday Inn, Ratingen on May 24th, 2008 was a simply marvellous day and in the words of many guests and visitors a really special event- One eminent brother, Very Worshipful Brother Ralph CPSGW said it was the finest Installation ceremony he had ever attended. Ralph who has in over 50 years as a Mason been a member in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Germany might well have been right.

Our Grand Master supported by 23 officers Past and Present and a plethora of Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers and reigning Masters from England, Germany and Italy were in the Lodge along with delegations from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Sussex, Kent, Sardinia, Berlin and yes even Köln (considering this is a Düsseldorf lodge!) it is presumed they made the short trip to indulge in the Alt beer of Düsseldorf.

There were many claims as to which county was the garden of England. Clearly on that Saturday Niederrhein was the garden and toast of Germany.

The Installing Master and his team performed their duties with dignity and energy. If we however were purely to look at the word energy one needs only to turn to Glyn, the outstanding DC who carried out his burden from early morning right up to delivering the most wonderful rendition of the Master's song it has ever been the privilege for many of us to have heard. Here he was supported by Brother Matthias

who showed yet again his professional musical talent with the piano. It was appropriate that the Grand Master took the opportunity to invest Worshipful Brother Glyn as his Senior Grand Deacon.

There was a further highlight that day- the Grand Master awarded the Order of Service to Masonry to Very Worshipful Brother Paul M PSGW in recognition of his long and continuous dedicated propagation of the interests and reputation of masonry and its charitable and benevolence work in general and his Grand Lodge and Lodge Niederrhein duties in particular including his attention to the Ritual and his endeavours to build a general temple to morality.

At the Festive Board the new Worshipful Master thanked his sponsors and the brethren and we had a fine harmonious finish to an excellent day- musical treats from world class pipers and speeches outstanding from our visitors.

During the year with Worshipful Brother Ronaldo as Master there were many highlights. He supported Grand Lodge and was a prominent and regular visitor to other lodges both in UK and Germany. We brought in several Joining members- September saw Mike Bon, Mike Bun becoming non resident members and Russell B from Doric as a Dual member. We had a superb BBQ at the school in September and Richie T was initiated in October- where Worshipful Brother Wolfram carried out the ritual in an extremely competent manner.

Chris N was passed to the second degree in November. In November the writer was appointed Junior Grand Warden and this appointment is a direct result of the strength and industry of Lodge Niederrhein. In December we brought in three more joining non residents- Jim H, Eddie W and John R. Chandra was raised to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason.

In the New Year Andy T-O was raised in March and we welcomed three new non resident members from Doncaster- Ian Sm, Geoff E and Les F.

April came and Nigel Pr became our newest Initiate. It was a fine meeting with his step-father present. We also welcomed back as a re-joining member Günter U.

May 4th 2009 was our Past Masters night with Glyn taking the Chair and Richie T being raised to the sublime degree prior to his posing back to UK. We are sure we will see him back and that he will progress in UK. We were also delighted to welcome back as a re-joining member Andy G who was Master in 1972/73.

We are confident that his ritual qualities will soon be evident once again. Two new Joining members from the Doncaster area were welcomed- Colin F and Nick C- we now have 10 non resident members living in this part of England. Thank you Derek. Sadly this was to be Peter G's last meeting for some time. He hopes to re-join in the near future. His outstanding musical interludes and cheerfulness will be sorely missed.

The BBQ on May 24th was a great success and we managed to make over EUR 500 for the WM charity. Indeed credit should be given to the Junior Warden, Dietmar for his efforts throughout the year both with festive boards, as grill master at the BBQs and the various socials including the highlight an excellent ladies night.

The WM was supported by 18 of us at the Grand Lodge Installation of our new Grand Master M W Brother John B G BEM (Barrie)--an outstanding week-end including a Gala evening enjoyed by many.

Lodge Niederrhein Installation week-end 5-7 June, 2009

A hectic but outstanding week-end commenced the raising on the Friday June 5 at the Logenhaus of Chris N by our non resident members. Richard E was Master, ably

supported by a team from Doncaster, Peter B, Ian S, Graham B, Colin F, Derek L, Geoff E, and Les F plus Ian G from Salisbury and Jim C from Sussex. All performed brilliantly and Richard who was tremendous was able to perform the ritual for Chris who he had proposed into the Lodge. 40 brethren attended the meeting. Brother Nikan A from Washington USA became a non resident member.

The next day was the Installation. Here all concerned should be proud of what turned out to be a marvellous day. There were 94 brethren at the meeting, and 74 sat down for the festive board. Similar to the previous year we were honoured by the presence of 16 Active Officers of Grand Lodge led by our new Grand Master. Again there were large contingents of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers from other Constitutions, altogether there were 36 visitors. We enjoyed an excellent meeting followed by a rather good festive board. Substantial money was earned for the WM Charity- the Paul Moor School and there were charismatic speeches and amusing responses from our visitors- Stuart G and Arthur L from Doncaster.

Our new Worshipful Master, Martin made a first class initial speech where he stated that this was his happiest and greatest achievement to reach the chair of Lodge Niederrhein and said it was more gratifying to him than any of his academic and professional achievements- brethren they are many- He informed us that Lodge Niederrhein was now the largest Lodge in Nord Rhein.

Both the GM and his deputy expressed their appreciation of the Installation and thanked Niederrhein for its strength, support and loyalty to the United Grand Lodges of Germany and the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany.

A theme highlighted by several speakers including the WM, IPM, Senior Warden, Visitors and the writer was the international cosmopolitan aspect of Niederrhein.

Twelve brethren from twelve nations carried out the beautiful Emulation Ritual at the Installation in the English language.

Sadly Worshipful Brother Frank A one of the early Past Masters was unable to come over from UK this year due to ill health and our thoughts were with him.

Anybody who writes –be it fiction or historical fact-- will include details which are not original and often the words came from other sources. Therefore the writer makes no excuses in this history as to plagiarise has been going on for thousands of years. The members of the lodge like all brethren are on a journey to find the light. We hope that we are able where possible to be a guide. Our ritual needs the vivid energy displayed by our Founders- once found the language of the ritual needs loving care. It will take us where we need to go and the lodge will continue to prosper.

“Don’t blame the man who drops the ball -blame the man who is not there to cover for him” (WJ M 1974)

Yes brethren Lodge Niederrhein is a team- don’t blame the brother who makes a mistake, blame one of us who is not there to cover for him”.

Enjoy the journey.