



LODGE NIEDERRHEIN

NO. 892 GC

1964-2004

THE FOUNDERS

Many of our Founder members have served the Craft with distinction. Too many have gone ahead of us to the Eternal East.

LODGE NIEDERRHEIN NO892 GC 1964-2004

Noble act and love of friend
None the less declare anew
Loyalty, eternal, true
Lodge without an end.

Johann Wolfgang G

Foreword

I am very privileged to have been elected by the Brethren to serve as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the year in which the Lodge celebrates its fortieth Anniversary. In September 1989 I had the great honour of being accepted as a Joining Member shortly before our 25 year celebration and in 1990 I was elected Worshipful Master for the first time. These three events along with my Initiation into the Craft, back in 1976 (Shamrock Lodge No 712 Irish Constitution Hong Kong) are among the highlights of my progress through Craft Freemasonry.

My sincere thanks go to all Brethren past and present including those who have gone ahead of us into the Eternal East I recognize your achievements and salute you all. In particular, I would pay tribute to M.W. Brother Albert S *Past Grand Master who was Master of Lodge Niederrhein when I joined and helped me so much in learning about the Craft and, the late W .Brother Walter W who as the indefatigable Secretary for over 22 years showed us all the value of Freemasonry and some of whose original data has been used in this booklet. Walter was a hard act to follow but both V.W. Brother Mike C (Secretary 1994-2000) and our current Secretary, W. Brother Brad have both carried out this vital task with commitment, dedication and excellence.

There are so many other wonderful Brethren who have been there for advice when I needed it including V.W. Brother Paul M, W. Brother Allen D*, and W. Brother Jim H. I would also like to show my appreciation to all members of my current team 2004/5 and all other Past Masters and Brethren of our beloved Lodge Niederrhein

David
Master
2004/5 the Founders page has b

- See Addendum
- NB for the web site all family names and the Founders page has been removed.

LODGE NIEDERRHEIN NO 892

5th December 1964 – 4th December 2004

In 1964 three determined and experienced British Freemasons arranged meetings to practice the Craft they had learned under the English and Scottish Constitutions. They started a Masonic Circle in Düsseldorf for English speaking Freemasons in the area. In 1957 Lodge New Absalom had been established in the Logenhaus but had subsequently moved to Mönchengladbach. These three Brothers Cyril D John O and Stanley C were joined by others and met in the hall of Christ Church in Düsseldorf to practice. At a Lodge of Instruction meeting on 23rd June 1964 Bro. Stanley C proposed that a Lodge should be formed and that W. Brother. Bill K be elected its first Master. On the 14th July 1964 the Masonic Circle had 22 members including Bro. Albert S and the Brethren petitioned for a Charter from the United Grand Lodges of Germany. This was signed by the Founder Master Senior Warden and Junior Warden Elect namely, W. Brother .Bill K Brother Stan C and Brother Cyril D in the presence of 18 Brethren on the 11th August 1964.

The Lodge was opened on the 5th December 1964 in the Logenhaus Umlandstr, 42 Düsseldorf. New Absalom Lodge No.841 GC with W. Brother. Leo M presiding and in the presence of 32 Founder Members and 36 visiting Brethren from 15 Lodges the Provincial Grand Master of the Province of British Freemasons in Germany, RW Bro. John R assisted by his Deputy VW Bro. Len W-P along with other distinguished Brethren took up appointments as the Installing Board.

Lodge Niederrhein was then Consecrated within the Provincial Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany ,as Lodge No. 892 on the register of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, Brotherhood of Freemasons The late. V.W. Brother. Len W-P OBE installed W Brother Bill K as Founder Master, who in turn appointed and invested his Officers. An interesting personal note for me being that V.W. Bro. Len was an early mentor of mine in my chosen career and at that time I had no knowledge of the Craft yet alone that this man was so distinguished in it. I had the pleasure to sit in Lodge with him in London in 1983 and although he was 74 he carried out most of the ritual and with flair and accuracy. What a man and what a Brother and of-course later to become the Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

We are grateful for the assistance of our sponsors and acknowledge the gifts they gave to the Lodge –New Absalom, Rose and Akazie, Sojourners Lodge of Washington DC and the American Canadian Grand Lodge. We salute and thank them most sincerely and fraternally.

On the 3rd April 1965 Lodge Niederrhein held an Installation Meeting and installed W. Brother Stan C as Master. Following on from this date the Lodge has regularly installed its Masters on the first Saturday in the month of June each year.

During the last 40 years the Lodge has held 364 regular and over 50 Emergency Meetings. At these meetings 177 gentlemen have been initiated into Freemasonry and 174 Brethren have joined the Lodge. There are currently 86 resident, country and honorary members. Sadly many brethren have departed to the Eternal East and others have left the Lodge for various reasons including leaving Germany and not wishing to become or remain a country member. Lodge Niederrhein is proud of the cosmopolitan aspect of the Lodge. Many nationalities, many occupations, several religions all united in Freemasonry. The Lodge is of-course in need of new Brethren as the average age of existing members is going up but as long as we bring in the

right people we should continue to flourish. Large numbers are not always beneficial it is incumbent on us all to attract good men and true who strictly respect the moral law. Having stated this it goes without saying that Freemasonry mirrors society and perhaps the changes in values of the modern age mean we have to make even greater efforts to look after Brethren new to the Craft and ensure that their interest is retained. The younger Brethren are our future and it is very pleasing to see the progress of Brethren brought into the Lodge during the last five years.

The following table is of note

	Joining Members	Initiates	Total
Founders	46	46	46
1964-1989	103	129	232
1989-2004	25	48	73
Total	174	177	351
Losses	143	122	265

Current membership details are as under

	Residents	Country	Total
Founder/Hon.	2	1	3
Initiates	24	31	55
Joiners	8	13	21
Dual membership	5	2	7
Total	39	47	86

To interpret the figures properly, one should appreciate that the resident members live in various areas of 'Niederrhein', that is to say Wuppertal, Mönchengladbach, Köln, Viersen, Niederkrüchten, Krefeld etc as well as Düsseldorf and that sometimes travelling is difficult; in-fact we have a Brother who travels from Fallingbostal and another from Bielefeld. Attendance is not always as high as one would wish for at Lodges of Instruction but at the actual regular meetings most of the residents plus some visitors attend.

During the 40 years there have been as can be expected 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.

Saturday 2nd November, 1968 Lodge Niederrhein hosted the Provincial Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany on the occasion of its Half Annual Communication.

Saturday 6th November, 1971 the Lodge hosted the then re-named Land Grand Lodge at its Half Annual Communication.

In the 1970s and 80s we were immensely lucky to have among others such brethren as Paul M PSGW, Frank A PAGDC, Allen D PJGD, Keith H PGStdB, Andy G PGSwd and Tom O PG Chap as Masters.

On the 5th March, 1979 the Lodge held an Initiation ceremony and at the same time gave a detailed explanation of the procedure and ritual as practiced by us in the German language.

In May 1980, The Lodge was delighted that M. W. Brother Albert Award of Honour Pkm, OSM was installed as Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany. M. W. Brother Albert is a Founder Member of Lodge Niederrhein and was Master of the Lodge 1968/69 and during the 25th year 1989/ 90. He was Grand Master 1980-1983 Albert is now an Honorary Member but sadly he is suffering from bad health and is unable to attend the Lodge meetings at present.

On the 7th February, 1983 the Lodge held a second international working. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of the late M. W Brother Ernst W the then Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany. M.W Brother Ernst was later appointed Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany and indeed became an Honorary Member of Lodge Niederrhein in 1990. This Lodge has always been very particular in its choice of honorary members and over the 40 years only six Brethren have been appointed. Three have passed to the Eternal East, they will always be remembered. M.W. Brother Ernst was a good friend of Lodge Niederrhein. He was Master of Lodge Zur Bruderkette in Wuppertal and started the truly fraternal association between our two Lodges. Indeed the late W. Brother Tom O Pkm.G. Chaplain and Past Master was an honorary member at Wuppertal. W. Brother Tom was an outstanding man and wonderful Mason. Long may the association that these two fine brethren helped cement continue.

On the 4th February, 1985 the Lodge held a joint meeting with Lodge Rose and Akazie No. 518 also a Düsseldorf Lodge. The meeting was opened and closed in the German language and to the ritual and in Lodge furnishing according to the usage of the Freemasons Order, one of the Grand Lodges forming the United Grand Lodges of Germany by Lodge Rose and Akazie. Lodge Niederrhein initiated two candidates into Freemasonry according to the Emulation Ritual, in the English language and the Lodge furnished as is usual in English Lodges.

This close connection with Rose and Akazie has continued and in more recent years we have repeated such ceremonies notably during the year when W.Brother Brad was Master when on the 2nd December, 1998 the Lodge was opened again by Rose and Akazie and the ritual of a First degree carried out in English by Brad and his team from Niederrhein.

Our association with the German speaking Lodges continues to be sound and we have close connections in particular as stated with Lodge Zur Bruderkette Wuppertal as well as Rose and Akazie. Düsseldorf but we also enjoy a good relationship with Zu Den Drei Schwarzen Adlern Krefeld where W. Brother Brad is a member

Over the years we have secured connections with UK Lodges, in Gloucester, Scotland and Sussex and a party of Brethren will be going to Westbourne Lodge in Manchester in February, 2005 to visit Brother Dad's Lodge (W .Brother Glyn' Father) who of-course is W. Brother Trevor and is a country member .of Lodge Niederrhein. The Lodge members are very active when it comes to visiting. This is where one can learn how other Lodges and even Constitutions carry out the ritual. The odd nuance here and there can be considered and often migrates into your own Lodge. This year we have a major programme to visit other Lodges and the Brethren are responding

with enthusiasm. We are of-course in close contact with our three immediate English speaking neighbouring Lodges Star of Saxony and New Absalom Mönchengladbach and Bond of Friendship Bonn. Many Brethren over the years have been dual members .with these and other Lodges in Germany.

On the 2nd December 1989, the Lodge held a 25 year Celebration The Lodge opened in the morning with the 228th Regular Meeting and received the Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany R.W. Brother Rainer S (later to become Grand Master), and the Grand Master of the British Freemasons in Germany R.W. Brother William S. In the evening a Silver Jubilee Banquet and Ball was held at the Novotel Düsseldorf-Süd.

Our 273rd meeting and 30th birthday was held on the 5th December 1994 a quieter event. W. Brother Ralf B was Master and W. Brother Jim H the Junior Warden who arranged the Ladies Christmas Dinner at the Hotel Bellevue. Remember, Remember Maureen Hawkins' poster for the evening!

During 1999 extensive and costly renovations were made to the Logenhaus, in Düsseldorf, and we were kindly permitted to make use of the Masonic Rooms in Mönchengladbach Thank you Star of Saxony Lodge. "For these and all other blessings, let us with reverence express our gratitude."

In June 2001 W. Brother Glyn E installed his successor W. Brother Peter B as Master of the Lodge. Unfortunately during the summer months W. Brother Peter suffered a major illness and was unable to take up active office. Throughout the year the Past Masters rallied round and carried out the duties of Master most competently.

On the 7th October, 2002 during the year in office of W. Brother Wolfram the Lodge had the honour to receive the Deputy Grand Master of Israel, W. Brother Werner R at a meeting where we raised Brothers Jim L and Paul D to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

The Lodge has always been active socially and members try very hard to be a proper and happy Lodge. We have always tried to encourage the ladies, families and non Masonic friends to social events. The first Ladies Official Night was held on the 15th January, 1966 and we have gone from strength to strength; we hold two major social functions each year the Ladies Night and the Christmas Dinner. In addition the Junior Warden is tasked by the Master to hold various informal social functions. This year our Junior Warden, Brother Jim L is carrying out the tradition with skill and assiduity. A major part of our Ladies nights and social evenings is to raise money for charity. True to the principles of Masonry, the practice of Charity among the other virtues, Lodge Niederrhein has engaged itself and its Brethren since that very first meeting. The Lodge started a Master's Charity Fund where each year money is collected from members via donations or the proceeds of selling raffle prizes at for example Ladies nights. The Master decides on which charity he wishes to donate the proceeds to during his year of office and over the years Masters have chosen various worthy causes such as Grand Lodge Charities, Royal Masonic Hospital in London, German Masonic Institutions, Orphanages, Children's Homes ,The Disabled and other organisations both here in Germany and Overseas.

This year we have chosen again (following W. Brother Cedric's initiative last year) to split the proceeds between the Grand Master's Charity-Fund which is Katie's Ski Tracks in UK and the Paul Moor Schule in Mönchengladbach. These charities are both worthy causes the first being for severely handicapped and terminally ill children in the U K and the Paul Moor Schule is for Autistic and Mentally Handicapped Children in Mönchengladbach. Several Brethren and their families have visited the

school. Once visited you cannot fail to realise how important it is to donate to our charity appeal. We are grateful for the support of the Headmaster Klaus K and his staff and have held two BBQs in the school grounds. Many Brethren attended a circus at the school where some of the children took part. W. Brother Glyn was so moved that he wrote a song about the school Glyn produced a CD of the song and we sold copies at the 2003 Ladies Christmas Festival at somewhat higher prices than anyone has ever paid before but what a bonus for the charity. Our charity target this year is Euro 10,000. We are doing well but we could do better! So dig deep Brethren. There is also a separate Lodge Benevolence Fund which was started in 1972 by an anonymous donor. This account is entirely separate from the charity fund and has increased over the years via separate donations, and careful management by the Committee including interest gained from investment. So far, thankfully, this fund has been rarely used but it is there for the benefit of distressed Brethren and their families should the need arise. Here we are grateful for the prescience of Paul M who was Master in 1972 and realised that this fund would be a major bonus to our lodge. The Lodge is strong but if we are going to continue to progress we will have to continue to try and attract good people to an organisation that strives to provide the harmony and well being of the human family under the sovereignty of a Supreme Being.

Freemasonry is a way of life for many of us. We belong to a world-wide organisation which crosses the barriers of language, colour, race, nationality and religion. We exist for social fellowship and mutual assistance, of Charity to the distressed and goodwill to all. Lodge Niederrhein strives in particular to live up to these ideals.

So let us look forward to future wonderful years doing well what our Founders asked of us. As an organisation with our magnificent ritual and approach to Charity I for one believe that that we have truths that the world has lost sight of and we can help to restore that balance in a world which appears to be looking only for personal and often violent advantage and gain.

The Lodge has been privileged to have among its members many distinguished Brethren who have reached high positions within the Craft. It is a great and happy Lodge and as a conclusion to this brief summary of the first 40 years there is detailed a list of the current members and a Past Masters list. Most important of all there is a page devoted to departed Merit. now included in the Addendum)

Thank you for taking up some of your valuable time to read this booklet.

