

**Minutes of the 147th Meeting of the Southchurch Masonic Study Circle,
Held at Saxon hall, Aviation Way, Southend on Sea, Essex.
Thursday 12th June 2014**

Chairman: M.Perkins
Treasurer: M.Wilson
Secretary: R.Vine

The 147th meeting of the SMSC was opened at 8.00pm by the Chairman who welcomed the members present (38 including visitors).

Our guest speaker, W.Bro Yasha Beresiner, was warmly welcomed to this meeting to give a talk on the subject of the History of the Holy Royal Arch.

New members and visitors were asked to introduce themselves to those present and the Chairman requested that they would need to provide personal details to the Secretary to ensure that they could receive relevant information as part of the SMSC email circulation list.

It was agreed to circulate the minutes of the previous meeting to maximise the time available to our guest speaker so these would be circulated to all members as soon as possible.

Items of Masonic Interest

W.Bro John Smoothy produced two books that he found amongst various stored items within his garage. The first of these was a book containing details of the Essex Provincial Grand Lodge Meetings from July 1916 and also the attendance book from the same period. It was noted that each member paid the sum of 7/6d for attendance at these meetings (over £25 or so in present day monetary value). Both books are to be donated to the Masonic Library, Wickford.

W.Bro M.Perkins produced and described a booklet that was given to him by W.Bro I.Whitley as a memento of his investiture at Grand Lodge by The Most Excellent and 3rd Grand Principle, the Reverend Peter Hemmingway.

Photographs of these items will be circulated with these minutes.

Talk: The History of the Holy Royal Arch

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, W.Bro Yasha Beresiner, summarising his Masonic history as taken from excerpts from his book '*Freemasons handbook of toasts, speeches and responses*'.

A summary of his talk and associated questions and answers are attached within the appendix of these minutes.

All agreed that it was excellent presentation and that W.Bro Yasha's knowledge of the Holy Royal Arch was second to none. He presentation was warmly appreciated in the usual manner.

Any Other Business:

The Chairman discussed the donation of £350 that the SMSC had received from the regrettable closure of the Ilford Masonic Association. Various options were discussed including a banner, table covering and presentation gavel. It was agreed to explore the cost of these and report back on the most suitable options.

It was agreed that the Secretary would issue a test email to ensure that all members would be able to receive information (such the summons etc) on a regular basis.

W.Bro I Whitley (as part of the webmaster team) indicated that the old website will be drawing to a close on the 3rd July. The new website can be located at <http://masonic-knowledge.org/>. He further indicated that the content of the website will be as the SMSC members require it to be so he is actively seeking ideas from all members as to its future content and look.

The Chairman then indicated that the next meeting is to take place on Thursday 18th September 2014 where the guest speaker will be W.Bro Richard Burrell.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm followed by a cheese and wine gathering that was enjoyed by W.Bro Yasha and the rest of the attendees.

As a footnote to this meeting, the sequel to 'His Masters Chair', relating to the Holy Royal Arch is being compiled at present time, as is probably a year or more away from publishing. Should any members of the SMSC have any interesting items or anecdotes that they would like to submit please would they contact W.Bro Glyn Jarrett (gjarrett228@btinternet.com) in the first instance.

Signed...
Chairman.

Signed...
Secretary.