



To all Lodge Secretaries in the Masonic Province of South Wales

March 2015

Dear Brethren,

Since my letter to all Lodges in January regarding the protocol on Salutations and Greetings, and the seating within the temple, quite a few lodges have been in touch to clarify the vexed question of the seating at the festive board. After discussions with the Provincial Grand Master I therefore set out below the agreed position for this Province.

Domestic Nights

Other than the Worshipful Master sitting somewhere in the middle of the top table it is up to the lodge where their members and guests sit. It is the Provincial Grand Master's preference (not Instructions) that Grand Lodge Officers sit with the younger and less experienced lodge members. Some will and some will not but that is up to the Worshipful Master and the lodge.

Installation Nights

The order to the right of the WM should be;

- 1 The Executive Officer for the evening regardless of Grand or Provincial rank as he is the one representing the PGM.
- 2 Any current Executive in order of seniority within the Province i.e. maybe Deputy PGM, then Assistant PGMs in order of rank, if the same Grand Rank, the date they were appointed.
3. Past Executives in order of seniority within Grand Lodge, then Grand lodge Officers in order of seniority, firstly by rank, and then if the same rank by the date they were appointed. **If the lodge has a Mandated Officer he does not take any precedence in the Festive Board other than his Grand Rank.** Visiting Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters are merely there as Grand Officers and have no other precedence in our Province.

THERE IS ONE EXEPTION TO THE ABOVE RULE

If a Visiting PGM is present, room MUST be made for him on the Top Table. We cannot have a current PGM from any Province sitting on a "sprig".

I trust this clarifies any problem that may occur but do not hesitate to get in touch if needed.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Peter Jones PAGDC. Prov.GDC.