

## “GO FOR GOLD”

It was the day that our Provincial Grand Master Richard John Anderson pledged to try and honour the ambition of our late Provincial Grand Master His Honour Gerald Coles QC to donate £2 million to the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

The task will not be easy but it is clearly attainable with the support and commitment that the brethren of this Province have demonstrated over the last five years. The Provincial Grand Master acknowledged that support and commitment and complimented his Province with two simple and well deserved words  
“WELL DONE”

A Festival year is the last 365 days of the fund raising effort it will culminate for us on 20th May 2006 at the next Provincial meeting. On that occasion our meeting will be honoured by the presence of The Assistant Grand Master Bro David Kenneth Williamson, the President of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys Bro Andrew Stebbings and guests from our fraternal Provinces and as many of our brethren who can fill the seats in the Central Hall.

On that day the result of our Festival will be declared and until that declaration is made very few will know how generous we have been in the most noble of Masonic attributes CHARITY

### WHAT IS A FESTIVAL?

In simple terms a Festival is a mammoth fund raising exercise for a Masonic Charity. Every year there is a Festival for each one of the four national Masonic Charities, namely, Grand Charity, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, New Masonic Samaritan Fund and of course Royal Masonic Trust for Girls & Boys. A Festival is hosted by a Province whose Provincial Grand Master is its President. There are 47 Provinces so each hosts a Festival every 11 years or so. The two most recent in this Province were RMBI in 1984 and Grand Charity in 1995.

Fundraising generally starts about 5 or 6 years ahead of the Festival Year so, as our Festival is in 2006, we started in 2000. This gives plenty of time for brethren to give gradually, usually now by Gift Aid Declaration. Also there is time for lodges to organize and hold fundraising events.

### WHAT IS A STEWARD?

A Steward of the Festival is a brother his lady or partner who subscribes £15 as a stewards fee and pays the minimum donation towards the festival effort, £25 pounds for a lady and £50 for a brother. If you are a taxpayer the minimum donation can be enhanced by a signing a Gift Aid Declaration, this entitles the Masonic charity to reclaim 28p for every pound donated. A small enamelled broach bearing the coat of arms of the Province will be provided for ladies and a Festival jewel for brethren. Payment can be made by a standing order, cheque or cash. When such donations exceed £300 the person will qualify as a Vice Patron of Festival and Vice Patron bar will be provided to attach to the Jewel, as donations increase over the period of a Festival further honorific rank is attained, £600 Patron, £1200 Grand Patron with a bar for each.

The Steward's fee is the means by which the Charity funds the administration of a Festival, and at the end of a Festival any remaining balance is credited to the Festival total.

The payment of a stewards fee has one other significant qualification, it is the only means by which a lady or brother will qualify to attend the Festival celebration.

### THE CELEBRATION

The Festival presentation will be followed by a “party event” on Saturday 1st July 2006 at the York racecourse. It will be a dinner and dance and the intention is that it

will be a fun evening. The Charity Steward of your Lodge has full details of those qualified already and how to qualify if not.  
It will be the time when our Provincial Grand Master will have a more personal opportunity to thank the ladies and brethren of his Province.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about OUR Festival can be obtained by  
talking to your Charity Steward,  
reading the Festival newsletter

Contacting your representative on the Festival committee

Using the Provincial website [www.pgl-york.org](http://www.pgl-york.org) and follow links to the Masonic charities

Reading MQ magazine - each edition has reports from the Masonic Charities.

The Festival Secretary will also be pleased to respond to any enquiry from a Lodge, lady or individual, he may not know the answer but it will not take him long to find out

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For Further Information please contact:

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email: [charity@pgl-york.org](mailto:charity@pgl-york.org) or phone 01904 685504 Wednesday's 09.30 am-12.00