

Royal Wm. Masonic

Chatterton

Wm. 401

1823

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*Bro. Spinney*

**BY-LAWS**

FOR THE

REGULATION OF THE

**Royal Union Lodge,**

No. 461,

OF THE MOST ANCIENT AND HONOURABLE

**FRATERNITY**

OF

**FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,**

CONSTITUTED IN THE YEAR 1782,

NOW HELD

**AT THE FLEECE INN,**

**CHELTENHAM.**

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PRINTED FOR BROTHER HARPER, COLONNADE.

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1823.

# BY-LAWS,

§c. §c.

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## I.

ALL By-Laws, Rules, Orders, and Regulations, at any time or times heretofore made by the authority of this Lodge for the well ordering and governing thereof, are hereby annulled and made void. All former Laws annulled.

## II.

This Lodge shall assemble on the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Friday, (when it shall occur) in every Month, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, and also on the Twenty-Seventh day of every December, and each Fifth Friday shall be a Master's Lodge, which Assemblies shall be deemed General or Public Lodges. The Worshipful Master, or, in his absence the Senior Warden, may, by virtue of his authority, at any time convene a Lodge, but any Brother or Candidate requiring a Lodge of Emergency shall defray the expense of the same. Days of assembling.

## III.

Fines for  
absent  
Members.

If any Member is absent one hour after the appointed time of Meeting, he shall be fined Sixpence, and if absent the whole evening, or time of business, he shall be fined One Shilling; no excuse shall be allowed for non-attendance except in cases of lameness, sickness, or being Ten Miles from Cheltenham. The Treasurer shall be directed to apply for all Fines, and if any Brother neglect or refuse to pay the same for the space of Three Months, without assigning some reason which shall appear satisfactory to the Lodge, he shall be summoned to shew cause why he should not be expelled; and if he do not attend, the summons to be repeated, to which if he shall neglect to conform, he shall thenceforth cease to be a Member, and not be allowed even to visit until such Fines be paid, when he may be fully reinstated in all his former rights and privileges.

## IV

Fines for  
absent Of-  
ficers.

The Master, Wardens, and Secretary, respectively, not attending to open the Lodge at the times appointed, to forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence each, unless it shall appear that such non-attendance was occasioned by sickness, or being three miles absent from Cheltenham.

## V.

Candidates

Every person desirous of being initiated into Masonry in this Lodge must first be proposed and seconded in open Lodge by a Member thereof, who shall at the time of such proposition deliver in writing to the Secretary the Christian and Surname, age, profession, and place of abode of such proposed Candidate, and deposit One Guinea in the hands of the Treasurer; a Ballot shall take place at the Lodge immediately following, at which, unless more than one negative appear, the Candidate shall be deemed approved. If a rejection should be the result of the Ballot, the deposit shall be returned to the Brother who made the proposition, but

should the Candidate be approved, he may be initiated at the same, or at any subsequent stated Lodge within Three Months, and if he neglect to attend within that period, the Guinea deposited shall be forfeited to the Fund of the Lodge, but if the initiation take place, the money so deposited shall be taken in part of the Initiation Fee.

*Note.*—Too much circumspection cannot be observed by a Brother who is solicited to propose a Candidate for admission to our mysteries; he will feel the importance of a proper attention to the temper and disposition, as well as the circumstances in life of the person to be proposed, that neither the invaluable privilege of the Order may be conferred on unworthy objects, nor the dignity and consequence of the Lodge be subject to be impaired or affected by the admission of persons, who, either through want of wisdom, might bring discredit on it.

## VI.

Every person initiated into Masonry in this Lodge, (except serving Brethren made agreeably to the Constitution,) shall, upon his initiation, pay the sum of Six Guineas, which shall entitle him to the three degrees, and include the usual charge for Certificate and registering in the Grand Lodge.

Initiation,  
Fee.

## VII.

Any Brother having been regularly initiated into Masonry in another Lodge, who shall be duly proposed and approved in the Ballot, may be advanced to the second or third degree, and shall pay for each degree he receives One Guinea, and an Half to the Fund of the Lodge. The Certificate of his initiation must at the same time be produced.

Brothers  
passed or  
received.

## VIII.

Any Brother desirous of being admitted a Member of this Lodge shall (after he has visited the Lodge once) be proposed by a Member, who shall deposit the sum of One Guinea as Admission Fee, he shall then be balloted for the ensuing regular Lodge, and unless two negatives appear

Admission  
of Members.

shall be admitted, and pay to the Treasurer Two Shillings and Sixpence for registering his name in the Books of the Grand Lodge, together with a proportion of Subscription due on the current Half Year.

*Note.*—The Brother's Certificate of his Registry in the Books of the Grand Lodge must be produced before he can be received as a Member.—Vide Constitution, p. 88.

## IX.

**Visiting Fee** The Fee of a visiting Brother shall be fixed by a majority of the Brethren present at any sum not exceeding Five Guineas, and in case any Fee shall be required, the same shall be paid previous to such visitors admission into the Lodge.

## X.

**Subscription.**

Each Member of this Lodge shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer the sum of One Guinea Half Yearly, which shall be paid in advance, and should any Member be in default of this Article for One Year, he shall be written to expressly by the Secretary, and if not complied with, he shall not be hereafter received even as a Visitor, until he shall have paid up all his arrears.

*Note*—As the obvious tendency of this Law is to secure the credit and dignity of the Lodge, and to prevent unnecessary and imprudent debate, to the imminently endangering its harmony and welfare it is earnestly hoped that no Member will offend against the same.

## XI.

**Members withdrawing and returning.**

If any Member shall desire to be discontinued as a Member, he must give notice of such his intention, either in open Lodge or by Letter to the Secretary, and upon paying up his arrears, if any, he shall be discontinued accordingly, but such brother shall at any future time, if so inclined,

on application for such purpose, and on paying Half a Guinea, together with his proportion of the Half-Yearly Subscription of the current Year, be re-admitted a Member of this Lodge, provided he is approved on a Ballot as in Article Eighth.

## XII.

Every Brother who speaks shall rise and remain standing, addressing himself to the Worshipful Master; if more than one rise at the same time, the Worshipful Master shall name the first speaker. No member shall be allowed to speak twice on the same subject, excepting to reply or explain, unless the Worshipful Master shall think it expedient, and no Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Visiting Brother or Member being in arrear, shall presume to speak or vote on any affairs of the Lodge, unless leave be given by the Worshipful Master, or the arrear or arrears be then paid.

*Regulation  
for Order.*

## XIII.

The Worshipful Master of this Lodge, for the time being, shall have power to relieve any distressed Brother, who may from time to time apply to him at his place of abode, or direct the Treasurer to do the same with any sum not exceeding Five Shillings, which shall be charged to the Fund of this Lodge.

*Relief of  
distressed  
Brethren*

*Note.* The utmost discrimination will be required in discovering the real from pretended objects of Charity; as it is notorious that many worthless individuals are constantly travelling the country to plunder the liberal and well-intentioned.

## XIV.

At the stated Meeting next preceding the feast of St. John the Evangelist, a Master shall be elected by Ballot in the following manner, viz. the Master for the time being, shall inform the Lodge what Brethren are eligible (vide Book of Constitutions, page 77), and the Secretary shall deliver to every Member present the several names of such Brethren written on different strips of paper, each Brother shall then proceed to the Ballot Box by seniority, and put therein the

*Election of  
Master.*

name of him he most approves, carefully destroying or concealing the other, so that no one else may know the name of the Brother for whom he votes; when all have so done, the Master shall open the Box, and declare the numbers, and whoever appears to have the greatest number shall be duly elected Master for the Year ensuing. Where the numbers are equal, the Master shall have the casting vote, except there be more than two Candidates, in which case such as have equal numbers shall be ballotted for again.

*Note.*—In the choice of a Master it is to be understood that the qualifications of Members, and not merely seniority, are to be attended to, and this Law shall be read immediately preceding such election.

## XV.

Appointment of Wardens and other Officers.

On the Festival of St. John, after the minutes have been confirmed, and the Worshipful Master of the ensuing Year installed, he shall forthwith proceed to appoint his Wardens and other Officers.

## XVI.

Treasurer and his duty.

The Treasurer shall be elected in the same manner and at the same Meeting as the Master. It shall be his duty to hold the cash of the Lodge, to discharge, with the approbation of the Master and Wardens, all Bills due, and keep a Book of Receipts and Disbursements, which shall be open at all times to the inspection of the Lodge.

## XVII.

Secretary's duty.

The duty of the Secretary shall be to read the Minutes and enter the transactions of the Lodge on every Night of Meeting, to keep an exact account of all Cash deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, and to write the Summonses in due time to the Brethren.

## XVIII.

Treasurer and Secretary's Books

The Treasurer's Cash Book, the Secretary's Minute Book, or any Property, of whatever description, shall, upon no oc-



caſion be taken out of the Lodge without the conſent of the Worſhipful Maſter.

## XIX.

The Treasuſer's Accounts ſhall be audited on the Lodge Night preceding the Feaſt of St. John the Evangeliſt by ſome two Brethren appointed by the Lodge for that purpoſe, who ſhall ſign their approbation thereof.

Audit of  
Accounts

## XX.

In order to preſerve due decorum and prevent irregularities in the Lodge, the Maſter ſhall, at the Meeting next after his Election, and when the Minutes are confirmed appoint two of the Brethren to act as Stewards, who ſhall engage punctually and regularly to attend to the duties of their Office, unleſs prevented by indiſpoſition or urgent buſineſs, on notice of which the Maſter ſhall appoint two other Brethren to act pro tempore in their ſtead, the duties of theſe officers ſhall be to introduce Viſitors and ſee that they are properly accommodated, and at Feſtivals to ſee that the Tables are properly ſupplied with reſhments, &c. And to render the Office leſs difficult to the Stewards, and more beneficial to the Lodge, it is hereby ordered that no wine, &c. be at any time brought on table unleſs by the deſire of the Stewards.

Stewards  
and their  
Duty.

No. e. Nothing has a ſtronger tendency to bring the Fraternity into diſrepute than the keeping of late hours on a Lodge Night, it is therefore hoped that no Member will offend againſt this Law, ſo admirably calculated to ſecure the health of the individual, the credit of the Craft, and the private economy, on which muſt be founded the domeſtic happineſs of all families.

## XXI.

The Tyler ſhall alſo be elected on the uſual Election Night, and ſhall be continued only during his good behaviour and the pleaſure of the Lodge. His duty ſhall be to carry out the Summonſes to the Members at leaſt Three Days before the Lodge Night, to guard the door and ex-

Tyler's duty

ternal avenues to the Lodge, to set out the Furniture, and keep the Property belonging to the Lodge in a clean and neat manner, for which duty he shall be paid for summoning and attending each Lodge

## XXII.

Alteration  
or addition  
to Laws.

Whenever it shall be found necessary to make any alteration or addition to the Laws and Regulations of this Lodge, such proposed alterations or additions shall be handed to the Master in writing, who shall cause the same to be read by the Secretary, and if it be regularly seconded, it shall be discussed by the Brethren present, and their sense taken thereon by a shew of hands: and if a majority appear in its favour, it shall be entered upon the Minutes of the Lodge and notice of such proposed alteration or addition be given in the summonses for the next Lodge, at which it shall be finally debated, and if approved by a majority, it shall be entered and received as a part of, and equally binding with, any of these Laws and Regulations, but nothing shall be binding until it shall have been so moved, discussed, and approved in two successive Lodges.

## XXIII.

By-Laws to  
be signed  
by Members

A copy of the foregoing By-Laws shall be furnished to each subscribing Member immediately on his admission, for which he shall pay the sum of One Shilling, and subscribe his name to the same in a book kept for that purpose belonging to the Lodge.

SAMUEL MOSS, W. M.  
JOHN RICHARDSON, W. P. M.  
THOMAS SPINNEY, S. W.  
WILLIAM H. COX, J. W.  
JOHN NEWTON, T.  
SAMUEL C. HARPER, S.  
JOHN COOKE, S. D.  
JOHN LEE, J. D.  
FRANCIS R. CRUMP, I. G.

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