

The Secretary to
The Management Committee,
The Masonic Hall,
Halesowen,
Worcs.

January 10th. 1960.

Dear Sir and Brother,

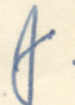
This Lodge has met at the Albot Hotel, Oldbury since it was warranted in 1890. We are now lead to believe that the future of the Hotel is in doubt and that we may have to find other rooms.

The purpose of this letter is to enquire whether you have any vacancies at your Lodge Rooms that can be offered to us. At the moment we meet on Wednesday evenings (the fourth in Jan., Feb., Mar., April, Sept., Oct., Nov. and third in Dec.)

Also meeting at the hotel are the Godson R.A. Chapter No. 2385, the Athlumney Lodge of Mark Masons No. 590 and the Athlumney Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 590. It is hoped that a joint meeting may be called in the near future and that any information that we can obtain can be discussed.

We would deem it a great favour if you would let us have any relevent information by our next officers meeting on February 3rd.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



Secretary.

The Scribe would like to explain that the Meeting became a general discussion with ideas overlapping and repeating. Nevertheless the items are in the correct sequence.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday March 11th. 1960 at the Talbot Hotel, Oldbury at 7 p.m. following the Godson Chapter Committee Meeting.

The following 12 Brethren were present:-

F.J.Meeson, J.J.Rudell, C.D.Barlow, H.G.Uglow, D.H.Perry,
J.H.Read, F.Smith, D.H.Wood, G.W.Wyatt, J.Harper,
T.Dunkley-Hogg, and F.J.Whitehouse.

An apology was received from Bro. Dursley.

E. Comp. F.J.Meeson suggested that as E. Comp. C.D.Barlow had dealt with this particular matter so far, he should take the chair for this meeting.

Bro. Barlow opened the meeting by saying that, to simplify matters, he proposed to refer to all as 'Brothers' and gave a resumé of the situation, explaining that some while ago, about January, the Manager suggested writing to Mr. Sharp of Ind, Coope Ltd. of Leicester concerning the situation with regard to the future of the Talbot Hotel premises.

A letter was accordingly sent to the Brewery. Letters were also sent to Dudley and Halesowen Masonic Halls to see what the possibilities were regarding suitable rooms on a night most convenient to the Godson Lodge, the Godson Chapter, the Athloney Mark and Ark Lodges.

Dudley replied fairly promptly but so far nothing in writing had been received from Halesowen, although details had been obtained by 'phone.

In the letter to Mr. Sharp it was mentioned that Masonic Meetings had been held here since 1891. Mr. Sharp showed interest in his reply and asked for some details including how many Members there were involved, the answer to which was about 61 plus 30 plus 27 plus 21. No reference was made at this time to the 'Hen and Chickens'.

On the 17th. Feb. we were informed that they had agreed to renew the lease for 4/5 years and Ind, Coope would be pleased if we would continue to make use of the Talbot Hotel.

Bro. Barlow (continuing) The 3 alternatives are as follows:- 1. To stay as we are. 2. To move either to Dudley or Halesowen, 3. To find new premises. With regard to item 1, the Talbot will be re-decorated and improved sometime during this year. There is a chance that in 2 or 3 years time we may be directed to the 'Hen & Chickens' but, can we trust the Brewery? If we delay action for two years we may lose the present opportunities of finding alternative accommodation. Item 2, the costs at Dudley are £1 per meeting

plus 1/- per member per meeting plus one guinea per member per year, approximately £15 per meeting.

Pattison Hughes costs are 10/- approximately plus wines

At Halesowen it would be approximately 14 guineas per meeting and they have their own catering arrangements.

Bro.Dunkley Hogg. Is the Tyler included?

Bro.Barlow We pay 10/6d towards the cost.
Item 3, Other premises. We have been approached by Masons meeting at the Blue Gates Hotel who are also concerned about having to move, would it be possible to combine forces near the Staffordshire and Worcestershire borders? With regard to the Masons of different Provinces being in one building, there was already a precedent at Redditch so that it could be assumed that this would be in order. Four Lodges and two Chapters meeting at the Blue Gates, together with four meetings here, would form a useful nucleus to look out for suitable premises.

Bro.Meeson.

What are our costs here at the Talbot?

Bro.Barlow. I believe that they are £20 per annum split up like this:-

Lodge £10.
Chapter £5.
Mark & Ark £2 each.

Bro.Rudell. The first decision we must make is do we stay or do we move?

Bro.Barlow. The facts should be brought to the attention of all the others concerned before taking any decisive step.

Bro.Whitehouse.

The Summer recess will give us ample opportunity to consider the matter and reach a conclusion in time for the October meeting.

Some-one (The Perseverance Lodge of 90 members was mentioned, of how it had split and a Daughter Lodge formed.)

Some-one There are already 64 meetings at Halesowen and 64 at Dudley. If we join in we will add a further 16 meetings.

Bro.Read. What is the position at West Bromwich?

Some-one That's a new thought

Bro. Rowley. I think they have plenty of nights free.

Bro. Dunkley Hogg.

Dudley will be expensive and we shall lose our identity which is not to be thought of.

Bro. Meeson.

If Talbot is rebuilt and in view of it's history and our long association ought we not to ask Ind Coope exactly what the possibilities are of holding on.

Bro. Uglow.

This sort of discussion regarding remaining at the Talbot has been going on for years. Once a party visited the Kings Highway to see the set-up there, but nothing had come of it because none of the Past masters was willing to sever connections with the Talbot. At Halesowen we would be subservient to Perseverance who owned the building - We have about four years to study the situation carefully. If we can arrange to stick to Our Masonic Home let us do so, it has happy memories and we are proud of our present identity, if we move at all we shall lose it.

Bro. F. Smith.

Nobody wants to leave here, I certainly don't, I'm an Oldbury man through and through.

Bro. Rudell.

I agree wholeheartedly with Bro. Uglow, we are proud of our Oldbury connection, we should all be sorry to leave.

Bro. F. Smith.

Something must be done. Is it generally realised how difficult the Manager of the Talbot made things for the Janitor when it came to preparing the Chapter Room? None of us would forget the last-but-one meeting when the Grand Supt. was our visitor and we were forced to dine in the downstairs room, we were all ashamed.

Bro. Meeson.

Well, what could we do immediately to improve the present arrangement?

Bro. Barlow.

It will be a little better in future if only because of the re-decorating which we know is going to take place.

Bro. Read.

The situation is generally worse since the new Manager arrived, the food is better, but the heating is hopeless.

Bro. Meeson.

If the Manager has the say in these matters and as he must be facing increased costs, could we not offer to pay higher ^{rent} costs? As far as I know the fellow seems a decent enough chap. If it is a question of the finance of the affair what about offering £5 more?

Bro. Dunkley Hogg.

Until the new Manager (Hyde) came, the Talbot was losing £70

a week! Hyde came here from the Navigation and has improved the Talbot to a paying proposition. And we know the catering is better.

Yes. Yes. Yes. (everyone agreed the catering was better).

- Bro.Barlow. Hyde has said the meals will go up next season by about a shilling per head.
- Bro.Harper. I suggest we approach Hyde for a definite understanding. Let us come to terms with him whether it be 5, 10, 15 or even £20 (here, here) to improve present conditions. My father came here as a Mason years ago. I don't want to leave the Talbot. Nevertheless we must exploit the Halesowen possibility because if one hitch occurred with the Ind Coope Brewery we could be well and truly out.
- Bro.Barlow. Things have certainly deteriorated over the years, at one time the Storeroom belonged to us, in fact the cupboards were put in by this Lodge, yet one of them actually contains 'Loyal Order of Moose' stuff! Just what are our rights?
- Bro.Harper. I suggest that we tackle the Brewery again and unless we are offered definite promises, within 12 months, about a room in their new Talbot building, we must exploit other places.
- Bro.Barlow. In the sense that we are Group 4, we are in with Halesowen.
- Bro.Read. Let's exploit Oldbury first. What about alternative accommodation within the town - there may be a building we could convert.
- Bro.Perry. My apologies, Brethren but in view of the time I must leave now (7.25).
- Bro.Read. Could we not form a Company and buy a place?
- Bro.Dunkley Hogg. It's possible - the Little Theatre went for £1,750, not a ridiculous price at all.
- Bro.Barlow. Should we tackle Hyde right now about the immediate improvements offering that little extra?
- General. No - form a small committee to see him.
- Bro.Dunkley Hogg. Proposed, that in view of the latest information from the Brewery we should write to them saying that the Lodges meeting at the Talbot Hotel intended to avail themselves of the three years still in hand but that we looked to them to improve the

general cleanliness and the heating of the place.


General. Cannot decide such a step here and now, must put all the facts squarely to all the Brethren who attend the Talbot.

Bro.Read. I suggest that we call another, special, meeting (not following the Chapter Committee meeting) with more, interested, parties present to discuss this matter only and devote more time to it. In the meantime we all have something to think about.

General. Agreed.

Meeting closed 7.45 pm..

March 11th, 1960.


SCRIBE.

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IND COOPE

(SOUTH MIDLANDS)
LIMITED

190 BELGRAVE ROAD, LEICESTER

TELEPHONE
LEICESTER 63663

TELEGRAMS
IND, LEICESTER

17th Feb. 1960.

JFS/SEC

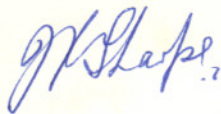
Mr. E.Y. Fullwood,
2, Langley Road,
Merry Hill,
Wolverhampton¹

Dear Sir,

Talbot Hotel, Oldbury.

With reference to my letter of the 19th ultimo, I am now pleased to advise you that my company have agreed to a proposition by the Council to renew the lease here for a period of 4/5 years, so I trust you will continue to use the Hotel for your meetings in the meantime.

Yours faithfully,
IND COOPE (SOUTH MIDLANDS) LTD.



MANAGER, MANAGED HOUSE DEPT.

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IND COOPE

(SOUTH MIDLANDS)

LIMITED

190 BELGRAVE ROAD, LEICESTER

TELEPHONE
LEICESTER 63663

TELEGRAMS
IND, LEICESTER

JFS/MKM

19th, January, 1960.

E.Y. Fullwood Esq.
2, Langley Road.
Merry Hill.
WOLVERHAMPTON.

Talbot Hotel, Oldbury.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 15th instant., the contents of which are duly noted, and we will communicate with you further in due course, with a view to arranging an interview when we have more information available.

Yours faithfully,
for IND COOPE (SOUTH MIDLANDS) LIMITED.

J. Sharpe
Manager, Managed Houses.

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IND COOPE

(SOUTH MIDLANDS)
LIMITED

190 BELGRAVE ROAD, LEICESTER

TELEPHONE
LEICESTER 63663

TELEGRAMS
IND. LEICESTER

14th January, 1960.

JFS/SEC

Mr. E. Y. Fullwood,
2, Langley Road,
Merry Hill,
Wolverhampton.

Dear Sir,

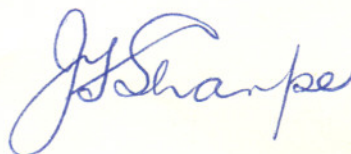
Talbot Hotel, Oldbury.

Thank you for your letter of the 10th instant, and we have to advise you that this Hotel is not likely to be considered for rebuilding until 1961, and we look forward to your continued support in the meantime.

To enable us to consider the matter further, could you kindly let me know how many members you have in your lodge ^{whom} you would like us to provide for i.e. assuming you would give my Company your continued support.

You mention other Masonic Organisations, and if you could also give me some idea of their numbers, it would be greatly appreciated, and would assist us in our future planning.

Yours faithfully,
IND COOPE (SOUTH MIDLANDS) LTD.



MANAGER, MANAGED HOUSE DEPT.

15th January, 1950.

J.F. Sharpe Esq.,
Ind Coope (South Midlands) Ltd.,
190 Belgrave Road,
Leicester.

Dear Sir,

Talbot Hotel, Oldbury.

Thank you for your letter of January 14th, 1950 following mine of the 10th with regard to the Talbot Hotel, Oldbury. I shall be communicating the information contained in your letter at my next Officers Meeting. In the meantime I am giving you further information with regard to the use of the rooms.

This Lodge has a membership of 61. We meet on the fourth Wednesday in January, February, March, April, September, October and November and the third Wednesday in December. Our Officers meet (a smaller gathering) on the first Wednesday preceeding the normal monthly Lodge meeting. Also using the rooms are the Godson R.A. Chapter with a membership of 30, they meet on the second Friday in February, April, October and December. The Athluney Lodge of Mark Master Masons with a membership of 27 meet on the second Thursday in January, March and November, whilst the Athluney Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners with a membership of 21 meet on the second Thursday in March, September and November. The latter three also hold Officers meetings prior to their monthly meetings but I am not quite sure on which dates.

Noting the comments in your second paragraph I am wondering whether this refers to a suggestion that you may assist us with rooms at another Hotel or whether your reference is to the rebuilding of the existing Hotel. If your programme is to rebuild on the same site then of course we should be rather concerned as to accomodation during any interim period. On the other hand if your thoughts are in the direction of providing rooms at another Hotel then the writer would be delighted to arrange personally or to meet you himself or for some of our other Officers to meet you to discuss the accomodation which we would like to use. I feel sure that my Lodge would like to continue supporting your company if it is at all possible

Yours faithfully,

J. Sharp Esq.,
Ind Coope (South Midlands) Ltd.,
190 Belgrave Road,
Leicester.

January 16th. 1960.

Dear Sir,

Your name and address have been given to us by the Manager of the Talbot Hotel, Oldbury, Wores. following conversations with him.

This Lodge has met at the Talbot Hotel since 1891. We have of course heard many suggestions as to the future of the building and we now feel that the time has come to raise the whole question at a higher level.

We should be pleased if you could let us have the latest details of the possible future of the Hotel and of course our tenancy of certain of the rooms. We would mention that at one time we were told that there was a possibility that your company may build a suitable extra wing on to the Hen and Chickens on the Wolverhampton to Birmingham road. Perhaps we could have your comments on this also.

As you will be aware other Masonic organisations as well as ours meet in the present rooms and they as well as ourselves would be grateful for your early reply.

Yours faithfully,

2

Secretary.

THE DUDLEY MASONIC HALL LTD.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Telephones:
DUDLEY ~~4161 & 4074~~

55161/2

*Lloyds Bank Chambers,
Wolverhampton Street,
Dudley, Worcs.*

E. Y. Fullwood, Esq.,
2, Langley Road,
Merry Hill,
Wolverhampton.

15th February, 1960.

Dear Bro. Fullwood,

Thank you for your letter of the 10th instant and I note that the matter of the possibility of Godson Lodge etc., being accommodated at Dudley will be brought up again early next year when your incoming Officers will deal with the matter.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

John Curran
SECRETARY.

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THE DUDLEY MASONIC HALL LTD.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Telephones:
DUDLEY 2461 & 4073 ~~XXXXXX~~ 55161/2

*Lloyds Bank Chambers,
Wolverhampton Street,
Dudley, Wores.*

E. Y. Fullwood, Esq.,
2, Langley Road,
Merry Hill,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

2nd February, 1960

Dear Bro. Fullwood,

Further to my letter of the 25th January, 1960 I have discussed the proposals of your letter of the 10th January, 1960 with my Chairman W. Bro. W. H. Turner. There is no doubt that arrangements could be made to accommodate at Dudley both Godson Lodge and Chapter together with Athlumley Mark and R.A.M. Lodges, subject only to minor variations of some dates of Meetings.

With a view to discussing the matter further I am writing to ask if you can arrange to form a small Sub-Committee representing the four bodies concerned and that Sub-Committee hold a Meeting with a Sub-Committee of the Board of this Company and with a view jointly to investigating the matter further. If you will let me know when you have been able to arrange your Sub-Committee I will arrange a date for a Meeting at the Masonic Hall Dudley.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

James H. H. H. H.

SECRETARY.

THE DUDLEY MASONIC HALL LTD.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Telephones:
DUDLEY ~~2161 & 4071~~ 55161/2

*Lloyds Bank Chambers,
Wolverhampton Street,
Dudley, Wores.*

E. Y. Fullwood, Esq.,
2, Langley Road,
Merry Hill,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

25th January, 1960

Dear Bro. Fullwood,

I put your letter of the 10th instant before the Chairman of this Company Mr. W.H. Turner and I believe that he has had word with you on the matter. I am writing to inform you that other Members of the Board of Directors are being consulted and I will write you again more fully in the near future.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

Annals A. H. H. H. H.

SECRETARY.

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The Secretary to
The Management Committee,
The Masonic Hall,
Wellington Road,
Dudley,
Worcs.

January 18th. 1960.

Dear Sir and Brother,


This Lodge has met at the Talbot Hotel, Oldbury since it was warranted in 1890. We are now lead to believe that the future of the Hotel is in doubt and that we may have to find other rooms.

The purpose of this letter is to enquire whether you have any vacancies at your Lodge Rooms that could be offered to us. At the moment we meet on Wednesday evenings (the fourth in Jan., Feb., Mar., April, Sept., Oct., Nov. and third in Dec.)

Also meeting at the Hotel are the Godson R.A. Chapter No. 2385, the Athlumney Lodge of Mark Masters No. 590 and the Athlumney Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No. 190. It is hoped that a joint meeting may be called in the near future and that any information that we can obtain can be discussed.

We would esteem it a great favour if you would let us have any relevant details by our next Officers meeting on February 3rd.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,


Secretary.

The Secretary
Dudley Masonic Hall Ltd.,
Lloyds Bank Chambers,
Wolverhampton Street,
Dudley,
Worcs.

February 10th. 1960.

Dear Sir and Brother,

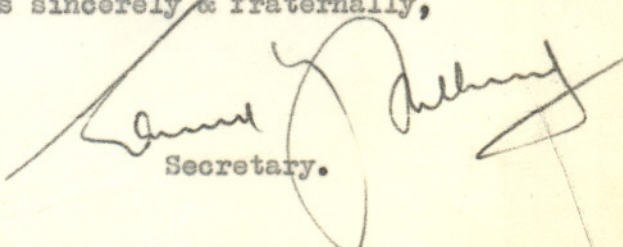
I am instructed by the Worshipful Master and Officers of the Lodge to thank you for the kind reply to my letter of January 10th. with regard to the possible use of the Masonic Hall, Dudley by this Lodge.

We very much appreciate the fact that we could be accommodated should the necessity arise in the future.

I would apologise most sincerely if my letter to you gave the impression that the matter was of extreme urgency. The fact is that as stated the future of our present headquarters is not known but it is not likely to be closed for at least a year. The mention of a joint meeting of other Lodges was of course intended for an advance discussion so that we should be well prepared.

I am now asked to say that the matter will be brought up again early next year and our incoming Officers will write to you further.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,


Secretary.