

## Chairpersons Report Nov 2025

I am pleased to say that with the assistance of the committee members and Trustees we have continued to manage and maintain the smooth running of centre which I hope has been to everyone's expectations. In considering thereplacement and improvements we have made over the last 6 months I am sure that it is self evident that we have transformed and drastically improved the tired fabric of the facilities. A special note of thanks to WBro Elton in being available to manage the majority of the work.

By the inclusion of another order joining us in February this year, brings the number of Masonic lodges/orders using the centre to eight. We also continue to provide individual availability to lodges such as the freewheelers/armed forces who do not have their own meeting rooms. It is very evident that has all helped to create an appealing and well regarded Masonic Centre for the province of Lincolnshire.

In addition, by securing and renewing the ongoing usage by the 3 social groups actively using our facilities once again leaves us in a sound financial footing for the medium term future. However we must take in to account that the three main hirers have used our facilities for many years now we must realise that they may not continue indefinitely.

As always we continue to monitor the day to day needs of the premises and having acquired sliding doors to the hall/bar area , new furniture and decoration, we have created a much improved ambience which we hope will allow more and varied Masonic social functions to be held here. We are also in the process of acquiring broadband which will then allow us to consider improving the general security of the premises.

We have had a new bar manager (Phil Knapp) in place this year, and he continues to follow in the footsteps of our previous bar manager (Mick Haynes) in buying competitively and offering a choice where he can. We have seen a considerable increase in the amount of usage the credit card machine is having (one of the main reasons of installing wi-fi was to secure a continual connection) – with a subsequent decrease in taking cash payment.

We organised and held our traditional Christmas Luncheon which once again we hope to continue with this year, providing we get support from members and have maintained the services of our caterer for the following year to which we have highlighted their catering safety certification on our web site.

During the last few years, the committee has worked hard to get to fulfil all the various elements of running the centre. Obviously this knowledge base has accumulated in relation to the needs of our Masonic Orders our Hirers; and especially the record keeping (Safety certificates, kitchen equipment service, fire extinguisher service, cleaning services, general upkeep of building, replacing faulty appliances, faulty doors, piano services, utilities, invoicing, chasing of invoicing, banking, payment of bills, insurances, licenses and web site update).

We have been fortunate that we have a core group of committee members that have thus far continued in their office. But it must be remembered that all the committee officers are only held for one year at a time and that last year neither the Chair nor Lettings officers wanted to continue in office – however they did. But it is essential that we attract active committee members to supplement existing Committee.

The result of this is it becomes harder each year to take over these offices and even harder should anything happen to those members whereby they cannot continue in their role. The terms of our constitution are clear that each office is for one year only. The vacant appointments will be discussed later at this meeting and hopefully will be resolved by the next meeting however, should the same issue arise this year, the club will not function.

In the meantime I wish to thank all the members on the BFC committee for the work and support throughout 2024/5