

Scarth's Bye Laws

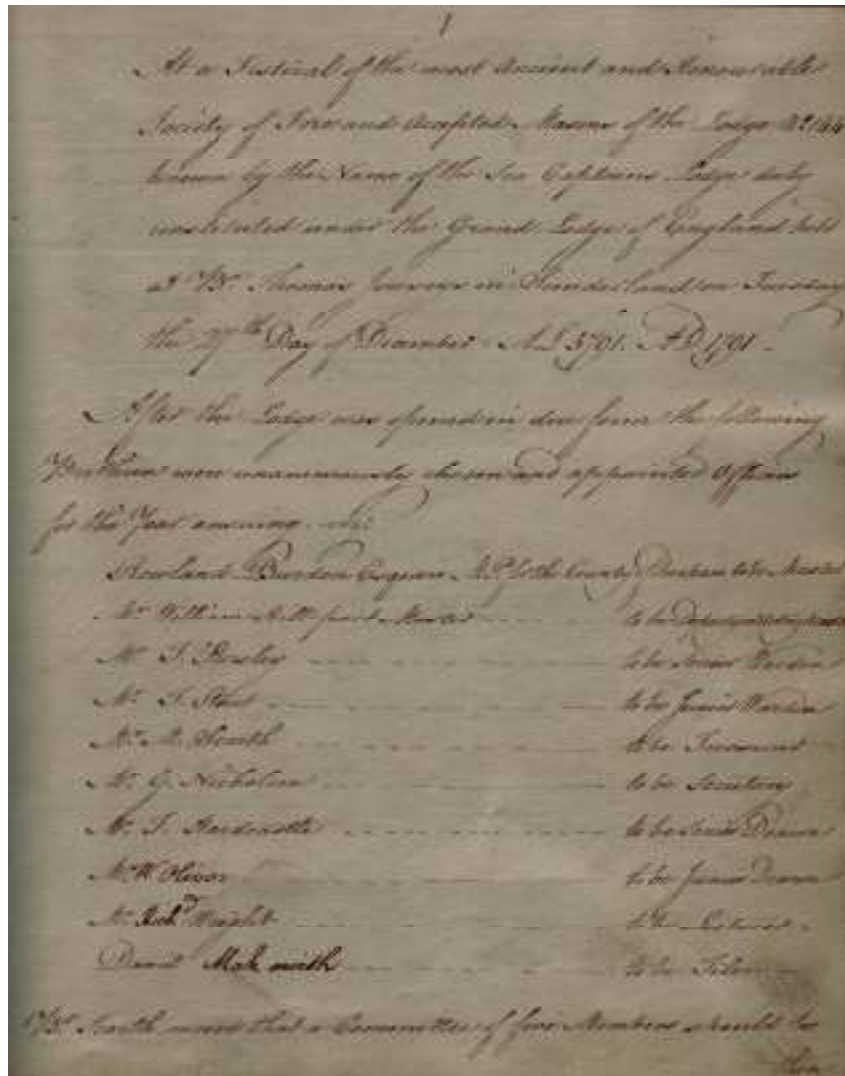


BRO MICHAEL SCARTH

On 13th October 1791 Mr Michael Scarth, a candidate for Freemasonry, was Initiated, Passed and Raised into Sea Captains Lodge No 144 in the King's Head Hotel, High Street, Sunderland near the Sea. The publican Hays being his proposer and Rowland Burdon was Master.

"As soon as he was elected to an office, he resolved to use his influence and exertions, to raise the lodge to its former level. He commenced by improving the rules and by-laws of the society, for which purpose, he visited the different lodges in the neighbourhood; consulted their various regulations, and from them, compiled and composed a code, adapted to secure every fraternal and scientific purpose of the institution".

From the original pages 1, 2, 3,4,5,7,8,10 of the Minute Book 1791 to 1794 Bro Scarth's first steps to achieve his aims for the improvement of the lodge are clearly shown.



then appointed to examine into the Bye Laws, Accounts, Funds, Furniture, and all other things relating to this Society and to report the real state thereof to the General Synod to be hereafter held which was unanimously agreed to and the following Members were then appointed B. Matthews, B. Reed,

B. Ardcastle, W. Nicholson & W. Scarth -

Present at Dining

B. Borden Esq. M. A.	Master
M. Hill	Deputy Master
M. Sanderson	Sub-Master
M. Melkewell	Sub-Master
M. Anstey	Senior Warden
M. Saut	Junior Warden
M. Scarth	Treasurer
M. Nicholson	Secretary
M. Ardcastle	Sen. Deacon
M. Clever	Jun. Deacon
M. Wright	Lecturer

Members present

Mr Matthews
Mr Sulvington
Mr J. Saffor
Mr J. Harvey
Mr J. Hewst
Mr R. Bunyan
Mr Noy
Mr F. McDonald
Mr D. Baxter
Mr G. Brown Boat Builder
Mr F. Tandonson

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Visiting Brethren present

Ralph Hubbard Esq. A.P.
J. Brown M.D. Secy of Parish
Mr Stanfield
Mr W. Shields
Mr G. Wright
Mr J. Hoop
Mr W. Irvine Secy
Mr R. Smith

Attest Wm. Hills
G. Nicholson Secy

At a General Lodge held this 13th day of January 1792

Present

W. Mills D. Mas Master

W. Anselby J. W.

W. Hunt J. B.

W. Scarth Junr.

W. Nicholson Secy

W. Ardcastle J. D.

W. Hope as J. D.

W. Knight Secy

W. Henderson

W. Hunt

W. Hunt

W. Mills

W. Stanfield Visr

W. G. Nicholson - proposed J. G. and raised to M.

Bro Scarth one of the Committee appointed at the last Festival reported that the Committee had examined into the Present Bye Laws and found them insufficient to cure that regular Harmony and Brotherly Love which ought always to be amongst Masons and that they had prepared a New Code of Bye Laws which he then presented and moved that the

same might be immediately read by the Secretary and
taken into Consideration which was accordingly done, the
Blanks filled up and approved of after such Alterations
being made as appeared to the Lodge necessary - and
ordered to be read and confirmed at the next General Lodge
to be held on the 9th February next

Wm. Hills
G. Nicholson

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At a General Sedge held this 9th Day of February 1792

Present

W. Hills - De. to M.

W. Lowley - S. W.

W. Hunt - J. W.

W. Nicholson - Secy

W. Heath - Treas.

W. Hardcastle - J. D.

W. G. Hunt - J. D.

W. Knight - Sec. to M.

W. Matthews

W. Fenwick

W. Carter

W. J. Hill

W. J. Hunt

W. J. Young

W. Nye

W. Reed

W. Baxter


W. Stanfield Vis.

The New Code of Bye Laws that were presented, read and approved

of at the last General Lodge were ordered to be read, which was accordingly done -

Resolved Unanimously - That the said new Code of Bye Laws be now enacted and fully confirmed, and henceforth be considered as binding to all the Members of this Lodge -

Also Resolved Unanimously - That the Thanks of this Lodge be given to the Committee for the trouble they have taken in preparing the said Code of Bye Laws -

Attest  Wm. Hills
G. Nicholson

At a General Lodge held this 8th day of March 1792.

Present

W. Clowley — W^m as Master

W. Stout — J. W. as W^m

W. Hardcastle — J. D. as J. W.

W. Scarth — Treasurer

W. Nicholson — Secretary

W. Fenwick — as J. D.

W. Kilvinton — as J. D.

W. Carters — as Lecturer

W. Bungan

W. Scarth presented the Lodge with a New Book containing a Copy of the New Code of Bye Laws, which the Members present signed

Ordered that W. Thomas Jowsey deposit with W. Hardcastle his promisory Note for £100 payable to W. Bunter Esq^r by W. Clowley, W. Stout and W. Scarth as a Security for the Pedestal and other Effects of this Society according to the 20th Article

Ordered that W. Wright as Lecturer shall have paid him for each Lodge Night he shall actually attend and do his Duty one Shilling and Sixpence —

Bro MICHAEL SCARTH'S BY-LAWS (1792)
THE SEA CAPTAINS' LODGE
SUNDERLAND NEAR THE SEA

By-Laws

I

The Meetings of the Lodge

That the Members of this Lodge shall assemble on the second Thursday in every month, at seven o'clock in the evening, from Michaelmas to Ladyday, and eight o'clock, from Ladyday to Michaelmas, which shall be deemed General or Public Lodge nights, and that the fourth Thursday in each month shall be deemed Master's Lodges, when so ordered by the Master. The Lodge on every occasion, to be closed not near ten o'clock as the business on hand will allow.

II

Lodge of Emergency

That a Lodge of Emergency may at any time be called by the Master, or, in his absence, by the Senior Warden, but on no pretence without such authority. The particular reason for calling the Lodge of Emergency shall be stated in the commons and afterwards recorded on the minutes, and no business but that so proposed shall be entered upon at such meeting.

III

Officers of the Lodge

That the Officers of this Lodge shall consist of a Master, a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Inner Guards - & Tyler the Master may also appoint a Director of Ceremonies

IV

Election of Master and other Officers

That the Master and Treasurer shall be annually elected by ballot at the regular Lodge in November, and at the next stated meeting the Master shall be duly installed, after the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding Lodge. - The Master elect shall, immediately after his installation, appoint and install all the other Officers of the Lodge.

V

Treasurer's Duty

That the Treasurer shall receive and pay all monies, and keep an account thereof in a book to be provided for the purpose, and shall produce his account of receipts and disbursements when required to do so by the Lodge, and that all monies so received by him shall be immediately deposited in the Pedestal, to which there shall be three proper locks and Keys, one Key to be kept by the Master, another by the Senior Warden, and the third by the Treasurer.

VI

Secretary's Duty

That the Secretary shall attend all meetings

into into the book the proceedings thereof, he shall keep an account of all monies received and disbursed, and enter into a separate book the name, description and residence of the Members with the state of their fines &c; he shall prepare summonses, and deliver them to the Tyler at least a week before each meeting, and in order that every Member may come prepared to pay his arrears at the proper time, he shall state in the summons for the meeting in Some, what will then be due from each Member respectively, and in consideration of the duties attached to the office, the Secretary shall be allowed a salary of two - a Guineas per annum, and be exempt from all contributions ~~except in quarters payments to the~~ ~~Summers, and to the Provincial Funds~~

VII

Qualification for Officers &c

That no Brother, unless a Member of this Lodge, or being a Member, if he has not attended at least one General Lodge within the last twelve months, and paid all his fines, quarterage, &c. shall be appointed to any office or vote or interfere with the concerns or business of the Lodge.

VIII

Permanent Committee

That a permanent Committee, consisting of the Officers of the Lodge, for the time being, the past Masters, and ^{Auditor} ~~two other Members~~ (to be elected ~~removably~~ on the day of installation of Master) shall audit the Treasurer's accounts between the election and installation of the Master in each

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year and Superintend the financial and property
of the Lodge, and consider of any special matter
regarding its interests. - This Committee shall
be summoned to meet whenever the Master may
direct. (five always to be a quorum,) and the
result of their proceedings shall be reported, in writing
to the next regular meeting of the Lodge for appro-
bation. The expense attending the meetings of the
permanent Committee shall be paid out of the
Lodge fund.

IX

Initiations

That every proposal for initiation shall be
made in open Lodge when the name, age, title
or profession, and place of abode, of the Candidate,
also the proper declaration duly signed by him,
shall be delivered to the Master or Secretary, and
at the same time a deposit of One Guinea shall
be made: notice of such proposition shall be
inserted in the summons for the next Lodge,
at which a ballot shall take place, and should
there not appear three negatives, the Candidate
shall be considered duly elected - if not approved
on the ballot, the deposit shall be returned.
But if a Candidate who has been approved
shall neglect to attend for initiation six stated
or general Lodges after such approval, (except
sickness who shall have twelve months allowed
for that purpose,) then the deposit shall be for-
feited to the funds of the Lodge.

Admission of Members

That no Brother shall be admitted a Member of this Lodge without a regular proposition in open Lodge, nor until his name, occupation, and place of abode as well as the name and number of the Lodge of which he was last a member or in which he was initiated, shall have been sent to all the Members in the summons for the next stated Lodge meeting; the certificate from his former Lodge is to be produced, stating that he has paid all his dues, &c., and the decision of the Brethren to be ascertained by ballot: if on such ballot there shall not appear three black or negative ballots, he shall be admitted a Member. - If the Candidate had formerly been a Member of this Lodge, and struck off the list for non-attendance, he may be readmitted with the consent of the majority of Members present on the night of application.

XI

Operation of Ballot

That on a ballot for the initiation of a Mason or the admission of a Member, if three negatives should appear, the Candidate shall be considered as rejected, but on motion, a second ballot may take place at the same meeting, when, if three negatives should again appear, the Candidate shall be proscribed for that time, but the proposition may be renewed at the next or any subsequent meeting. If more than three negatives should appear on any ballot, the Candidate shall not again be proposed within Twelve months. No Candidate shall be elected but by regular

ballot. All questions & motions other than for initiations and admissions, shall be determined by vote, and if upon a division, or show of hands, the votes should be equal, the Master shall in that case decide the question by an extra vote.

XII

Fees for Initiation, Admission &c.
That the fee for initiation shall be Four pounds ten Shillings including a Grand Lodge certificate, and for the admission of a Member, one Guinea, unless such Member has been made in a Lodge not under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, and consequently not registered therein, in which case he shall pay two Guineas, including the registry, and Grand Lodge certificate. If the Candidate has been formerly a Member of this Lodge, his re-admission fee shall be Fifteen Shillings. In all cases where a Lodge of Emergency is called for making, passing, or raising, the Candidate shall pay five Shillings in addition to the initiation fee.

XIII

VISITORS

That no Visitor shall be admitted into this Lodge unless he be personally known, recommended, or well recommended for, after due examination by one of the Brethren present.

XIV

Fines for Non Attendance and Exclusion
That each Member neglecting to attend the General Meetings shall, for every neglect, forfeit

Expence, (except masters, or those who reside
twelve miles from Sunderland, who shall only pay
three pence each time they are absent) and every
Member who shall neglect to attend for twelve gene-
ral meetings successively, or shall neglect or refuse to
pay all perfects quarterly, &c. that he may in-
by these By-Laws, when demanded by the Warden
or Secretary, shall be adjudged to have with-
drawn from the Lodge, and shall not be receiv-
ed as a Member, or treated as such, unless he be
afterwards regularly proposed and readmitted.

XV

Education of Children and Appropriation of Fines

That six boys, being orphan children of
Freemasons, shall be educated at the expence
of this Lodge, and all fines incurred by the
Members under these By-Laws shall go toward
defraying the expence of such education. In
case of a vacancy the children of deceased
Members of this Lodge to have the preference.

XVI

Irregular Behaviour

That if a Brother say in the Lodge any
thing improper, hold private conversations,
dispute about Religion or Politics, interrupt
another Brother while speaking to the Master
be not on his legs when addressing the Master
sit down unclothed, or otherwise conduct him-
self indecorously, he shall be subject to such censure
as the majority of the Members then present
shall think proper; to which if he refuse to

the Master, he shall be liable to be excluded from the Lodge. No Brother shall be allowed to speak more than once (except for explanation, or when called on by the Master) and the mover in reply to any matter or question that may be under discussion.

XVII

Furniture and Other Property of the Lodge

That the Pedestal, the Cash or fund, as also the jewels, furniture and all other things whatsoever belonging to this Lodge, shall be and hereby are, vested in and deemed the property of the Master, Wardens and Treasurer, for the time being; and when any money shall be put out at interest on account of the Lodge, the securities shall be in their joint names, in trust for the use and benefit of the Lodge, and to be paid, applied, and disposed of as the majority of the members shall, in due form, from time to time upon general Lodge nights, think proper to direct and not otherwise; so that the Treasurer shall pay no money nor shall any be taken out of the Pedestal on any account whatever, without an order made at a general Lodge with the consent of a majority of the members present.

XVIII

Securities

That the person at whose house the Society shall meet, and every other person who shall

be entrusted with the Festal, or any furniture
or other effects of the Lodge shall give sufficient
security for delivering up the same, when demanded by the
Master, Wardens, and Treasurer, for the time
being or any three of them. -

XIX

Festival

That the annual Festival shall be held on
the 27th day of December, or as near that day
as may be convenient, and all Members not
attending, after due notice, shall forfeit and pay
the sum of two Shillings except Mariners
actually from home with their Ships. -

XX

By-Laws to be Signed

That a Copy of these By-Laws shall be
kept in the Lodge, and signed by every Member
on his first visit, in testimony of his submission
and agreement to conform thereto, and every
Member of this Lodge shall be provided with
a printed Copy. -

XXI

Mode of Altering By-Laws

That no alteration shall be made in these
By-Laws, nor any new one added, but at a
regular meeting of the Lodge, and that by
motion in writing to be handed up to the Master
in the chair, and if seconded, inserted in the
Summons for convening the next meeting at
which the subject shall be discussed; and
as soon as any alteration or addition shall

There can be made and confirmed, a copy thereof shall be transmitted for the inspection and sanction of the M. W. Grand Master, prior to its being fairly transcribed into the book of By-Laws

XXII

Cases unprovided For

When any case occurs for which no provision is made by the foregoing By-Laws reference shall be made to the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge from which the point in discussion shall be determined.

XI

IX

Last Page of By-Laws

N.B. These By-Laws were written by Bro Scarth and presented to his lodge in a well bound book. They are still in immaculate condition due most certainly, in latter years to the devoted care of W Bro 'Jack' Thompson, PM, PPrJGW

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