

### *Third rising*

The Worshipful Master says “*Brethren, I rise for the third time to enquire if any Brother has aught to propose for the good of Freemasonry in general or of this, the .....Lodge, No. xxxx in particular.*” This rising deals with any matters relating to “the Lodge”, and covers reports on any correspondence received, proposals for candidates for initiation or joining, etc. In some Lodges the Worshipful Master will then ask for reports from some of his Officers, usually the Junior Warden, the Almoner, the Charity Steward and the Lodge Mentor. Usually, at this point apologies from members and greetings from visitors are taken. Each visitor stands in turn and offers greetings to the Worshipful Master from his Lodge.

### *Closing the Lodge*

The Senior Warden closes the Lodge on the Master’s command; lights on the pedestals are extinguished, columns raised and lowered, the Tracing Board covered, Working Tools put away and the Volume of the Sacred Law closed. The Immediate Past Master then places his hand on the VSL and says “*Brethren, nothing now remains but, according to ancient custom, to lock up our secrets in a safe and sacred repository uniting in the act of fidelity, fidelity, fidelity.*” On the words ‘fidelity’ the Brethren give the act of fidelity.

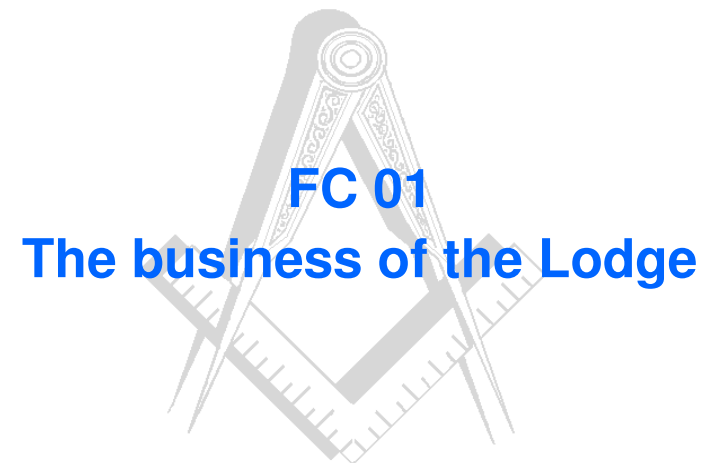
A Closing Ode is sung and the DC and ADC, two abreast, process around the Lodge first collecting the Deacons and then the Wardens. The ADC stands in the West facing the Senior Warden’s pedestal, with the two Deacons two abreast behind. The Wardens stand, two abreast, in the North East part of the Lodge. The DC then asks the Brethren to remain standing and collects the WM, who stands behind and in between the two Deacons. Note, if an Initiate is present he will usually stand next to, but on the outside of the WM. Also on the night of Installation, the Presiding Officer will stand next to the WM. The Wardens then stand next in line, followed by Grand Officers and Acting Officers of the District of Cyprus in order of seniority. The procession then leaves the Lodge, with the Deacons crossing their wands for the WM only.

Produced by the District of Cyprus Mentoring Team - August 2012  
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## District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

### A series of Fact Sheets for a Fellow Craft



# Making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge

## *The business of the Lodge*

The business of a Lodge meeting usually follows a standard procedure. There are slight variations amongst Lodges, but there are some items of business that must be addressed.

### *Opening the Lodge*

The meeting usually starts with an Opening Hymn being sung. The Worshipful Master establishes that none but Masons are present and then asks the 'progressive' Officers to state their duties. The Worshipful Master then opens the Lodge. The three Lesser Lights are lit by the Principal Officers, the Wardens adjust their columns - The Junior Warden's column placed horizontal and the Senior Warden's column placed upright to show that the Lodge is open for business. The Junior Deacon uncovers the First Degree Tracing Board, and the Working Tools



of an Entered Apprentice are displayed. The Immediate Past Master then opens the Volume of the Sacred Law and places the Square and Compasses upon it, both points of the Compasses hidden behind the Square - these being the three Great, though emblematical Lights, which must

always be on display.

### *The Minutes*

The Secretary will then read the Minutes of the last regular Lodge meeting, or, if they have been previously circulated to the Brethren, he will advise the Worshipful Master that this has been done. The Minutes are then approved by the Brethren and confirmed by the Worshipful Master with his signature.

### *Main business of the evening*

The main business of the evening will usually be a ceremony. If it is a Second or Third Degree Ceremony those brethren below the rank of the degree being worked will be asked to retire from the Lodge for a short time. They return to the Lodge when the Lodge is re-opened in the degree of their rank.

### *Ballots and Votes*

Ballots are taken for candidates for initiation and joining. The Deacons supply each member with a white ball and a black ball; a white ball is for and a black ball is against, with two black balls usually excluding. The Master will declare the ballot 'favourable' even if there is one black ball in the box. Votes are taken by a show of hands and are used for such things as approving the Minutes or the approval of expenditure from Lodge funds. The means of voting is to extend the right arm out horizontal to the ground with the palm faced down.

### *Alms collection*

Most Lodges have an alms collection immediately before the Risings. There is no set figure that Brethren are expected to donate; they deposit in the collection boxes what their personal circumstance will allow.

### *The Risings*

Immediately before closing the Lodge the Worshipful Master rises three times and makes an enquiry:

#### *First rising*

The Worshipful Master says "*Brethren, I rise for the first time to enquire if any Brother has aught to propose for the good of Freemasonry in general or of this, the .....Lodge, No. xxx in particular.*" The Secretary then reports on any correspondence received from the "United Grand Lodge of England", which usually covers reports of meetings that have been held, or any disciplinary action taken against any Brother.

#### *Second rising*

The Worshipful Master says "*Brethren, I rise for the second time to enquire if any Brother has aught to propose for the good of Freemasonry in general or of this, the .....Lodge, No. xxx in particular.*" The Secretary then reports on any correspondence received from the "District Grand Lodge of Cyprus". On this rising a member, or members, of the District Grand Lodge may report on activities within the District, such as charity events, etc.