

Field Promotion for New Members of Grand Master's Body Guard



It is the accepted custom that members of the Grand Master's Body Guard are appointed and invested once a year at the annual meeting of the Order. This year has been different for the Great Priory of Germany wishing to reset the whole notion of the Body Guard. Currently all members of the Great Priory of Germany's Body Guard are from Northumberland and have a similar duty in the same Province. Following a period discreet discussion, it was agreed early in 2024, that the Provincial Body Guard could also act as the Grand Master's Body Guard in Germany, reflecting the very strong links and friendship that has been forged between RE Kt Kevin Stannard and Germany's Grand Master, ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT over many years.

Through a quirk of fate, not all members of the proposed Body Guard could parade to be formally appointed in July 24. With a late arriving flight, being last off the plane, and, a great distance to negotiate in Amsterdam airport, a connecting flight was missed. However, in good Northumbrian style, plans we set in motion to create a novel and unusual opportunity to achieve full manning of the Body Guard before the year end. With the Grand Constable and Grand Chancellor being ex-Infantry, the notion of being appointed in the field was hatched and proposed to the Grand Master, who also being ex-Army, loved the marshal theme. Where to make the splash, and when ? It was quickly decided given the whole Body Guard would be present, Greece was agreed.



Above Left: With laying of hands and words of fealty, ME Kt MacKenzie appoints E Kt Guy Smith as one of his Bodyguard.



Above Right: ME Kt MacKenzie congratulating E Kt Tony Hunter following his appointment to the

In that moment of stillness before the wave of ceremony crashes, the ME Kt Roddy summoned the German contingent to a quiet part of the auditorium outside the Temple in Athens. Unbeknown to all the German delegates, the German Grand Master then called forward two of his Bodyguard to then personally appoint and invest them as members of his Bodyguard. Whilst appearing informal, the abridged ceremony had all the hallmarks and authority of a Great Priory Muster. ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT with great warmth and affection said, "This is a very special and unique day as you have been appointed and elevated to the my Bodyguard, in the field, which makes it even more special as you have helped create history in our Order".

Newly appointed member of the Grand Master's Body Guard, E Kt Tony Hunter said, "This has come as a real surprise, I really did not expect this, it is just incredible, I am just over the moon". Likewise, E Kt E Kt Guy Smith commenting, "I am really, really delighted as I was deeply disappointed to have missed being appointed earlier in the year, to receive this honour in Athens is just amazing".

