

Unique Honour Conferred on one of England's Finest – VE Kt Harry Randell

The medieval town of Goslar in the foot hills of the Hartz mountains in Germany played host to the Annual Meeting of the Grand Priory of Germany attended by eight international delegations, including England and Wales the weekend of 24/25 October. The delegation was led by RE & VH Andrew Rainbow GCT accompanied by the Great Marshal, RE Kt Tim Wheeler GCT. Included in the wider UK delegation was VE Kt Harry Randell, E Kt David Armstrong, Kts Oliver Rainbow, Robert Brooks and Stephen Terry.



Left (From left to right): The dream team arriving at Hannover Airport, RE and VH Andrew Rainbow GCT, Mo Wheeler, and bringing up the rear, RE Kt Tim Wheeler GCT, with Kt Oliver Rainbow out of shot.

The meeting spread over two days, included on the Friday, a ceremony of the Teutonic Order which provided the secrets restricted to those destined to receive the KCT. This was followed by an informal Grand Master's reception and buffet supper, with partners, which was handsomely attended.

Amidst the turbulence of the 75 mph storm Benjamin, all was peaceful, though bustling in the Temple of the hotel Achtermann where the meeting was hosted. Following the normal processions during the opening all became settled. However, unlike any other year, 2025 was to prove to be much more different than any previous meeting. This started with the Grand Master's Body Guard taken centre stage for much of the choreography of the meeting, demonstrating great skill and precision under the command of E Kt Scot Hunter assisted by his deputy, E Kt Kevin Mouzon-Wilson.

Right: International delegations to the right of the Grand Prelate (VE Kt John McDougal), in order of seniority, England, Greece, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and Romania. Grand Master, ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT sat on left of image.



Faces and names well known in the North of England as kindly loaned by the Provincial Prior of Northumberland (RE Kt Kevin Stannard).

During the ceremony, and for the first time for Germany, the Body Guard formed a carousel to present Grand Officers to ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT, the Grand Master. Shortly after, again being a first, the Body Guard conducted a ceremony where all Knights were reappointed and reaffirmed their loyalty by the hilt of their sword in passing.



However, the biggest honour was for the very first time in Germany's history, as a sovereign Grand Priory, it conferred past Grand rank on a Knight from a different Constitution. In this case, VE Kt Harry Randell, now, Honorary Past Grand Marshal. Formally presented by the Body Guard, VE Kt Harry Randell was thanked for his outstanding support to the Grand Priory of Germany during the Covid epidemic in bringing to life to Templar ceremony through an innovative on-line table top simulation.

Left: VE Kt Harry Randell receiving his letter of patent from Grand Master, ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT. Also presented was an embroidered Grand Officers mantle badge, always worn on the right side of the mantle.

Right: VE Kt Harry Randell PG Mar shows letter of patent to his proposer, RE Kt Lt Col (Retd) Ian Harper GCT following, on the same day, the Grand Priory Malta meeting.



Following a simple lunch, the Grand Priory of Malta meeting was conducted where uniquely, 18 Knights were admitted to the Order, all of whom were given the accolade by a ruling



Grand Master invited from one of the delegations.

Following a well deserved break after the meeting, all Knights assembled to enjoy a Grand Master's Gala dinner where VE Kt Harry Radell and his wife Esme, enjoyed the company of the Body Guard (all from Northumberland) and his proposer.

Left: Esme Randell and to her right, VE KT Harry with his proposer, RE Kt Ian Harper GCT surrounded by members of the Grand Master's Body Guard.

In comment, Harry said, "I am overwhelmed by this honour and did not expect this. Today has been a real delight as I have enjoyed every moment here in Goslar".