

## Grand Priory of Germany Setting New Standards at Annual Muster Welcomes New Brother Knights to Knights Templar



Rich in history with historic links to the original Order of the Templars. The medieval and beautiful Goslar town set in the foot hills of the Hartz mountains quietly played a historic part in the journey of the Grand Priory of Germany. Preparations for the meeting started in September 2024 with the forming of a planning team to oversee the logistics for the weekend, comprising RE Kt Shiny MacKinnon GCT (overall head), VE Kt Deam Thompson (Grad Treasurer), VE Kt Wolfgang Mann (Grand Deputy Secretary), VE Kt Mark Stanely (Grand Deputy Secretary (Information Management) and RE Kt Ian Harper KCT (Grand Chancellor).



Preparations included making and painting a range of items that would create a strong visual Templar and Malta impression. This included making Great Priory banners for each delegation to muster under, a first for Germany, indeed most other European Great Pories. Following several site visits to the hotel and a change of room to cater for the increased size of attending delegates, the largest seen in the Grand Priory's history. With registrations open in

February, it was of note the first to commit was ME Kt Gerand Rainer, the Grand Master of Switzerland, quickly followed by the planning team. By the time registrations were closed it was a delight to see eight foreign delegates (22 Knights), all 14 Preceptories represented through 82 Knights from the Grand Priory, supported by 22 guests (wives and partners).







It is a testament to planning team and the Registrars that such a high turnout was achieved. Indeed, nearly every appointment and promotion at Grand Priory was filled, again a feature not seen before.



The

programme for the weekend started with three full rehearsals with the Grand Master's Body Guard on the Friday. In the afternoon, this included a ceremony to confer the degree of St Andrews (Teutonic Order) to RE Kts Dirk Holtermann, Thomas Bylicki, Deam Thompson, Scot Hunter and VE Kt David Person (sadly unable to attend due to cancellation of his train from Keil). This was followed by the annual business (e.V) business meeting to approve the accounts and confirm senior managers of the organisation).

Following a very well attended Grand Master's reception on Friday evening, a solemn Service of Remembrance open to guests was undertaken to remember Br Kt Udo Voest Knight Companion of the Temple a highly respected and beloved Knight of the Grand Priory. The Service was led by VE Kt John McDougal resplendently dressed in gold mitre and mantle. The



ceremony was made that much more special by a full honour guard of sentinels being formed from the Grand Master's Body Guard attended to my both the Commander (E Kt Scot Hunter) and his Deputy (E Kt Kevin Mouzon-Wilson). With short period set aside for coffee and kuchen, all Knights were assembled for the start of the main event



starting with the inward procession of the Malta delegation of the Grand Prior (VE Kt Dirk Holtermann) and his Sub Prior (RE Kt Ian Harper KCT GMA). This was quickly followed by admission of the Grand Prelate (VE Kt John McDougall). Flanked front and rear by his Grand Sword Bearer (VE Kt Malcolm Parnhan) and Grand Standard Bearer (VE Kt Till Esser), the Grand Master, ME Kt Roddy MacKenzie GCT entered the Temple in due form. Shortly after, the eight foreign delegations individually processed in under a perfectly formed arch of steel to be warmly welcomed by the ME Kt Roddy. All took their places under their respective banners in the North East.



The format of the meeting followed a similar format to previous years up to the point where Sentinel's from the Grand Master's Body Guard were reappointed. A beautifully executed series of drill movements were accomplished presenting the Guard to their Grand Master where he



individually thanked them for their support and reaffirmed their appointments. As an act of fealty, the Guard then individually processed past the Grand Master lowering their swords as mark of their allegiance.



The Commander and Deputy Commander were then re-confirmed to their post but with addition, for the first time in the Grand Priory's history by being created active Aide de Camps to the Grand Master. Proceeding this, two new Knights (Kt Bjorn Gross and Mihalj Horvat) were formally presented and ceremonially appointed to the Guard by the Grand Master.



During the proceedings, VE Kt Dean Thompson TO received the unique honour of the Grand Master Award (GMA) for his exceptional work



in re-balancing the Grand Priory's accounts and establishing a cloud-based membership database. This was followed by VE Kt Dirk Holtermann being conferred the KCT which was delayed from 2024 due to personal circumstances and RE Kt Ian Harper receiving the GCT. However, another seminal moment in the Grand Priory's history took place with all new Knights being assembled in line in East to be presented, as Knights of old, to their liege in

Court. Each Knight was personally welcomed and presented a personalised gift at the hand of ME Kt Roddy. All Knights were then presented and welcomed internally to the assembled Knights of Grand Priory and shortly after to attending foreign guests acknowledging the international dimension of the Order.

A further part included a unique presentation of Honorary Past Grand Marshal to VE Kt Harry Randell from England. The honour was the very first of its kind for the Grand Priory marking strong ties with England and above the incredibly contribution to the welfare and spirit of members of our Grand Priory during long dark days of Covid.





Following a short break for a light lunch, during which, the planning team re-set Temple for the Malta degree where the newly appointed Grand Prior (RE Kt Shiny MacKinnon GCT GMA) led proceedings



culminating in creating 18 new Knights of Malta. Whilst not the most elegant of ceremonies due to numbers, it was felt every Knight should feel they were part of the ceremony given how far they travelled and the cost. The success for the ceremony was very much aided by the role of the Body

Guard which has resulted in sufficient Knights being created to enable Priorities to run their own ceremonies in the future. However, another very personal and memorable moment was when heads



of delegations (all Grand Master, less the Grand Seneschal of England) were invited to personally conduct the accolade of Knighting a number of candidates each. The weekend's activities were celebrated in exquisite style with a black tie Grand Master's Gala dinner where three leading ladies were personally thanked by the Grand Master for their amazing support to the Order thought the year.

