

Email received - Sunday, 4 October, 2015 9:44 AM

Dear Ronnie,

I am dismayed at the way your Masonic career was so abruptly concluded and the manner in which you were treated.

As the serving Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim Secretary attending the foundation stone laying at Portrush Hall on the 17th November 2006, I state the following.

After the celebratory dinner following the laying of the foundation stone a meeting took place and some of those involved were the GM at the time, Eric Waller, the newly appointed GM to be, George Dunlop, the PGM of Antrim, J S Dunlop, the PAGM, J L Frazer and myself.

The discussion revolved around yourself and Brian and Stuart Hood with the conclusion from J S Dunlop that basically the three of you were of nuisance to the Order and that the matter should be dealt with. I can recall that at that informal meeting, (in which no minutes were recorded), that the only agenda from J S Dunlop was to pursue (or in other terms conduct a witch hunt against) yourself and Brian and Stuart Hood. The GM and the GM elect stated that they would back the PGM of Antrim in his actions.

In subsequent meetings concerning actions against you that I attended, it was blatantly obvious that J S Dunlop's agenda was to bring charges of unmasonic conduct against the three of you no matter how it was achieved.

Later I was prevented (contrary to our laws and by-laws) in my capacity, as PGS, from attending all the meetings regarding the pursuance of these unmasonic charges as I stated to J S Dunlop on numerous occasions that he was acting outside the Laws and Constitutions of Grand Lodge and the By-Laws of PGL Antrim.

An example being that at a meeting between J S Dunlop, J Dickson (PGL Registrar at the time) and myself, concerning the Retention Team, that he (J S Dunlop) was in breach of our by-laws, he actually had the audacity to state that he was the PGM and could do what he wanted, I advised him that this could not take place and he further went on to state that he had a "PGM's prerogative". J Dickson actually rang me at home that evening and stated that I was correct and that the PGM was indeed in breach of our by-laws with his planned actions and indeed he did not have a "PGM's prerogative".

J S Dunlop was also not bringing items concerning these unmasonic charges to the PGL BGP for discussion and/or approval. All discussions took place at Cabinet meetings, senior officers homes or hotels, and not all of the cabinet members were aware of the meetings or their agendas.

Although aware of the discussion on you no formal action was sanctioned at any Cabinet meeting nor was I ever asked to enquire as to how a charge of unmasonic conduct could be levied against you. The PGM and his senior officers were meeting with you on a frequent basis on numerous subjects and had ample opportunity to caution or warn you of their alleged concerns, as I had none.

I am aware, through international media reports, that a PSNI fraud investigation into the financial accounts of the PGL of Antrim, expanding to the years of which I Provincial Secretary, is ongoing of which I am willing to facilitate but no contact has been made to me. My concern is that my absence may facilitate some within the Order to hinder open and transparency on issues.

My 50% shareholding to the Whiteabbey Masonic Hall remains unchanged. I never could understand how a substantial asset of PGLA held partly in my name was not and never has been to my knowledge disclosed on the Annual accounts or balance sheets.

Kind regards,

Yours s&f Alan Askin.

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