

ARCHWAY

Guiding Chapters towards more efficient meetings



We all enjoy traditions within our Chapters, but many practices have simply crept in under the disguise of 'tradition' for no obvious reason and when combined they prolong meetings unnecessarily. This then requires earlier start times and/or very late finishes – both of which can be unattractive to many members for different reasons.



Outside of the core ritual, each Chapter should carefully examine each practice and item of business for the value it adds to the meeting and ask whether the current membership wish it to continue.

Streamlining meetings can be an important factor in increasing enjoyment.

These two ideas are not contradictory—the point of streamlining is not just to shorten a meeting, but also to allow the time and space for interesting elements which could otherwise be rushed or squeezed out such as 'nuggets' from Solomon or other educational pieces.

It is suggested that each Chapter could look at each action or movement around the Chapter and at the Festive Board to decide if it adds value, or if it just slows the meeting and possibly detracts from member enjoyment.

Examples to be considered could include:

- *Is an opening or closing ode required, especially if there is no organist?*
- *Can Chapter reports (Treasurer, Charity Steward, Almoner, etc) be circulated in advance?*
- *Is it necessary to read "ancient minutes"?*
- *Movements around the Chapter – remember we don't square the Chapter, (it is not a Lodge)*
- *In a well-run Chapter, the result of any membership ballot should also be known in advance and so multiple ballots can initially be combined to save time (and repeated individually if necessary).*

- *Charity collections can be done on retirement rather than sending the Sojourners round with collection plates. Also perhaps consider whether to do a single collection at retirement and then not hold a raffle or whiskey draw?*
- *Investiture of Officers at Installation meetings.*
 - *Reappointments can simply be read out by the Scribe E with all standing as their name is read and acknowledging their reappointment with a court bow.*
 - *Newly appointed officers could make their own way to the Principals to be met by the DC as opposed to being escorted by him.*
- *Readings within the ceremonial. Consider the permissive readings. These are shorter, and also much easier to understand.*
- *Finally, it goes without saying that speeches should be short & sweet! The IPZ only need to make a brief comment, and the Visitors' Toast rarely requires a response let alone a formulaic one.*

The above are meant only as suggestions and are intended to demonstrate the ***'art of the possible'***. However, after surveying your membership, you may find that some changes prove very popular?



Archway can be accessed at: <https://b.ugle.org.uk/membership/archway> or by scanning the QR code above.