



# Members Briefing

## January 2020

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### Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer

A big thank you to all those who contributed to another successful AGM/Members' Meeting. Despite issues with transport and seasonal illness, the numbers attending were satisfactory and the feedback from those in attendance was very encouraging.

Following positive comments at the newly-formed Grand Master's Council Committee for Charity (GMCCC) Advisory Group, the free wills initiative and the new charity grants initiatives were endorsed at the Board in December. These will be rolled out over the next few months.

Towards the end of last year we were sorry to say goodbye to Alison Lott after her long and distinguished service to the MSF and MCF. She has been succeeded in her role as Fundraising Manager by Paul Crockett who is being kept busy with arrangements for the launch of the Lincolnshire 2025 Festival which will be held on 18 January and the launch of the West Kent Festival on 7 February.

This month, the RMBI Care Co. will begin its major redevelopment project at Lord Harris Court in Sindlesham and we wish the RMBI Board, Mark Lloyd and the team every success with this exciting new venture.

The long-running legal case involving Cornwallis Court, Bury St Edmunds has finally concluded and the lessons learned along the way will ultimately strengthen the RMBI Care Co. and its operations.

At the end of 2019, an announcement was made regarding the retirement of David Innes, MCF Chief Executive in the middle of 2020 and the process for appointing his successor has begun.

On behalf of the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Senior Leadership Team and staff, may we wish you all a happy New Year and a prosperous start to the new decade.

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### Masonic support

- Masonic support are currently working with the PGA Advisory Group and the communications team to develop an **online eligibility checker** that will feature on the new MCF website.
- In late January, the team will **meet with the GAMES developers for a debrief following the successful deployment of version 2.0 of the software.** GAMES is integral to the way both Masonic support and the provincial contacts work, and further priorities for development are being looked into.
- In the run-up to Christmas, Masonic support worked hard to ensure those in need received their grants before Christmas. Working closely with the finance department right up until the office closure, the team were able to push through a number of **urgent payments before the office closed.**

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### Charity grants

#### Home-Start UK partnership

This year, **the MCF Board has approved a partnership with Home-Start UK.** The charity is an established organisation comprising a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support workers across England and Wales. The network **helps disadvantaged families with young children through their early years up to the age of five years old.**

The grant will complement the second programme, **'Creating the Best Start in Life for Disadvantaged Children and Young People'**. The partnership involves a project which will run over **5 years** and seeks to work with **local Home-Start branches** to deliver a project that aims to get children from disadvantaged backgrounds school-ready.

The Big Hopes Big Futures project will be delivered to **3,000 families in 150 local communities** across England and Wales. The project will be delivered by the network of local Home-Starts who deliver a range of other early learning services for families in communities.

#### Age UK partnership

**The first year of the three-year partnership has been a resounding success and we are well on target to reach 10,000 older people.**

This year, the **total number of people supported is 3,234** which is slightly below the target of 3,240 – this is due to the time taken at the beginning to set up the projects. However, **2,614 older people have received home visits which is double the annual target of 1,300.** This year, the **total amount of unclaimed benefits identified is £5.7M which is double the amount Age UK anticipated.**



## Hospice UK partnership

The MCF Charity Grants Committee has now chosen the **new theme for the Hospice UK partnership: Widening Access to Local Hospice Services for those Experiencing Homelessness and/or those with Learning Disabilities.**

The **overall budget for 2019/2020 has been increased to £750,000**, with **£300,000 for the care programme**, and **£450,000 for the Hospice UK programme.**

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### RMBI Care Co.

## RMBI Care Co. achieves 100 per cent compliance across all homes

In November, Cadogan Court in Exeter received an overall rating of ‘Good’ following a recent inspection by CQC. This latest success means that **all homes are now rated ‘Outstanding’, ‘Good’ or ‘Fully Compliant’** with regulators CQC and CIW, **making RMBI Care Co. one of the very few care home operators to achieve 100 per cent compliance.**

Cadogan Court was found to be offering a safe, effective, responsive and caring service to its residents. CQC said in the report: “Staff were caring and kind and had developed positive and meaningful relationships with people. People were respected, included in decisions and their privacy and independence promoted. The care provided was sensitive to people’s diverse needs.”

**The report praised the home’s new Dementia Support House**, describing staff as “skilled at supporting the people living there, with input from the provider’s dementia specialist lead”. According to the report “the design of the dementia unit helped to promote people’s orientation and stimulate conversation”.



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## Legacies

- The Legacy Manager had a reported **legacy income of £2.5 million** at the end of December 2019 **against the forecast for 2019/20 of £2.2 million.**
- The **'Making a Will Guide' has now been updated** to reflect the changes to the free will-writing service, and are available to order at: [mcf.org.uk/resources](http://mcf.org.uk/resources)

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## Fundraising

### MCF Ball – Surrey

The annual MCF Ball (formerly the RMBI Ball) for 2020 has been announced and tickets are now on sale. The event, **hosted by the Province of Surrey**, will be held on **Saturday 20 June 2020 at the Chelsea Harbour Hotel**. Tickets are priced at **£95 per person** and **Status Quo will be the main entertainment**. Tickets are available at: [mcfball2020.eventbrite.co.uk](http://mcfball2020.eventbrite.co.uk)

### Keep on running – Durham

Once again, members from the **Province of Durham** will be running in the **2020 Great North Run** to raise funds for their 2021 Festival Appeal. All ten participants will be highly visible, wearing **bright orange MCF running shirts**. Good luck to them all, and keep on running!

### Great fun, great fundraising, and a great night – Dorset

**Dorset** held a wonderful event in support of their 2025 Festival with over **200 members, friends and family members being wined, dined, and entertained** throughout the night. It was also an opportunity to launch their own **Festival 25 beer, 'Dorset Fire'**, produced in conjunction with Piddle Brewery.



## Financial summary for the eight months ended 30 November

**£8.84M** in total income

- Unit donations £3.58 million
- Regular donations £2.23 million
- Gift Aid envelopes £1.72 million
- Gift Aid tax relief £.64 million

**£7.27M** in grants to charities

- £3.27 million for the MCF
- £2.22 million for legacy charities
- £1.78 million for other charitable organisations

**139**

Relief Chests opened, making

**4,991**

Relief Chests in total

**61,962**

monthly donations to into the Scheme on average

**50,087**

monthly tax reclaims on average

**328**

monthly payments from the Scheme on average



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## Finance

- **2020/21 Budget:** The second draft for the budget was reviewed and finalised by the SLT in January. It will be considered by the Finance Committee in February and by the Board in March.
- **MCF CAIF:** The transition of funds from Fulcrum to CCLA was completed in December. There was a record high of £108.46 per unit achieved at the end of December.
- **RMIGET:** The proposal for restructuring was confirmed by the Board in its December meeting.

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## Strategy and special projects

- **2020/21 corporate plan:** Strategy are in the process of collating all departmental corporate plans for 2020/21 which will be presented to Trustees at the March Board meeting.
- **Grants reporting:** The team are undertaking a review of how they report grant-making statistics for staff, provinces, committees and the Board, with the hope of making them more accessible and meaningful.
- **Impact reporting:** Strategy are continuing to work with the Masonic support and charity grants teams to develop measurement frameworks that will help users to understand and report on the impact the MCF is making through our grant-making.

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## Communications

- The **2018/19 Impact Report** was circulated to PGMs and other relevant executive members in each province, as well as to charity CEOs, MPs, and local civic leaders. The newspaper format has been well received.
- We secured a good level of **media coverage for our emergency grants** in response to flooding in Yorkshire and the East Midlands, as well as a grant to support famine relief in southern Africa and the bushfires in Australia.
- The upcoming March edition of **Freemasonry Today** will have a major feature on the **Teddies for Loving Care** initiative to coincide with 2.5 million bears being awarded since the charity's launch. There will also be articles about our **free will-writing service**.
- **Recruitment is underway for a Marketing Manager** to replace Rachel Ledesma who leaves at the end of February.
- Head of Communications, Harry Smith and Press Officer, Guy Roberts will be representing the MCF at a **Provincial Communications Officers' Conference** taking place at Freemasons' Hall on 29 and 30 January.





## Internal promotions/changes:

- Suhail Alam, Head of Digital and Technology
- Paul Crockett, Fundraising Manager
- Janice Hughes, Donations Coordinator
- Julian Elcock and Jonathan Paice, Relief Chest Scheme become permanent members of staff
- Anna Wilson, Marketing Executive
- Relief Chest operational team now report through to Charles Angus, Finance Director

## We have welcomed the following new starters:

- Emma Chudley and Caroline Wales as Advisers, Advice & Support Team
- Alison Finlay, Liz Giaretta, Rowena Kahsay, and Emma Perry as Grant Officers
- Jason Harris as Treasury Accountant
- Whitney Olumese as Press and Marketing Assistant

## We have said farewell and thank you to:

- Paul Jemwa, Records Manager
- Alison Lott, Fundraising Manager
- Anish Mandalia, Enquiries Officer
- Judy Morrow, Adviser, Advice & Support Team

## Employee engagement initiatives

Following our **second Employee Engagement Survey**, all staff received feedback and had the chance to discuss findings in **interactive sessions**, which were followed by individual team meetings. In addition to this, Staff Forum representatives met and further ideas and debate followed which has enabled a **comprehensive action plan** to be developed and **shared with staff in January**.

Prior to Christmas, all head office and national staff in the MCF and the RMBI Care Co. were given access to an **Employee Assistance Programme**, which provides a range of wellbeing and discount initiatives via the Personal Group and their Hapi App. This has been well received and enables staff to have **24/7 access to telephone support lines**.

The Assistant Director of HR Services has started **HR drop-in surgeries** for staff who wish to have an opportunity to discuss anything that is important to them. A few staff took advantage of this and these will **continue on a quarterly basis**.

**All people-related policies within our staff handbook have been reviewed and updated.** The staff representatives spent time reviewing these on behalf of their representative groups and these are now finalised.

Another **successful Christmas party** was held on 13 December and was very well attended by both MCF and RMBICC staff.



## Administration and support

It has been a record-breaking year for the administration and support team, with **2,906 application, review and TalentAid forms processed** during 2019.

Other activities include supporting the implementation of **new PC hardware and software upgrades**, coordinating the **installation of two additional workspaces** in the Masonic support team, and **assisting with the PGA Regional Meeting in November and the AGM/Members' Meeting in December**.

It is hoped that the eagerly-awaited **facility will be available from early February**. The system is semi-portable and can be used in each of the three main MCF meeting rooms.

