



James S Adams (1954 – 2013) – a much loved Brother and friend



Installation as RWM 1995



Distinguished Service Membership October 2012



Installing Master November 2009



Installation of Provincial Grand Master March 2013



Installation of Provincial Grand Master March 2013

We were all been saddened by the sudden and tragic passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Bro James S Adams, our much loved Past Master, on 26th April 2013 at the age of just 58. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Rona and their children, Jennifer and Craig, at this very sad time and in the weeks, months and years ahead. Above all else, Jim's priority was his family and theirs is the greatest loss.

'Big Jim' was a real stalwart of No XII all through the years since his Initiation on 7th March 1977. He took the Chair in No XII in November 1995 after serving with distinction in many offices. His time as Chief Steward will always be remembered and not just for his work in that office. The truth of the matter is that Jim never stopped being Chief Steward and, at our last regular meeting on 16th April, Jim was (as usual) making the tea and seeing that the visitors and brethren of No XII were well looked after.

Still more significant was Jim's contribution to Degree work in the Lodge. He was an excellent floor worker with a memory that we all envied. Jim was able to remember the ritual work to the letter and also the various movements required by office bearers around the Lodge. With any queries about Degree work, we always said, 'Ask Jim'. When he got his new job recently, back in the shipyard stores at Fergusons, his best pal Hector Macphail PM said, 'They'll not be needing a computer system in that store in Fergusons now they have that memory of Big Jim's on hand'.

Of course, Jim was always there when the Lodge needed someone to step into the breach. In recent years, he served as a Deacon carrying out his own role and supporting his younger, less experience Deacon partners.

Big Jim's Funeral took place in Greenock Crematorium at 1.00pm on Wednesday 8th May. Although it was not a "Masonic" Funeral, at the suggestion of the RWM, and in consultation with Rona, short Morning Dress was worn, with Black Tie, by many of the brethren in attendance. As Big Jim went to his eternal rest dressed in his Morning Suit, it was just thought, it would be a nice touch, if the brethren were dressed the same (although Jim wore his grey Installation Tie as he had nothing to mourn or worry about any longer). RWM Bro Alan Beck placed a sprig of acacia on the coffin to mark the place of our dearly departed Brother.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev Francis Murphy, minister of the Mount Kirk where Jim had been an elder for many years. It was spiritually uplifting, emotional, moving and a perfect tribute to Jim. After the service, we retired to the Saloon of the Town Hall where Jim had spent so many hours at No XII meetings for a cup of tea, a dram and a wee bite to eat courtesy of the family. Bro Alan Beck RWM proposed a very appropriate Toast to Jim. There was hardly a dry in the house.

The Past Masters' Degree at No XII on Tuesday 11th June will be in Jim's memory and the historic Lodge Gavel will be rededicated in his memory. A special commemorative silver band has been commissioned and will be suitably engraved.

As well as remembering Jim the Mason, we intend to commemorate the side of Jim that loved a laugh and a wee half ... Bro Tony Buckley is providing a bite to eat and there will be a choice of curry or lasagne. We are hopeful that the brethren will respond to our wish that it is a 'leave you car at home' evening so that those of us who are that way inclined are able to have a dram or two in Jim's memory. We are sure that Jim will be having one along with us in harmony in The Grand Lodge Above.

The following obituary was published in the *Greenock Telegraph* of Monday 6th May 2013.

Freemasons from within and out-with the Province have paid tribute to Brother James Stirrat Adams who died suddenly at his Greenock home at the age of 58.

Bro Jim was a Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII, and had recently been installed as an office-bearer in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Over the years Jim contributed greatly to the Inverclyde community. He was a popular member and elder of the Mount Kirk, Greenock, and was always willing to do his best to assist in any task asked of him. As well as being a keen golfer, in his early days Jim was an officer for 20 years in the 6th Greenock Company of The Boys' Brigade and was a much sought-after goalkeeper in football teams in the district including Port Glasgow Rovers, Greenock Morton Supporters, Bellaire and Greenock High School FPs.

Jim was also a devoted husband and father and leaves behind his wife Rona, daughter Jennifer, and son Craig along with his many friends as well as his work colleagues in Ferguson's shipyard.

Such are the many epitaphs for Jim. Perhaps as good as any is in the song often used in Masonic lodges

*Fading away like the stars of the morning
Losing their light in the glorious sun
Thus shall we part from this life and its toilings
Only remembered for what we have done ...*

Jim has left so much by which we shall all remember him with joy, affection and love.

Iain White PM