

GUIDANCE FOR THE OPENER

PURPOSE

The Opener will report on the events that have been in the news since the preceding meeting. In this they have the important responsibility of:

- reminding members and visitors about events and issues
- suggesting topics which might be discussed in the meeting
- by their address, setting a good tone for the evening

DUTIES

Prior to the meeting, the Opener will:

- note down the events and issues which they believe are worth mentioning, drawing on press, television, internet, social media and other sources as appropriate
- organise these items into a speech not more than 15 minutes duration, and ideally at least 10 minutes duration

During the meeting, the Opener will:

- be invited by the Grand to deliver this address at the start of the meeting
- ensure that their account is audible to and understood by all present
- deliver an address that is both interesting and lively
- include a 'Royal Reference' within the first minute of their address

NOTES

The Opener should pay attention to:

- the number of items mentioned (a balance between a wide spread and just the most striking)
- the views expressed about each item (preferably outlining the issues for others to discuss, rather than just giving their own case)
- the purpose of their talk (which is to stimulate and give material for others to discuss)

The Opener shall not be interrupted by any member or guest.

The Opener does not have a right to take a further part in the meeting. However, the Grand may permit the Opener to contribute a speech in the main part of the meeting if time permits.

Members and guests are free to speak about any events in the news since the last meeting, not just those introduced by the Opener.