



Tips for the Immediate Past Master

After a busy year as Master (or perhaps two if that has been necessary) it is tempting as IPM to sit back and take the year easy. However your role is still an important one for the Lodge. Here are some tips to ensure it goes well:

- Depending on his experience the new Master will likely value your guidance and support. There is a balance in waiting to be asked and coaching the Master on aspects of his role. It is best to have a discussion with the Master to establish his expectations.
- Remember in the absence of the Master, or his Deputy, it is your role to fill the Masters chair for the evening.
- In many Lodges it is the IPM's role to open the VSL/s during the opening, adjust the S & C, and close the VSL/s at the end of the meeting. Familiarise yourself with where to open each VSL – ensure there are appropriate marks. Establish a protocol for when the deacons cross their wands, if it is the Lodge custom for them to honour the VSL at the opening and closing.
- If the working tools are on or near the pedestal in the east, the IPM should take responsibility for these being displayed. Remind oneself which tools are which.
- It is always good for the IPM to support the Master during rehearsals if possible. Careful guidance will enable him to add finesse to the role.
- As Master you will have likely received a number of resources and papers. Review these and see that your successor also receives these.
- Make time to have a chat with the Master to enquire of him how he is finding the role and enable any challenges to be shared. Listening on these occasions is good.
- Lastly ready yourself for another role in the Lodge – there are many which Past Masters can assist with. Identify where best you can use your skills, discuss these with the next Master to be / elect and start understudying the role.

