Guide to M.B.F. Qualifications

Mark Masons’ Hall
86 St. James’s Street
LONDON
SW1A 1PL

www.markbenevolence.org.uk

www.glmmm.com

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The Mark Benevolent Fund

The Fund came into existence in 1868 on the suggestion of the Reverend George Raymond Portal, Grand Master of the Mark. His views on charity were far more radical and progressive than the general thinking of the time. He felt that for charity to be effective it had to be disbursed swiftly and without the bureaucratic formalities of other Masonic charities. To him it was wrong for there to be any delay in providing assistance to those in need and his own Latin tag “Bis dat qui cito dat” – he gives twice who gives promptly – became, and still is, the principal guideline of the M.B.F.

The Fund has disbursed many millions to individual petitioners and an even greater sum in grants to charities within the wider community. A major grant of £1.6m has been made to the RNLI help fund a new life boat, Addenbrooke’s Hospital Trust received over £2m for machines to help in the diagnosis of prostate cancer and a pledge of £2.6 million has been made to Hope for Tomorrow Cancer Charity for the purchase of mobile chemotherapy units throughout the UK. These projects can only be funded with your help and dedication to the fund.

When it comes to individual Petitioners things are handled slightly differently. When a Lodge Almoner is made aware of a Brother or his family in distress he should immediately arrange a visit by himself or a visiting Brother to assess the circumstances and then complete a grant application form with as much information as possible. This is then passed to the M.B.F. via the Provincial Almoner. The case is then reviewed, any further information deemed necessary asked for and then submitted to the next Petitions Committee.

It is important for Lodge Almoners to be aware of Brethren not dining at the Festive Board, missing meetings or failing to pay annual fees. This may be a sign of distress and it is their role to try and assist if at all possible.
Mark Benevolent Fund Honorifics
Qualification of Donors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bro.</th>
<th>Ladies/Lewis</th>
<th>Lodge**</th>
<th>Province**</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Subscriber</td>
<td>£50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Governor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Patron</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>£125</td>
<td>£25 pm</td>
<td>£50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>£250</td>
<td>£50 pm</td>
<td>£100 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Patron</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>Patron +</td>
<td>Patron +</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Patron Gold Award</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
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<td>G. Patron+</td>
<td>G. Patron+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>£2,500</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
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</tbody>
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How the Fund receives its income

Festivals
Every year a different Province hosts the M.B.F. Festival. A Province will organise its own fund raising towards a target that it sets and each year there will be a Festival dinner when the results of the fund raising are announced.

Festival stewardships are obtained by a Brother and/or his Lady by paying a fee to the Stewards Fund, which is entirely distinct from the Mark Benevolent Fund.

When the proceeds of each Festival are sent to the Mark Benevolent Fund the individual donations are set out on a list and those sums are credited towards honorifics in the fund as above. Qualifications cannot be achieved or acknowledged until your funds have been transferred to the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Individual & Lodge Donations
It is very easy for a Brother either on his own behalf or for his lady to make a donation direct to the Fund at Mark Masons’ Hall when his own Province is not in a Festival or wishes to support the current or a future Festival. Any sum above a minimum of £10 will be credited as requested and will be aggregated towards a fund qualification. The appropriate jewel or collarette will be issued when a qualification is achieved.

**Lodges and Provinces** wishing to achieve their qualifications should refer to the Constitutions and Regulations of the Order for full details or call us on 020 7747 1171
Bar and Jewel for the MBF Festival 2015 to be hosted by Worcestershire

Life Subscriber Jewel
Vice Patron Collar

Patron Collar
Grand Patron Collar

Grand Patron Gold Award Collar
Ladies Vice Patron Award worn as a Pendant

Ladies Patron Award worn as a Brooch

Ladies Grand Patron Award worn as a Pendant

Ladies Grand Patron Gold Award worn as a Brooch

All awards for ladies come with an 18 inch Gold Plated Belcher chain and can be worn as a Pendant and a decorative Gold Bow pin which can be worn as a Brooch. The set comes complete with a Royal Blue velvet drawstring pouch to keep your jewel in pristine condition.
MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

Registered Charity No. 207610

DONATION SUBMISSION FORM

Name: __________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Postcode:_____________________

Lodge Name: ___________________________ No.: ___________

Province : ________________________________________________

MMH No.: ________________________________________________

I would like to qualify as a _____________________________(Please state award)

And I enclose a cheque for £______ made payable to the 'Mark Benevolent Fund'.

If you wish this sum to be credited to a specific Festival please specify ______________________

Signed ................................................................. Date .......................

Please send this form together with your cheque to:

MBF (Charity Finance Department), Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St. James’s Street, London, SW1A 1PL