

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

Mark Benevolent Fund



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

	Bro.	Ladies/Lewis	Lodge**	Province**
Life Subscriber	£50			
Life Governor	£100			
Vice Patron	£250	£125	£25 pm	£50 pm
Patron	£500	£250	£50 pm	£100 pm
Grand Patron	£1,000	£500	Patron + £1,000	Patron + £2,000
Grand Patron Gold Award	£2,500	£1,250	G. Patron + £2,500	G. Patron + £5,000

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 _____

GiftAid it Please treat

- The enclosed gift of £..... as a Gift Aid Donation; OR
- All gifts of money that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid Donations; OR
- All gifts of money that I have made in the past 4 years and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid Donations.

✓

Please tick the appropriate box

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCS) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Signed Date

If you wish to know how much you have already contributed and how much the balance is to achieve a particular qualification, then please call **Linda Read in the Charity Finance Department** at Mark Masons' Hall on 0207 747 1171.

Please send this form together with your cheque to:

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