

## David Taylor Tribute

WBro David William Taylor, you were born on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1945 in Blackpool where your father, Bro Herbert Taylor, was serving in the RAF, and had married your mother there in February 1944. At the end of the war, you all came to live on Aitken Street in Accrington, moving into a new bungalow on Moss Hall Road in 1948. (It wasn't until later that you moved to Whalley Road). As a child you attended Peel Park Primary School and, on passing the 11+, went to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. Your main reason for choosing Clitheroe was that your hero, cricketer Cyril Washbrook of Lancashire and England, was an 'Old Boy', and you were passionately keen on cricket. You had joined Accrington Cricket Club at a very early age, having played for Peel Park Primary School for 2 years, primarily as an off spin bowler. At Clitheroe, your batting came to the fore and you not only captained the school team but also won the batting prize, beating Washbrook's record average in the process. You also played for Accrington CC Under 18's, at one stage opening the batting with David Lloyd who incidentally, was also a member of this lodge for a short period in the seventies. It's hard to say now which of you might have the strongest influence in that team but, suffice it to say that it was undefeated for the 5 years that you played.

You left school in 1961 and went into the family motor business, continuing your studies at Accrington College of Further Education where you completed an HND in Business Studies, as well as some A levels. You also obtained a City and Guilds Certificate in Motor Vehicle Technology, and passed the exams for the Institute of the Motor Industry. (You were later to be elected a Fellow of the Institute).

In business, you eventually ran the family car dealerships in Accrington and Blackburn before selling off parts and winding up the remainder. You then joined Vantage Motor Group, initially running its Altrincham dealership before becoming Group Operations Director, based at the Vauxhall dealership in Burnley. You left them in 1992 to join an Australian Automotive consultancy and, in 1997, you and two partners affected a management buy-out, and in 2000 you became Managing

Director. The company had a good number of Motor Trade 'Blue Chip' clients, including Land Rover, Mercedes, Peugeot, Nissan and Audi as well as some of the big name retailers – Inchcape, Bristol Street, CD Bramall and others. You sold your share of the business in 2009.

You have had many interests outside Freemasonry. In addition to having played cricket for Accrington throughout the 60's and into the 70's, at which point business commitments had become rather heavy, you transferred to Whalley CC which was less time-consuming, and had several happy seasons there, winning both the Ribblesdale League and its cup competition.

You have always been keen on Motor Sport. You rallied throughout the 60's, winning over 40 trophies, before the responsibilities of marriage and business caused you to move into circuit commentary work. You have commentated at all the country's major circuits – Silverstone, Oulton Park, Brands Hatch, Donnington Park etc – on everything from Formula 1 downwards. You served on the committee of the Lancashire Automobile Club, becoming its Chairman and subsequently, President.

You were for 15 years a member of Accrington Round Table, taking the lead in organising the Accrington Carnival and the Miss Accrington competition. You held various offices including Chairman, and subsequently have been Chairman of Accrington ex-Tablers Club (41 Club).

Having moved to the Cotswolds some years ago, you joined Chipping Campden Probus Club a couple of years ago and are now the Speakers Secretary and will be Chairman in 2019 if all goes according to plan.

You and your wife Pamela, whom you married in 1970, are enjoying life in that lovely part of the United Kingdom. In addition to being your tower of strength, she also has had a distinguished career in her own right, initially as a teacher of modern languages, and then as Development Director of Bolton School, raising over £1million a year for bursaries as well as funding for capital projects. She retired in 2008. You have two sons, Jeremy and Marcus, both married, with families of their own and both successful in their chosen careers.

Your interest in Masonry was aroused by your father, who had joined this lodge in 1956 and subsequently proposed you as a member when you reached your 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday. Your seconder was WBro Frank W Oldham who himself was then celebrating 50 years in the lodge, having been one of the early initiates, in March 1917. You were interviewed and then balloted for in January 1967 but, as was customary at the time, there was a waiting list and you had to wait 9 months until your initiation in October by WBro Bob Coates. Your father delivered the charge after Initiation. There were 37 members and eight visitors in attendance. For the record, and in case you cannot remember, you were passed by WBro Billy Bell, charge by WBro Roy Green and subsequently raised by WBro Maurice Jackson.

You worked your way through all the usual offices of the lodge and in February 1978, at the tender age of 33, you were installed in the Chair of King Solomon by WBro Fred Ward, you then being the youngest Master to be installed in the Lodge - and I believe that record still stands today. You had a busy year in the Chair, initiating the practice at each lodge meeting of announcing which lodges you intended to visit in the ensuing month and encouraging the brethren to join you.

On leaving the IPM's chair, you were appointed Lodge Charity Steward and as such of course, attended the District Charity Stewards' committee. You were invited to become the Secretary of that committee and subsequently became the District Charity Steward in succession to Kenneth Sutcliffe, a post which you held for some years. During this period, you were promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon and, in 1991 to the prestigious rank of Provincial Junior Grand Warden. You had a memorable year supporting the then new PGM WBro James Dunsford Hemsley, visiting all the districts of the Province and almost all the Masonic Halls. In April 1996 you were elevated to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and was thrilled to attend Grand Lodge to receive your collar from the Duke of Kent.

Around that time, you had moved to Bolton, as Pamela had taken her post at Bolton School and you were working in management consultancy - a job which involved you travelling 50,000 miles a year by car, along with regular domestic flights to Scotland and Northern Ireland. Alas, that and the family gradually took priority over Freemasonry and your

attendance on lodge nights became somewhat spasmodic and even further reduced when you and Pamela subsequently moved to the Cotswolds to be closer to your sons and their families. Nevertheless, you have kept in contact over the years, particularly through our previous secretary, me, and it is perhaps fitting that I should be the thread which has helped to keep you in contact with the lodge since there are several elements which connect our two journeys through freemasonry. For instance, I served with your father on Hyndburn District Council and it was he who seconded my application to join freemasonry. You were the WM who initiated me during your year in the Chair and later, like you, I eventually became secretary of the Charity Stewards' committee, was honoured to be chosen to serve as Provincial Junior Grand Warden and finally, was lucky enough to be elevated to the United Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. And it is partly because of these connections and coincidences that I am pleased to be able to wish you a happy fiftieth anniversary and hope that you can continue your membership with us for many more years to come. Good luck David.