



# PROVINCE OF EAST KENT

## Support and Development Group

### Leadership in Freemasonry

**LEADERSHIP: “The ability to motivate a group of people towards achieving a common goal”.**

One of the questions most often asked by those about to take the chair of their Lodge for the first time is **“how can I acquire the leadership skills I need to do the job well?”**

It is a fact that on achieving the Mastership of your Lodge you will, for the next 12 months, become the person to whom your Brethren will look for leadership and direction. In order to fulfil their expectations you need to have a clear vision of what you want to achieve and the courage of your convictions to deal with difficulties should they arise.

Your team of officers is looking for someone they can trust and follow with confidence. Your members want someone who can provide guidance to his fellow Masons and who will act as a responsible steward of the standards and traditions of the Lodge.

The good news is that you don't need to be tall, well spoken, good looking or even clever to be an effective leader. There is no “special something” that leaders possess. What they do have is integrity, honesty, humility, focus and consistency.

Being an effective leader is not the same as being “The Boss”. You need to foster a collaborative culture in which each member your team can flourish and develop to his fullest potential. Although you are the figurehead of the Lodge you cannot succeed without the unswerving support of your team of officers and the goodwill of your members.

### **Steps to effective Leadership.**

- Develop **self-awareness**. Assess your own strengths, weaknesses, values, motivations, passions, and your own leadership style. Prioritize what is important to you.
- Develop **self-management** skills. Stop and reflect on how you view things. Consider your own sense of integrity, initiative, adaptability, self discipline and resilience.
- **Build relationships**. Both your own and those between Lodge members. Be empathetic, inclusive, impartial, and fair. All successful relationships are based on integrity and trust.
- Develop your **communication skills**. Learn how to listen effectively. You have 2 ears and one mouth, use them in that proportion!
- **Develop your team**. Your role is one of facilitator. Create an environment which encourages collaboration and compromise but which empowers and encourages each individual to contribute to his fullest potential.

- **Be the best you can.** Fulfil your duties to the best of your ability. Be an effective and assiduous ambassador for your Lodge.
- **Finally remember...** “Leaders are not made; Leaders are not born. Leadership is a choice, a belief in and a commitment to the tenets and principles which you hold dear. Stay true to everything that is noble and good within you and you will not go far wrong”.

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