

Good evening Confreres, Consouers,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 40th anniversary Chapitre and I wish to thank you for being here to celebrate this milestone with us. A special thank you and welcome to our distinguished guests Mr Philip Evins, Bailli Delege of Great Britain and Mrs Janet Evins , Conseillier Gastronomique of Great Britain, Dr Roberto Zanghi, Bailli Delege Honoraire of Italy and Mrs Petra Zanghi, Pair de la Chaine, Bailli Jonn Wigg and Dame Debbie Wigg. and all our overseas guests.

The Malta Bailliage was officially formed during an induction ceremony held on the 11th of April 1980 at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta with Mr Gino Micheli as the first Bailli Delege. The ceremony was presided over by The Grand Chancellor of the Chaine, M. Jean Valby, who in 1950 re-constituted the Confrerie. The Bailliage of Bavaria sponsored the entry of the local Bailliage into the Chaine

The President of Malta was nominated Bailli d'Honneur

The first Diner Amical was held on the 24th of June 1980 at this hotel, the Corinthia Palace - it has been a staunch supporter ever since.

We have gone through a succession of Baillis Delege, Chevalier Gino Miceli being the first, followed by Dr Joseph Attard and then my immediate predecessor Colin Best. It is also pertinent to point out that Mr Paddy Stubbs, the first Argentier was the husband of Grand Officier Janatha Stubbs who is still an active member to this day and is here with us tonight. Here, I would like to salute the memory of these fine gentlemen.

I wish to thank Mr Yam Atallah, our international President, Dame Marie Jones, international Vice President, Dr Roberto Zanghi and the CM and Cd'A for their invaluable assistance throughout these years and especially during our reorganisation between 2003 and 2004

Last night I received an email from Marie Jones, all the way from Costa Rica where she is on Chaine business to wish everyone a successful Chapitre

A heartfelt thank you goes to my colleagues on the board:

Charles Gatt, Chancelier Argentier

Marc Besancon, Conseillier Culinaire

Bernd Ritschel, Conseillier Gastronomique

Dr Iro Cali Corleo, Echanson

Dr Mark Bailey, Charge de Mission and our respective wives and partners

Finally, a word to all our new inductees- welcome and May you spread the spirit of the Chaine and enjoy the camaraderie and joy your membership brings with it. And to our promotees and award receivers. Congratulations and thank you for your support.

I would now like to invite Mr Philip Evins, Bailli Delegee of Great Britain, to open proceedings